MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
WPAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 8TH February 2005
at the Veterinary SCIENCE Conference Centre, Regimental Crescent
University of Sydney

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of previous meeting

3. Business arising from Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. Reports

President, Australian Branch, Secretary, Australian Branch, Treasurer, Australian Branch.

Sub-branches: Queensland, New England, Newcastle, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia.

General business

- Results of the Australian Branch and Sub-branch elections
- WPC 2008 – Update on activities and establishment of revised structure, Organising Committee and Scientific Program Committee
- Promotion of WPC 2008 at WPC2004 and other meetings
- Election of Bruce Sheldon to International Poultry Hall of Fame
- WPSA Web page
- Australian Poultry Award 2004
- Syd Wilkins Award – discussion
- APFC – arrangements for 2005
- WPSA working group on family poultry farming
- Speakers at Sub-branch meetings
- Activities of the WPSA World body

Other business
1. ATTENDANCE

Executive Members:

Other Members:
M. Jolly, I. Malecki, A. Turner, M Choct, D. Thomas, R. Hughes, D. Farrell, W. Bryden.

Members Represented by Proxy:
G. Parkinson (R. Perez-Maldonado).

Apologies:
G. Parkinson, J. Reeves and D. Goussac

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting (2004) were circulated to members following the last AGM. These minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record (D. Farrell/W. Bryden).

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The secretary announced that there was the usual amount of correspondence that can be classified as:

Membership: About 25 pieces of correspondence were received during 2004 regarding WPSA membership transactions. This includes payments, membership cancellations, change of address and welcomes to new members.

Scientific Meetings: Announcements were received from Pakistan, Nigeria, Turkey, Croatia, European Poultry Genetics, Ostrich Congress in Madrid Spain, Poultry Expo in USA, Poultry Avian Gut Function, Health and disease UK, Poultry Seminars in Bangladesh. Poultry International Course in Netherlands.

World body: 20 pieces of correspondence were received concerning annual membership dues to the WPSA for the year 2004, scholarship awards, postgraduates students travelling allowances for Istanbul WPC 2004. Executive Committee: More than 150 pieces of correspondence were interchanged among the WPSA executive, regarding the organisation and structure of WPC 2008. This also included two telephone conferences organised and carried out by the WPSA President between the membership of PSA Australian Branch Committee.

Correspondence between the Secretary, Treasurer and the President included development of the agenda and minutes for the 2004 AGM conducted during the 2005 Australian Poultry Science Symposium in Sydney.

Syd Wilkins Memorial Prize, Australian Poultry Award and Youth program at WPC2004: About 40 pieces of correspondence were associated with the organisation, posting and voting for these annual events.

Technical meetings invitations: Our branch received a significant number of national and international invitations which are listed below.

- XXII World’s Ostrich Congress in Madrid, October 2005.
- The 1st Nigeria International Poultry Summit 15/10/05
- The 4th International Poultry Show and Seminar 02/05/05
- The 4th European Poultry Genetics Symposium 6-8 October 2005
- International Course in Incubation and Biology Management Wageningen, NL. 26-27/05/05
- The Avian Gut Function, Health & Disease 15-17/09/05. Bristol UK.
4. REPORTS

Report from President Australian Branch (Dr Bob Pym)
During 2004, the branch has continued its role in promoting information exchange at all levels of the poultry industry with support for regional meetings throughout Australia and as co-sponsor of the annual Australian Poultry Science Symposium. In association with promotion of the 23rd World’s Poultry Congress to be held in Brisbane in August 2008, the branch was well represented at the 22nd World’s Poultry Congress in Istanbul from 8-13 June 2004. Involvement in the latter included manning a promotional booth, staging a reception for selected delegates from most of the world’s WPSA branches, and organising the screening of an invitation video in the closing session of the Congress.

Bruce Sheldon’s contribution to WPSA and to poultry science and the poultry industry was honoured during the year, firstly at the Australian Poultry Science Symposium where the Symposium was opened with a paper entitled “A tribute to Bruce Sheldon: A diminutive scientist of immense stature” and authored by the members of the executive of WPSA, and secondly, by his election to the WPSA World Body’s “Poultry Hall of Fame” at the Istanbul Congress. Discussions are underway within the WPSA Branch Management Committee to establish an ongoing recognition in the form of an award in Bruce’s name.

