

Foreword

The Australian Society of Animal Production (ASAP) provides a forum for interaction between all stakeholders in the sustainable production of high-quality animal products. Increasingly, consumers of animal products demand not only high-quality and consistent animal products, but also production systems that have a high animal welfare component. Such demands are dramatically changing animal production systems and the concept of 'community licence' is shaping their development. It is becoming increasingly clear that animal industries need to develop 'whole-of-chain' approaches to the application of new technologies. As consumers become more aware of, and involved in, the origins of their food and fibre, it is critical that technological solutions to animal production are developed with consumers in mind.

Therefore, **Animal Welfare – Meeting Consumer Needs and Increasing Productivity** was the theme for the 31st Biennial Conference of ASAP, a joint conference with the New Zealand Society of Animal Production, held in Adelaide, South Australia, 5–7 July 2016.

Animal Production 2016 addressed this theme head-on with invited papers targeted directly towards welfare, community standards and new technologies that will shape our future animal production systems. The conference brought together scientists, educators, social scientists, extension experts, consultants, consumer advocates, processors, producers, and importantly students to share the latest information on all aspects of animal production.

National and international leaders in animal production were invited to the meeting and we were thrilled to have Professor Temple Grandin, the world leader in animal behaviour and welfare, as our keynote speaker. These invited papers are presented in this issue of *Animal Production Science*, along with the named ASAP lectures: McClymont (Agricultural Systems), Underwood (Livestock Nutrition), Stobbs (Grazing Management) and Barnett (Animal Welfare) lectures. We sincerely thank all authors for their contributions and participation in this event and their subsequent commitment to delivering papers for this issue.

The Society sincerely thanks the Organising Committee; Professor Phil Hynd, Professor Wayne Pitchford, Dr Mariana Caetano, Dr Michael Wilkes, Mr Bruce Hancock, Dr Emily Buddle, and Dr Chris Logan, President, New Zealand Society of Animal Production for their effort in putting together such an exciting conference. The Committee was ably supported by the conference organiser AgCommunicators. We also thank our sponsors, The University of Adelaide, Meat and Livestock Australia, Government of South Australia, Baiada, Alltech, Australian Pork Limited, Australian Wool Innovation, Dairy Australia, Elanco Animal Health, Gribbles Pathology, and Steggles for their financial support of the Conference.

Professor Phil Hynd
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