



## July 2016

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### Congress 2016

Three New Zealand guild members are in Germany for the next few days, attending the IFAJ Congress 2016, based in Bonn:

president **Ali Spencer**, who will be representing the NZ Guild and participating in various working sessions; **Gerald Piddock**, from the *Waikato Times* and Fairfax Media team and a Guild national executive member, who won this year's Congress Travel Subsidy; and the first to arrive there, **Cheyenne Stein**, part of the NZX Agri team from *The Dairy Exporter*, who was selected by IFAJ to attend the Alltech Young Leaders bootcamp and then attend the congress.

**Breaking News:** *Cheyenne Stein received the IFAJ Alltech Young Leader in Agricultural Journalism Award In Bonn, at the completion of the Young Leaders bootcamp. Congratulations Cheyenne – a great achievement.*



We wish you all well, hope you meet lots of fascinating people, get lots of stories, and see lots of wonderful things.

This is the first time (that we can remember) that we have had three people from New Zealand attending the annual congress, and it may be repeated in future years. The IFAJ Alltech Young Leaders subsidy is made available every year and members under 35 can apply for it.

Our Congress Travel Subsidy, funded from the Congress 2015 fund, will be granted annually. And we will try to send someone from the national executive each year. Next year it will be in South Africa in April, and in 2018 it will be in The Netherlands.

### Landcorp breakfast

Thirty years of sponsorship by Landcorp of the Landcorp Agricultural Communicator of the Year were recognised at the recent awards breakfast in Hamilton, by the presentation to Landcorp of this carving by the Guild.

Around 35 people attended, and feasted on beautiful product from several of the Landcorp farms – venison, beef, lamb and sheep milk smoothies.

The winner, Tim Mackle, was a very popular choice and got strong applause when he said he was going to donate his prize money to the Waikato Rural Support Trust, part of a national organisation that works to assist rural







***DairyNZ CEO Tim Mackle is presented with the Landcorp Communicator of the Year award by Landcorp chair Tracey Houhepa.***

individuals or communities, during extreme weather conditions and other declared adverse events.

## **This year's journalism awards**

Over the next few weeks, the journalism awards for 2016 will be announced. Entry forms will be distributed to members, and then put onto the Guild's website.

Most of the awards made last year will be available for this year, although we are just awaiting confirmation in writing of a couple of them. There may be a new award, discussions on that are being held next week. There have been quite a few changes in key personnel in the offices of some of sponsors, which has complicated things.

Each award is judged by two judges, according to a set of guidelines. They work independently and then their two scores are added together to come up with a winner. Sometimes, if the individual results are very different, they talk it over.

Each judge only judges one award each year, which means the need to find around two dozen people willing to be a judge. A hard task sometimes! If you would like to be added to the list of

possible judges, please contact me on [kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz)

## **Regional Focus Day**

Half a dozen members from around the Palmerston North area enjoyed the first of the guild's Regional Focus Day a few weeks ago. It was an extremely informative session, with some networking (in the van between sessions and over lunch) and most got several article or leads from the day.

The group were given updates on work being done by the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre, heard about AgResearch's work on a new calf-rearing system, looked at a range of projects being undertaken at Massey University in the dairy



***NZGAJC president Ali Spencer juggles notepad, pen and camera during a field visit.***

***Guild members get a briefing at Massey University farm unit.***



area, and a project being carried out in conjunction with Horizons Regional Council which will give a better understanding and managing nutrient pathways and their reduction in sensitive agricultural catchments

The final visit for the day was at FoodHQ, where programme director Mark Ward spoke about national and global food issues being looked at by the hub.

Our thanks to everyone who come on the initial Regional Focus Day, and to all our hosts.

## Wellington get together

Don't forget the Wellington network function being organised by member Nicky Barton, who works for Blackland PR. This is a great opportunity for Wellington-based members, friends and guests, at Blackland's premises after work on Thursday, 28 July. There will be two guest speakers, Andrew Fraser from DairyNZ, and Emma Higgins, from Rabobank.

Anyone is welcome to attend, so if you are in Wellington for work and want to come along and meet and mingle with local members, that is fine. The deadline for RSVP is Friday week (22 July).

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***This beautiful trophy given each year to the winner of the Agricultural Communicator of the Year was first awarded in 2013 and has the names of all previous winners inscribed on the back. It stands about 35 cm high, is magnificent pounamu set into a piece of old fencepost. Gerard Hall co-ordinated the design with a local craftsman around Arrowtown.***

***Pictured below are some of the previous winners: from left – Don Carson, Doug Avery, Jacqueline Rowarth, current holder Tim Mackle, Tony Leggett and Hugh Stringleman.***

## Congress 2015 website

At the end of August, the Congress 2015 website, <http://www.congress2015.co.nz>, will be disabled. There is quite a lot of useful information on the website, and some of it has been transferred over to the guild website <http://www.nzgajc.org.nz>, under Congress 2015. You may want to check both websites in case there is information you want or need.