Related to this activity, the WPSA Branch Management Committee is also looking at revising awards for scientific endeavour for the benefit of the poultry industry. The Committee is keen to honour the contribution of Rob Cumming to poultry science and the poultry industry and a working group has been set up to make recommendations in this regard.

The Organising Committee of the 2008 23rd World’s Poultry Congress has now been established with representation from WPSA, ACMF, AECL, SFMAA and NFF. WPSA is represented on the organising committee by Martin Simmons, Mike Evans and Bob Pym (Chair) and on the Scientific and Technical Program Committee (Chaired by David Farrell) by Greg Parkinson, Rider Perez and Phil Glatz. Martin Simmons is Chair of the Publicity and Marketing Committee.

The 13th Australian Poultry Convention will be held at Jupiters on the Gold Coast from 9-12 October 2005. The Convention is jointly sponsored by WPSA, ACMF and AECL. The theme of the Convention is “Climate Change” and the conference Chairperson is James Kellaway from AECL. The format of the meeting will be changed somewhat from past conventions to mostly plenary sessions under the headings of: Consumer Concerns & Needs; Economic Outlook; Environmental Expectations & challenges; Biosecurity & Free Trade Agreements; Bird Health, Public Health & their Interface; Climate & Availability of Feed & Water; Animal Welfare; and Training & Education.
Information on the Convention can be obtained on www.poultry2005.com

The branch has been closely involved in the establishment of a Working Group on Family Poultry Farming since 2000. Bruce Sheldon was the main driving force behind this and his passing in April 2003 impacted on the development of the Group. However, the inaugural meeting of the Working Group was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh at the 4th International Poultry Show and Seminar in March 2005. The meeting was most successful with attendance from many of the member countries of the Asian Pacific Federation of WPSA. The Australian branch was represented by Mike Evans (as Secretary of the Working Group) and Bob Pym.
The Australian branch is keen to support speakers at regional meetings and welcomes applications from the branches for this purpose. We will provide sub-branches with information on speakers invited to attend both the October 2005 Convention and the Poultry Science Symposium in February 2006.

Many thanks to members of the Branch Management Committee for their time and inputs over the past year, it is greatly appreciated. I’d particularly like to record my thanks to Martin Simmons and Rider Perez for their support and for the time and energy they have devoted to WPSA.

_R.A.E. Pym_

**Report from Secretary Australian Branch (Dr Rider Perez-Maldonado)**

- During 2004 the WPSA Australian Branch Annual Membership dues to the WPSA was US$ 4,270. By 12 May 2004 we had 166 individual members, 18 affiliate members 5 student members and 30 life members. Every year new members are enrolled but some others retire or resign their membership, therefore by the end of 2004, the number of active members was 215.

- The distribution of members is shown in this table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcastle</th>
<th>New England</th>
<th>New South Wales</th>
<th>Queensland</th>
<th>South Australia</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
<th>Western Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Electronic forms for WPSA member application are available on the web and but if you wish to email me, I can also send you a copy.

- Nearly 150 pieces of correspondence, including many telephone conversations and e-mails, were undertaken under my office. The correspondence section provides details.

- The term of office for all officers of the Australian Branch Management Committee and Sub-Branch Management Committees is 2 years and expired at the end of 2004. Nomination forms were sent by the end of the year to all financial members seeking nomination of office bearers for the two-year period 2004-2006.

Results of nominations for office bearers for the Australian Branch and all Sub-Branches:

Please be advised that for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Australian Branch, all office bearers re-nominated and as no other nominations were received the following persons remain on the Australian Branch executive for 2004-2006

- **President** - Dr Bob Pym
- **Vice-President** - Dr Michael Evans
- **Secretary/Assistant Treasurer** - Dr Rider Perez-Maldonado
- **Treasurer/Assistant Secretary** - Mr Martin Simmons

Dr Bruce Sheldon was the immediate Past-President.

Please be advised that the following nominations were received for the Sub-Branch Management Committees for the period of office 2004-2006
• **Syd Wilkins Award**

Only one application for the 2004 award was received by due date. Following assessment of the submitted manuscript by the two reviewers, Ms Megan Jolly from New England University was presented with the award in the opening session at APSS. Megan presented the award paper entitled “Effect of IB vaccination strain during rearing phase on egg production and quality following challenge with IB virus in the laying cycle” by M.J. Jolly, J.R. Roberts and W. Ball, following the presentation. As Secretary of the WPSA Australian branch I would like to congratulate Megan for her efforts and dedication, which is reflected in obtaining this award.

