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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER



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Long table lunch at the 2016 WAPPA Industry Day.

## Buoyant mood at the 2016 WAPPA AGM and Industry Day

WEST Australian Pork Producers' Association president Dawson Bradford highlighted the buoyant state of the industry in his report to WAPPA's 2016 AGM.

However, he sounded a note of caution about how possible changes to the 'Standards and Guidelines' (Model Code), once its review is finalised, might affect promising growth opportunities for the WA pig industry.

Mr Bradford, of Popanyinning, was re-elected to WAPPA's executive committee, along with fellow producer Graeme Dent of Cuballing, whose terms had expired due to the effluxion of time.

Fellow committee members are Emalyn Loudon of Perth, Torben Soerensen of GD Pork and Dean Romaniello of Craig Mostyn Group.

WAPPA's AGM was part of a very successful 2016 industry day at the International On The Water Hotel at Ascot, which was attended by about 50 producers, industry stakeholders and WAPPA sponsors.

Speakers included Roger Campbell, Pork CRC; Andrew Spencer and Deb Kerr, Australian Pork Limited; Andrew Daff, Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia; Kate Savage, Portec; Amanda Vardanega, MSD Animal Health; Meg Donahoo, Boehringer Ingelheim; Tony Heelan, Heelan & Co Industrial Relations and

Management; and Rob Wilson, Pork Innovation WA.

Addressing the industry day and in his report to the AGM, Mr Bradford noted that WA's pig industry had been identified by the State Government and DAFWA as having the potential to grow tenfold, which could change the shape of the industry.

"However, for growth to happen, we must be globally competitive and with the changes touted for the standards and guidelines, this isn't going to happen," Mr Bradford said.

"While I am all for good welfare standards and believe those who don't comply should be shunned from the industry, I can't understand why anyone would want to go above their competitor's level."

"We don't want to make the minimum acceptable standards greater than that of our competitors, as this will not help us compete in Asian markets."

WA's pork industry saw good growth in pig numbers in 2015/16, which was the third successive year in which pig numbers increased by more than 10 percent, the highest increase of any state and pushing annual numbers processed in WA to 660,000.

According to WAPPA executive committee member Dean Romaniello, with increased sow numbers, good growth should occur again this financial year.

"The demand behind this increase was mainly driven by the free range and sow stall free market, however export continues to remain sound and local demand positive on the back of high meat prices from competing proteins," Mr Romaniello said.

"WA producers have seen good pig prices, hopefully putting them in a good financial position, so the aim now should be to reinvest back into the farms and continue to look into lowering cost of production, which will help ensure a viable and bright future for WA producers in the years ahead."

WAPPA executive officer Jan Cooper, in her report, suggested access to labour in the WA pork industry continued to be a risk to growth, however WAPPA had successfully applied for labour agreements on behalf of GD Pork and Westpork.

"With runs on the board, WAPPA is now in a good position to help other producers interested in pursuing labour agreements, while we also continue to investigate other avenues for producers while ensuring the integrity of labour agreements," Ms Cooper said.

Other matters Ms Cooper addressed were: biosecurity; environment and planning; APL Delegates' Forum; animal welfare; APIQ<sup>✓</sup> standards; R&D; productivity com-

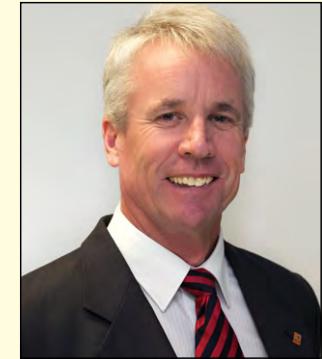
► continued P4

## Membership and production milestones



### Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



number since the profitability crisis of 2007/2008, which led to the loss of about 15 percent of our production and slaughters falling to 4.5 million for the year.

Reaching the five million figure is representative of continuous growth in our industry, some achieved through additional sow numbers and some achieved through improved productivity.

The great thing is that despite the increase in supply reaching the market, our farm-gate prices for pigs remain at an historically high level, leading to good profitability on farm.

We've tried to make the process of becoming a member and voting for delegates much simpler by digitising it and enabling producers to do it all with the help of our web-based systems.

That seems to have worked pretty well and if all goes to plan, the amount of levies we have after signing up new members should mean 30 to 35 new delegates for our next Delegates' Forum.

I'd like to thank all those producers who have taken the time to use the new process and to have their statutory declaration signed and returned to APL because your industry body is much more capable of working in your interests when we have support across the whole industry.

As at the end of June, there was a new milestone reached in pig slaughters for the previous year of five million.

We haven't reached this

there are many things we'd like to do but haven't been able to achieve.

With this in mind, we decided for at least the next 12 to 18-month period to look for extra resources in the area supporting our producers who are going through these planning approval processes and ensuring the authorities responsible for granting these applications have the right policies and principles for operating in a way that suits both the community and the pork industry.

We are still encouraging pig producers who plan to expand or build new facilities to consult dedicated experts to help them with their specific plans.

APL's role is more around ensuring that where there are systemic bottlenecks, policy contradictions, incorrect guidelines being referred to or outdated science being used, we do our best to unblock them and restore efficiency to how things run.

Thanks again for becoming APL members.

To those who haven't, there's still time (but you might have missed the boat in voting for a delegate), so get your signed statutory declaration in to us.

I'm looking forward to meeting a mix of new faces at the November Delegates' Forum (where members are also invited to attend at their own cost).



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## Pig Industry Calendar of Events

### 2016

**SEP 6 - 8** – VIV China, Beijing, China  
[www.vivchina.nl/en](http://www.vivchina.nl/en)

**SEP 6 - 9** – 19th Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations Congress, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam [www.fava2016.vn](http://www.fava2016.vn)

**SEP 13 - 16** – SPACE 2016, Rennes, France [www.space.fr](http://www.space.fr)

**SEP 17 - 20** – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, US [www.ccevents.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference](http://www.ccevents.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference)

**OCT 12 - 15** – World Nutrition Forum 2016, Vancouver, Canada [www.worldnutritionforum.info](http://www.worldnutritionforum.info)

**OCT 18 - 20** – PorkExpo 2016, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil [www.porkexpo.com.br](http://www.porkexpo.com.br)

**OCT 19 - 20** – Animal Health Investment Asia, Hong Kong, China [www.animalhealthasia.com](http://www.animalhealthasia.com)

**OCT 19 - 20** – Vietstock 2016, Saigon, Vietnam [www.vietstock.org](http://www.vietstock.org)

**OCT 19 - 20** – European Congress of Virology, Hamburg, Germany [www.eurovirology2016.eu](http://www.eurovirology2016.eu)

**NOV 3 - 5** – IX International Symposium on Mediterranean Pig, Portalegre, Portugal [www.9sympmedpig.com](http://www.9sympmedpig.com)

**NOV 15 - 18** – EuroTier, Hanover, Germany [www.eurotier.com](http://www.eurotier.com)

### 2017

**JAN 3 - 5** – Oxford Farming Conference, Oxford, United Kingdom [www.ofc.org.uk/conference/2016/2016-conference](http://www.ofc.org.uk/conference/2016/2016-conference)

**JAN 17 - 18** – Minnesota Pork Congress, Minneapolis, USA [www.mnporkcongress.com](http://www.mnporkcongress.com)

**FEB 25 - 28** – AASV Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, US [www.aasv.org](http://www.aasv.org)

**MAR 15 - 17** – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand [www.vivasia.nl](http://www.vivasia.nl)

**APR 4** – Fira de Barcelona Recinto de Gran Vía, Spain [www.livestockforum.com](http://www.livestockforum.com)

**AUG 29 - 31** – SIAVS - International Poultry and Pork Show, São Paulo, Brazil [www.siavs.org.br/?lang=en](http://www.siavs.org.br/?lang=en)

### 2018

**MAR 3 - 6** – Annual Meeting of the American Association of Swine, San Diego, California, US [www.aasv.org/annmtg/](http://www.aasv.org/annmtg/)

**How to supply event details:** Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, fax: 07 3821 2637, email: [ben@porknews.com.au](mailto:ben@porknews.com.au)

[porknews.com.au](http://porknews.com.au)

# Manure – the money-making resource of the future



by HEATHER CHANNON  
Acting Research and Innovation General Manager



WHO would have thought manure could be such an exciting resource with the potential to create not only renewable energy and carbon credits but also new fertiliser products, novel feeds and potentially compounds to form polymers for plastic manufacturing!

