ADSS2018 special edition

We are delighted to introduce this Special Edition of *Animal Production Science* entitled **ADSS2018: Dairy Science for Profitable and Sustainable Farming**, which contains selected invited and submitted papers presented at the 8th Australasian Dairy Science Symposium (ADSS2018) held over 3 days at Palmerston North in November 2018.

The ADSS is the largest technical dairy science meeting in the southern hemisphere, held biennially, alternately in Australia and New Zealand. ADSS2018 was co-hosted by Massey University and AgResearch, and had a strong focus on identifying the challenges facing dairying in the coming decades, outlining how science is developing solutions to those challenges that are well defined, and also identifying major knowledge gaps.

As with previous symposia, ADSS2018 was an opportunity for leading scientists from Australia and New Zealand to share ideas and interact with international scientists from a range of disciplines. ADSS2018 also saw Kevin Macdonald, recently retired from DairyNZ, presented with an Award for Lifetime Contribution to Dairy Science, in honour of his outstanding contribution to, and significant impact on, international pastoral dairy research, over a period spanning close to 50 years.

Invited keynote papers were commissioned by the Organising Committee: Bill Wales (Agriculture Victoria), Bruce Thorrold (DairyNZ), Callum Eastwood (DairyNZ), Chris Murphy (Dairy Australia), Danny Donaghy (Massey University), Dave Barber (Agri-Science Queensland), David Nation (Dairy Australia), David Pacheco (AgResearch), John Roche (New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries), Kristy DiGiacomo (The University of Melbourne), Racheal Bryant (Lincoln University), Richard Rawnsley (Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture), Sabrina Lomax (The University of Sydney), and Yani Garcia (The University of Sydney).

In commissioning keynote presentations, the Organising Committee applied criteria related to the scientific achievements of the prospective authors and their standing in the discipline, and also sought a balance in the number of invitations issued to Australian and New Zealand scientists. In addition to having established science speakers of international standing, we were proud to provide an opportunity for emerging leading scientists in ADSS2018. No doubt we will see them leading the charge as the next generation of scientists trying to solve the challenges that the dairy industry will face across both countries. Further, international speakers were asked to provide a different perspective to certain topics and issues. Co-publication and co-presentation were encouraged.

This Special Edition brings together a selection of the presentations at ADSS2018 and covers the major topic areas of: defining key attributes of resilience in dairy systems; more productive, resilient and sustainable forage-based systems; more productive, resilient and sustainable animals; social licence to farm; and people and technologies as enablers of productive, attractive and resilient farm systems. As with all previous ADSS events, this Special Edition demonstrates the dynamic and proactive nature of dairy research in Australasia.

The Organising Committee of ADSS2018 sincerely thanks all authors for their contributions and participation in this event, and their subsequent commitment to delivering papers for this Special Edition of *Animal Production Science*. We also thank Nicky Vallender from Event-It Ltd, the conference organiser, along with our major sponsors, Dairy Australia and DairyNZ, as well as additional sponsors including Massey University, AgResearch, CRV Ambreed, Synlait, ABVista, Agmardt and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, without whose support ADSS2018 would not have been possible.

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