TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preliminary pages

President's Message iii
26th Conference Committee and Citation of Papers iv
Reviewers v
Sponsors vi
AAABG Rules viii
AAABG Fellows x
AAABG Honorary Members xxi
Helen Newton Turner Medal xxii
Helen Newton Turner Bright Futures Award xxiii
2023 Helen Newton Turner Medalist Oration xxiv
John Vercoe Memorial Lecture xxviii
Table of Contents xxix

Plenary Papers

Global regulations governing genome editing in food animals 1
A.L. Van Eenennaam
Growing Aotearoa New Zealand's aquaculture industry through breeding and genomics: Progress, challenges and opportunities 6
J.E. Symonds, M.R. Scholtens, K.G Dodds, S.M. Clarke, R. Costilla, S.P. Walker, N. King, N.L.C. Ragg, M. Camara, J.A. Ericson, J. Vignier, M. Wellenreuther, Z. Waddington, J. Bailey, R.D. Roberts, E. Malpot, M.L. Tate and T. Slattery

John Vercoe Memorial Lecture

Climate change mitigation through genetic improvement – A deeply worthwhile challenge in the spirit of John Vercoe 13
R.G. Banks

Sustainability – Feed Efficiency and Methane

Measurement of feed intake in sheep using "off the shelf" technologies 18
P.T. Fitzgerald, R.L. Hergenhan and J.H.J. van der Werf
Feed-intake and methane efficiency for weight and growth pre-slaughter of MLA resource flock lambs 22
B. Paganoni, B. Bolt, A. Bowden, P. Fitzgerald, S.F. Walkom and J.H.J. van der Werf
Selecting for efficiency in long-fed cattle is important 26
W.S. Pitchford
Genetic insights into methane emission traits in indoor-fed growing cattle 30
S.B. Crowley. D.C. Purfield, S.B. Conroy, D.N. Kelly, R.D. Evans and D.P. Berry
Methane emissions of low and high methane yield selection line sheep fed ryegrass-based pasture across multiple periods 34
A. Jonker, S. Hickey, J.C. McEwan, E. Sandoval, S. MacLean and S. Rowe
Effect of winter forage brassica grazing on methane selection line sheep 38
F.L. Booker, S.M. Hickey, T.P. Bilton, I. Hampton, B. Bryson, M. Ward, P.L Johnson, J.C. McEwan and S.J. Rowe

Portable accumulation chambers for measuring enteric methane in cattle 42
T.P. Bilton, S.M. Hickey, A. Searle, I. Hampton, F. Booker, C. Rodgers, S. Sevier, S. Gebbie, K.G. Dodds, G.M. Jenkins, J.A. Archer, J.C. McEwan and S.J. Rowe
Factors affecting methane production of composite and crossbred cattle grazing tropical and subtropical pastures in Northern Australia 46
C. Whistler, K. McCosker, C. Warburton, D. Johnston, T. Grant, B. Taylor, K. Goodwin, M. Dayman, N. Scott, S. Cullen, M.H. Dekkers, S. Clark and B.J. Hayes

Novel Traits

Genetic analysis of sensor-based activity traits in Australian Merino sheep 50
H. Keshavarzi, E. Dehnavi, J. McNally, J.L. Smith and S. Schmoelzl
Assessing behavioural rigidity and its genetic influences in Australian Wagyu cattle 54
A. Lloyd, M. Facy and J. Grose
An examination of multibreed temperament measures recorded in the Southern Multi-Breed Resource Population 58
B.J. Walmsley, K.L. Moore, R. Woodgate, S.A. Clark, F.E.M. Haynes and K.A. Donoghue
Genetic risk factors for tail biting in Australian pigs as determined by binomial regression models 62
D. van Winden, R.Y. Galea, M.N. Aldridge, P.M. Gurman and S. Hermesch
Genetic parameters of being a tail-biting recipient in pigs 66
A.A. Reda, M.N. Aldridge, P.M. Gurman and S. Hermesch
Genetic correlations between purebred and crossbred pre- and post-weaning piglet mortality 70
J. Harper and K.L. Bunter
Genetic analysis of sow udder treatments 74
A.M.G. Bunz, J. Harper and K.L. Bunter
Implementation and delivery of the Wagyu Feeder Check 78
C.F. Teseling, M.B. McDonagh and D.P. Garrick

