TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE:
Chosen or Unchosen
Pathways to innovation, resilience and prosperity
26 - 28 August 2013
Christchurch, New Zealand
Welcome and Conference Overview

On behalf of the organising committee for the APEN International conference 2013 – welcome!

We chose as the theme for this conference ‘Transformative Change: Chosen or Unchosen’ because it best described the current challenges we face. We are convinced that increasing uptake of practices and technologies needs systemic change beyond our current thinking. Many of the powerful drivers behind the challenges involved in working with people in industries and communities to achieve change are beyond the farm (or orchard, forest, mine, boat?!) gate. These wider social, economic, environmental and regulatory drivers influencing change must be considered. True innovation, therefore, requires changing the right parts of the whole system to ensure desired impacts are realised.

And there is no better place to start thinking about this than an APEN conference! The collection of presentations here from New Zealand, Australia and further abroad provides a comprehensive mix of the new and the old. No matter what your background or experience, they represent lessons learnt; they explore possibilities for extension both now and in the future, and provide processes for dealing with the rapidly changing world in which we live.

I would like to thank the hard working organising committee – Victoria Westbrooke, Ian Tarbotton, Toni White, Carole Hollier, along with members of the Management Committee – Austin McLennan, Warren Hunt and Greg Mills, and our wonderful APEN secretariat – Rosemary Currie, for being enthusiastic enough to make this conference happen. In addition, a huge thank you to our sponsors in Australia (HAL, GRDC and MLA) and New Zealand (Beef+Lamb NZ, Ballance, AgResearch, DairyNZ, Ministry for Primary Industries and OneFarm) for ensuring that this conference is a success.

Enjoy!

Denise Bewsell
Convenor, APEN ICNZ13
Convenor
Denise Bewsell

Organising Committee
Rosemary Currie
Denise Bewsell
Victoria Westbrook
Ian Tarbottin
Toni White

Secretariat
Heather Stevenson
Conference & Events, Lincoln University

Editor
Victoria Westbrooke

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Professor Caroline Saunders has 20 years research expertise in the UK and New Zealand. She has over 100 publications specialising on sustainable economic development. Her current research includes evaluating trade and the environment including assessment of international markets policies and their impact on development. This includes developing and using the Lincoln Trade and Environment Model to assess impacts on trade of various factors including changing policy, market trends, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and the development of new technologies, as well as research into such issues as food miles. She has undertaken research for a wide range of private and public bodies both in NZ and overseas. These include the EU commission, MAF, MFAT, Treasury, MFE, MED, NZTE, Fonterra, Meat Industry and various other sector groups.

Tom Fraser has worked for DSIR Grasslands and AgResearch since 1969, focussing on plant breeding and evaluation of pasture plants for the New Zealand pastoral sector. Currently Tom works in the Farm Systems team and his research is concentrated on the whole farm system approach to research and as such brings together a wide variety of research disciplines. As well as conducting research projects carried out at the research station Tom is heavily involved with research with farmer groups through funding from Producer Boards and MPI. This work puts him in contact with a large number of farmers throughout New Zealand. He has conducted many workshops for sheep, beef, dairy and deer farmers in the topics of pasture quality, forage establishment and species selection, sheep efficiency, brassica best management practices, and feed planning. Recent awards include: Life member NZGA 2011; Recipient of Ray Brougham Award NZGA 2012.
Associate Professor Laurens Klerkx is at the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Group at Wageningen University. He holds a MSc in Tropical Agriculture, and a PhD in Communication and Innovation Studies. His research takes place in the realm of agriculture and the life sciences and focuses on: demand articulation and multi-stakeholder negotiations for demand-driven research and innovation; newly emerging intermediary structures for matching demand and supply for knowledge to support innovation (innovation brokers); how such innovation brokers affect the dynamics in innovation networks and how they are perceived by ‘traditional’ knowledge intensive service providers (such as research institutes and consultants) and end-users of innovation; the structural dynamics of innovation networks over time and corresponding role divisions in innovation networks. Besides being active in academic research and teaching, Laurens work informs policy makers, through contributions in policy oriented publications and oral presentations for organizations like the World Bank, the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Professor Gregorio Billikopf, University of California
Gregorio Billikopf is a Labour Management Farm Advisor with the University of California (since 1981) and Visiting Professor of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Chile (since 2005). His agricultural extension research and teaching efforts have focused on such topics as employee selection, compensation, quality control, performance appraisal, discipline and termination, supervision, interpersonal relations, conflict resolution, and interpersonal negotiation skills. Gregorio is well known for his knowledge and work in the area of conflict resolution, he has developed a method of mediation known as party directed mediation; helping others resolve differences.