The Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition in Australia was held at the University of New England in Armidale from 26 to 28 October 2015. This event has been successfully conducted every other year for the past 40 years. As with previous symposia, it covered species important to humans including cattle, sheep, poultry, pigs and companion animals. The theme ‘Early Nutrition for Long Term Animal Productivity’ was chosen as a way to promote the exchange of ideas across the species with authors presenting latest findings on mineral and vitamin nutrition, epigenetics, nutrigenomics, placental and embryonic nutrient flow and potential beneficial effects of pre-starter and creep feed modification. The symposium provided a forum for emerging scientists to interact with world renowned experts in the dynamic field of animal nutrition. While the field enjoys an ongoing and ever-increasing demand for animal products, the technical focus often shifts rapidly in response to weather, climate change and evolving consumer preferences.

The Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition in Australia Committee (Bob Swick, Roger Hegarty, Wayne Bryden, Rob van Barneveld, Frank Dunshea and Nerida Richards) agreed to continue to publish invited manuscripts in a special issue of the CSIRO journal, Animal Production Science, as a way to expose both the conference and the authors to a wider audience. All authors are acknowledged for their time and co-operation during the peer-review process. The Committee graciously thanks the industry partners, speakers and participants for their contributions, oral perspectives and feedback. The interactions during the conference and details captured in this special issue will continue to attract participants to Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition in Australia for years to come.

Professor Bob Swick
Chair of the Organising Committee
Partners of the 2015 Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition in Australia