Australian Pork Limited is contributing to this wealth of information on manure through a number of research programs.

These include the recently completed \$8.5 million National Agricultural Manure Management Program managed by APL and co-funded by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resource's 'Filling the Research Gap' and its spin-off projects, which I will briefly touch on later in this article.

NAMMP was developed, supported and co-funded by a consortium of Rural Research and Development Corporations including APL, Meat & Livestock Australia, Australian Chicken Meat Federation, Australian Egg Corporation Limited and Dairy Australia.

Manure was chosen as the focus because it is a bulk commodity for intensive livestock operations and changes to its management offer significant opportunities for mitigating greenhouse gas over a relatively short timeframe.

It also presents industry with multiple benefits (aside from GHG reduction) including odour reduction, resource reduction and the potential for alternative income streams.

The six NAMMP research projects looked across the manure supply chain to identify alternative income streams, quantify the benefits of using manure and compost, develop alternative fertilisers, reduce GHG, develop energy from solid wastes, update Australian data and, ultimately, generate carbon credit oppor-

tunities for producers. These projects have generated outcomes that have added to the basic understanding and quantification of GHG emissions from Australian intensive livestock manure management and land application.

They have also allowed the industries involved to obtain data to assist in verifying and updating emission factors that were previously based on international data and which often overestimated our impacts.

The projects also included updates to our models, recommended new management strategies and provided the baseline data to support the development of new Emissions Reduction Fund methodologies and carbon credit opportunities.

Good news for the pork industry!

Four of the NAMMP projects investigated a total of 67 mitigation options across the pork, egg chicken, feedlot and dairy industries.

From these, the six best options were evaluated in a benefit cost analysis that was used to guide the development of ERF methodologies and provide the potential for producers to generate carbon credits and a subsequent income source.

Of the three potential methodologies identified, all three relate to the pork industry!

These involve the use of short hydraulic retention pond systems (storing effluent for shorter times/irrigating more frequently/

reduce the need for conventional fertiliser, while potentially improving seedling vigour and crop yield by up to 20 percent and boosting carbon retention in the soil by about 50 percent;

- Lowering soil application rates of manures to five tonnes/ha has the potential to reduce GHG emissions by 60 percent;

- Dry seeding with applied manure could result in up to a 25 percent reduction in GHG emissions;

- Incorporation of some manure types directly into sandy soil, compared with surface application to soil, revealed up to a 75 percent reduction in GHG emissions;

- Composted or pelleted manures may reduce GHG emissions by up to 70 and 80 percent, respectively, when applied to land, compared to stockpiled manures;

- Fertiliser can be reduced by the amount of nitrogen mineralised from organic amendments without yield penalty in

horticultural crops; and

- The anaerobic digestion of deep litter using leach bed technologies showed the commercial potential for the technology is marginal, mainly due to high capital costs for the equipment at full scale.

Another bonus for the pork industry is the researchers involved in NAMMP have continued to collaborate and investigate new value-added products from pig manure.

New fertiliser products using sorber technologies, neural network processing sensors for manure systems and the development of novel feeds and fertilisers using purple phototrophic bacteria are just some of the exciting new APL projects and developments in manure.

Stay tuned to find out how manure can potentially make or save us money in the future.

Who would have known!

For more information on the research programs, please contact me on 0423 056 045 or [heather.chanon@australianpork.com.au](mailto:heather.chanon@australianpork.com.au)

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# Blistering pace set by Pork CRC CEO

DURING the past month I spent most of my time on the road and in the air. It seems as if nothing much is changing as I fly to Canada from August 28 to September 3, so I thought I might give you a travelogue and let you know what's occurred along the way.

I spent time in WA at the West Australian Pork Producers' Association AGM and Industry Day (August 12), fished for barramundi in Darwin and then flew to New Zealand, where our Board met.

I also spent a couple of days in Melbourne at the annual review of our programs.

## WAPPA WA

The industry seemed buoyant during my visit and I enjoyed good presentations from Andrew Spencer and Deb Kerr of Australian Pork Limited on how they are preparing for the 'Standards and Guidelines' (Model Code) review, which has been brought forward by APL delegates theoretically to 2017-18.

I am sure you will hear a lot more about this in coming months, but when and how it happens is up to government and the best the industry can do in the meantime is plan for it, and a committee has been established to do this – watch this space.

## Darwin appeal

The fishing was great in the Northern Territory and it was largely a matter of keeping the lures away from the numerous crocodiles that live in the couple of remote rivers we fished.

As good as the fishing was, spending seven hours in an open boat under a beating sun didn't do my 'Scottish' skin or humour much good.

Although the blisters may now have gone, I still have layers peeling off from every part of the body remotely exposed during the day on the water.

I encourage anyone thinking of such an adventure to take the half-day option.

## NZ Board

The NZ Pork Board signed the APRIL member's agreement during our visit, which unfortunately



## Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL  
CEO



was only a day after NZ won the Bledisloe Cup match in Sydney, so it was a bit hard to take but we got the agreement signed.

The Pork CRC Board visited Patoa Farms, a 5500 outdoor sow unit owned by Steve and Holly Sterne.

The sows are kept on 550ha of sandy/gravelly (even rocky) soil, with some spending time in pine plantations.

They wean at 21 days and are weaning 10.5 piglets/litter, which seems pretty good and the operation I must say looked magnificent.

The progeny are all kept in eco-shelter type accommodation, with growers and finishers housed in groups of 800 in large, specially designed eco-shelters with a roofing material and system I'd not previously seen.

Wind is a real problem where they are and all housing has been redesigned over time to prevent losses (of roofs and huts) during times of really wild weather.

They have 47 employees including management and the whole operation is a credit to Steve and Holly and their team.

If you ever get the chance to visit the farm, do so because it's an eye opener.

The Board meeting concentrated on ensuring APRIL will be up and running before the end of 2016 and making sure current and future Pork CRC projects will deliver adequate revenue for APRIL and address welfare issues around group housed sows and farrowing and lactating sows and their piglets.

One of these includes the Anatara product Detach and the other lauric acid, which based on some APL research by Prof John Pluske seems to have real

► continued P4

view in Melbourne made it clear that our R&D and training programs are running well and I have said it before and will say it again, that I am very happy with the programs.

In Program 1 we have several projects investigating new welfare and performance indicators for group housed sows and at least six very innovative projects on establishing and improving the welfare of farrowing and lactating sows and their litters in crates.

I mentioned in a previous column the findings of Dr Kate Plush on porcine-appeasing pheromone, which was shown to significantly reduce aggression in sows at and after mixing.

The product, which is produced by a French company, has implications for farrowing and lactating sows and probably even for weaner and grower pigs and we are following up on negotiating a supplier in Australia.

The product is currently being investigated for sows during farrowing and lactation and I will let you know the outcomes when the study is complete.

In Program 2 we have projects on the development of vaccines against actinobacillus pleuropneumonia and swine dysentery, the development of an on-farm kit for assessing immune challenge and health on a herd basis, a means of enhancing vaccination efficacy and a couple of projects with real potential to reduce our reliance on antibiotics.

One of these includes the Anatara product Detach and the other lauric acid, which based on some APL research by Prof John Pluske seems to have real



## AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ELECTED DIRECTOR VACANCIES

As required by Australian Pork Limited's (APL) constitution, two elected directors will resign at the AGM being held on 17 November 2016. These elected director positions will become vacant on **Thursday 17 November 2016**. Nominations are being called for the two APL elected director vacancies.

nology transfer, commercialisation of research and development and innovation;

- Conservation and management of natural resources;
- Administration of research and development; and
- Business and financial management.

Nominated candidates are required to provide a curriculum vitae together with a statement of demonstrated experience specifically addressing, as a minimum, the highlighted core competencies. Nominated candidates must also provide a consent to the nomination.

