



Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of the PAANZ Newsletter. The Association exists to promote all forms of precision agriculture to as wide an audience as possible. The updates from two recent conferences presented here illustrate the breadth of issues pertinent to PA and the diversity of interested parties. So we have our work cut out!

This first report covers the 6th European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming 2013. The second covers the Fertiliser and Lime Research Centre Workshop in February 2014.

This newsletter starts with an update from the inaugural PAANZ Annual General Meeting. A key take home message from the chairman was: 'Let us know what you want from PAANZ'.

So please enjoy this newsletter and get in touch with your ideas for increasing awareness and uptake of precision agriculture.

Regards,
Roger Williams
Editor

From the Chairman

As we head into the New Year we are looking forward to working with all our members to provide solutions that will meet their requirements for Precision Agriculture. One of the primary objectives is to connect members with organisations and providers so extension of the latest technology and information is freely available.

We had the opportunity to host John Fulton from Auburn University Alabama USA in conjunction with FAR at a breakfast meeting in February in Ashburton. John shared what is happening in his part of the world with PA and in particular highlighted the importance of data management and the potential implications with data ownership and how this might be used. This is an area that will be discussed at the ISPA meeting in Sacramento in July 2014.

I would like to acknowledge that it was only possible to have John join us was because of the sponsorship provided by Massey University in bringing John to NZ for the FLRC conference that was held at Massey University.

Looking forward to working with you all as we progress Precision Agriculture and our organisation.

Regards
Craig Mackenzie

News from the PAANZ AGM

The inaugural PAANZ AGM was held at the Christchurch A&P Show on the 13th of November.

As we are still a new organization there was a small attendance, but sufficient to allow us to attend to the administrative matters necessary at an AGM. A big thank you to Ravensdown for allowing us to

use their marquee.

The Chair at that time, Peter Barrowclough, delivered his Chairman's report, a [copy](#) of which is on the website. Peter emphasized that this association was for the promotion and uptake of Precision Agriculture and that the members needed to keep communicating to the committee as to what they wanted from the organization.

(From the minutes: Chairman Peter Barrowclough presented his report for the period since PAANZ was established in late 2012. Peter commented on the generous support of sponsors to date and the time the voluntary committee had devoted to the many requirements to formally set up PAANZ as an organisation.)

Jim Grennell then delivered the Treasurers report which was approved by the members present.

The following members were elected to the committee:

Peter Barrowclough – Lincoln Agritech
Mike Manning – Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd
Jim Grennell – Canterbury Development Corporation
Brendon O'Connell – Tru-Test Ltd
Craig Mackenzie – Agri Optics New Zealand Ltd
Anton Nichols – Macfarlane Rural Business
Robyn Dynes – AgResearch
Dan Bloomer – Landwise
Roger Williams – Plant & Food Research
Ian Yule – Massey University

Peter thanked the previous members of the committee who were not standing again.

(From the minutes: Two members of the initial voluntary Committee, Jane Adams and Andrew West did not offer their names for formal election to the Committee. Other members of the initial Committee offered their names for election together with three new people, Mike Manning, Ravensdown, Robyn Dynes, AgResearch and Anton Nicholls, Macfarlane Rural Business.)

Brendon O'Connell then spoke to the group about how important Precision Agriculture and the associated technologies were to Trutest and the primary sector.

Finally there was a chance to mix and mingle over refreshments again kindly donated by Ravensdown where everyone got a chance to talk about the benefits of Precision Agriculture. [A copy of the minutes](#) can be found on the web site.

Precision Livestock Farming - Developments and Trends

A summary of the 6th European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming 2013

By Jess Roberts, Lincoln Agritech, Lincoln (February 2014)

The development and use of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) is growing rapidly as a result of economic, environmental, health and welfare pressures. Precision Livestock Farming aims to assist with new tools and equipment as well as software systems for livestock monitoring and management to overcome these challenges.

The 6th European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming (ECPLF), which was held in Leuven, Belgium from the 10-12th of September 2013 was combined with the final conference and workshop of several ongoing EU projects: the BioBusiness project, the ALL-Smart-Pigs project and the EU-PLF project, all focused on development of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF). Major topics included cattle (primarily dairy), pigs, poultry, horses, sheep and goats, aquaculture and environmental impacts of livestock farming. The aim of this conference was to contribute to knowledge exchange through productive discussions to progress PLF, specifically combining technology and biological sciences.

For a summary of the key presentations [click here](#).

Precision Agriculture in the discussions around fertilizer use in NZ

A commented summary from the 2014 workshop at the Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre (FLRC), Massey University, Palmerston North. Held from 18-20 February 2014.

By Armin Werner, Lincoln Agritech, Lincoln (February 2014)

The 2014 workshop of the Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre (FLRC) of Massey University expanded the scope of fertilizers and their use from farm to catchment and into the involvement of the community. As a scientific meeting it gave room for reports on latest research in understanding processes of nutrient dynamics in our farms or landscapes and the impact of agricultural management. As a workshop aimed at farmers, service staff, consultants and policy makers it discussed using the latest tools for decision making on farm and in finding proper regulatory strategies.

For a summary of key issues relating to precision agriculture, [click here](#).

Join PAANZ

There are several categories of PAANZ membership providing a range of exclusive benefits to individuals and organisations with an interest in precision agriculture.

To find out more and join today, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

The ANZ Young Farmer Contest is currently taking place around New Zealand - click [here](#) for an update on when it's coming to your region.

[More upcoming events...](#)