IAN PURVIS

Dr Ian Purvis' career is characterised by his passion for wool and sheep. After graduating from the School of Wool and Pastoral Sciences, University of New South Wales, in 1974, Ian worked as a research officer with the R&D department at the Australian Wool Corporation where his main tasks were to develop and deliver objective measurement techniques for the marketing of wool, and to devise clip preparation strategies for objectively measured wools.

In 1981, Ian embarked on a PhD at the University of New England in Armidale, supervised by Laurie Piper and Terry Eady. He studied the genetic relationships between male measures of fecundity and reproductive behaviour with female ovulation rate and lambing performance in Merino sheep, showing that selection for increased testicular size resulted in increased ovulation rate in the females of a flock.

After being awarded the Lefroy Fellowship at the University of Western Australia in 1985, Ian moved to Western Australia where he worked with David Lindsay and his team on reproduction in Merino sheep, and also in the area of novel traits. He also initiated genetic evaluation of temperament traits in sheep. Ian worked as Lecturer at the University of Western Australia for 6 years.

In 1994 he moved back to New South Wales and commenced with CSIRO in Armidale where he subsequently worked for 20 years. Within CSIRO Ian held various positions including Senior Principal Research Scientist, Program Leader, Officer-in-Charge of the Chiswick Research Station, and Theme leader. Ian always valued a close connection with industry and led the CSIRO Fine Wool Project. This project was a large genetics study with key superfine wool breeders that focussed on establishing the relationships between measurable animal phenotypes and key measures of value in fleece and downstream products. By demonstrating that it was possible to make progress in key measures of profitability, despite antagonistic genetic correlations, this project was influential in changing the breeding programs of many superfine wool breeders. Subsequently, he commenced the T13 Project which utilised the knowledge gained in the Fine wool project to work with a small group of influential breeders to aggressively reduce the mean fibre diameter of collaborating flocks whilst maintaining other traits of importance. He also initiated a program of activities in freshwater aquaculture aimed at employing the techniques developed in the sheep and beef industries, to develop breeding programs for freshwater crustaceans. Ian held leadership roles in the Wool and Sheep CRC's and was a Board member of the Beef CRC.

Between 2006 and 2013 Ian was the Leader of the Livestock Genetics scientific program within CSIRO. A key component of his program was aimed at developing molecular technologies for use in livestock breeding programs. Under Ian's leadership, CSIRO was also influential in developing genomic technology for cattle and sheep and in the world-wide effort to map the ovine and bovine genomes.

Upon stepping down from science leadership positions within CSIRO in 2011, Ian, in collaboration with NSW DPI, initiated a program of work that focussed on utilising emerging electronic sensor technologies to measure commercially valuable phenotypes, such as feed intake

on pasture, and rumen gas emissions. Ian retired from CSIRO in 2014 and since then he has maintained an active involvement in mentoring staff at the CSIRO Pastoral Research Station in Armidale.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics is pleased to enrol Steve as a Fellow of the Association.