Nominations for this position close on **Wednesday 12 October 2016**.

For further information and to obtain a consent to nomination form please contact:

Mr. Damien Howse  
Company Secretary, Australian Pork Ltd.  
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Although Roger Campbell recently spent time in the NT fishing for barramundi, he was unable to provide APN photographic proof of his successes, but we managed to track down this picture of fellow APN columnist Brendon Cant with one of the barra he caught in July in the Kimberley while a guest of Rod Russell of Western Meat Packers Group.

# Blistering pace set by Pork CRC CEO

## ► from P3

potential for grower and finisher pigs.

I look forward with some excitement to the outcomes from these projects.

In Program 3 we have a potentially system-changing project on the use of near-infrared spectroscopy to rapidly determine boar taint and a couple of projects looking at the critical control points during processing that affect ultimate pH, which is one of the better indicators of eating quality.

We also have a project

with the University of Melbourne looking at the effects of modified atmosphere and vacuum packing on the eating quality of the loin.

You may remember me mentioning previously that the initial results on packing suggested that MAP may be preventing the ageing of pork.

In Program 4 we have three projects on the effects of grain particle size and fibre on rate of passage and feed efficiency.

They are very novel and somewhat complex, but potentially represent the next major advance in pig nutrition.

I certainly hope this is the case because we have seen few technologies since the introduction of porcine somatotropin and ractopamine that improve feed efficiency.

Some of the work I have seen recently on means of manipulating feed intake by John Pluske, Karen Moore and Frank Dunshea and others using lauric acid and other materials gives me a new level of confidence that we may be on the verge of a few genuine breakthroughs – only time will tell.

Our Bioenergy Support

Program continues to kick goals and Dr Stephan Tait, Alan Skerman, Janine Price and all the producers involved are to be congratulated.

## Next round

The next investment round (2017-18) will be the last for Pork CRC.

APRIL will invest in R&D and training starting 2018-2019, and at the same time the Pork CRC will be closing down.

The 2017-18 call will be for shorter-term innovation proposals across the programs but with emphasis on Programs 2 and 4.

We will be looking for genuine new ideas and proof of concept proposals that may lead to longer-term projects in APRIL and/or generate revenue for APRIL, although this will ultimately be the decision of APRIL members.

Funds will be available to ensure current projects deliver the outcomes promised and expected and to ensure those with commercial potential are brought to market.

We will guarantee that any genuine new ideas that improve the industry and/or could result in commercial products will be given serious consideration.

the Pork CRC website.  
**Campbell comment**

I am speaking at a couple of industry days in Canada organised by Jefo Canada.

I know what I am going to say and you have all probably heard it before, but there are some interesting other speakers on the program including:

- Dr Marcio Goncalves from PIC US who will speak on 'Recent findings on sow nutrition' and 'Feeding pigs for maximum profit' – both will be interesting, as US nutritionists have recently suggested there is little exciting happening with sow nutrition – but PIC always has something up its sleeve.

- Dr Jean Noblet who will speak on net energy for pigs and poultry and on achievements and perspectives in pig nutrition. Jean is a smart man and there is a good chance I'll learn something.

- Paul Hubilla, a nutritionist from the Philippines, who will be speaking on 'Improving sow reproduction through better feeding' – let's wait and see.

I will summarise the more interesting and applicable lessons learnt for you.

[www.porkcrc.com.au](http://www.porkcrc.com.au)

A Pork CRC supported study by Dr Ken Ng from the University of Melbourne indicated, promisingly, that iron levels in Australian pork are increasing.

Iron content of pork cuts (mg/100g fresh material)

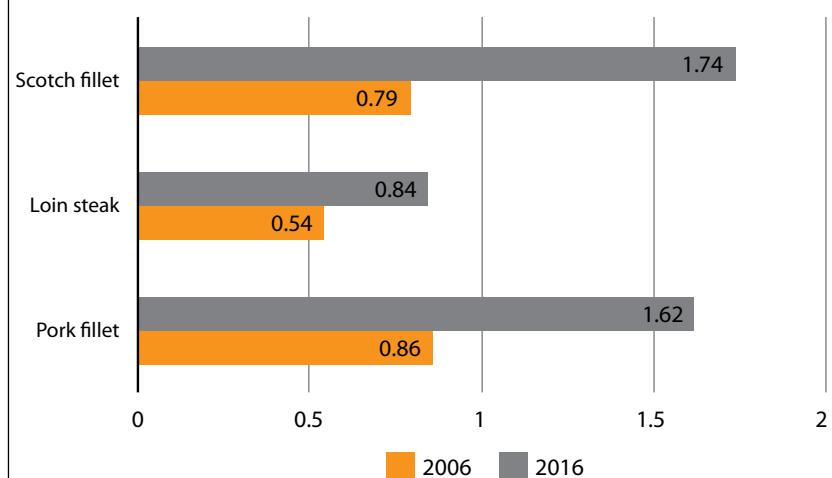


Figure 1: Iron content of three pork cuts measured in 2006 and 2016.

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## 2016 WAPPA AGM and Industry Day

### ► from P1

mission; governance and communication and networking.

Roger Campbell focused his Pork CRC update on its progress with commercialising technologies and products, including appetite enhancers for weaners and enrichment blocks for gestating sows and weaners.

Dr Campbell listed the following as being on his 'Pork CRC watching brief' and R&D outcomes producers should eagerly anticipate: APP vaccine; lauric acid and the effects of fatty acid levels in lactation on subsequent reproduction; post-cervical AI; oestrus synchronisation; Porcinat for growers; and magnesium effects before farrowing.

Veterinarian Kate Savage of Portec reminded producers of the effects of heat stress in summer, in particular how it affects sows.

She said heat stress suffered by sows could lead to earlier ovulation, reduced hormonal support of pregnancy and poor-quality eggs, and boars were affected by compromised semen production.

Dr Savage noted that as production systems in WA moved from intensive to eco-shelters and to free range, producers had less control over temperature and day length.

She recommended producers study 'Preparing for the summer months: seasonal infertility and beyond', a manual co-produced by Pork CRC and APL.

Pork Innovation WA chairman Rob Wilson, in his report, advised that PIWA was now an incorporated body with inaugural members WAPPA, Craig Mostyn Group, Portec Veterinary Service, Milne Agricroup, Westpork and Dawson Bradford.

"PIWA will seek funding

for research through industry organisations such as Pork CRC, APL and the Agricultural Produce Commission, plus non-traditional channels which seek to support productivity and competitiveness," Dr Wilson said.

"We hope the combination of external funding and transition funding from DAFWA will establish PIWA as a viable model for future pork industry research, development and extension in WA."

About 130 people attended WAPPA's industry dinner in the evening, at which the 2016 Ron Pollard Memorial Award was presented by Deb Kerr of APL to former Pork CRC supported student Yvonne Lau, who graduated from Murdoch University with second-class Honours in Animal Science.

She hopes to continue her career in the pork industry.

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# WA pork producers promoting productivity

IN late July, the Australian Government's Productivity Commission released its draft report on Agriculture Regulation.

The inquiry focuses on regulations that materially impact the competitiveness and productivity of Australian agriculture.

It aims to define priority areas for removing or reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on farm businesses, where doing so would raise the productivity of the farm.

Commissioner Paul Lindwall has admitted that farmers were straining under a heavy burden of regulation and that they face complex regulations imposed by multiple agencies across three levels of government at every stage of the supply chain.

The Commission has called for regulation to be better informed by the evidence.

Co-Commissioner Ken Baxter has noted that farm animal welfare standards needed to be consistent and based on the evidence, including the scientific evidence on animal welfare and community values.

"A national, independent body should be created to deal effectively and comprehensively with the evidence in this area and develop nationally consistent farm animal welfare standards," Commissioner Baxter said.

West Australian Pork Producers' Association executive officer Jan Cooper addressed the issue of this Productivity Commission inquiry in her report to WAPPA's recent 2016 AGM, stating she was pleased to note WAPPA's input, via its February submission, was referenced and quoted several times in the draft report, indicating WAPPA may have had some influence on the outcome.