• **Australian Poultry Award**

A number of very worthy nominations were again made in 2004. The winner for the 2004 Award was Dr Mingan Choct. WPSA would like to take this opportunity to convey our very sincere congratulations to Mingan. The award was presented at the commencement of the first session at APSS on the Wednesday morning. The citation, which accompanies the award, is shown below:

**AUSTRALIAN POULTRY AWARD 2004 – MINGAN CHOCT**

**C I T A T I O N**

Mingan Choct was born in 1960 in Inner Mongolia, the Peoples' Republic of China. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the Inner Mongolia University of Agriculture in Hohhot, China in 1983 and commenced his career there as an associate lecturer in animal nutrition. In 1987 he migrated to Australia and completed studies for a Master of Science degree at the University of New South Wales in 1988 and a PhD on the effects of wheat pentosans in poultry at the University of Sydney in 1991.

In 1991, Mingan moved to Adelaide to begin post-doctoral research with Dr Geoffrey Annison at the CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition. The following year he was appointed as a research scientist and went on to become the manager of the Food Carbohydrates Laboratory. He played a key role in the core activities of the Division, which were to identify the functions of probiotics and resistant starch on large bowel health in humans. During his time with CSIRO in Adelaide, Mingan developed many national and international collaborative research projects on carbohydrate chemistry and the amelioration of anti-nutritive properties of non-starch polysaccharides by addition of specific enzyme products to poultry feeds.

In 1995, academia beckoned him to the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales. Mingan began as a lecturer in animal science in August 1995, progressed to Senior Lecturer in 1997, Associate Professor
in 2000, and then to Professor in 2003. In addition to undergraduate teaching, a total of 20 students have completed Honours, Masters and PhD degrees under his supervision and co-supervision.

During his relatively short career of less than 15 years in research and teaching, Mingan has managed to publish over 170 articles including 140 refereed papers in scientific journals and conference proceedings, and 12 books or book chapters. Many of his journal papers on non-starch polysaccharides, feed enzymes and gut microflora are definitive studies that continue to be frequently cited by researchers in this field.

Testimony to Mingan's knowledge and expertise in carbohydrate chemistry and animal nutrition is the frequency with which he has been invited to speak at national and international conferences, to undertake lecture tours and to engage in consultancies to industry. In addition, he is an assistant editor for British Poultry Science, is on the editorial board of a number of international journals, and has received frequent requests to referee scientific papers, to examine PhD and Masters Theses, and to review research grant applications on behalf of international funding bodies.

During his student years, Mingan received several prestigious awards for excellence. He was presented with the Inner Mongolia Provincial Student Medal in 1982, the Australian Society of Animal Production Junior Scientist Award in 1990, and WPSA's Syd Wilkins Memorial Prize in 1991. Since then his outstanding contribution to innovation in science and technology was recognised by the Mongolian Government, which presented him with the Scientific Development Award in 1997.

Mingan's crowning achievement to date is the establishment of the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre. His leadership, inspiration and persistence throughout the difficult and complex process, commencing with the initial idea through to the acceptance of the proposal by the Australian Government, were key elements leading to ultimate success. He was able to persuade and motivate many supporters from industry, universities and research organisations at a time when many other people thought that a bid for the poultry CRC had little chance of success. His ability to gain the trust and confidence of people from all sectors of the industry and supporting organisations is reflected in part by his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Poultry CRC.

Mingan has made outstanding contributions in research, education and organisation, the key objectives of the World's Poultry Science Association. These achievements make Mingan Choct a most worthy recipient of the Australian Poultry Award for 2004.

February 2005

Dr Bob Pym, President, WPSA Australian Branch

The Secretary office would like to thank Bob, Martin and all Sub-branches for their help and contribution during 2004.

Rider Perez-Maldonado, Secretary WPSA Australian Branch

Report from Treasurer Australian Branch (Mr Martin Simmons)

Important items in this report are as follows: 1) The outgoings incurred as a result of WPC 2004, 2) Lack of an Invoice from the World Body. 3) The apparent increase in office expenses. 4) Growing trade debtors.

a) Covers 2 x $2,000.00 grants to assist Rider and myself attend the conference in Turkey. While there we maintained the WPC 2008 Australian Promotion Stand. As part of the conference we paid for a Cocktail Party where we invited delegates to Brisbane in 2008, the evening was attended by over 100 delegates with Piet Simon making the opening presentation.

b) I intend to email the office requesting the Invoice soon.

c) This item covers 2 years of admin charges. These were not charged for year 2003. These charges cover the mail-out of over 200 subscription Invoices to all members.

d) Looking back on the last 4 years I see a disturbing trend, which needs to be addressed.
As we are not receiving all our Invoiced subscriptions we are seeing a blow-out in our trade debtors ie. overdue subscriptions:

2001 - $5,654.00
2002 - $10,106.00
2003 - $16,807.00
2004 - $24,047.00

This amount is unlikely to be recovered unless each branch is prepared to help with debt collection. I seek guidance from the membership as to how to address this problem.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Management Committee who have assisted me throughout the year.

