

Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition – Australia 2017

Welcome to the 2017 Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition (RAAN) – Australia conference special issue. This event has been successfully conducted at the University of New England every other year for the past 42 years. The animal feed industry continues to evolve before our eyes. Commodity price changes are a given, but new forms of nutrients can change the landscape forever. Techniques for measuring metabolism increase in sophistication on a daily basis and the savvy consumer is becoming more discerning on the finer points of animal welfare and food safety as a result of web-based social media. The RAAN committee have selected speakers that will stimulate fresh ideas to meet these future challenges and opportunities. Fundamental and exciting areas covered this year include communication between the intestine and its digesta, mitochondria and meat quality and the potential for artificial meat. There is also focus on specific recent advances in starch, amino acid, calcium and phytase nutrition across the poultry, dairy and pig industry and nutritional management in sheep, along with insights into strategies to maintain gut health in an antibiotic-free feed industry.

As in 2013 and 2015, the committee will publish invited manuscripts in a special edition of CSIRO Publishing's *Animal Production Science* journal. All manuscripts were subjected to peer review. The RAAN committee thanks all authors for their time and co-operation. Their efforts will ensure that the 2017 Recent Advances proceedings will be remembered and remain valuable for years.

The committee thanks the industry partners, speakers and participants for their valuable contributions, including funds, knowledge and ideas. These interactions and relationships have resulted in continued improvements in the conference over the years, making it the prestigious event that it is today. The committee acknowledges the diligent work of Pierre Cronje who organised the conference and edited the proceedings. Thanks also go to Helene Dawson for her efforts behind the scenes on all the fine details.

The committee looks forward to an active, lively and productive 2017 RAAN – Australia.

Bob Swick

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