

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|------|
| Preliminary pages | |
| President's Message | ii |
| 25 th Conference Committee and Citation of Papers | iii |
| Reviewers | iv |
| Sponsors | v |
| AAABG Rules | vii |
| AAABG Fellows | ix |
| AAABG Honorary Members | x |
| Helen Newton Turner Medal | xi |
| Helen Newton Turner Bright Futures Award | xii |
| Table of Contents | xiii |
| | |
| John Vercoe Memorial Lecture | |
| The role of animal genetic resources in the sustainable livestock transformation <i>P. Boettcher, R. Baumung, G. Leroy and B. Besbes</i> | 1 |
| | |
| Plenary Papers | |
| Animal breeding is part of the solution to environment, climate, and animal-welfare challenges facing animal production <i>M. Henryon T. Ostersen, P.E. Vercoe and A.C. Sørensen</i> | 5 |
| Livestock breeding, where have we been and what lies ahead? <i>S.P. Miller</i> | 10 |
| | |
| Breeding Plans A | |
| An optimal contribution selection technique that utilises on-additive genetic components <i>Z. Loh, J.H.J. van der Werf and S. Clark</i> | 23 |
| Ewe genotype effects in genetic evaluation of Merino fleece traits across ages <i>S.I. Mortimer, K.L. Egerton-Warburton, T.L. Bird-Gardiner and A.A. Swan</i> | 27 |
| Evolution of sheep breeds within LAMBPLAN and the rise of the Composites <i>A.J. McMillan, S.F. Walkom and D.J. Brown</i> | 31 |
| Genetic and economic effects of genomic selection amongst surplus dairy heifers in Australian dairy herds <i>J.M. Morton and G.J. Nieuwhof</i> | 35 |
| Effects of selection and data truncation on estimates of genetic parameters obtained fitting a single-step model <i>K. Meyer</i> | 39 |
| Genetic benchmarking of Maternal sheep flocks using genomic testing <i>D.J. Brown, P.M. Gurman and A.A. Swan</i> | 43 |
| Preliminary evaluation of the impact of visual traits on lifetime ewe performance <i>P.K. Wahinya, D.J. Brown, S.F. Walkom, T. Bird-Gardiner, B.E. Clarke, J.L. Smith and A.A. Swan</i> | 47 |
| | |
| Breeding for Reproductive Traits A | |
| Comparison of udder and teat traits in Merino ewes recorded at lambing and weaning <i>E.G. Smith, G.A. Acton, A.M. Bell and J.L. Smith</i> | 51 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Age at puberty, days to calving and first parity return to oestrus in Australian temperate beef breeds <i>K.A. Donoghue, R. Rippon, M. Wolcott, K.L. Moore, S.A. Clark and B.J. Walmsley</i> | 55 |
| New module for prediction of reproductive traits EBV in BREEDPLAN <i>M.G. Jeyaruban and D.J. Johnston</i> | 59 |
| Fibre diameter variation as a measure of resilience in sheep <i>E.G. Smith, S.F. Walkom and S.A. Clark</i> | 63 |
| Development of female fertility indicator traits for the Angus HeiferSELECT genomic tool <i>P.A. Alexandre, L.R. Porto-Neto, B.C. Hine, A.M. Samarakweera, A.I. Byrne, A.B. Ingham, C.J. Duff and A. Reverter</i> | 67 |
| Multinomics | |
| Library preparation method affects observed microbiome variation when using Oxford Nanopore sequencing <i>E.M. Ross, Z. Chen, L.T. Nguyen, S. Meale and C. T. Ong</i> | 71 |
| Simultaneous investigation of genomic regions of interest - the use of adaptive sampling <i>R.M. Clarke, A. Hess, A. Caulton, R. Brauning, K.M. McRae, A. Chen and S.M. Clarke</i> | 75 |
| Gene network prediction for bull fertility traits <i>W.L.A Tan, N. Hudson, L.R. Porto-Neto, A. Reverter, J. Afonso and M.R.S. Fortes</i> | 79 |
| Methylome profiling in response to stress: mycotoxin (sporidesmin) exposure in sheep <i>A. Caulton, K.M. McRae, K.G. Dodds, R. Brauning, N.K. Pickering, P.L. Johnson and S. M. Clarke</i> | 83 |
| Breeding Plans B | |
| Resources assessment for determination of ancestral alleles in cattle <i>J. Dorji, L.R. Porto-Neto, A.J. Chamberlain, C.J. Vander-Jagt, J. Kijas and A. Reverter</i> | 87 |
