CSIRO PUBLISHING

Animal Production Science, 2014, **54**, iii
http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/ANv54n5_ED

Editorial

Evolution of an interdisciplinary and applied journal of the animal sciences

Animal Production Science (APS) is in its 54th year of publication. During that period it has evolved from a journal primarily concerned with developments in Australian agriculture (animals, plants and soils) to a journal with an international outlook and a focus on animal science, predominantly animal agriculture. These changes in focus have been accompanied by name changes; commencing in 1969 with the *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture and Animal Husbandry*, changing in 1985 to *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* and to the present title in 2009.

Since the first issue of this Journal the scientific publication landscape has changed considerably, most noticeably in the last decade. The major contributing factors have been the volume of research being undertaken globally, the exponential increase in journal numbers, use of citation metrics as measure of quality rather than journal content and the ongoing switch to open access. All of which pose a considerable challenge if a traditional journal is to maintain rigorous scientific standards and grow its readership. Both of which, **APS** is determined to achieve.

This issue (Volume 54, Issue 5) marks an important milestone for **APS** with the introduction of our new review series, *Perspectives on Animal Biosciences*. The rationale for this series is that the content and ideas in science are expanding rapidly and it is increasingly difficult for researchers to stay abreast of developments outside their specialty. This highlights the need for accessible, up-to-date reviews. Importantly, the reviews in this series will be open access and therefore be freely available to the global scientific community and hopefully, be a catalyst for future research.

By its very nature, animal science is an applied science and application of research outcomes is very important but to make practical advances, basic scientific discovery is also essential. Moreover, the global geopolitical environment in which research outcomes are applied is changing and this is another important consideration. Therefore, the range of topics covered must be broad to reflect the breath of the disciplines, their intersections and the outcomes that underpin the science of animal production, hence the name *animal biosciences*. To this end, the Editor-in-Chief will invite leaders, in the many aspects of and areas that impinge on the animal sciences, to reflect on the developments and possible future directions of their discipline.

For many years **APS** has placed great emphasis on Special Issues (http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/73/aid/66.htm) as a unique means of promoting high-quality research in thematic areas that present significant challenges in the animal sciences. The journal usually publishes at least two Special Issues per volume. From 2013 the journal has commenced the publication of Virtual Special Issues (http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/73/aid/66.htm) comprised of papers published in different issues of APS or other cognate CSIRO journals where the quality and quantity of the contributions justifies it. These innovations have improved the visibility and accessibility of the journal content and are assisting in maximizing the '**impact**' of the science.

Animal Production Science will continue to improve, but this trajectory of gradual evolution is dependent on the ongoing support of our authors and readers. The Journal's impact factor has steadily increased and is now 1.28. This improvement reflects the efforts of many, including the quality of our authors, our reviewers, Associate Editors and the support provided by the Editorial Office to facilitate the rapid turnaround of manuscripts and the many interactions between authors, reviewers and Associate Editors. To help us maintain our trajectory, your suggestions on the traditional contributed reviews published in **APS** since its inception and the developments outlined above including, potential topic areas and authors, would be most welcome.

Wayne L. Bryden,
Editor-in-Chief

*Professor Wayne Bryden is the Editor-in-Chief of **Animal Production Science**. He has extensive editorial experience as an author of over 280 papers in international journals/proceedings, including some 30 book chapters, and is a regular reviewer for many animal science journals. He has been on the editorial boards of four journals and a member of eight animal science societies. His publications are highly cited.*

Wayne is the Professor of Animal Science at The University of Queensland. His research areas are animal nutrition and toxicology, plant associated toxins, mycotoxins and fungal ecology. Areas in which he has published include: vitamin, energy and amino acid metabolism, digestive function and nutrient availability, the influence of non-nutrient feed components on animal performance, feed related animal diseases and, more recently, aspects related to exercise physiology and immunology. These studies have mainly been carried out with chickens but studies with pigs, cattle, sheep and horses have been conducted where appropriate.

Wayne has received invitations to become: (i) the Chair of the Gordon Research Conferences on Mycotoxins and Phycotoxins, (ii) a member of the Mycotoxin Working Party of the Food Chemistry Division of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and (iii) a member of the WHO Expert Panel on Food Safety; which are indicators of his international standing. An appointment to an adjunct Professorship at North Carolina State University was in recognition of his research in mycotoxicology and poultry nutrition.

In 2003, Wayne was awarded the Centenary Medal for his contributions to science and education, He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, the Nutrition Society of Australia and the Australian Society of Animal Production. He was the 2009 recipient of the Australian Poultry Award for his contributions to poultry science and the industry.