WAPPA submitted that WA's pork industry supported regulation that would protect its product and markets, however the amount of regulation and



**Cant Comment  
by  
BRENDON CANT**

crossover between agencies had reached a tipping point where there were now incessant calls for reducing 'red tape'.

Producers, WAPPA suggested, were frequently frustrated by the protracted processes they were confronted with when wanting to expand or improve productivity through innovation.

Some of these regulations had created uncertainty for investors, over-cautious decision making and excessive timeframes.

The Productivity Commission inquiry was therefore timely and welcomed.

WAPPA's submission concluded that one of the most negative effects of regulation on the pork production industry was the lack of clear lines of responsibility, with many agencies having a stake in the process, leading to confusion and complexity and bureaucrats 'guarding their patch'.

This absence of clarity existed between federal, state and local governments, statutory authorities and within government sectors.

Additionally, decisions did not adequately measure likely risk and as a result were frequently based on worst-case scenarios.



According to WAPPA EO Jan Cooper (right), WA pork producers, including the likes of Jan Testerink of York, were frequently frustrated by the protracted processes they faced when wanting to expand or improve productivity.

[www.porknews.com.au](http://www.porknews.com.au)

This could have the effect of rejecting developments that posed no risk but simply failed to tick all the boxes at the highest level.

Increased productivity in pork production, according to WAPPA, would only come as a result of development and innovation.

Both must be genuinely encouraged by policy makers through ensuring regulation had a 'light touch' on producers.

Decisions should be made from the perspective of 'how can we make this happen' rather than 'how can we make sure it does not happen'.

WAPPA estimates the WA pork industry's farm-gate value at \$152 million, with an add-on value of two dollars for every dollar at the farm gate, effectively valuing

the industry at more than \$300 million.

The 1700 full-time and part-time workers employed in the farm-to-plate supply chain highlight the importance of the pork industry to WA's economy.

The WA industry represents about 12 percent of the total Australian industry.

Sadly, I've just been informed by WA industry icon Brad Thomason, MD of smallgoods manufacturer D'Orsogna, that WA industry stalwart, Roger Leigh-Firbank died on August 26 in Geraldton.

A pork producer and former WAPPA president, Roger was a wonderful character, a straight shooter, a man who cared and one who also always took a stand.

Roger, RIP, we salute you. 🐷

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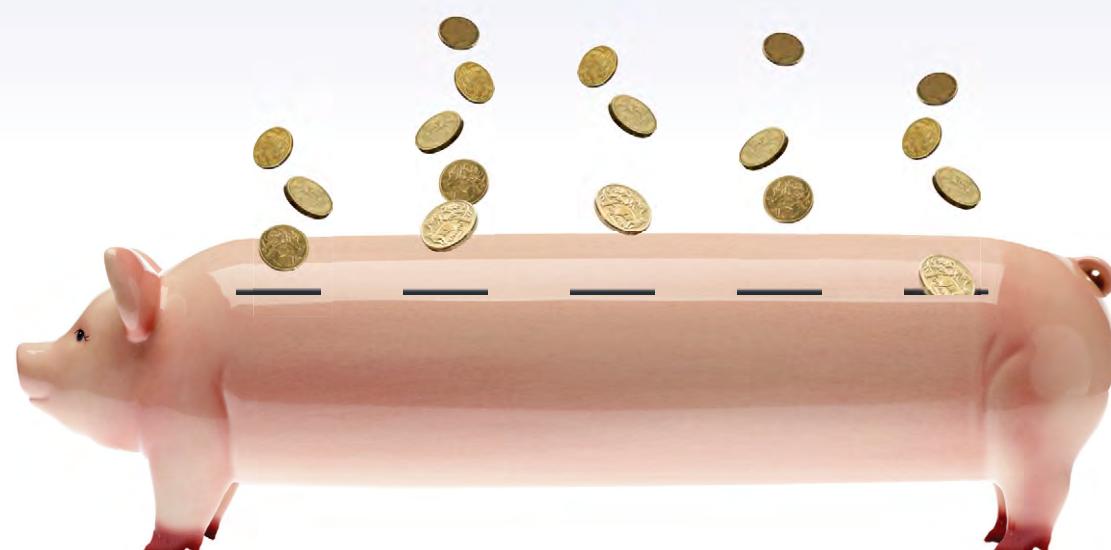
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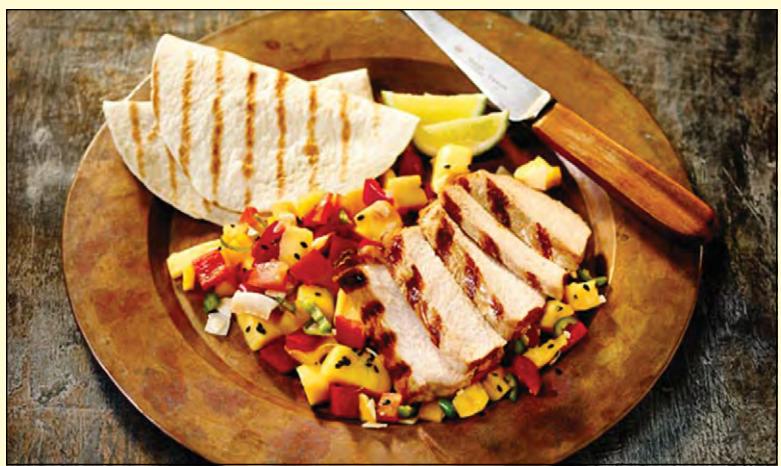
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Barbecue pork steak with mango coconut salsa.

## Get some pork on your fork this Father's Day

FATHER'S Day is just around the corner and menu preparations are well under way for special celebratory feasting.

Australian Pork Limited PR and Marketing manager Mitch Edwards said, "100 percent Australian pork is a fantastic option for Dad's lunch or dinner and we have a great range of new and inspiring recipes to celebrate the arrival of spring including barbecue pork steaks

with mango coconut salsa."

So why not fire up the barbecue this Sunday, September 4 and surprise dad with a delicious pork steak made with love and the 6-2-2 method.

"We are loving the boneless steaks at the moment, which cooked with the 6-2-2 method – six minutes on one side, two minutes on the other and two minutes' rest.

Discover the secret to your perfect pork steak with the 6-2-2 method – six minutes on one side, two minutes on the other and two minutes' rest.

For more Father's Day recipe inspiration and to learn how to cook a pork steak, visit [pork.com.au](http://pork.com.au).

A perfect succulent

pork steak in just 10 minutes means you'll spend less time in the kitchen and more time relaxing with Dad this Father's Day.

The industry still has access to a number of antibiotics that work well... or does it?

Antibiotics have been great tools but they are definitely not the silver bullets or Band-Aids that will cure everything in humans and animals.

Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin revolutionised the treatment of humans and animals.

Previously fatal infections could now be treated and millions of lives were saved.

But the widespread use of penicillin led to the

## Pat on the back for better pig health



**Pork  
CRC**

Murdoch University.

This project aims to improve understanding of swine dysentery infections including further validation of a SD diagnostic test.

An associated Subprogram 2C project could even lead to the development of a SD vaccine.

Subprogram 2B research will lead to the development of more robust genetic lines that are more resilient to various environmental constraints.

Assoc Prof Susanne Hermesch and the team at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit, University of New England have been pivotal in the development of a number of international research collaborations to develop selection strategies for robustness and disease resilience.

Selection for disease resilience may be achieved via genetic improvement of disease resistance or disease tolerance.

Accounting for the infection processes experienced by pigs during a disease outbreak requires appropriate genetic models to describe mechanisms of disease resistance and disease tolerance.

Selection strategies have also been evaluated to determine the economic benefits of using additional traits in selection decisions and to quantify the potential genetic gain based on an extended breeding objective.

The major objective of Pork CRC's Subprogram 2C is integration of strategies to better manage pig health while reducing antibiotic usage.

Strategies investigated included the development of vaccines, nutraceuticals and various management techniques designed to alter the microbial populations in the gastrointestinal tract, or reduce the inflammatory responses associated with infection, or reduce pathogen load in the environment.

