



July 2018

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Alexa wins IFAJ Star Prize



Congratulations again to the winner of the IFAJ Rabobank Star Prize for Digital Broadcast, Alexa Cook. She won the audio broadcast award, was second in the digital award, and was in the top three for all three broadcast awards – the third is video.

There were 13 entries in the video section, seven in the audio award and six in the digital award.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/stories/201844058/>

[mustering-courage](#) to link to her award-winning articles.

Alexa left for overseas some months ago, is currently in Ireland, having spent the three months traveling through Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Bosnia. She is hoping to travel until March and will then look for a job in the UK.

She thanked RNZ for its ongoing support and the opportunity to let her go on such a great adventure to get the story. And she thanks Bex Parsons King for editing the video, and the web team for their patience. "I look forward to working in the rural media sector once I'm back in New Zealand," she said.

A reminder to all New Zealand agricultural journalists that they should enter these awards, including the new award announced last year, the IFAJ Caterpillar AgTech Reporting Award which recognises world-class reporting on the growing 'agtech' industry – the application of new technology in industry. There were 38 entries received for this award.

Award entries now open

Go to the Guild website www.nzgajc.org.nz and check out the entry forms.

Awards dinner in October

This year's Awards Dinner will be held in Wellington on Friday, 5 October, at The Rydges Hotel.

There will be a day of briefing sessions on the Friday, with some excellent speakers, and hopefully some professional development sessions on Saturday. Keep that date clear in your diary!!!

Award-winning photo

A dramatic aerial shot of cattle mustering in Queensland's gulf country (see next page) has been judged the world's best rural photo for 2018. Scott Radford-Chisholm's image of cattle moving through swirling dust on Abingdon Downs, north of Georgetown, was published in the *Townsville Bulletin*. His photo won the Nature-Landscape category in the photo excellence awards coordinated by the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) and was then judged the overall winner. There were 88 entries in the photography awards.

Future congresses

* Next year's IFAJ Congress will be based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, from 26 – 30 July 2019. The theme is 'Global Connections in America's Heartland', with a wide variety of presentations, farm tours, pre and post congress tours, and news and professional development sessions. To keep up with what they are planning, join the facebook group AMS IFAJ 2019.

The guild will be offering a travel grant for one of our members to attend



this congress – invitations will be sent out to those interested later this year.

* The 2020 Congress will be in Denmark, in late June.

* The 2021 Congress will be in Australia, based around Adelaide and then moving to another part of the country, in mid September.

* The 2022 congress will be in Switzerland, no further information as yet.

Now 50 IFAJ member countries

Eight countries were formally accepted as IFAJ members at Congress 2018. They were: Togo, Zanzibar, The Gambia, Cameroon, Liberia, Georgia, Senegal and United Republic of Tanzania.

Since the 2015 Congress in New Zealand, when the constitution was amended to accept guilds from countries that agree to support freedom of the press, rather than have freedom of the the press, IFAJ has accepted 17 new members. Applications have been received for nearly a dozen more countries, and IFAJ will be actively pursuing membership growth in South America and Asia.

IFAJ moving to new status

The Delegate Assembly voted unanimously to draft bylaws allowing the IFAJ Presidium to start the process of registering a foundation (non-profit organisation with charitable status) in the UK. The UK was chosen for a variety of reasons including a robust regulatory system for charities. The approval of the foundation bylaws, as well as to register IFAJ as a (non-profit) company limited by guarantee, were historic decisions that got the event off to a great start.

The foundation's main goal will be to advance the

practice of good agricultural journalism and communication worldwide in order to improve the flow and quality of information required by the world's farmers. The main activities of the foundation will be to provide financial assistance, training, support and practical advice relating to agricultural journalism and communication, stimulate and support new agricultural information networks, provide organisational and financial support for worldwide activities such as conferences, workshops and seminars on agricultural topics for journalists and media workers.

The IFAJ Executive Committee will meet in Ireland in November 2018 where the final procedures for establishing the foundation will be completed.

IFAJ presidium re-elected

Congratulations to the four members of the presidium who were elected unopposed at the Delegates Assembly, for another two years. From left, Adrian Bell, treasurer (Great Britain); Steve Werblow, secretary-general (United States); Lena Johansson, vice president (Sweden) and Owen Roberts, president (Canada).



IFAJ best photo

