

AGRONOMY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

Agronomy in the News

The newsletter of the Agronomy Society of New Zealand

President's update



Dr. Bruce Searle is the newly-elected president of the Agronomy Society of New Zealand. Bruce is the leader of the Field Crops team at Plant & Food Research, and has a background in crop physiology and modelling. At the recent Agronomy Conference Bruce highlighted the significant contribution members make. "Agronomy underpins primary production, so we have an important role to play in the country's future by helping our farmers to be both economically viable and environmentally responsible". He replaces Professor Bruce McKenzie, who has served the society as president for the past 8 years.

New Agronomy Society website to be launched

We'll soon be launching the new Agronomy Society website, where you'll be able to keep up to date with news and upcoming agronomy events. We are also providing free access to our proceeding papers, starting with those from the 2011 conference. Back issues will be added at a later date. This will not only make the proceedings readily available, but increase the use of this valuable resource.

To advertise agronomy-related events on our news page please send your requests to the Secretary ([click here](#)).

2011 Agronomy Conference a great success

Members of the Grasslands Association and Agronomy Society met from November 8-10 in Gisborne for their respective annual conferences. A wide variety of cropping and pastoral topics were discussed, and a number of visits made to local farmers in the region.

Past president Bruce McKenzie reported that the agronomy sessions were well attended by delegates from across NZ.

Nick Pyke, Chief Executive of the Foundation for Arable Research also addressed the group, outlining challenges and research opportunities for the arable industry in the years ahead.



Agronomy Conference awards



Newly-elected president Bruce Searle presented several awards at the Gisborne conference.

James Millner (left) of Massey University won the Agronomy Society prize for best overall presenter for his paper "*Forage quality of sorghum, sudan grass, sorghum x sudan grass and pearl millet cultivars*".

Christina Marshall (right), a graduate student at Massey University won the Agronomy Society prize for best student presenter for her paper "*Determining the identity of New Zealand Kamokamo*". Christina also received the Student Travel award to attend the conference.

Introducing your Agronomy council

At the recent AGM the following members were (re-)elected to serve the society:

<i>President:</i>	Bruce Searle
<i>Vice president:</i>	Andrew Fletcher
<i>Immediate past president:</i>	Bruce McKenzie
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Jo Townshend
<i>Secretary:</i>	Paul Johnstone
<i>Council:</i>	Craig McGill, Peter Kemp, Murray Craighead, James Millner, John de Ruiter, Bill Bussell and Joanna Sharp.

Please contact the Treasurer ([click here](#)) if you would like information on joining the society.

2011 Agronomy Proceedings

We're pleased to announce that the 2011 Agronomy Proceedings were printed and circulated to delegates at the Gisborne conference. For those members who haven't received a copy we'll be sending these out by mail in the coming weeks. We want to thank all authors and reviewers who helped us achieve this earlier time frame. We'd also like to acknowledge the hard work of Craig McGill in editing and compiling the proceedings. If you'd like to purchase additional hard copies please contact the Treasurer ([click here](#)). The 2010 Proceedings will be released soon.

Upcoming conferences and events



6th International Crop Science Congress

The 6th ICSC will be held at Bento Gonçalves, Brazil. Congress dates are August 6-12, 2012. Further details of the event are available at <http://www.6icsc.org/>.



16th Conference of the Australian Society of Agronomy - call for papers is open

The 16th Conference of the ASA will be at the University of New England, NSW. Conference dates are October 14-18, 2012. Organisers are calling for paper titles under the theme "Capturing opportunities and overcoming obstacles in Australian agronomy". Full details of the event are available at <http://www.agronomy.org.au/events/2012/>.