

## Foreword

The 5th Australasian Dairy Science Symposium was held in Melbourne from 13–15 November 2012. As with previous symposia it brought together leading scientists from Australia and New Zealand to review and present research findings from recent scientific endeavours. To add to the vast wealth of knowledge residing within the antipodes, a number of international speakers were also invited to present reviews of topical areas highly relevant to our grazing systems.

The symposium provided an ideal forum for our emerging and future scientists to interact with internationally renowned scientists from a range of disciplines. Key theme areas for the symposium included biotechnology in dairying, dairy production systems, animal health and well being, reproduction and feedbase and nutrition.

The invited review papers were commissioned by the organising committee (Joe Jacobs, John Roche, Yani Garcia, Bill Wales, Steve Little, David Barber, Grant Edwards, Jenny Jago and David Pacheco). In selecting author teams, the organising committee applied criteria related to the scientific achievements of the prospective authors and their standing in the discipline. The committee also sought a balance in the number of invitations issued to Australian and New Zealand scientists and, where possible, sought to invite early career scientists to lead

the author team. In addition to the key themes, international speakers were asked to join author teams to provide a different perspective to certain topics and issues.

This Special Issue brings together a selection of the invited research papers that were presented at the symposium and covers (i) the challenges and opportunities for dairying in Australia and New Zealand, (ii) recent advances in animal biotechnology, (iii) future technologies to improve reproductive performance, (iv) animal welfare and well being, (v) transition cow management, (vi) opportunities to manipulate the feedbase, (vii) precision technologies for the dairy industry and (viii) performance, return and risk for dairy systems.

The organising committee of the Australasian Dairy Science Symposium sincerely thank the 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 the Victorian Dept of Primary Industries and Dairy Australia for their ongoing support for the Symposium.

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