
Editorial

It is with some sense of surprise that I find myself, if not exactly in the editorial hot seat, at least nudging my predecessor off his cushion. Scanning back numbers (for inspiration?) I quickly established that I am only the sixth editor in the journal's 55 year existence. The first two, G.F. Heuser and R.G. Japp, both from the US, made rare forays on to the editorial pages and then only to make rather turgid reports. When the editorship crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1973 into the hands of R.F. Gordon, then Director of the Houghton Poultry Research Station, a full two-page editorial was produced and the purposes and policies of the journal clearly espoused. Subsequently, Dr Gordon used the editorial pages to pass on relevant factual information to his readers and comments appeared in most, although not all, issues. His successor, J.D. Blaxland, whom I had the pleasure of knowing well, also followed that style, although comment appeared in rather fewer of the journals. His successor and my predecessor, Chris Hann, who took over the reins under rather sad and challenging circumstances when David died very suddenly, has been very fastidious in producing editorial copy for each issue, frequently trying to stimulate debate on articles in the journal or other topical issues (he even volunteered to ghost this one!). In his first Chris stated that his prime endeavour was to preserve the standards and reputation of the journal established by David Blaxland. He can retire well satisfied that his goals have been comfortably exceeded. I have two objectives: to sustain the high standards set by Chris and, if possible, like the journal's first editor, Dr Heuser, to retire to Lakeland, Florida.

Jim McNab