

McMEEKAN MEMORIAL AWARD

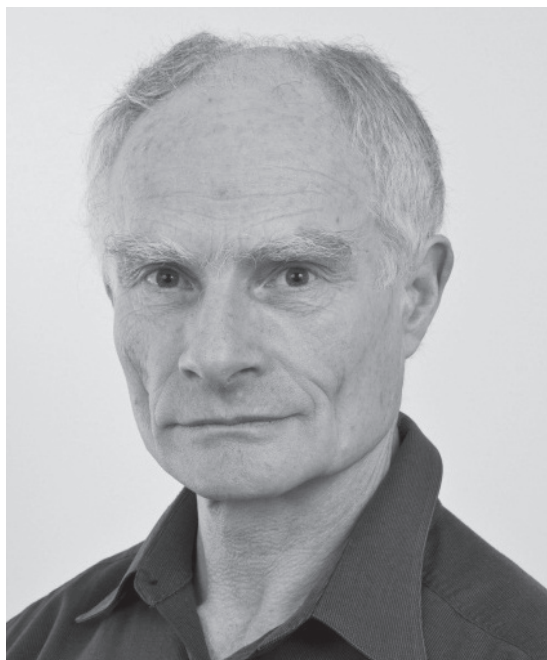
Roger W. Purchas

BAgrSc, MAgrSc (Massey University), PhD (Michigan State University).

Dr Roger Purchas is a champion of meat-science research in New Zealand. Roger's research in meat science and meat production has seen him work across a range of production-animal species including cattle, sheep, deer, pigs, buffalo and camel. His research activity has covered the whole meat science spectrum including investigations into: hormonal influences on growth and carcass characteristics, factors affecting meat tenderness, effects of animal nutrition, breed and other on-farm factors on growth, carcass and meat quality, measurements of body composition including early use of ultrasound to measure fat depth on sheep, meat flavour, role of pH in meat quality, dark-cutting in beef, bioactives in meat and nutrient composition of meat.

After growing up on a farm in the Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand, Roger earned a Bachelor and Master degree in Agricultural Science at Massey University in Palmerston North. This was followed by PhD studies in Food Science at Michigan State University. A three-year Post-Doctoral position at the University of Sydney in Australia ensued before returning to New Zealand to become a staff member in Animal Science and subsequently Food Technology at Massey University. During his time at Massey University, Roger was the supervisor for 12 PhD students and countless other postgraduates. Roger has over 150 peer-reviewed scientific articles to his name and has contributed to industry reports and presentations.

The shift that Roger has had within Massey University from Animal Science to Food Technology highlights the important capabilities he has had working at the interface meat as a food product and on-farm production of meat. Both for industry and within the research discipline, Roger's knowledge and expertise across the whole meat supply chain have been invaluable for creating important links and maintaining the relevance and vitality of meat production research in New Zealand.



Strong industry links have allowed Roger to make a significant impact in the area of meat science. This has included being a key advisory for Beef + Lamb NZ (and its predecessors) and for meat processing and marketing companies within New Zealand. From 1994 to 1999, Roger was a member of the New Zealand Beef Classification Review Group. Roger has had a long and active relationship with the New Zealand Society of Animal Production serving on the committee from 1984 to 1989 and being the Society's Treasurer from 1987 to 1989. Alongside Barry Butler-

Hogg and Alexander Davies, Roger was an editor for the Society's Occasional Publication number 11, '*Meat Production and Processing*' which has become a vital text for courses within New Zealand's universities. These substantial roles with the New Zealand Society of Animal Production emphasise the dedication that Roger has to animal production in New Zealand.

Roger has recently retired from his University position but remains active in animal and meat science, and this has included being Associate Editor for the CSIRO journal *Animal Production Science* and working on the final stages of research projects investigating the nutrients in New Zealand beef and lamb cuts, the use of video image analysis for classification of beef carcasses and retention of amino acids in cooked pork.

The contribution that Roger has made to animal production in New Zealand is clear. He is well recognised as the preeminent meat-production scientist in New Zealand. Although humble in his achievements, Roger's substantial contribution to animal production in New Zealand is obvious to his peers and persons within the meat production industry and so, the McMeehan Memorial Award is the fitting acknowledgement.

Proposed: Nicola Schreurs

Seconded: Steve Morris