Genomic Prediction 1

Cost-benefit of a genomic reference population for goats in Australia 82
T. Granleese and S.F. Walkom
Genomic models for estimating genetic parameters for lifetime wool traits in Merino sheep 86
P.K. Wahinya, D.J. Brown, B.E. Clarke, J.L. Smith, T. Bird-Gardiner, A.A. Swan
Evaluating the accuracy of SNP-BLUP and admixture for breed composition prediction in rare and well-represented cattle breeds 90
C.A. Ryan
IBS versus IBD - new insights from whole genome sequence data 94
C.L. Warburton, R. Costilla, M.E. Goddard, B.J. Hayes and T.H.E. Meuwissen
The molecular cattle for precision breeding 98
R. Xiang, M.E. Goddard, A.J. Chamberlain and J.E. Pryce
Recovering the obscured genetic architectures through deconvolution of GWAS statistics 102
Z. Loh
Sort & Paste: A numerical method to render any random variable heritable given a genotype 106
A. Reverter and P.A. Alexandre

Assessing the effectiveness of low-coverage nanopore sequencing in genomic selection: A comparison between Clair3 and QUILT pipelines 110
L.T. Nguyen, H. Lamb, J. Copley, B.J. Hayes and E.M. Ross

Aquaculture

Estimating thermal tolerance in selectively-bred New Zealand Greenshell mussels (*Perna canaliculus*) 114
M.R. Scholtens, R. Roberts, N.J. Delorme, N. King, N.L.C. Ragg, R. Costilla and J.A.Ericson
Genotype-by-environment interactions in Yellowtail Kingfish: Implications for genetic improvement. 118
M. Camara, A. Setiawan, J.W.M. Bastiaansen and N.K. Jacob
Marker-based family assignment without parent genotypes 122
K.G. Dodds, J.E. Symonds, S.J. Rowe and J.C. McEwan
Applying machine learning to unlock genomic insights in snapper breeding 126
J. Blommaert and M. Wellenreuther
Fast-tracking farmed king salmon climate change adaptation 130
J.E. Symonds, M.R. Scholtens, K.G Dodds, R. Costilla, S.M. Clarke, J. Arinez, N.J. Kenny, S.P. Walker and Z. Waddington

Sustainability – Methane

Methane and carbon dioxide emissions in Australian Angus – past and present 134
M.D. Madsen, C.J. Duff, M. Samaraweera, L.A. Mowbray, T. Granleese, R. Hergenhan, T. Bird-Gardiner, P.F. Arthur and S.A. Clark
Validation of genomic prediction for methane emissions in Australian Merino sheep 138
M.N. Aldridge, S.I. Mortimer, D.J. Brown, P.T. Fitzgerald, E.H. Clayton, A. Donaldson, B. Paganoni, A. Thompson, V.H. Oddy and J.H. van der Werf
Building a reference population to enable genomic selection for methane related traits in beef cattle 142
S. Clark, M. Madsen, R. Hergenhan, C. Duff and T. Granleese
Repeatability and heritability of dairy cow methane concentration using sniffer sensors 146
F. Almasi, S.R.O. Williams, C.J. Vander Jagt, L.C. Marett, J.L. Jacobs and J.E. Pryce
Methane index explorer: Optimising a breeding value format for simultaneous inclusion of enteric methane emissions in breeding schemes and national inventories 150
P.C. Ariyarathne, S.M. Hickey, T.P. Bilton, P. Johnson, N.K. Pickering, S.J. Rowe and J.C. McEwan
Incorporation of direct methane traits in national breeding objectives 154
F. Hely, D. Kenny, N. Howes and P. Amer
The Green Cow project: developing a methane efficiency genomic breeding value for the Australian dairy industry 158
C.J. Vander Jagt, F. Almasi, B.J. Sepulveda, L.C. Marett, S.R.O. Williams, R. Xiang, S. Bolormaa, M. Shaffer, J. Penry, C. Hill, D. Gibson, J.L. Jacobs and J.E. Pryce

Dairy

Industry perspectives on calf traits 162
M.M. Axford, M. Khansefid and J.E. Pryce
Correlation of cow mortality and culling (sale) rate with selected type traits in Australian Holstein and Jersey cattle 166

