



**REPORT ON THE 6th WORLD CONGRESS ON GENETICS APPLIED TO
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - ARMIDALE, AUSTRALIA,
JAN 11th-16th 1998**

Mr Tim Roughsedge IERM

Financial assistance toward my attendance at this congress was supplied by the James Rennie Bequest.

I shall refer to the congress as 6WCGALP. This is a four yearly event and very prestigious in the world of livestock genetics. I feel very privileged to have been allowed the opportunity to attend the congress during my time as a PhD student.

6WCGALP provided a very full, diverse and stimulating programme of sessions. Every field of livestock production was well catered for, from species-specific work, to aspects of the modelling of genetic improvement via the implementation of new technologies such as QTL's. It was testament to the quality of the programme that one was torn many times as to which sessions to attend during the day, and what would be missed.

At the congress I presented a paper of some of the results of the ongoing work of my research. I felt that the presentation of this work went well, and it provided me my first experience of presenting to a world audience of peers.

The research I am involved in is looking at evidence of cytoplasmic inheritance having an effect on production traits in dairy cattle. I spoke with several people at the congress about this work and all were in agreement that a better understanding of cow family effects would be of benefit to both AI companies and the farmer. Having the ability to present this work at an international conference enabled a wider input of ideas and suggestions of aspects of the approach to this work to be considered in the future. It was also a wonderful learning experience and confidence builder to deliver a paper at such a conference.

There were nearly 1000 delegates in attendance at 6WCGALP, which included many internationally renowned scientists. The opportunity to meet such people in both the formal and informal aspects of the conference was a very rewarding experience.

At the stage that I am currently at in my scientific career I feel that it is very important to be able to meet other scientists, both students and more senior workers, and transfer ideas and experiences.

In addition to the scientific programme there were also social events, such as a field day, which afforded local farmers an opportunity to come along and hear the views of many international geneticists.

It must also be mentioned that the location of 6WCGALP at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia provided a very beautiful setting and afforded me a unique travel experience. Having never been outside of Europe previously I found the trip very exiting, and it has to be said that Australia is definitely the antidote to Northern European winter.

I thank you for your financial assistance.

Tim Roughsedge