Exciting vaccine research in this subprogram not only centres on the development of a SD vaccine but also an attenuated actinobacillus pleuropneumonia vaccine.

Dr Conny Turni from the University of Queensland is working with various industry partners with the aim of developing a safe, effective APP vaccine.

For further information on any Pork CRC Program 2 projects and outcomes, contact Pat on 03 5488 2306, 0402 794 912 or [pat.mitchell@australiapork.com.au](mailto:pat.mitchell@australiapork.com.au)

[www.porkcrc.com.au](http://www.porkcrc.com.au)

selection of strains of bacteria that were resistant to this new wonder drug within the first decade.

The use and overuse of antibiotics in human medicine is the major factor contributing to the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Ensuring that our industry will always have antimicrobials that work is not a straightforward process.

Industry needs various additional tools besides antimicrobials to help manage pig health.

Ensuring we can protect the health of our pigs while reducing antibiotic usage led to the development of Program 2 in the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork.

Program 2 research covers three core areas:

- 2A – Novel Disease Diagnostics;
- 2B – Healthy, Robust Pig Genotypes; and
- 2C – Replacement of Antibiotics with Effective Integrated Health Strategies.

Research outcomes in Subprogram 2A have led to the development of novel diagnostic tools such as assays, which measure gut health through the measurement of bacterial ratios, as well as tests that can measure pathogen loads.

Novel methods of collecting diagnostic samples, such as the suitability of oral fluids (captured via a cotton rope placed in the pen), have also been evaluated.

Pat was project leader of a project in this subprogram which had the aim of finding a method to measure antibiotic usage.

Bacteria have a variety of 'tools' that can 'protect' them from antibiotics.

Bacteria can have an inbuilt resistance to an antibiotic, meaning a bacteria's normal characteristics may protect it against certain antibiotics.

This type of resistance occurs naturally and is not affected by antibiotic misuse or overuse.

This natural resistance is the reason why veterinarians and doctors don't prescribe the same antibiotics for different diseases, because basically antibiotics are not 'one-fixes-all-diseases' as far as treatments are concerned.

Other methods of resistance are carried on bacterial genes that can be 'switched on', allowing the bacteria to survive in the presence of antibiotics.

It sounds bad, but the good thing is this switching on can just as easily be switched off, with sensitivity returning to normal once the threat posed by those particular drugs has passed.

Bacteria can also gain resistance to an antibiotic by taking on a new characteristic through gene mutation or the transfer of genetic material (called a plasmid) between bacteria.

The solution is not to stop using antibiotics.

Rather, it's to only use them when everything else has been considered or managed and if there is no other choice.

Even then, just use as much as is needed.

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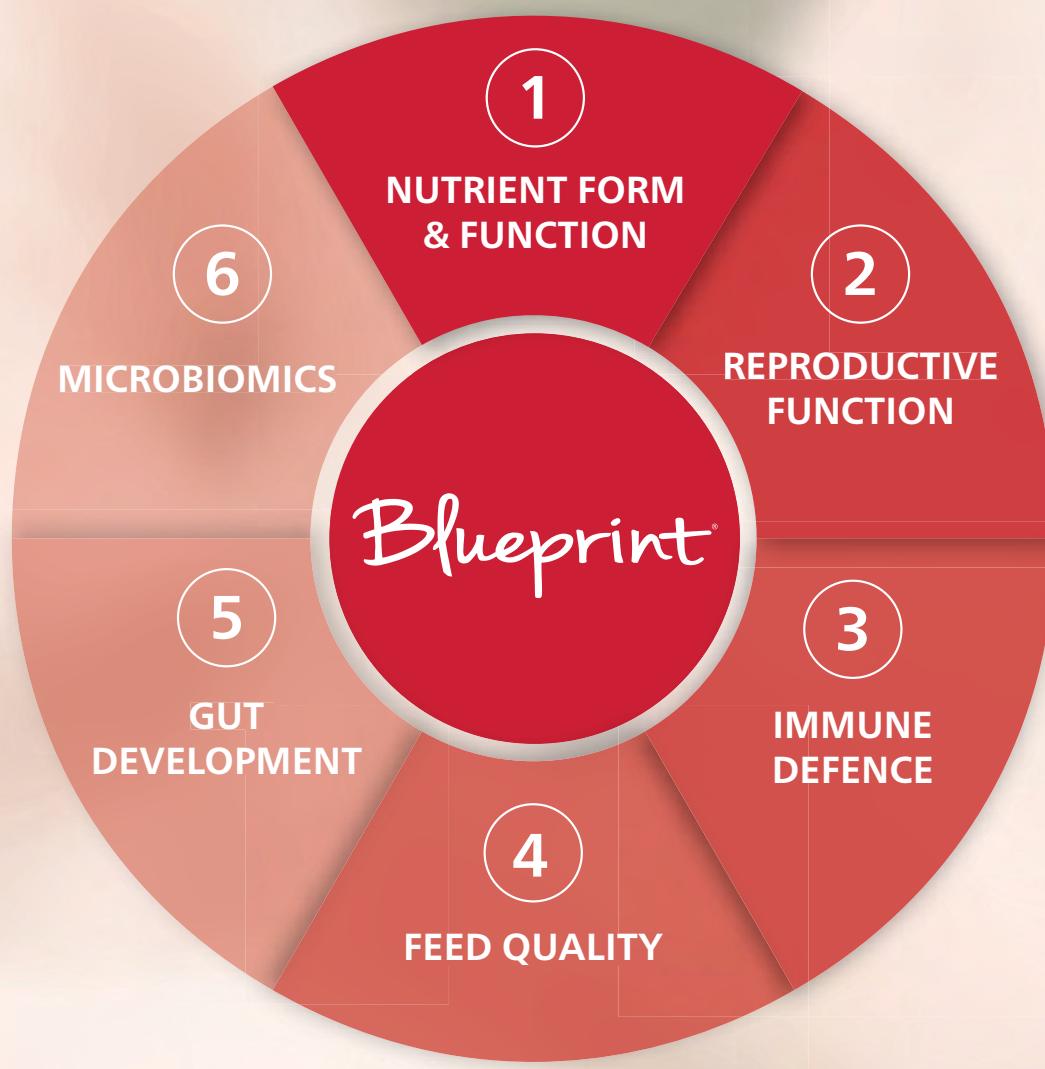
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Pork CRC Program 2 leader Dr Pat Mitchell.

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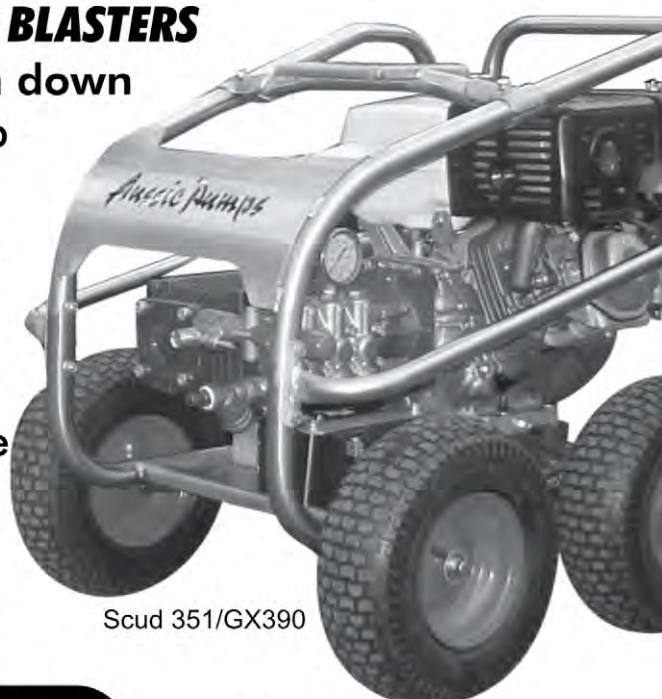
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# Rainy days and Mondays won't get us down...

... OR at least, that's the plan.

While the Australian pork industry enjoys a relatively positive business environment, we should build umbrellas for rainy days.

As some smart person once said: "Hope for the best but plan for the worst."

With the last tranche of additional marketing levies in place, we are continuing with our programs that have proven successful.