| Incorporating genomic information in evaluations for farmed deer in New Zealand <i>R. Costilla, R. Brauning, J. Ward, S. Newman, A. Hess, S. Hickey, T. van Stijn, J. McEwan, K. Dodds, S. Clarke and S. Rowe</i> | 91 |
| Understanding trait preferences and views on genetic tools for the New Zealand beef industry <i>L. Kok, S. Harburg, B. Santos, P. Amer, J. Archer, A. Boyd and G. Jenkins</i> | 95 |
| The economic value of gestation length <i>E. Ooi, N. Howes, F. Hely, M. Stephen, P. Amer and C. Quinton</i> | 99 |
| Australian beef cattle breeding objectives <i>B.W. Gudex, P.J. Williams and B.J. Walmsley</i> | 103 |
| Signatures of positive selection for scrotal circumference in three beef cattle breeds <i>Z. Manzari, D.J. Johnston, N.K. Connors and M.H. Ferdosi</i> | 107 |
| BREEDPLAN single-step genomic evaluations deliver increased accuracies across all breeds and EBVs <i>D.J. Johnston, M.H. Ferdosi, N.K. Connors, J. Cook, C.J. Girard and A.A. Swan</i> | 111 |
| Breeding for Reproductive Traits B | |
| Genotype by trait-specific season interactions for farrowing rate and average piglet birthweight <i>A.M.G. Bunz, K.L. Bunter, J. Harper, R. S. Morrison, B.G. Luxford and S. Hermesch</i> | 115 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Translating multibreed genomic prediction of bull fertility traits into on-farm selection of bulls <i>L.R. Porto-Neto, P. Alexandre, J. Dorji, M.R.S. Fortes and A. Reverter</i> | 119 |
| The highs and lows of recording calf and calving traits <i>M. Axford, M. Khansefid E. Jewell, A. Chamberlain and J.E. Pryce</i> | 122 |
| Using foetal age estimates to substitute birth date recording in beef cattle evaluations <i>J. Kang, F. Weik, N. Sanderson, D. Robertson and J.A. Archer</i> | 126 |
| Prediction of gestation length and days to conception from foetal age scans for genetic improvement of maternal fertility in beef cow herds: a simulation study <i>F. Weik, J. Kang and J.A. Archer</i> | 130 |
| Match birthweight ASBVs to flock fecundity for lamb survival <i>S. Hatcher, S. Robertson, D.J. Brown and K.L. Bunter</i> | 134 |
| FecB carrier Deccani crossbred ewes in Maharashtra, India have moderately higher litter sizes than non-carrier ewes <i>C. Nimbkar, P.M. Ghalsasi, S.W. Walkden-Brown and J.H.J. van der Werf</i> | 138 |
| Prediction/Genomic Prediction Beef | |
| Using genomic and phenotypic data to characterise the genetic structure of Brahman cattle populations in Southern Africa <i>W.M.S.P. Weerasinghe and B.J. Crook</i> | 142 |
| Application of an empirical approach for predicting accuracy for genomic evaluations <i>K.L. Moore, P.M. Gurman and D.J. Johnston</i> | 146 |
| Genomic prediction using imputed whole-genome sequence in Australian Angus cattle <i>N. Kamprasert, H. Aliloo, J. van der Werf, C. Duff and S. Clark</i> | 150 |
| Comparing genomic prediction accuracies for commercial cows' reproductive performance using GA2CAT and two machine-learning methods <i>Y. Li, S. Hu, L. Porto-Neto, R. McCulloch, S. McWilliam, J. McDonald, C. Smith, P. Alexandre, S. Lehnert and A. Reverter</i> | 154 |
| Assessing the value of metafounders for genomic prediction in Australian Simmental beef cattle <i>D.J.A. Santos, N.K. Connors, P.M. Gurman, M.H. Ferdosi, S.P. Miller and A.A. Swan</i> | 158 |
| Imputation accuracy for missing alleles in crossbred beef cattle <i>P.K. Wahinya and M.H. Ferdosi</i> | 162 |
| Prediction/Genomic Prediction Dairy | |
| Estimation of SNP effects in Lacaune dairy sheep depending on the reference population composition <i>M. Wicki, J. Raoul and A. Legarra</i> | 166 |
| Genetic evaluation of longevity using productive life and survival scores in Australian Holstein cattle: prediction of early survival <i>M. Haile-Mariam, M. Khansefid, M. Axford, M.E. Goddard and J.E. Pryce</i> | 170 |
