

O 7. Dates for a pig farm visit (Canterbury)

G Verkerk recently met with NZPork in Christchurch, and they extended an invitation for NAWAC members to visit pig farms in June or July. 9(2)(a) to contact those interested and organise transport to visit these farms.

O 8. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences

P Fisher – attended the Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference. A bit of interest in RHDV1, and there was discussion around the Predator Free 2050 initiative. New high-tech ideas were presented such as genetic modification strategies.

J Wagner – attended the AgCarm meeting where there was also some discussion about genetic engineering, but from the perspective of it not being welcome in New Zealand.

I Torrance – met with Queensland SPCA. Noted that since Australia has no equivalent to NAWAC, everything is very state-based. For example in Queensland, anything over 11 animals, irrespective of what they are, is run by their MPI, and even then the SPCA only runs in metro areas. Also visited Australia Zoo and Corumbin sanctuary.

G Doole – working with DairyNZ on a number of projects, e.g. the RIO process on the principles of design thinking and creating a shared vision of what dairy might look like in 20 years. Amazing to hear feedback from people who feel under attack from media, and how this exercise has helped.

K Milne – working with Federated Farmers on things like labelling, water quality and runoff perceptions. Dealing with some pushback about building raised platforms for calves. Attended a DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb conference in Australia. They see better outcomes when including farmers early and often in decisions.

G Shackell – no conferences but has continued to try and visit places related to animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter. Attended Waikuiti rodeo, and at the recent ABWCC meeting the members received a tour of the zoo explaining philosophy of displaying animals. Also visited Sheep World in Whangarei, which is a type of petting zoo aimed at tourists. Last weekend went to a penguin colony in Otago, where all viewing areas are in tunnels.

G Verkerk – covered most activity already in the meeting. Trying to meet all heads of industries as the new NAWAC chair.

I Collins announced her resignation at the end of the year; last meeting will be in November.

G Verkerk farewelled P Fisher who has resigned from the Committee. She was thanked for her significant contribution, particularly in the wild animal and pest management work as well as the entertainment and greyhound work.

With no further items to discuss, G Verkerk closed the meeting at 3:50pm.