Martin Simmons, Treasurer, WPSA Australia Branch

ATTACHMENTS TO THE TREASURER'S REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Selected period</th>
<th>% of sales</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
<th>% of YTD Sales</th>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>-$180.00</td>
<td>(9.9)</td>
<td>$13,380.00</td>
<td>73.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub/Donations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention Income</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>109.9</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>$3,410.97</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Cancelled Memberships</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-$484.00</td>
<td>(2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$1,820.28</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$18,306.97</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| EXPENSE                         |                |            |              |                |
| Audit Fees                      | $0.00          | 0.0        | $200.00      | 1.1            |
| Award, Ceremonies, Plaques etc  | $0.00          | 0.0        | $3,653.30    | 20.0           |
| Bank Charges                    | $7.26          | 0.4        | $116.99      | 0.6            |
| Convention Expenses             | $1,595.00      | 87.6       | $1,595.0     | 8.7            |
| Merchant Fees                   | $20.0          | 1.1        | -$165.00     | (0.9)          |
| Interest Charged                | $0.00          | 0.0        | $17.33       | 0.1            |
| Meeting Expenses                | $0.00          | 0.0        | $1,743.94    | 9.5            |
| Office Expenses                 | $2,991.64      | 164.4      | $2,991.64    | 16.3           |
| Postage                         | $132.00        | 7.3        | $211.10      | 1.2            |
| Travel and Accommodation        | $2,000.00      | 109.9      | 7,104.75     | 38.8           |
| **TOTAL EXPENSE**               | $6,745.90      | 370.6      | $17,468.15   | 95.4           |
| **NET PROFIT/(LOSS)**           | -$4,925.62     | (270.6)    | $838.82      | 4.6            |
Trial Balance December 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>YTD Debit</th>
<th>YTD Credit</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAB Operating 50-937-4494</td>
<td>$6,878.28</td>
<td>$4,711.01</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAB Term Deposit 28-405-68</td>
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<td>NAB Term Deposit 60-734-74</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Debtors</td>
<td>$24,047.64</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST Collected on Sales</td>
<td>$182.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,612.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST Paid on Purchases</td>
<td>$1,062.55</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,005,844.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$13,380.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Sub/Donations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention Income</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>$0.28</td>
<td>$165.00</td>
<td>3,410.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Cancelled Memberships</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$484.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audit Fees</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award Ceremonies, Plaques, etc</td>
<td>3,653.30</td>
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<td>Bank Charges-</td>
<td>$116.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchant Fees</td>
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<td>$165.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention Expenses</td>
<td>$1,595.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest charged</td>
<td>$17.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>$1,743.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>$2,991.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>$211.10</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and Accommodation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$9,060.56</td>
<td>$122,153.87</td>
<td>$122,153.87</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Balance Sheet As of December 2004

**ASSETS**
- Loan –11th Poultry Convention $0.00
- NAB Operating 50-937-4494 $4,711.01
- NAB Term Deposit 28-405-6814 $22,131.06
- NAB Term Deposit 60-734-7457 $52,084.46
- WBC Cheque 638 767 $0.00
- NAB Term Deposit 45-351-7627 $0.00
- NAB Term Deposit 60-734-7457 $0.00
- Trade Debtors $24,047.64
- Total ASSETS $102,974.17

**LIABILITIES**
- GST Control Account
  - GST Collected on Sales $2,612.93
  - GST Paid on Purchases $-1,062.55
  - Total GST Control Account $1,550.38
- Total Creditors $0.00
- Total LIABILITIES $1,550.38

**Net Assets** $101,423.79

**EQUITY**
- Retained Earnings $100,584.97
- Current Earnings $838.82
- Total EQUITY $101,423.79

A written copy of the Treasurer’s report and financial statements were provided for those members present at the AGM. After discussion of the report and financial statements, the meeting approved the Treasurer’s report and financial statements for the year 2004 (Gerry Bolla/Alex Turner).