| Novel Traits: Environment and Greenhouse Gas | |
| Heritability and repeatability of methane emissions and feed intake in young dairy sires <i>R.C. Handcock, D.J. Garrick, D.P. Garrick, R.J. Spelman, P. van Elzakker, P. Beatson, G. Worth and L.R. McNaughton</i> | 174 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Towards selecting for lower methane sheep <i>P.T Fitzgerald, E.H. Clayton, A.J. Donaldson, D.J. Brown, V.H. Oddy and J.H.J van der Werf</i> | 178 |
| Using rumen microbial predictors for genomic prediction of feed efficiency <i>T.P. Bilton, P.L. Johnson, F. Booker, H.H. Henry, M.K. Hess, R. Jordan, S.M. Hickey, H. Baird, N. Amyes, J.C. McEwan and S.J. Rowe</i> | 182 |
| Implementing genetic tools to reduce methane emissions in NZ sheep flocks <i>J.A. Archer, M.D. Aspin, D.E. Brier, S-J. H. Powdrell, D. Campbell, C.L. Winkworth-Lawrence, S.J. Rowe, J.C. McEwan and M. Lee</i> | 186 |
| Genetic Diversity and Inbreeding A | |
| A comparison between the use of pedigree or genomic relationships to control inbreeding in optimum-contribution selection <i>M. Sharif-Islam, M. Henryon, J.H.J. van der Werf, A.C. Sørensen, T.T. Chu, B. J. Wood and S. Hermesch</i> | 190 |
| Detection of signatures of selection in Australian beef cattle <i>H. Aliloo, B.J. Walmsley, K.A. Donoghue and S.A. Clark</i> | 194 |
| Demonstrating differences in survival and fertility of high and low genetic merit cows within and across herds <i>J.E. Newton, M. Haile-Mariam and J.E. Pryce</i> | 198 |
| Population scale long-read sequence databaseses: are they useful for accurate SNP and indel discovery? <i>I.M. MacLeod, T.V. Nguyen, J. Wang, C.J. Vander Jagt and A.J. Chamberlain</i> | 202 |
| Epigenetic repression of genes associated with ribeye area of Nelore cattle <i>J. Afonso, M.R.S. Fortes, W.J. Shim, T.F. Cardoso, J.J. Bruscadin, A.O. de Lima, W.J.S. Diniz, B. Silva-Vignato, W.L.A. Tan, A.S.M. Cesar, M. Boden, G.B. Mourão, A. Zerlotini, L.L. Coutinho and L.C. de Almeida Regitano</i> | 206 |
| Meat Quality | |
| Genomic prediction of consumer satisfaction traits of Australian beef <i>A.M. Lynn, P. McGilchrist, H. Aliloo, R. Polkinghorne, M. Forutan, B.J. Hayes and S.A. Clarke</i> | 210 |
| Relationships of sire breeding values for Merino production traits with eating quality of lamb <i>S.I. Mortimer, B.W.B. Holman, S.M. Fowler, T.I.R.C. Alvarenga, D.L. Hopkins, K.L. Egerton-Warburton, J.L. Smith, B.C. Hine and A.A. Swan</i> | 214 |
| Epigenetics, Structural Variants & Transcriptomes | |
| Cost effective detection of deleterious structural variants in long-read sequence – How deep is enough? <i>T.V. Nguyen, J.Wang, A.J. Chamberlain and I.M. MacLeod</i> | 218 |
| Heritability and repeatability of paternal haplotype recombination rate in beef cattle autosomes <i>M.H. Ferdosi, S. Masoodi and M. Khansefid</i> | 222 |
| Genetic Diversity and Inbreeding B | |
| Characterising heterozygosity of the X chromosome in the Australian Wagyu population <i>D.P. Garrick, R.C. Handcock and C. Teseling</i> | 226 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Measured Goats in the Rangelands: An overview of a meat goat reference population <i>T. Granleese, S.I. Mortimer, T. Atkinson, G. Refshauge, T. Bird-Gardiner, F. Haynes, D.J. Brown, P. Alexandri and S.F. Walkom</i> | 230 |
| Selecting for more methane efficient sheep <i>J.H.J. van der Werf</i> | 234 |
| Novel Traits and Phenotyping Tools B | |
| Investigating the genetic cause of Wry Face in the Australian Jersey cattle population <i>C.J. Vander Jagt, C.M. Reich, I.M. MacLeod, M.E. Goddard, B.J. Hayes, T.T.T. Nguyen, G.J. Nieuwhof and A.J. Chamberlain</i> | 238 |
