

## IFMA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2011 (1)

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**Before everything else** – my apology for the long period since the last Newsletter - which was before the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress in March. Unfortunately I succumbed to illness shortly after the congress (nothing to do with that!) and it has taken 3 months to resolve the problem – but all is progressing well now following an operation.

### **WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERES**

We welcome the many new Subscribers to the Newsletter who have joined the Newsletter distribution list over the past 6 months. We are very pleased to have you “on board” and do hope you will gain a great deal from IFMA – particularly in terms of hearing about how things are done in, and the issues that affect, different parts of the world. We are increasingly operating in a global industry with the importance of food security ever more at the top of trading and political agendas.

### **18TH INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT CONGRESS**

It is with enormous admiration that we praise and thank the organisers of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Farm Management Congress held in March in New Zealand. In terms of coping with difficult situations the IFMA18 organisers probably take first prize in having to deal with the effects of a major earthquake in the host city just two weeks before they were to hold a congress. It is fair to say that Phil Everest and his team pulled out everything they could to make sure the Congress went ahead as near as possible to their original plans whilst moving the whole congress to a venue 1½ hours away from Christchurch – to Methven, a small farming town and ski resort with one great asset – a hotel with a conference room large enough to seat 380 people!

Phil's swift action in booking every available accommodation facility in Methven within two days of the earthquake saved the congress – and his team devoted every waking hour to make the change over as smooth as possible. Phil's whole team deserve individual mention – but with 25 or so involved, I hope that some will forgive me if I only mention a few. For those worried about their accommodation – no mean feat to transfer bookings for some 400 people (including speakers and facility providers) to some 30+ accommodation establishments (often small, and many had closed for the season) in less than 2 weeks – we particularly thank Tricia MacFarlane who with her small team of students managed what must have seemed the unmanageable in such a short time – they did a fantastic job – and not only did they sort out accommodation, together with their colleagues they sorted out the transport arrangements for getting everyone from and to the airport. Richard Green together with Andy MacFarlane (and no doubt others) managed to hold the plenary programme together virtually unchanged, reorganising the “show” and many speakers from different countries to Methven. Kerry Geertson and his office kept a cool head looking after the administration of the congress and the huge increase in communication even though he was miles away in Wellington on the North Island.

In thanking all those involved in rescuing what could well have been a major disaster for IFMA, we must not forget those who were equally important to the success of the congress – which includes John Gardner who with Kate Saxton oversaw and did a great job of organising the Contributed Paper programme and the production of the congress proceedings. And a big thank you also has to go to all who submitted papers and made presentations for what was undoubtedly a first class congress.

A thank you too to the organisers and tour guides of the Pre (Ross Macmillan) and the Post (Ron McPhail) Congress tours which were much appreciated with a good level of attendance (two coaches needed for the pre tour). Many new friendships were established and much learnt about New Zealand – cultural as well as agricultural – during these tours. You will be pleased to hear that our President John Alliston was made an honorary Maori Chief during our stay in Rotorua – now to be addressed as Professor Chief Hormey John!

Finally a big thank you to all who attended the Congress and those who participated in the tours – this was the best attended congress for some time – and of course attendance levels are so important in maintaining the viability of IFMA and its congresses.

One urgent job for the Hon. Secretary is to prepare and place the **Congress Papers, Posters, Plenary Presentations and the Farm Trip Handouts (a first) on to the ifmaonline.org website** – again this has been delayed by my illness – but I am working on it and hope to have this done in the next 2 weeks. In due course I also plan to provide a report on the delegate evaluation survey carried out during the congress – and this will be available on the ifmaonline website

### **19TH INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT CONGRESS – POLAND**

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress we received an interesting and inviting presentation from Edward Majewski on the next IFMA Congress. Poland has had a great, if at times troubled, history. It is a major food producer in the region, previously supplying Russia and Eastern Europe, but now making a fast transition into the European Union and the Common Market as a recent member. Its agriculture is highly diverse, a mix of old and new, and I am sure we are in for an interesting and thought provoking visit there. The Congress will be held in Warsaw at the University of Life Sciences – the second largest university in Warsaw with 27,000 students. More information later – but you will shortly be able to view the presentation on ifmaonline.org. We wish Edward and his team all the very best as they prepare for the congress in two years time.

**Most importantly – please note the dates – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013.** And please inform others who could be interested.

A Pre Congress tour of East and North Poland and a Post Congress tour of South Poland are being organised. These are likely to run for 8 days before and after the congress respectively.