M. Haile-Mariam, M.E. Goddard, M. Axford, J. Newton and M. Khansefid
Updating the genetic prediction model for cow survival in Australia 170
M. Khansefid, J.E. Pryce, J.E. Newton, M. Axford, G. Nieuwhof, M.E. Goddard and M. Haile-Mariam
Selection for first parity linear-type traits in the New Zealand dairy cattle population 174
M.A. Nilforooshan, R.G. Sherlock and B.L. Harris
Evaluating genetic and phenotypic relationships of six traits other than production (TOP) in dairy cattle prior to their adoption in New Zealand 178
R.C. Handcock, D.P. Garrick and M.A. Stephen
Dual-purpose Norwegian red cattle for sustainable dairy and beef productions in pasture-based systems 182
C. McKimmie, H.A. Najafabadi, E. Noble-Campbell, J. Hoffmann and J. Jenko
Agriculture Institute Australia's Student Compendium is building a sustainable research, development and adoption workforce 185
B. Hancock and T. Manning

Genomic Prediction 2

Multi-trait genomic models with trait and marker specific weights can substantially increase the accuracy of genomic breeding values 189
T. Meuwissen and V. Boerner
Integrating whole genome sequence variants selected from large-scale association analysis into a single-step marker model in New Zealand dairy cattle 193
Y. Wang, M.A. Nilforooshan, R.G. Sherlock, A.M. Winkelman and B.L. Harris
A linkage disequilibrium method to reposition single nucleotide polymorphism and improve genotype imputation accuracy 197
Y. Fazel, K. Moore, S. Miller and M.H. Ferdosi
Multi-breed genomic estimated breeding values predict liveweight production in North Australian beef cattle 201
B.J. Hayes, G. Fordyce, E. Dodd, S. Speight and K. McCosker
Estimates of accuracy for genomic-only breeding values and flock profiles in Australian Merino sheep 205
L. Li, P.M. Gurman, A.A. Swan and D.J. Brown
Helical: A full-stack agile platform enabling data flywheels and data sharing to empower modern breeding programs 209
D.P. Garrick, D.J. Garrick and J.E. Howse
Alignment of pedigree and genomic information in a combined terminal sire and maternal sheep analysis 213
P.M. Gurman, P. Alexandri, D.J. Brown, K.L. Bunter, S. de las Heras-Saldana, K.P. Gore, L. Li, A.J. McMillan, S.F. Walkom and A.A. Swan
Implementing genomic outcomes for simulated progeny to support mating decisions 217
D.P. Garrick, J.E. Howse and C.F. Teseling

Sustainability Methane Prediction

Association between rumen and faecal microbiome and enteric methane emissions in dairy cattle 221
B.J. Sepulveda, C.J. Vander Jagt, A.J. Chamberlain, J. Wang, L.C. Marett, S.R.O. Williams, J.L. Jacobs and J.E. Pryce
Metagenomic predictions for enteric methane emissions in sheep using long-read sequencing of rumen fluid samples 225

Y. Li, L.T. Nguyen, C.T. Ong, S. Yadav, M. Aldridge, P. Fitzgerald, J. van der Werf and E. M. Ross

Proxies in practice: Implementing rumen metagenomic profiles for genomic selection of methane emissions 229
T.P. Bilton, P.L. Johnson, H. Henry, B.J. Perry, F. Booker, J. Peers-Adams, M. Ward, B. Bryson, S.M. Clarke, J.C. McEwan, L.W. Coleman, N.K. Pickering, K.G. Dodds and S.J. Rowe

Tissue-specific RNA expression data enhances genomic prediction of methane emissions in sheep 233
S.W. Alemu, T.P. Bilton, B.J. Perry, H.M. Henry, K.M. McRae, K.G. Dodds, J.C. McEwan, S.M. Clarke and S.J. Rowe

Use of mid-infrared spectrocopy data for improving accuracy of genomic prediction for methane emissions 237
S. Bolormaa, P.N. Ho, I.M. MacLeod, M. Haile-Mariam, L.C. Marett, S.R.O. Williams, J.L. Jacobs, C.J. Vander Jagt, M.E. Goddard,4, R. Xiang, and J.E. Pryce