| Importance of incorporating feeding rate when developing predictions of feed intake <i>P.L. Johnson, K. Knowler, T.P. Biton and S.J. Rowe</i> | 242 |
| Remote sensor collars measure age at puberty in tropical beef heifers in northern Australia <i>D.J. Johnston, M. Dayman, T.P. Grant, K. Hubbard, K. Goodwin, A.K. Doughty and J.D. Cook</i> | 246 |
| Understanding and Utilising Genetic Diversity | |
| Genetic diversity of domestic goats from Central Laos <i>S.V. Le, S. de las Heras-Saldana, P. Alexandri, L. Olmo, S.W. Walkden-Brown and J.H.J. van der Werf</i> | 250 |
| Infectious Diseases/Disease Resistance | |
| Immune competence and micro-environmental sensitivity <i>M.D. Madsen, J.H.J. van der Werf, A. Ingham, B. Hine, A. Reverter and S. Clark</i> | 254 |
| An across-flock analysis on faecal worm egg counts in Merino sheep in South Africa <i>S.W.P. Cloete, Z. Mpetile and K. Dzama</i> | 258 |
| Genetic variation in susceptibility to facial eczema in dairy cattle in New Zealand <i>A. Ismael, E. Donkersloot, F. Wallace, G. Worth, S. Davis, L. McNaughton and R.J. Spelman</i> | 262 |
| Faecal microbiota of Angus cattle with divergent immune competence <i>B.N. Maslen, B.C. Hine, C. Duff, P.A. Alexandre, S.A. Clark, J.H.J. van der Werf, J.D. White and S.D. Pant</i> | 266 |
| GWAS | |
| Multi-trait genome wide association meta-analysis of body weight, carcase composition and eating quality traits in Australian sheep <i>N. Moghaddar, A.A. Swan and J.H.J. van der Werf</i> | 270 |
| Discovering the missing variation in the bovine genome; a long read sequencing pilot study into the structural variation in two dairy breeds <i>A. Chamberlain, T. Nguyen, J. Wang and I. Macleod</i> | 274 |
| X and Y chromosome SNPs as indicators of sex in quality assurance checks for genomic analysis in Wagyu <i>C. Teseling and D.P. Garrick</i> | 278 |
| Genome wide association study and heritability estimates for ram semen traits <i>M.J. Hodge, S. de las Heras-Saldana, S.J. Rindfleish, C.P. Stephen and S.D. Pant</i> | 282 |
| Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals (OMIA) – looking to the future <i>I. Tammen, M. Mather, D. Vanichkina, J. Nothman, Z. Li, S. Jufri and F.W. Nicholas</i> | 286 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Novel Traits and Phenotyping Tools A | |
| Genetic evaluation of coat type for Australian Angus <i>A.M. Samaraweera, H. Aliloo, A. Byrne, C.J. Duff and S.A. Clark</i> | 290 |
| Genetic parameters for linear type traits in Hungarian Charolais beef cattle <i>B.J. Crook, W.M.S.P. Weerasinghe and M. Torok</i> | 294 |
| Validation of breeding values for robustness in Australian Merinos <i>D.L. Waters, J.H.J. van der Werf, D.J. Brown, S.F. Walkom and S.A. Clark</i> | 298 |
| Merits of using new intramuscular fat measurement technologies in genetic evaluation of Australian lamb <i>P. Alexandri, S.F. Walkom, S. Stewart, P. McGilchrist, C. Steel and D.J. Brown</i> | 302 |
| Merits of using DEXA to measure lean meat yield for the genetic evaluation of Australian lamb <i>S.F. Walkom, P. Alexandri, S. Connaughton, G. Gardner, A. Williams and D.J. Brown</i> | 306 |
| Progress of the Southern Multi-Breed Resource Population: Hard-to-measure phenotypes to drive genomic selection <i>B.J. Walmsley, K.L. Moore, S.F. Walkom, S.A. Clark, T. Granleese and K.A. Donoghue</i> | 310 |
| Genetic Evaluation A | |
| Estimate the genetic parameters and analysis of culling reasons in Iranian Holstein dairy cattle <i>H. Keshavarzi, E. Dehnavi and A. Small</i> | 314 |
| Genetic parameters and lambda values for post-weaning production traits in Merino sheep <i>S. de las Heras-Saldana, P. Gurman, A.A. Swan and D.J. Brown</i> | 318 |
| Longevity of reference populations in a trans-Tasman genetic evaluation: Review of the Angus Sire Benchmarking Program <i>S.F. Walkom, C.J. Duff, C. Girard and K. Moore</i> | 322 |