*Martin Simmons, Treasurer WPSA Australian Branch*
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT: HA BURKE ABN 54 632 255 115
To the members of World Poultry Science Association

Scope
I have audited the financial statements of World Poultry Science Association for the financial year ended 31 December 2004. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the association.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion
In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. The financial position of World Poultry Science Association as at 31 December 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Heather Burke CPA, H A Burke, Dated: 7 February 2005

REPORTS FROM SUB-BRANCHES

Queensland Sub Branch (Dr Michael Evans)
It is with pleasure that I present my final report of the activities of the Queensland Sub-Branch for the year 2004. The Sub-Branch had a quiet year with the exception of the Schools project, which continued to attract over 20 schools with one school from NSW participating.

Sub Branch Management
This year saw us lose our Treasurer to motherhood. Thanks to Nicole Catakovic for her time spent as our Treasurer. Paul Kent took over as Acting Treasurer in the interim, and was replaced late in the year by Peter Trappett. Thank you Peter for agreeing to be our Treasurer.

Committee
President: Michael Evans.
Vice-President: Andrew Baker.
Secretary: Paul Kent.
Treasurer: Nicole Catakovic/Peter Trappett.
Committee: John Dingle, Alex Turney, Geoff Stewart, Rod Jenner, Danny Singh, Murray Elks, Jack Houweling (advisory), Dick Munt (advisory).

My thanks go to the committee for their involvement and in particular to our Secretary and Acting Treasurer, Mr. Paul Kent, for his efforts and who kept things ticking over. Paul's efforts in overseeing the School project are to be commended.
Meetings
One technical meeting and one management meeting were held during the year.

19^{th} February 2004 – Technical Meeting - Visit by Professor Henry (Hank) Classen.
15th October 2004 – QPRDC – Management Meeting

I wish to thank the Queensland Department of Primary Industries for their support and providing us with facilities to hold our meetings. Thanks go to Adisseo via Alex Turney for providing the projector for our Technical meeting.

Finances
The sub-branch finances are in a strong position. The High School project continues to be major source of expense and the Poultry Science Symposium held at Gatton our major source of revenue. Income from membership has not been remitted from the Australian Branch for the last 4 years and it is hoped that this will be rectified as soon as possible. Numerous requests for this remittance have been made over the year to no avail. We expect income from membership to continue to be steady and similar to previous years. Since the Symposium will only be held every 2 years (mainly due to the lack of enough technical material to do it each year) our income will be reduced.

Current bank balance is $6,657.33 as at 31/1/05.

Membership
The membership has been maintained at the high levels of previous years and we continue to seek additional members.

Australian Branch
I wish to thank the Australian Branch Committee for their support and encouragement during the year. However, again our requests for our share of the membership funds for the last 4 years from the Australian Branch are still outstanding and it hoped this will be rectified as soon as possible.

Queensland Sub-Branch Activities
Seminar
A Technical seminar was held at the Carindale Hotel, 19^{th} February, 2004. Professor Henry (Hank) Classen from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada. Professor Classen spoke on a range of subjects on Broilers. The meeting was intended and offered topics on laying birds, but due to the nil attendance from the Egg Industry, and a good attendance from the Broiler Industry, the programme was modified to cater for the Chicken Meat audience on the night. About 30 people attended from the Broiler industry and the Department of Primary Industries. The meeting went for one hour and half more than planned. Our thanks go to Professor Classen for speaking so long and also responding so successfully to the short notice on the change of topics. Our thanks go to Jack Houweling for encouraging the Broiler growers to attend.

High Schools Project
This is a significant activity of the Sub-Branch this year, and was again a great success. We had 21 schools who started this year with 16 school finishing and producing a final report for judging. An Open day was held on the 15^{th} October 2004 at the QPRDC attended by the participating schools and 120 people. Leaders from Qld WPSA, DPI, and the Poultry Industry were there to talk to the students, to thank them for their wonderful projects and encourage
them to look at the Poultry Industry as a possible career for the future. Local politicians also attended. A special thanks needs to go to our Schools project coordinator Paul Kent for his hard work on the project during the year, and also Karen Gurney and Rebecca for being our judges. Thank you Karen and Rebecca. Our thanks also go to our Industry sponsors for their continued support with the project. Many companies provide support financially, in kind, and other ways.

