

certainly lessened the degree of isolation that previously existed between the Societies.

During his term as President he was actively involved in the initiation and formation of the Asian/Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies, and played a significant role in its inaugural meeting in Malaysia. This organisation, while still in its formative years, it destined to play an important part in uniting a common interest in animal production in the South-East Asia/South Pacific area and Jock Macmillan's efforts in its formation are commendable.

The joint Australian/New Zealand 'Dairy Production from Pasture' Conference was organised by Jock, presiding over a small band of enthusiastic workers. The Conference was the first to be jointly sponsored by the New Zealand and Australian Societies of Animal Production and it provided a unique example of 2 specialised agricultural groups combining to improve the trans-Tasman exchange of production technology and information.

One of the concepts of the Conference was to bring together the wide cross section of specialists and advisers who are all part of the dairy industry. It was to be a conference for advisers, herd owners,

scientists, teachers, veterinarians, and representatives of commercial companies. It was not to be a field day, a farmers' conference or a scientists' convention.

The Conference was an overwhelming success. It achieved all of its objectives, and demonstrated that this type of meeting can contribute to the promotion and discussion of information on animal production by a wide cross-section of those involved. Perhaps the only blemish on its organisation was the fact that at the social function the beer was not cold, a fact that threatened Australian/New Zealand relations almost as much as had the under-arm bowling incident previously.

Jock Macmillan gave of his all as a member of your Society's Committee. The subsequent success of the Dairy Production Conference and the associated credit that it brought to this Society, together with his efforts on the international front to promote co-operation between societies are very much reflected in the committee's decision that he should receive the C. P. McMeekan Memorial Award for 1983.

K. E. Jury

THE SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD 1983

A. G. H. PARKER

The Sir Arthur Ward Award aims to highlight the successful application of knowledge gained by scientific research or farmer experimentation by rewarding those who have a major contribution in the trial or extension phase of the adoption of animal production procedures in New Zealand.

Key people in the adoption of new techniques are those farmers who are willing to risk their money and often their credibility by pathfinding the application of untried procedures. They have to work out the details of how their farming system should be adjusted in the light of the new knowledge or procedures. If they are successful in modifying the system, their operation then becomes the focal point for others interested in the adoption of the new procedures.

Twenty years ago New Zealand sheep breeding procedures were largely based on traditional methods. There were signs of a widening rift between the

scientists who were suggesting the adoption of new procedures and the more influential practical breeders. The fact that the New Zealand sheep industry is now a world leader in the adoption of scientifically-based methods of sheep breeding owes much to the farmers who helped bridge the gap between the scientists and the practical breeders by applying commercially untried techniques to their own flocks.

A leader amongst those bridgers of gaps is the recipient of the 1983 Sir Arthur Ward Award, Mr A. G. H. Parker.

Tony Parker was born in Hastings and received secondary education at Wanganui Collegiate School. He completed the Farmers' and Breeders' Certificate in Wool at Massey Agricultural College in 1948 and took over the management of the family's registered New Zealand Romney flock in 1950 at the beginning of a period when many scientific arguments were