| Angus BreedCHECK – Validation using industry data <i>C.J. Duff, A.M. Samaraweera, A.I. Byrne, A.B. Ingham, P.A. Alexandre, L.R. Porto-Neto and A. Reverter</i> | 326 |
| Quantifying the linkage between genetics represented in the Southern Multi-Breed project and the wider Australian beef populations <i>K.L. Moore, S.F. Walkom, J.P. Siddell and B. Walmsley</i> | 330 |
| Utility of pooled DNA samples for estimating a flock profile <i>P.M. Gurman, K. Gore and D.J. Brown</i> | 334 |
| Assessing the influence of BayesR and GBLUP SNP effects in the correlation scan methodology <i>B.S. Olasege, I. van den Berg, E.J. Breen, M. Haile-Mariam, P.N. Ho, L.R. Porto-Neto, B.J. Hayes, M. Goddard, J.E. Pryce and M.R.S. Fortes</i> | 338 |
| Health and Welfare A | |
| The value of research and industry flocks for predicting breech strike resistance in Australian Merino sheep <i>E. Dehnavi, A.A. Swan, J.L. Smith, T.L. Bird-Gardiner, G. Burbidge and D.J. Brown</i> | 342 |
| Development of a new BREEDPLAN objective body composition EBV to allow selection to improve cow survival <i>M.L. Wolcott, D.J. Johnston, M.G. Jeyaruban and C.J. Girard</i> | 346 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Serum health biomarkers are significantly correlated with gene expression during the transition period of dairy cows <i>A. Kudriashova, A.J. Chamberlain, J.E. Newton, C.R. Bath, C.J. Vander Jagt, C.M. Reich, B.A. Mason, J.E. Hemsworth and M.E. Goddard</i> | 350 |
| Preliminary genetic parameters for flystrike and its association with production traits in Australian Merino sheep <i>E. Dehnavi, A.A. Swan, A.M.M. Ramsay, G. Burbidge and D.J. Brown</i> | 354 |
| Breeding for Reproductive Traits - Dairy | |
| Milk production and fertility of spring-calved Holstein-Friesian, Jersey and crossbred cows milked once daily or twice daily in New Zealand <i>J.M.D.R. Jayawardana, N. Lopez-Villalobos, R.E. Hickson and L.R. McNaughton</i> | 358 |
| Conception based fertility trait for genetic evaluation of New Zealand dairy cattle <i>K. Stachowicz, E.C. Ooi, B. Santos and P.R. Amer</i> | 362 |
| Attributes of lactating cows ranked divergently for fertility using a milk mid-infrared spectroscopy based prediction model <i>A.R. Bird, J.E. Newton and P.N. Ho</i> | 366 |
| Genetic Evaluation B | |
| Appropriateness of combining carcass data from Angus sire benchmarking program and breeder herds in a single genetic evaluation <i>A.M. Samaraweera, A. Byrne and C.J. Duff</i> | 370 |
| Infoherds, genomic selection for dairy cattle in New Zealand <i>B. Santos, N. Howes, S. Harburg, E. Ooi, S. Meier, A. Fear and P. Amer</i> | 374 |
| Validation of calving ease EBVs examining the impact of genetic groups and single-step on predictive ability <i>P.M. Gurman, L. Li, M.G. Jeyaruban, D.J. Johnston, C.J. Girard, and A.A. Swan</i> | 378 |
| Resource Allocation & Genetics of Intake and Efficiency | |
| Remodelling the genetic evaluation of NFI in beef cattle - Part 1: Developing an equivalent genetic model <i>L.Vargovic, K.L. Moore, D.J. Johnston, G.M. Jeyaruban, C.J. Girard, J. Cook, J.A. Torres-Vázquez and S.P. Miller</i> | 382 |
| Remodelling the genetic evaluation of NFI in beef cattle - Part 2: Shortening the length of the feed intake test <i>L.Vargovic, K.L. Moore, D.J. Johnston, G.M. Jeyaruban, C.J. Girard, J. Cook, J.A. Torres-Vázquez and S.P. Miller</i> | 386 |
| Across-breeds systems biology analysis reveals key genes contributing to feed efficiency in beef cattle <i>K. Keogh, D.A. Kenny, P.A. Alexandre, M. McGee and A. Reverter</i> | 390 |
| Producer Day | |
| Identification of climate-resilient Merino sheep using satellite images <i>S. de las Heras-Saldana, L.A. Suarez, P.K. Wahinya, K.L. Bunter and D.J. Brown</i> | 394 |