In addition, we are working on how to create more demand for Australian pork in some new directions.

These include:

- Understanding how to get pork into young people's meals earlier;

- Trying new messages, methods of marketing (such as social media) and channels that pork currently underperforms in; and

- Growing our sources of overseas demand.

In terms of younger consumers, we have benefitted from research, policy and marketing all being in the one organisation.

The Research & Innovation team has created a great set of school education resources and the product has been well received.

Now the marketers are going to try to help expand usage in schools (by advertising them to teachers).

In addition, we have secured supply chain collaboration to trial another idea (from Ashley Norval in R&I).

The idea is the solution to a problem in schools.

Meat is expensive, so not many schools can afford to teach children to cook with meat.

Australian Pork Limited, with a supply chain partner, plans to trial providing pork at little or no cost to the school.

This will not only encourage more schools to participate but also give the supply chain partner some local kudos – and the kids will get to cook pork!

On the second point, we are trialling social and digital media and have recruited an expert to help us do some trials in the higher volume sales areas for 'eating away from home' (the outlets the successful PorkStar program does not influence as much), and we are creating advertising messages around versatility and 'everydayness' to trial too.

On the geographic expansion front, we need to do two things.

First, we enjoy higher prices for pork in Australia than almost anywhere else in the world.

In order to have a successful international presence we need to have a product that is worth a premium.

To do that it needs to be discernibly better.

Experiments in this area are occurring to devel-

**AUSTRALIAN Pork**  
Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON  
General Manager Marketing



op these types of product.

This is both ambitious and likely to be one of the longer term but most valuable initiatives.

The second thing we need to do is get access to countries that consume a lot of pork, have high numbers of people prepared to pay a premium and ideally, are happy to pay for parts of the pig that are of low value in Australia.

China fits all these criteria but we do not yet have the required protocols to be able to sell Australian pork products there.

China consumes almost half of all the pork in the world.

To put it in perspective, if we shipped every pig Australia made in the last year to China on one boat, it would take China 58 hours to consume it all.

China also has between 50 million and 150 million millionaires (depending on whose numbers you believe), which is between twice and six times the total population in Australia.

Finally, China values pigs' feet, stomachs and many other parts that are of low value in Australia.

As a result, China is our focus for new market access.

Clearly, we are not the only people on earth who want to trade pork with China, nor the only industry in Australia that wants to.

Getting access to China requires good relationships in Australian Government and the Chinese Government, and because government and business overlap a lot in China, we also need commercial relationships.

Even with great relationships, these types of

goals typically take years to achieve.

Clearly, it is pointless for APL to have commercial relationships because we don't sell pork directly.

As a consequence, the people who own export-accredited abattoirs have been invited to collaborate (and co-fund) building commercial relationships in China.

Like all relationships, Chinese relationships are built slowly, with ideally each contact building trust.

As I write, I'm in a traffic jam two hours west of Shanghai, having spent the weekend deepening our industry's relationship with the Chinese Cuisine Association.

This is essentially the Chinese chefs' organisation, and if PorkStar worked in Australia and we are after premium consumers, this seems like a sensible place to start.

The event was about the training and sharing of Chinese cooking skills.

At the event we signed a 'memorandum of understanding' to collaborate.

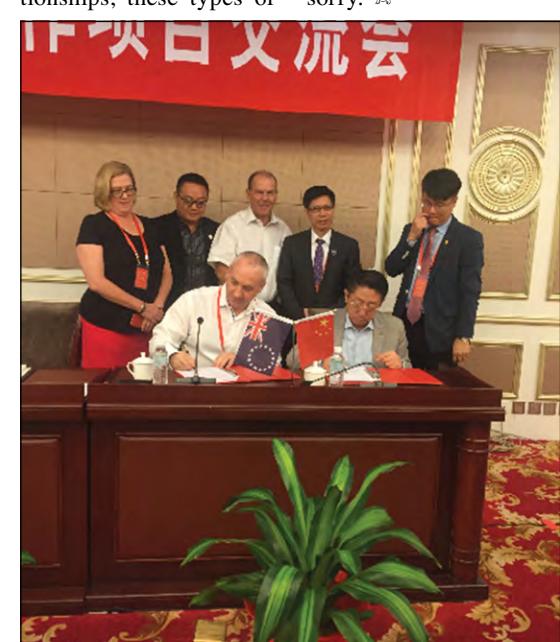
The Australian pork industry will work on Chinese cooking skills in Australia and the Chinese Cuisine Association on helping get Australian pork allowed to be sold in China, among other things.

This is another long-term, and if successful, highly valuable initiative.

Now, while times are reasonably good, is absolutely the time to try harder to create new sources of demand.

We are really getting stuck into creating some new umbrellas for unforeseen rainy days.

Better to be safe than sorry.



Peter Haydon was in China to sign a 'memorandum of understanding' to collaborate with the Chinese Cuisine Association.

## Stockyard team attends Big Dutchman International Agents' meeting in Kuala Lumpur

THE Stockyard Industries team recently had the opportunity to attend the Big Dutchman International Agents' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This was a great opportunity to meet with the Big Dutchman network of agents and distributors over five continents.

The meetings allowed intensive exchange of information and ideas for both pig and poultry and allowed the Stockyard team to give feedback on customer products and service specific to Stockyard's sales area.

The conference was fo-

cused on the future challenges of livestock industries including growing customer demands, digital interconnectedness in all areas and the increasing requirement of animal welfare.

Renowned experts from all around the world gave lectures on product development and up-to-date practical experience.

There was also an opportunity to visit the brand-new warehouse and distribution centre based in Kuala Lumpur.

For more information, visit [www.stockyardindustries.com](http://www.stockyardindustries.com).



## Fit for the Intended Journey Guide now available

THE new 'Fit for the Intended Journey Guide', previously known as the 'Fit to Load Guide', is now available from Australian Pork Limited.

The guide is a training tool that will assist producers and stockpeople handling pigs to make informed decisions concerning the fitness of stock prior to and during loading.

Consultation was sought

during the review process from industry stakeholders including producers, production veterinarians and processors.

For a hard copy of APL's 'Fit for the Intended Journey Guide', please contact Ashley Norval on 02 6270 8823 or [ashley.norval@australianpork.com.au](mailto:ashley.norval@australianpork.com.au) with your address and requested number of copies.

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## Australian pig vets participate in Boehringer Ingelheim Swine Academy

IN July, Dr Vanessa Morris (Portec Veterinary Services), Dr Jon Bartsch (Dr Barry Lloyd Pty Ltd) and Dr Ruel Pagoto (Boehringer Ingelheim) attended the prestigious Boehringer Ingelheim Swine Academy in the US.

About 20 veterinarians from nine countries across Europe and Asia were invited to participate in the 12-day course.

BISA included intensive lectures, workshops, farm visits and laboratory time. Topics covered included swine epidemiology, immunology, vaccinology, pathology, real case investigations, diagnostics and disease control.

The real case investigations were particularly invaluable in cementing the knowledge gained during the course.

The presence and par-

ticipation of highly skilled and experienced clinicians on-hand to discuss the diagnostic approach to cases was very useful to participants.

A unique feature of the program was the inclusion of sessions that explored the US pig industry experience with diagnostics and the latest in disease control of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome and porcine

epidemic diarrhoea.

The program was conducted in Iowa, the number-one pork producing state in the US.

Hosting the conference in Iowa ensured participants were provided the most up-to-date knowledge and best-practice available globally in the pig industry.

A key highlight noted by all participants was the opportunity to study under

internationally recognised pig health and production lecturers, researchers and clinicians from Iowa State University.

Participants also spent time working in the modern diagnostic facilities of ISU's College of Veterinary Medicine and the Boehringer Ingelheim Health Management Centre.

All in all, this provided world-recognised, objective, scientific training for BISA participants – a true once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Dr Vanessa Morris said the degree of knowledge and experience from the speakers was motivating and highly inspiring.

"I also found the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with veterinarians from around the world fascinating and I have returned to Australia with an excitement and enthusiasm for the pig industry and my career," she said.

In addition to the opportunity to learn from world-leading experts, there was also plenty of time for the participants to share their different learnings and experiences with each other.