Exploring adaptive sequencing for efficient profiling of methanogenic microbiomes in cattle oral samples as a proxy for methane prediction and mitigation studies 241
Z. Chen, J. Silaban, E.M. Ross and C.T. Ong

Evaluating oral swabbing as a practical alternative to rumen sampling for large-scale methane emission studies in grazing animals 245
C.T. Ong, Z. Chen, A.S. Cavallaro, M.R.S. Fortes, M. Dekker, A. Boulton, B. Kniwesky and E.M. Ross

Maternal traits & survival

Effects of adding a new fertility trait to the Angus Australia HeiferSELECT index 249
C.D. Quinton, S. Harburg, L.E. Proctor, P.R. Amer, C.J. Duff and A.M. Samaraweera

The influence of spermatozoal motility on conception and scan count following artificial insemination in sheep 252
M.J. Hodge, S.J. Rindfleish, L. Li, C.P. Stephen, S.D. Pant and S. de las Heras-Saldana

Genetic parameters for cause of death traits in lambs and indicator traits linked to neonatal survival 256
M. Hebart, R. McEwin and F.D. Brien

A revisiting of the genetics of lamb survival and related traits, as part of the Fit to Lamb Project 260
R.A. McEwin, M.L. Hebart and F.D. Brien

An ex-post cost benefit analysis of the Ovita lamb survival project 264
K.M. McRae, J.M. Everett-Hincks, S.-A. Newman, W.E. Bain, G. Greer, H. Baird, H. Manley, G. Shackell, S.M. Clarke, K.G. Dodds, N. Amyes, N. Jopson, M. Lee, P.L. Johnson, S.J. Rowe and J.C. McEwan

Genetics parameters for gestation length with early in life growth traits in an Australian Wagyu population 268
M. Facy, A. Lloyd and J. Grose

Across-breed analysis of maternal traits in New Zealand beef cattle 272
J. Kang, D.J. Garrick, M.A. Lee, F. Weik and J.A. Archer

Breeding Programmes

Multi-trait selection with desired gains and non-linear indexes 276
J.H.J. van der Werf

Digital twin: Modelling breeding program approaches in Australian Wagyu 280
J. Copley, B. Hayes, G. Moser, B. Engle, K. Villiers and M. Kelly

Routine diagnosis of genetic evaluations and auto standardisation to non-linear cost function 284
X. Zhang, F. Hely, K. Stachowicz and P. Amer

Micron premiums and their role in Merino breeding programs 287
S.F. Hatcher, A.E. Casey, S.F. Walkom, D.J. Brown and A.A. Swan

Cost - benefit of genotyping commercial Merino sheep 291
G. Rose, S. Martin, D.J. Brown, L.P. Kahn and J.H.J. van der Werf

A comparison of progeny of selected and unselected sires within the setting of a community-based breeding programme catering to women smallholder goat rearers in Bihar, India 295
S. Abeykoon, P. Amer, P. Wilcox and C. Nimbkar

Optimal breeding programs for Lao native goats in smallholder systems 299
S.V. Le, S. de las Heras-Saldana, P. Alexandri and J.H.J. van der Werf

Genetic diversity & inbreeding

Identification of relationships and pedigree simplification using graph theory 303
M.H. Ferdosi and D. Johnston

Assessing the genetic diversity of Australian goats 307
P. Alexandri, T. Atkinson, D.J. Brown, K. Gore, K. Smith, S.F. Walkom and T. Granleese

Breed comparisons in combined LAMBPLAN: Genetic group and linkage assessment 311
A.J. McMillan, P. Alexandri, P.M. Gurman, D.J. Brown, K.L. Bunter, K.P. Gore, S. de las Heras-Saldana, L. Li, S.F. Walkom and A.A. Swan

Using genotyping by sequencing to monitor the genetic diversity of Australian honey bees 315
P. Alexandri, S.P. Miller, E.A. Frost, N.C. Chapman, S.F. Walkom, R.G. Banks and K.L. Bunter

Breed-of-origin of alleles and genomic breed composition estimation in New Zealand crossbred dairy cattle 319
Y. Wang, A.M. Winkelman and B.L. Harris

Ascertaining the breed composition of an admixed sheep populations using genomic information: a simulation study 323
S. Sahoo, M.H. Ferdosi, J.H.J. van der Werf and S. de las Heras-Saldana

