



April 2017

Email all queries and feedback to: kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz

Ravensdown Communicator of the Year

Nominations are now invited for the Ravensdown Agricultural Communicator of the Year Award 2017. This award recognises and honours people or groups who have made major contributions to the agricultural sector by communicating relevant and important information to the sector or about the sector.

Nominations forms for the award are now available and one accompanies this newsletter. It will soon be on the guild's website, www.guildag.co.nz

Entries close on Monday, 8 May, at 5pm. It is important that you put forward suitable candidates for this prestigious award. People being nominated don't have to be Guild members (but people nominating them must be), just anyone you think has done an excellent

job in communicating with or to the rural sector or on behalf of the rural sector.

**ravensdown**

Previous winners have included journalists and newspapers, authors, television producers, lobbyists, vets, consultants, information analysts . . . the list goes on. So give it some serious thought and get your nomination completed and sent in. A full list of previous winners is on the guild website. Remember, provide the best supporting material as possible, for anyone you nominate.

Ravensdown is our new sponsor for this award (pictured below) – let's welcome them to our family of wonderful sponsors and have a lot of nominations.



Ravensdown awards dinner

Our new Communicator of the Year sponsors, Ravensdown, has decided to return the awards dinner to Wednesday evening, so this year the dinner will be held on Wednesday, 14 June.

The venue will be The Verandah, on the shores of Hamilton Lake and is open to any journalists and communicators at Fielddays, not just guild members, so please make sure a wide group of people know about it. An official invitation will be distributed to everyone in May, but this is early warning so you can put it in your diary.

Susan Murray wins top IFAJ prize

Congratulations to *CountryLife's* Susan Murray, who was announced as the winner of this year's IFAJ Star Prize Broadcast Award in the audio section. Susan's entry was selected to represent New Zealand in this award, and was titled "Take the Honey not the Money".



Large corporate honey companies make a lot of money from the manuka-covered hills of the East Coast. While the beehive rental money coming from these businesses is sizeable, a group of local Ngati Porou want to take control of the industry themselves. They've got companies to agree to pay them in honey which they then sell themselves when the price is good. Long term they aim to take over the bee keeping side themselves as well.

Susan was thrilled to hear about the award, which was announced this week at this year's IFAJ Congress in South Africa.

Aaron Smale (print) and Lynda Gray (FAO food security award) were also selected to represent New Zealand.

Update time

It's Membership Directory update time again. Please could all financial members check your entries in the directory at the Guild's website (nzgajc.org.nz) and let Ali Spencer know if amendments need to be made to any of the elements at ali@spencerpr.co.nz, by Thursday 20 April latest. We know there will be a few. But, do it NOW and then it's off your desk! Thank you.

Guild award dates

The dates for the 2017 Journalism Awards have been confirmed – start thinking about articles you have written you might be able to enter. They are:

Entry forms available by	17 July
Closing date for entries	14 September
Awards dinner	13 October

New Guild website

IFAJ has launched its new website (ifaj.org). It contains all the important information, is much more modern and is very easy to read. To keep up with what is going on in agricultural journalism, go to the IFAJ website, have a look around and subscribe to get the IFAJ email news, under the News navigation button and IFAJ news.

New owner of Congress2015.co.nz

Late last year, the guild relinquished our Congress2015 website. Before we did this, we transferred all the useful information to our website, under Congress 2015. Soon after, we discovered the website had been taken over by another group, not related to the guild, not offensive and nothing we can do about it. Just in case you stumble on to it.

Obituaries

Alan Hope

Guild Life Member Allan Hope passed away earlier this month in Lower Hutt. Born in 1931, he was buried on 15 March – his 86th birthday.

Allan was one of agribusiness's best-known characters. He started his journalism career with *The Dominion* before becoming an agricultural journalist of some note for the *Dairy Exporter*. Allan was lured to a career in the New Zealand Parliament as press secretary to a succession of Ministers of Agriculture. It is a tribute to Allan that he was re-appointed by ministers of opposing political persuasion. He worked in Parliament for five different Ministers of Agriculture (six if you include twice for Rt Hon Colin Moyle) and under nine Prime Ministers. During the early 1980s, he had a stint in Australia as NZ's Vice-Consul for Trade there.

A legendary general knowledge meant that Allan Hope was seldom stumped when it came to facts and figures encountered in his publishing career in the agricultural field. He was the Editor/Compiler of *AgBrief* weekly from 1991 to 2006.

John Stirling

The guild would also like to mark the recent death of a former guild member, Jack (John) Stirling), about two months ago.

Guild member Glenys Christian clearly remembers him at "a number of guild events from the 1980s including, I think, the old MSD Agvet Royal Show Study Tour in Southland". She recalled that he also wrote for the *Dairy Exporter* from around 2007 for a number of years, and wrote the biography of farmer, Colin Richardson *Born Lucky*. Hugh Stringleman also remembered him at Guild events in Wellington, and said that he also wrote for *NZ Farmer* in the late 1980s, early 1990s, but resigned to go back farming at Milton.

Membership fees

Our treasurer, Mick Calder, has sent out subscriptions for 2017. These are now due.

Top photo

Australian Jacqui Bateman won the 2017 IFAJ photography prize for this cheeky swipe at PETA's attacks on shearing.