The winning schools were:
**First**: Beenleigh State High School $250. **Second**: Dakabin State High School $150. **Third**: Caboolture State High School $100.

Please find attached a letter from the National Farmer’s Federation calling on Australian Schools and State Education Departments to ensure schools are presented with balanced factual information about animal welfare on farms and nutrition. This of course is what the schools project is all about. We will be contacting the National Farmers Federation about the school’s project.

The organisation for next year’s project has begun.

*Noel Milne Poultry Award*

The Noel Milne Poultry Award was presented to Dick Munt for his services to the Poultry Industry and was presented at PIX 2004 conference held at the Gold Coast as is normal practice. Well done Dick and well deserved.

*Coming Events*

The first meeting of the Management committee was held on the 15th October 2004 to start planning for the twelfth Poultry Science Symposium to be held on at the University of Queensland, Gatton Campus on Thursday 21st July 2005. A special session on the disease Avian Influenza will one of the highlights of the Symposium. The request for papers has been sent out to all members of WPSA in Australia and other Poultry Industry bodies.

*WPSA Congress in Brisbane 2008*

I was invited by Dr Bob Pym, Australian Branch President to participate on the planning committee of the WPSA Congress in 2008. I attended a preliminary meeting of some committee members during the PIX 2004 meeting and a further meeting with staff from the Brisbane Convention Centre with other committee members to inspect their facilities. It is the desire of the Queensland Sub-Branch Management Committee, as the local Sub-Branch, to provide assistance, when needed, to ensure the success of this exciting World event.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee for their hard work and efforts this year in making 2004 a successful year, albeit a quiet one, for the WPSA Queensland Sub-Branch.

*Dr. Michael Evans Qld Sub-branch President*

*New England Sub Branch (Dr Juliet Roberts)*

- Sub-branch have been involved in organising talks about the Poultry CRC
- Sub-branch is getting re-organised, updating members’ list.

*J. Roberts*
**Newcastle Sub Branch (Mr Gerry Bolla)**

The Newcastle Sub-Branch has had a moderately successful year, holding just the one meeting that coincided with Dr Hank Classen's visit in February last year. Dr Classen presented a most informative talk on the lighting of poultry which was greatly appreciated by the eighteen growers in attendance.

The Sub-Branch currently has a membership of 14 members, with a current bank balance of $1,326.71.

The Committee remains active, but would benefit from the injection of overseas speakers such as Dr Classen in 2004, who can talk on issues of relevance to poultry producers, and in the case of the Newcastle Sub-Branch, particularly broiler growers.

**Broiler Industry in New South Wales Under Pressure**

Newcastle Sub-Branch Committee members feel that broiler growers in New South Wales have been placed under ever increasing commercial pressure in recent years, which has affected their willingness to attend industry meetings such as those organised by WPSA.

Many growers have stated that they are feeling the economic pressure and responsibility of converting to tunnel ventilation forced upon them by processors. On the other hand, many growers who have elected not to "tunnel" are now being given short one-year contracts with no guarantees to renew contracts. Many existing growers are not willing, or are unable, to spend the large sums of money required to upgrade their sheds to tunnel. Also in many cases where farms are on small holdings, they are unable to get council approval to upgrade, resulting in uncertainty for their future in the industry, especially when given only a one-year contract. Growers placed in this situation with an uncertain future in the industry, are understandable, unwilling to further invest in their farms. Also fees paid to conventional shed growers are less than that paid to tunnel shed growers. This is despite the fact that over a twelve month period, many conventional sheds consistently out-perform many of the tunnel sheds when comparing grower payment pools.

There is also some feedback from a few tunnel growers, indicating that returns are insufficient for the extra capital expenditure and running costs involved, even taking into account higher densities, particularly if batch rates are not maximised. In some cases, throughput is down, due to a shortage of day old chickens.

Looking at economic trends in recent years, it is apparent that in real terms growers returns have been cut by up to 15%. This, on top of the situation discussed above, is creating discontent and dismay amongst growers and a general feeling of futility about being locked into a situation which they are unhappy with and unable to change.

Other areas of threat to growers are the current review of the legislation in New South Wales, which could decrease the level of legislation (protection) to growers, as well as the ongoing threat of exotic disease and poultry meat imports.

All these issues are of great concern to growers, and in many cases have made them very pessimistic about their future in the industry, and consequently less receptive to new ideas and change. This has resulted in a lower level of interest being shown by growers in attending technical meetings such as those organised by the WPSA.