### **JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT (JIFM)**

#### **– A NEW (& THE LAST) EDITION ADDED – Volume 5, Edition 4**

The latest Edition of the Journal has now been uploaded to the ifmaonline.org website. It carries three papers. In this final edition there are papers from Canada, Ireland and the USA. One on biofuels and the livestock industry, one on the socio-economic factors in choosing to grow bioenergy crops and one on the balancing of working time, machinery and crop returns. [Enjoy the final edition!](#)

In his final Editorial for the JIFM John Gardner gives a brief history of the Journal and appropriately mentions those who were involved in the early days as they struggled to establish the Journal against the costs of producing a hardcopy journal and the postage involved. However we need to thank John profusely for his part in making the Journal an online success by volunteering to take on the difficult task of overseeing and editing the Journal since late 2003 with the first Edition going online in 2005 – and to Denise Stewart at Massey for putting the papers in order for the 3 Volumes and 12 Editions. No money was available for producing the Journal – only the cost of the initial set up of the website and provision of a content management system for holding it. Most importantly John has kindly agreed to continue his good work as a Deputy Editor of the new replacement Journal – see next item.

### **- ANNOUNCING JIFM'S REPLACEMENT – THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT - IJAM**

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress the replacement Journal for the JIFM was announced – this will be the International Journal of Agricultural Management (IJAM) which will be launched – all being well and subject to the technology being in place - in August. The first edition is already with the publisher being professionally prepared for the launch on a professional Journal website alongside many other agricultural related journals. **A separate Newsletter will follow this one specifically on IJAM** – but for those who are keen to

know more – particularly potential authors for whom a call for papers is available – do visit the **current IJAM website** at this address - <https://sites.google.com/site/intjournalofagmanagement/home>.

The Congress presentation of the IJAM announcement will be available on ifmaonline.org soon.

### **IFMA COUNCIL CHANGES**

IFMA Council has two meetings at each congress – one before the congress starts and one afterwards. The IFMA Executive is elected during the first Council Meeting. Council members are elected at the General Meeting held during the congress.

**Changes to the Executive** are – Vice President Jim McGrann (Texas A&M, USA) retired with Damona Doye (Oklahoma State University, USA) being elected as a new Vice President. Jim has been co-opted at the second Council Meeting to stay on Council for special projects. We thank Jim for his good work and support on the Executive since he took over from Dan Smith in 2007.

**Changes to Council** are :-

**Canada Representative** – Wilson Loree retired and is replaced by Terry Betker. We thank Wilson for his long term support of IFMA which included heading up the organising committee for the very successful congress held in Calgary in 1997. Welcome to Terry who hails from Winnipeg, Manitoba where he is involved in Management Consultancy.

**Southern Africa Representative** – Wim Nell retired and is replaced by Lize Terblanche. Wim is a well known congress character who has been instrumental in bringing students and other South Africans to congress since 1995. We welcome Lize to Council – who will bring a much needed younger dimension to Council! Lize follows Wim from the University of the Free State.

**Congress Representatives** – 17<sup>th</sup> Congress organiser Carroll Merry retired at end of his term. (18<sup>th</sup> Congress Representative – Phil Everest continues for 2 more years, and the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress Representative is Edward Majewski)

**Also** co-opted to Council as **President Elect** is Trevor Atkinson (UK) who brings a more commercial farming background to Council.

Council have asked Heather Watson (Canada) and August Atkinson (UK) to act as “youth ambassadors” for IFMA, and will seek out further youth ambassadors in other countries.

We owe a great deal to all the members of Council for their freely given services for the betterment of IFMA, they are instrumental to the continued success of IFMA and its activities.

In due course the Council Member Pages of ifmaonline will be updated with all the changes and background information on the new Members.

**And finally,**

Some of you know **Ann and Lindsay Jarvis** (Dairy Farmers from Victoria, Australia and long term attendees of IFMA Congresses). Lindsay was not able to attend following a severe stroke in May 2010, but insisted that Ann do so. During my post congress visit to Melbourne I was able to have a short visit with Ann and Lindsay on their farm near Wadonga - and I am pleased to report that Lindsay was on good form, still working away to regain his capabilities (even attempting to re-learn the use of his computer) – but most of all he still retains his wicked sense of humour and laugh. He was most interested to hear about the congress. We can only hope that his progress continues; it has been a long haul for both of them.

Best Regards,  
Tony.

Tony King  
Hon. Secretary

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**IFMA Website** - [www.ifmaonline.org](http://www.ifmaonline.org)

**The 19th IFMA Congress will be held in Warsaw, Poland, 21-26 July, 2013**