

Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics



Proceedings of the Twenty-second (22nd) Conference

Townsville, Queensland, AUSTRALIA
2nd July – 5th July 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear AAABG Members, Delegates and Partners,
On behalf of the Organising Committee it is my pleasure to extend a warm and cheerful welcome to you all to the 22nd AAABG conference in Townsville, Queensland. We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land on which we are meeting, the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people, we pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within our community.

This is the fourth time The Sunshine State has hosted the AAABG conference with Brisbane (1982), Rockhampton (1992) and Noosa Lakes (2005) preceding Townsville. Hopefully the weather has aligned with our wishes and the tropical winter allows you to experience the lifestyle, culture and heritage that make this region so unique.

Acclaimed as the natural second capital city of Queensland, Townsville and its region have a vibrant primary sector including cattle and fisheries. It is also home to leading institutions like James Cook University (JCU), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Australian Tropical Sciences and Innovation Precinct (ATSIP), a joint venture between JCU and CSIRO.

For the 22nd AAABG conference, the Organising Committee has worked under the banner of “Science Enabling Industry Outcomes” to reflect the intent to amalgamate breeders, R&D providers and scientists in their efforts to catalyse the translation of scientific findings to industrially useful applications. In addition to the customary species- and methodology-oriented sessions, the conference program boasts two industry sessions lead by agribusiness specialists from Australia and New Zealand, as well as a Q&A session aimed at fostering a fruitful dialogue among all parties.

For their generous support, I am grateful to the sponsors. Their funding has allowed us to attract invited speakers of international calibre, hire the venue and enjoy catering that the registration fee alone could have not afforded. The conference organisers, ASN Events in general and Jennifa Vo in particular, have worked tirelessly and to the highest professional standards to ensure a successful conference.

It has been gratifying to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the session chairs supervising the reviewing process of the papers allocated to their session. Ed Charmley and Dean Jerry are accredited for organising the beef and aquaculture tours, respectively.

I hope you enjoy the program, use the opportunity to cement old friendships, establish new ones, and leave with fond, lasting memories of the 22nd AAABG conference in Townsville.

Toni Reverter
President, 2017 AAABG

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ANIMAL BREEDING AND GENETICS
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CITATION OF PAPERS

Papers in this publication should be cited as appearing in the Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics (Abbreviation: *Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet.*)

For example:

Bowley F.E., Amer P.R. and Meier S. (2013) New approaches to genetic analysis of fertility traits in New Zealand dairy cattle. *Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet.* **20**: 37-40.

REVIEWERS and SECTION EDITORS

All papers, invited and contributed, were subjected to peer review by two referees. We acknowledge and thank those people listed below for their work in reviewing the papers (and apologise if we have inadvertently omitted any reviewer from the list).

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