*Gerry Bolla*
New South Wales Sub Branch (Mr John Reeves)

Victoria Sub Branch (Dr Greg Parkinson)
The Branch retains 42 financial members with a long-term investment account of some $10,000 and an operational budget of approximately $1,000.

In February 2004 a successful seminar on welfare issues pertaining to beak trimming in pullets and fast growth in broilers were presented by Prof Hank Classen. The meeting was well attended by 30 scientists and welfare researchers. Important conceptual ideas were discussed in a very interactive session. In September 2004 a very stimulating seminar was provided by Professor Steve Leeson on modern management practices in pullets and layers. The seminar was attended by 16 scientists and farmers, and was a very successful forum involving the Egg Industry.

In May 2004 the "Victorian Egg Industry Seminar" was sponsored by DSM Nutrition Products (Roche Vitamins Australia Pty Ltd) and Intervet. Approximately 40 industry reps, farmers and scientists attended. The program for the seminar day was circulated to the WPSA Australian Branch and a joint program with the South Australian Branch is planned for 2005. The success of Professor Steve Leeson’s visitation to the Victorian WPSA Branch has lead to proposals for an invitation to Professor Leeson to attend the Victorian Egg Industry Seminar Day in 2005 or 2006.

Peter Cransberg from the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, will join the WPSA and act as secretary for the Victorian Branch of the WPSA. Greg Parkinson will assume the Presidents role with the remainder of the Committee unchanged.

Greg Parkinson, President/Secretary, Victorian Branch WPSA

South Australia Sub Branch (Dr Phil Glatz)
The SA Sub Branch’s first activity during the year was the organisation of seminar given by Bud Malone (University of Delaware) on 23 April 2004. Bud delivered a seminar to academics, students and industry people at Roseworthy Campus on the "Environmental issues facing the Poultry Industry”. Topics discussed in the seminar were alternative bedding, litter management; control of ammonia, reduction of emissions from houses; alternative methods for disposal farm mortality and poultry litter; and alternative poultry litter storage structure designs.

The SA Sub Branch’s main activity during the year was contributing to the organisation of the annual SA Pig and Poultry Fair held at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds on Aug 11, 2004. The seminar featured Gerry Bolla who presented a seminar on “Trends in Poultry Housing”. Gerry discussed the planning activities involved in converting existing broiler sheds to tunnel ventilation. He also discussed the recent developments in shedding and equipment, focusing particularly on back up and fail-safe systems aimed at keeping farms operational and birds alive should there be an equipment/ventilation failure, or power outage.

The local Branch thanks the Australian Branch of the WPSA, RIRDC and AECL for financial support for Gerry’s trip to SA.

Phil Glatz
Western Australia Sub Branch (Mr Daniel Goussac)
It is with pleasure that I present this report of the WA sub-branch activities.

2004 has been a quiet year. The number of our sub-branch members has increased by 2.

Executive committee
President    Daniel Goussac
Vice President Hugh Wallace
Secretary    Michael Fantasia
Treasurer    Roly Bishop
Committee    Terry Rae
             Vince Smailes

Meetings
The number of committee meeting was kept to a minimum required.

Membership
We have increased the number of industry members by 2.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Results of the Australian Branch and Sub-branch elections
Due to his other heavy work commitments, Ron Roberts did not seek re-election as Vice-President of the Australian Branch. There being no other nominations to the position, Michael Evans was elected as Vice-President of the Australian Branch. The results of the elections are covered under the Secretary’s report.

WPC 2008
President
WPC 2008 is really moving along, we have appointed a Professional Conference Organiser in the form of Event Planners - Australia, a Brisbane based company. We have identified the membership of the Organising Committee. The Steering Committee which was responsible for organising the bid and for subsequent developments, was made up of myself, Martin Simmons (Chair of the Publicity and Marketing Committee), Dave Farrell (Chair of the Scientific Program Committee) and Rider Perez (Secretary WPSA). The membership of the Organising Committee is identified in the brochure provided and a logo has been developed. We have had a number of successful promotions over the past 12 months, particularly at WPC 2004 in Turkey where we had a booth and staged a reception, to which we invited key international poultry people and the secretaries from the different branches of the WPSA from around the world.