Discussions during the day between participants really helped to cement the learnings and shed light on how to apply them to practice.

Attendees are looking forward to staying in touch.

Dr Jon Bartsch said, "The strength of BISA is to bring together consultant vets from around the world and pool our collective experiences and challenges."

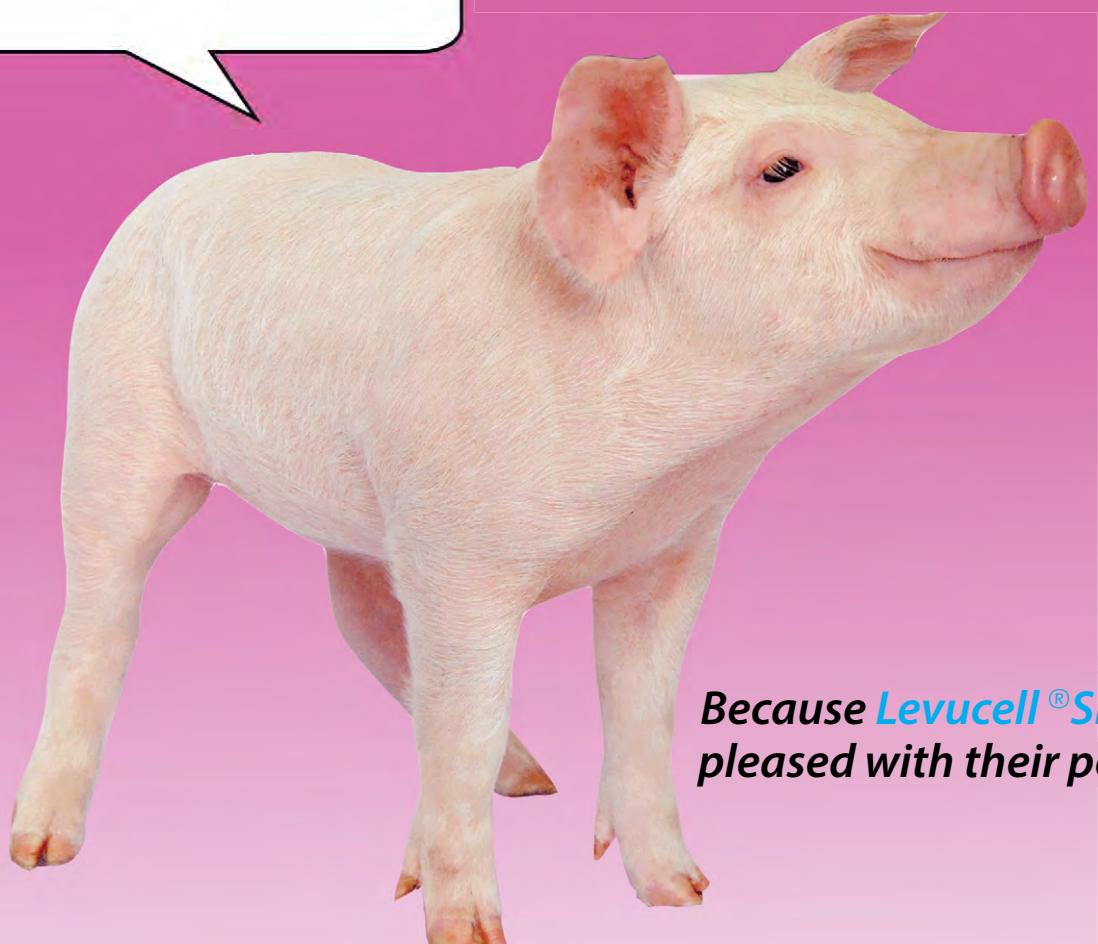
"This interaction with other vets was invaluable in addition to the experts who presented each of their individual modules."

Boehringer Ingelheim is proud to provide support to young Australian veterinarians in their development and recognise this as an important part of supporting the pork industry as a whole.

It is Boehringer Ingelheim Australia's aim that this experience not only benefits the individual veterinarians who attend but also their colleagues and most importantly their customers through sharing their learning experiences on their return. ☺

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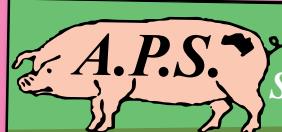
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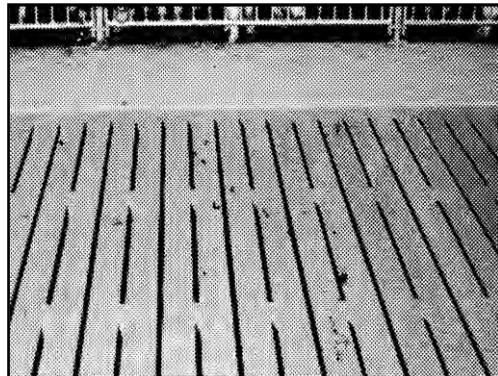
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# 2016 WAPPA AGM and Industry Day



Enjoying time in the sunshine at the 2016 WAPPA Industry Day were Annette Howard of Wannamal, Dean Romaniello of Craig Mostyn Group and Steve and Sharon Martin of Wannamal.



Having lunch at WAPPA's Industry Day were Karen Moore and Megan Trezona, both of PIWA, Taya Clarke of Westpork, Pork CRC PhD candidate Diana Turpin of Murdoch University and Jae Kim of AB Vista.



Lunch break at the WAPPA Industry Day.



Jae Kim of AB Vista and Roger Campbell of Pork CRC discussed the benefits of near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy. Aunir, a division of AB Vista, is a leading developer and supplier of NIR spectroscopy solutions which cost-effectively test the quality attributes of ingredients and products used in pig diets. Joint venture partners Aunir UK and Pork CRC last year made AusScan calibrations available to customers worldwide via the Aunir website [www.aunir.co.uk](http://www.aunir.co.uk)



It was all hands on deck for WAPPA's AGM and Industry Day and two happy helping hands were WAPPA executive committee member Emalyn Louden and Susan Dawson of Portec Veterinary Services.



Catching up before the start of WAPPA's Industry Day were Susan Dawson of Portec Veterinary Services, Rowan Wilson of Elanco, Stuart Wilkinson of Feedworks and Pat Mitchell of APL.



WAPPA executive officer Jan Cooper 'worked the phones' during WAPPA's AGM and Industry Day.



Portec's Kim Nairn and PIWA's Rob Wilson in animated discussion at the WAPPA Industry Day.



Westpork's Neil Ferguson (centre) clearly had the attention of APL's Deb Kerr and Andrew Spencer during a break in WAPPA's Industry Day and AGM.



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Ariel Carcillar and Willy Sanchez, both of Westpork's 'Martup' piggery, were keen observers and participants at the WAPPA Industry Day.



Willy Sanchez and Richard Evison of Westpork and James Opoku of Stirling Free Range Pork enjoyed a catch-up at WAPPA's Industry Day on the banks of the Swan River.

# Nu-Tek sets new standards in insulated panels

SINCE the 2014 launch of its Agricultural Panel range, Nu-Tek has grown to dominate this sector of the Australian market. Australian designed and Australian made, Nu-Tek's Agricultural Panels are fire rated, termite proof and rodent, mould, mildew and water resistant.

Already having an extensive range of panels for the building industry in both commercial and residential sectors, Nu-Tek's journey into Agricultural Panels began at the 2014 Pan Pacific Pork Expo when its national sales manager Warwick Prestwood attended and saw the opportunities to meet market demands.

It proved to be a timely event as growth in the pork industry has been significant over the past two years.

While much of Nu-Tek's growth has been in new shedding, significant growth has also occurred in the refurbishment of

existing sheds infested with mice and rust.

The move away from traditional expanded polystyrene panels to vastly superior polyisocyanurate panels has been driven by not only the fire safety aspect but also the increasing costs of energy to heat and cool farrowing sheds.

Nu-Tek understands there is a direct correlation between the comfort of pigs and production and has developed panels to meet the highest demands while significantly reducing energy costs.

Using only PIR as the core, Nu-Tek panels have surpassed traditional panels that utilise EPS, PUR or MMMF.