Genomic inbreeding measures for Australian Wagyu - methods and implications 327
D.P. Garrick, D.J. Garrick and C.F. Teseling

Absence of C>T polymorphism in the intron (5′-UTR) region of the MTHFR gene in Indian Barbari goats 331
A. Kumar, S.P. Singh, D. Sharma, G. K. Gupta, Pooja, A. Chauhan, V. Aditya and B. Kumari

Meat and Growth

Genetic correlations of Merino meat colour traits with lean meat yield and eating quality 335
S.I. Mortimer, S.M. Fowler, B.W.B. Holman, T.I.R.C. Alvarenga, D.L. Hopkins, K.L. Egerton-Warburton, J.L. Smith, B.C. Hine and A.A. Swan
Genetic parameter estimation of carcase quality phenotypes measured with cameras in Australian Wagyu 339
E. de Bruyn, K.L. Moore and S.P. Miller
Multibreed genomic evaluation for sensory eating quality of lamb using consumer assessments 343
D.J. Brown, S.Z.Y. Guy, S.I. Mortimer, L. Pannier, P. McGilchrist, D. Pethick and A.A. Swan
Estimated frequencies of myostatin mutations (double muscling) in Australian tropically adapted beef breeds 347
K.L. Moore, D.J. Johnston and T. Grant
Identification of genes habouring mutations affecting eating quality traits in beef cattle using Bayesian genomic prediction methods 351
M. Forutan, H. Aliloo, S. Clark, P. McGilchrist and B. Hayes
Genetic correlations between mature body condition, weight, and hip height and early fat-depth traits in Australian Angus cattle 355
M. Samaraweera, H. Aliloo, C.J. Duff and S.A. Clark
Joint modelling of mean and dispersion increases the accuracy of random regression on simulated growth curves 359
C.L. Nel and A.R. Gilmour
Accuracy of genomic predictions for beef eating quality traits 363
H. Aliloo, M. Forutan, P. McGilchrist, B. Hayes and S. Clark
Yearling weight and horn traits in South African Merino lines divergently selected for and against number of lambs weaned 367
S.W.P. Cloete, C.L. Nel and J.J.E. Cloete

Alternative Omics Approaches

Microbiability and heritability of deer seasonality traits 371
J.L. Clarke, T.P. Bilton, H. Henry, K.M. McRae, F. Booker, B. Veenvliet, W. Bain, J.A. Ward, B. Thompson, D. Stevens, J.C. McEwan, B.J. Perry, M.A. Black and S.J. Rowe
Characterisation of short tandem repeats (STRs) in cattle using long read sequencing 375
Q.H. Tran, I.M. MacLeod, T.V. Nguyen, J. Wang and A.J. Chamberlain
Considerations in imputation of Skim Sequenced data 379
M.S. Tahir, J. Wang, A.J. Chamberlain, C.M. Reich, B.A. Mason and I.M. MacLeod
The feasibility of an imputation reference population for structural variation in cattle 383
A.J. Chamberlain, T.V. Nguyen, J. Wang, X. Wang, C.J. Vander Jagt and I.M. MacLeod
Insights from population-scale long-read sequencing: structural variant characterisation and annotation 387
T. Nguyen, J. Wang, A. Chamberlain and I. Macleod

Exploring blood biomarkers as potential intermediate phenotypes for transition cow diseases: a foundation for future multi-omics integration 391
A. Kudriashova, A.J. Chamberlain, J.A.A. McArt, J.E. Hemsworth, C. M. Reich and M.E. Goddard
Using multi-omics data to identify candidate genes for milk lactose percentage in dairy cattle 395
M. Ghoreishifar, R. Xiang, T. Lopdell, M. Littlejohn, A. Chamberlain, J. Pryce and M. Goddard
Evidence of chromosome x association with knobbed acrosomes 399
B.S. Firewski, W.L.A. Tan, T. Melo, L.R. Porto-Neto, A. Reverter, M. McGowan and M.R.S. Fortes