At the closing ceremony we presented a video which we developed specifically for the Congress and which promotes the Australian poultry industry and Brisbane, and in particular identifies the Congress venue. We will make use of the video through to 2007 at least in promotions. The brochure, however, will need to be replaced within the next 6 months or so with the “First Announcement” which will provide more information on the Scientific and Technical Program. The Scientific Program Committee has been identified, most of the members met here yesterday morning for the inaugural meeting of that committee.
Election of Bruce Sheldon to International Poultry Hall of Fame

President
At WPC2004 in Istanbul, Bruce Sheldon was one of five people who were elected to the International Poultry Hall of Fame. This event only happens every four years at the World Congress. The award is in recognition of the great contribution that Bruce made to the Australian poultry industry and in particular poultry science. I accepted the plaque on his behalf and passed it on to his family upon my return.

WPSA Web Page
Treasurer
Very briefly, a couple of years ago we spent about $1800 and built our own web site and we have since spent no money on it and we should do something about it. Part of the deal we had with WPC 2008, was with the events conference organiser as part of their brief provide a website page on the congress and our aim is to incorporate our current web site and attach it and make it part of the congress. When the congress is over we should have a site that is worth about $6,000 which we don’t have to fund because it will be funded by the conference. There are some links that are broken in the web page, but it will be taken over the congress web site. We will still use it, post the minutes and so forth but not spend any more money on it at present. There will be a meeting planned soon with Event conference people which will be on the agenda.

Syd Wilkins Award discussion
President
It is now apparent that there are a number of issues to consider re the Syd Wilkins Award. There are relatively few industry people today who remember Syd Wilkins. He made a substantial contribution to the industry in the early days, firstly as a NSW Dept of Agriculture poultry extension officer, and more latterly as an employee of Allied Mills. Further, we have had difficulty from time to time in finding applicants who meet the requirements of the award: originally it was for young scientists under the age of 30, but the scarcity of them required us to raise the age requirement to 35. I would like to suggest that we consider replacing the award with another with different criteria. Initially, we will develop proposals from a working group within the WPSA Australian Branch Management Committee for consideration by the membership.

Australian Poultry Convention, 2005 arrangements
President
Very briefly SFMAA are no longer part of the sponsoring associations (they pulled out about 18 months ago), and as a consequence, the title of the meeting has lost “and Feed”. There was a meeting following PIX in 2004 of a Steering Committee for the Convention, but until recently the rate of progress has been slow. Things are now moving and an Organising Committee has been established. James Kellaway from AECL is the Convention Chairman. The venue for the Convention is Conrad Jupiters on the Gold Coast and the dates are 9-12 October 2005. Information on the Convention can be obtained at www.poultry2005.com (see enclosed flier)

WPSA working group on family poultry farming
President
I would like to briefly comment on the activities of the Working group on Family Poultry Farming set-up under the Asian Pacific Federation of WPSA. A meeting of the Working Group has been organised to take place in Bangladesh next month at the 4th International Poultry Show and Seminar. Mike Evans has been invited to take on the role of secretary of
the working group. Australia’s will be represented at the meeting by Mike and myself. Whilst the Branch is not directly involved in the activity, WPSA globally has identified family poultry farming in developing countries, as a priority area.

**Speakers at Sub-branch meetings**

**President**
The Branch is keen to assist with support for speakers at sub-branch meetings. If the branches can identify people, we will try to make it happen. There are opportunities to make use of invited speakers to the Australian Poultry Convention in October 2005 and APSS in February 2006.

**Involvement as member of WPSA World Body Board**

**President**
Following Bruce Sheldon’s passing in April 2003, I was asked by the President, Peter Hunton and the Secretary Piet Simmons, to replace Bruce as a Vice-president on the WPSA Board to serve out his term until June 2004. I accepted the invitation and attended Board meetings in Lillehammer in August 2003 and at Istanbul in June 2004. From June 2004 I have been invited to attend Board meeting as the incoming Chairman of WPC2008, but am not a member of the Board. The activities of the world body will be included with the minutes of this meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Secretary**
There is a concern about low attendance at AGMs. We need more members, the more people, more ideas and more help. Nutrition Society of Australia has their meeting during the day at lunch time. Perhaps we need to alter the time of the AGM meeting.

**President**
Special thanks to Rider and Martin for their great assistance this year and the enormous amount of effort they have put into the Association, I greatly appreciate their input.

Meeting closed

There was no other business and the President thanked every one for attending and participating in the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6:30 PM.

R.A.Perez-Maldonado  
SECRETARY  
WPSA, AUSTRALIAN RANCH