

# NZ GRASSLAND ASSOCIATION

Fuelled by Science, Tempered by Experience

GRASSLAND NEWS

[www.grassland.org.nz](http://www.grassland.org.nz)

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## NZGA Executive Update

Planning is well underway for the 2019 conference in Napier. The LOC advise that accommodation will need to be booked early to ensure you have a bed as Napier is a popular location in summer. There are more details on the [website](#).

Manuscripts re due in today (May 13th) to NZGA editor, Ruth Falshaw through the [Journal submission page](#). If you are a new user remember to register before attempting to submit a paper.

For those that were present at the Twizel conference there was a notable paper that NZGA published posthumously, written by Dr David Scott before he passed away.

David had prepared his final NZGA paper "*Thirty six years (1981-2017) of Mt John pasture trials*", which is published in Vol 80. An obituary for David was in the January newsletter [The life and times of David Scott- "Scotty" \(1934-2017\)](#).

In his will David bequeathed \$100,000 to the NZ Grassland Trust to support pastoral research. The Trustees have been discussing how this can be used to provide an ongoing recognition of David Scott. They have decided on the following Award for NZGA members that aligns with David's passion for hill and high country research.

## NZ Grassland Trust - David Scott Award

Dr John Caradus, Chair NZGT

**The David Scott Award** will be available to be presented annually to a person who is a mid-career and developing scientist /agribusiness specialist/ innovator associated with the pastoral farming industries who seeks to undertake travel for conference attendance or further (postgraduate) study with a focus on hill country or high-country research.

The Award will provide \$3,000 per annum plus a framed certificate. This Award is instituted in memory of Dr David Scott who, in 2018, left a significant endowment to the NZ Grassland Trust for the benefit of members of the NZ Grassland Association.

Criteria for selection:

- Member of NZGA
- 5 to 15 years into their career whether in research, agribusiness, or farming
- Travel could be within NZ or overseas
- Purpose is to advance leadership and/or knowledge that will in some way benefit hill country or high-country farming

A detailed report on the learnings gained from the study to be provided to the NZGT within a month of completion of the travel.

Applications for the 2020 year close on 1 August 2019. Application forms are available from Bruce Belgrave c/- Grasslanz Technology Ltd, PB 11008, Palmerston North or email [bruce.belgrave@grasslanz.com](mailto:bruce.belgrave@grasslanz.com).



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This year’s Grassland Conference is going to be different. Based on the theme “Farming the Future” it will interactively address current and future challenges and discuss solutions to help overcome them.

There will be plenty of opportunities for interaction between the presenters of information and the participants. Those of you who were at Whanganui in 2017 saw the use of Slide-O, whereby attendees can text questions to the presenters in a joint Q and A at the end of the session. Compared with oral questions it allows many more to be asked, encourages the shyer and younger people to participate and avoids the annoying habit of speakers taking up their whole allocation without time for questions. In Napier, Slide-O will be used for most of the science paper sessions.

In addition, concurrent facilitated workshops which were successful at Lincoln in 2010 and Masterton in 2015 will be held. East Coast sheep and beef farmers have been asked to choose the important current and future on-farm topics and local farmers who have addressed these issues successfully on their own farm will lead the workshops.

The workshops are a feature of the second day on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November which has been organised to suit farmers. On that day we will also have a farming partnership paper session where both partners will contribute as different from the past when only the male has been asked to speak. There will be a choice of two field days with the unique opportunity to either view the iconic Kereru Station or to visit the well-recognised Brownrigg's livestock and cropping operations.

On the first day we also have some stimulating presentations. Damian O’Connor, the Minister of Primary Industries will be the first keynote speaker. He will be followed by Tom Skerman from the Hawkes Bay Regional Council speaking on how best to encourage improvements in environmental management on farm, Gerard Hickey from First Light who export Wagyu beef and venison on the importance of value chains and the futurologist Melissa Clarke-Reynolds on fitting new technologies into

farming systems.

The new technology message continues on the first day with a series of papers describing the value of several new developments. In the afternoon we go inland to Patoka where we will observe a whole catchment monitoring scheme which will use some of these technologies. Many of you may not have been in towards the Kaweka Ranges where there is some nice farm land with beautiful ash soils and reasonably reliable rainfall.

There was a good selection of science paper abstracts and were able to choose about 45 papers for submission. Many of these will be presented in joint paper sessions to give you choice in addition to the Agronomy Society papers.

So put the Conference in your diaries and book your accommodation early as we live in a tourist trap and we will look forward to seeing you in Sunny Napier from November 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.



Marine parade, Napier

**LINKS TO RECENT KEY ARTICLES OF INTEREST FOR AGRICULTURE**

**Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment**

Links to key publications—[Overseer; methane emissions; Farms, forestry and fossil fuels; plastics](#)

**Prime Minister's Chief Science Adviser—Prof Juliet Ger-rard**

<https://www.pmcsa.ac.nz/our-projects/our-current-projects/>

**Summary of Zero Carbon Act**

<https://zerocarbonact.nz/assets/Uploads/ZCA-summary->

[FINAL.pdf](#)

**Productivity Commission**

[Transitioning to a low emissions economy](#)

**Science Media Centre**

Aim to promote accurate, evidence-based reporting on science and technology

[Climate change](#)