Health and Welfare

Preliminary investigation of the genetics of shedding in maternal sheep 402
S.F. Walkom, J.R. Keiller, M.P. Kelly and D.J. Brown
Genetic evaluation of tail length in Australian sheep 407
M.J. Hodge, D.J. Brown and S.F. Walkom
Assessing genetic variability in flystrike resistance across expression levels in Australian Merino sheep 411
E. Dehnavi, A.A. Swan, B.C. Swain, J.C. Greeff, J.L. Smith, G. Burbidge, A.M.M. Ramsay, T.L. Bird-Gardiner and D.J. Brown
The role of conformation traits in evaluating heat tolerance in dairy cattle 415
L.M. Jensen, M. Haile-Mariam, S. Bolormaa and J.E. Pryce
Linear analysis of rumen themologger data to compare tolerance to heat challenge in eight sheep breeds 419
C.L. Nel, K. Mafunga, S.K. Maloney, T.S. Brand, K. Dzama, P.G. Theron and S.W.P. Cloete
The effect of tree shade and breed on heat stress indicators in Dormer and South African Meat Merino ewes and lambs 423
K. Mafunga, C.L. Nel, K. Dzama and S.W.P. Cloete
Preliminary analysis of immune competence traits in northern Australian tropically adapted beef breeds 427
K.L. Moore, D.J. Johnston, T. Grant and J. Croaker
Associations between immune competence breeding values and health traits in Australian Angus cattle 431
L.A Mowbray, M. Samaraweera, C. Duff, B.C. Hine, A. Reverter, P.A. Alexandre, L.R. Porto-Neto and A.B. Ingham
Including resilience in the breeding objective of sustainable Merino sheep 435
E.G. Smith, S.F. Walkom, A.A Swan and S.A. Clark

Genetic Evaluation

Latest developments in genomic tools for Angus Australia: SteerSELECT, HeiferSELECT and BreedCHECK 438
A. Reverter, C. Duff, M. Samaraweera, P.A. Alexandre, B.C. Hine, A.B. Ingham, L.A Mowbray and L.R. Porto-Neto
The 2025 National Breeding Objective review for Australian dairy cattle: insights from stakeholder consultation 443
T.T.T. Nguyen, M. Axford, P. Thurn, L. Monks, G. Nieuwhof, P. Williams, D. Watson, H. McLaren and M. Shaffer

Exploring adoption factors, and preferences to the use of beef genetic tools in Northern Australia 447
P. Menchon, J.K. Manning, D.L. Swain and A. Cosby
Combined LambPlan: Expanding the mulit-breed nature of the LambPlan evaluation 451
S.F. Walkom, P. Alexandri, D.J. Brown, K.L. Bunter, N.K. Connors, S. de las Heras-Saldana, K.P. Gore, P.M. Gurman, L. Li, A.J. McMillan, S.P. Miller, P.E. Bradley and A.A. Swan
Expanding Australian sheep genomic reference population 455
P. Alexandri, P.M. Gurman, D.J. Brown, K.L. Bunter, K.P. Gore, S. de las Heras-Saldana, L. Li, A.J. McMillan, S.F. Walkom and A.A. Swan
Fixed effects and genetic parameters for the combined LambPlan evaluation of Australian sheep 459
S. de las Heras-Saldana, D.J. Brown, P.M. Gurman, P. Alexandri, K.L. Bunter, K.P. Gore, L. Li, A.J. McMillan, S.F. Walkom and A.A. Swan
Genotyping reduces preselection bias on MERINOSELECT ASBVs in Merino flocks 463
B.E. Clarke, D.J. Brown, P. Bradley and A.A. Swan
Implementation of genomic mate selection and other non-additive issues 467
B.P. Kinghorn and A.J. Kinghorn
Factors affecting genetic gain by geographic location for Australian and New Zealand MERINOSELECT flocks 471
C.J. Bunter, P.E. Bradley, M.J. Hodge and K.L. Rummery

Genetic progress in industry

Seven Years On: What has Single-Step BREEDPLAN meant for the Australian Brahman breed? 475
C.A. Millen, B.J. Crook and P.J. Williams
BREEDPLAN: 40 years of accelerating genetic progress in the beef industry 479
B.W. Gudex, C.A. Millen, D.J. Johnston and N. Turner
Genetic trends in Australian beef cattle and sheep populations and their impact 483
R.G. Banks, D.J. Brown, K.L. Moore, B.J Walmsley and A.A. Swan
Breeding for facial eczema tolerance - A success story 487
P.L. Johnson and R. Proffit