PIR is a high-performing insulator that will not catch fire, melt or deform and has a very low water absorption rate, making it an ideal product for the pork industry.

Apart from the high quality of Nu-Tek's panels, it is clear that the service levels provided are

also a significant factor in Nu-Tek's growth.

Dealing with growers directly and via distributors, Nu-Tek understands the requirements for high-quality panels and providing timely responses to inquiries.

Nu-Tek's production schedule is also second to none, with orders available in two weeks on standard items.

The colour range is extensive depending on volumes and, as mentioned, delivery Australia wide is no problem, with clients in Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, NSW and South Australia.

The most popular Nu-Tek panel for the pork industry is the 50mm option, with a width of 1.2m and excellent slip joints.

Panels in thicknesses of 75mm and 100mm with flat Colorbond steel both sides are available and ideal for animal husbandry, cool rooms and food-

processing plants.

All panel orders are cut to lengths on site in SA as per clients' requirements and all accessories such as flashings, C channels and antibacterial silicon are also available with each order.

In addition to insulated panels, Nu-Tek offers purpose-built ablation blocks with walk-through shower and toilet facilities to meet the ever-increasing demands for biosecurity.

Nu-Tek can help design these units or work with your plans, and build time can be as little as four weeks.

Transport to site can be arranged through Nu-Tek's internal fleet of 45 Kenworths.

Nu-Tek provides the total solution for growers who are looking for high-performing products to exceed production schedules, reduce energy costs and satisfy insurance companies' demands.



## High-head piggery pump

AUSSIE Pumps has announced the release of a new high-head cast iron trash pump.

The 3" self-priming pump, called the Aussie G3TMK-A/ST, is configured as a close-coupled motor pump powered by a totally enclosed fan coiled, two-pole, 11kW electric motor.

With a maximum flow of 1500l/pm and a maximum head to 47m, the big 3" pump is capable of handling a wide range of on-farm applications as diverse as animal effluent pump-out to flood, spray and even drip irrigation.

Aussie Pumps product manager Neil Bennett said, "This pump really fills a gap in the market in terms of a high-head trash pump that will handle dirty water."

"At a maximum head of 47m, the pump will deliver 500l/pm flow.

"That's impressive for a 3" self-priming trash pump."

The 3" pump has excellent self-priming characteristics, with the ability to draw water from pits up to 6m deep.

It has been designed to pass solids up to 16mm, making it suitable for handling dirty water and effluent.

The new Aussie trash

pump is fitted with hard-wearing silicon carbide mechanical seals with an alumina interface and nitrile rubber elastomers.

It also features a stainless steel wear plate and stainless steel motor shaft.

The pump has a front-opening clean-out port that makes it easy to access the pump's internals.

That's a huge advantage because it means the unit can be cleared of chokes without having to dismantle in-situ pipework.

The three-phase, 11kW motor is IP rated 55 against moisture and dust incursion.

The pump motor group is supplied mounted on a steel base for safe transportation.

This big pump will soon be available in cast 316-grade stainless steel configurations, making it suitable for environments where liquids are particularly corrosive such as piggery sump pump-out or for agricultural chemical transfer.

Viton seals are available as an option.

As with all Aussie Pumps products, the units are designed and built to ISO 9001 quality standards.

Further information including a free catalogue is available from [www.auspump.com.au](http://www.auspump.com.au)



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Pork CRC has released a video highlighting the benefits of using biogas for Australian piggeries. The video shows real life examples of technologies, systems, equipment and uses on Australian piggery sites. Click the picture above to view the video.

## Pig Farm Perspective by Bruce the brainy pig



FARROWING rate: 100 percent.

It's something we all aspire to but find difficult to achieve for long periods.

Higher farrowing rates mean more pigs through a system, less non-productive sow days and ultimately a more profitable and productive piggery.

As such, I was very interested in a study I recently came across out of Ontario, Canada, assessing the associations between low farrowing rates and various management factors in sow herds.

Under commercial conditions, a commonly used level for acceptable farrowing is 85 percent.

Indeed, for those herds aspiring to produce 30 pigs per sow, per year, a farrowing rate of 85-90 percent may be more appropriate.

However, the study found the average farrowing rate across Canada was 83.8 percent.

Factors that have previously been demonstrated to have an effect on farrowing rate include oestrus detection, lactation length, parity, mating type, timing and frequency of matings and semen quality.

However, it can be difficult for herds with historically poor farrowing rates to identify the primary cause.

As a side note, the first step in identifying the cause of poor farrowing rates starts with getting right on top of your record keeping.

The study from Ontario defined herds with good farrowing rates as 87.3 percent or higher, and herds with low farrowing rates as 76.2 percent or lower.

Herds with low farrow-

ing rates were found to be more likely to move boars to the gilt pens for oestrus detection rather than gilts to the boar pen than high farrowing rate herds.

Low farrowing rate herds were also found to be more likely to move the boar into the gilt pen for oestrus detection.

Other studies have also supported this, finding that moving gilts into a laneway in front of boars results in improved oestrus detection compared to bringing boars into laneways in front of gilt pens.

No difference was found in semen quality between herds with poor and good farrowing rates, however previous studies have shown that herds with poor semen quality can result in an average decrease in farrowing rate of 17 percent.

This seems to indicate

that stored semen should be evaluated prior to use in all sow herds.

Other significant differences found in the study between high and low farrowing rate herds included breeding a high percentage of sows by artificial insemination alone, wiping the vulva prior to breeding with unhygienic wipes and the use of hands-free wipes.

So if you're starting to look at ways to increase the farrowing rate in your herd, consider moving gilts to boar pens rather than vice versa, assessing semen quality prior to breeding, utilising a higher percentage of natural matings and ensuring sows are mated in a hygienic manner.

If you're looking to increase your farrowing rates, try some of these modifications because they might give you a pleasant surprise!

## Breeding Focus 2016 – Improving Welfare

THE 2016 Breeding Focus conference will bring together industry and science to interact, explore and discuss advances in addressing welfare in livestock and aquaculture species through selective breeding.

It is the second in the Breeding Focus series and will be held in Armidale on September 6 and 7 at the Armidale Bowling Club.

Registration is \$350 for the first person from each organisation and \$300 for all subsequent attendees from the same company or organisation.

This will include the conference publication, morning and afternoon teas, lunches and the conference dinner, which will be held on the evening of September 6 at the bowling club.

Talks will commence at 10.30am on September 6 and finish with afternoon tea at about 3pm on September 7.

A range of accommodation options is available in Armidale.

Visit [www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/armidale-area/armidale/accommodation](http://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/armidale-area/armidale/accommodation) for more information.

Collection from Armidale Airport can be arranged if you advise the organisers of your flight details.

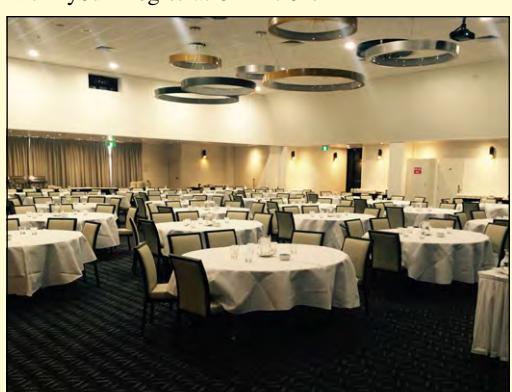
and books collected at this year's conference.

A third day of talks will be held at the Armidale Bowls Club on Thursday, September 8 for people interested in pig genetics.

The cost for attending this optional day is \$50.

Topics to be covered include: 'How can we measure welfare of animals on farms?', 'Breeding for breech strike resistance in Merino sheep', 'Breeding for improved welfare in pigs', 'Breeding for welfare traits in dairy cattle', 'Improving the temperament of Australian cattle and implications for animal welfare', 'Selection for immune competence in beef breeding programs' and 'Farming dinosaurs: the unique welfare challenges of farming crocodilians'.

Visit [agbu.une.edu.au/breedingfocus2016.html](http://agbu.une.edu.au/breedingfocus2016.html) for more information.



## PIGS GOT THE RUNS?



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