

# The Waran Report

## A Newsletter from the NAEAC Chair

### A Note from Nat

Kia ora koutou

Well, that's a wrap! 2022 has been a very full year and I'd like to commend the Committee on its ambitious work programme and recognise all that we have achieved this year! This newsletter captures several milestones and highlights from 2022 including recognition of outgoing members, reflections on our AEC Workshop and site visits as well as the recipients of the Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield 3 Rs Award.

We have a lot planned for 2023, and I look forward to having an opportunity to interact with AEC Chairs and members over the course of the year.

Ngā mihi o te  
Kirihimete me te tau  
hou!

Ngā mihi nui, Nat



### Team Spotlight

*Farewell to Arnja Dale and Rob Hazelwood*

We'd like to express our profound gratitude to two outgoing members of NAEAC: Arnja Dale and Rob Hazelwood. They have both made a tremendous contribution to the work of the Committee and we wish them well as they conclude their service.

Rob contributed his expertise in biological science and the commercial use of animals in research, testing and teaching to the work of the Committee. He was also a tireless champion of continuous improvements to the NAEAC Good Practice Guide. Thank you, Rob!

Arnja brought her experience and knowledge in animal welfare advocacy, biological science and the manipulation of animal in research, testing and teaching. She made a significant contribution to the code of ethical conduct subcommittee as well as working to develop



training opportunities for AECs and tools to promote a better understanding of the RTT system. Thank you, Arnja!

### AEC Workshop & Site Visits Reflections

In October NAEAC completed several site visits to various code holders and held an AEC workshop in Hamilton (generously hosted by AgResearch).

The NAEAC site visits included AgResearch Ltd, the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd and Dairy NZ.

The AEC workshop was well received, with attendees from various organisations. The group discussed lessons learned through COVID and touched on openness and transparency since the launch of the Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in New Zealand in mid-2021. The panel discussion regarding non-compliance and adverse events provided an opportunity for attendees to engage with the panel around these topics. Lastly, the workshop on mātauranga Māori and Animal Ethics generated meaningful discussion around how AECs can develop their capability in this space.

### The Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Award 2022

NAEAC and ANZCCART are pleased to announce the 2022 winner of the Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Award!

Congratulations Neil Ward from the Massey University Animal Welfare & Bioethics Centre for the project *Animal Tissue Sharing by Website!* The project identified the need to



develop a database for animal science teachers and researchers to arrange to share tissues and organs for RTT purposes, to potentially reduce the number of animals used and maximise convenience is commendable. This is an excellent initiative that demonstrates a clear commitment to the 3 Rs principles and improved animal welfare.

### Buzzworthy News: Bees Observed Playing

A new study confirms that bees like to play with toys. You can read the news article and more about this study [here](#).



### Subcommittee Highlights

The CEC subcommittee has been progressing a number of initiatives around codes of ethical conduct. This has included process improvements around the review of and applications for codes of ethical conduct. The

subcommittee has also improved the process around the appointment of and support for accredited reviewers.

The Mātauranga Māori, Rehoming Guidelines, Surgical Models and NAEAC Engagement subcommittees will be holding meetings to develop their work plans and progress their work.

### **Advances in 3 Rs**

#### *Oxford 3 Rs Research Day – Laboratory Mouse Aggression Study*

Aggression in group-housed mice is a serious welfare concern. The NC3Rs led a crowdsourcing data project to collect data on the prevalence of and potential triggers for aggression in laboratory mice. In total, 44 facilities from nine countries participated in the study and data was collected by 143 animal technicians. A total of 788 incidents of aggression-related injuries were reported across a sample population of 137,580 mice. Some

of the findings were surprising. We are told that aggression increases with housing density, but in male mice



aggression reduced with five in a cage compared with three for example. You can read more about this study [here](#).

### **Code of Ethical Conduct Reviews**

In September this year, NAEAC reviewed and discussed six applications for codes of ethical conduct. Five of these were existing code holders who were submitting a new application to continue their RTT work. One application was for a new code for an organisation that previously hasn't had one. The five codes for existing code holders have been approved for another five years. Revisions for the remaining code are underway.

#### **Visit the NAEAC website – [www.naeac.org.nz](http://www.naeac.org.nz)**

Check out the NAEAC website to learn more about the work of the committee and how you can get involved.

### **Experimental Animals Entering the Food Chain**

Recently changes have been made to legislation under the Animal Products Act 1999, specifically the Animal Products Regulations 2021, which means that experimental/trial/research (ETR) animals presented for slaughter are now handled in a different way. The new Animal Products Regulations have the following to approach slaughter of ETR animals:

- Reg 118 prohibits a supplier or person in charge of animal material used in experiments, trials or research from presenting it for primary processing;
- Unless under Reg 120 the DG gives approval, on the grounds that the DG is satisfied the risk to human or animal health is negligible.

This means all animals used in ETR, including those outside the realm of ACVM, require approval for slaughter. To apply for approval, please complete this [form](#) and provide it to MPI Animal Products ([animal.products@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.products@mpi.govt.nz)).

Please note MPI Animal Products Team has requested feedback regarding these changes from affected stakeholders and is currently developing guidance that will be circulated to stakeholders upon its completion.

### **Understanding Animal Research Oceania (shared from ANZCCART newsletter)**

Understanding Animal Research Oceania (UAR Oceania) is a new not-for-profit organisation, supporting effective communication around animal-based research. With an initial office to be established in Melbourne, it will focus specifically on the unique aspects of research in the Oceania region, while working closely and sharing resources with the UK-based organisation, Understanding Animal Research.



UAR Oceania aims to support the research sector by providing strategic and on-call specialist communications, training, and advice, as well as news, ideas and (where needed) direct engagement with the public to build strong science communication networks supporting the research community.

Communication in this field is unique, and UAR Oceania says that even professional communicators are often unsure about the correct messaging, while many researchers and technicians will not know how to talk about their jobs without support. With access to UAR UK's extensive knowledge and resources, UAR Oceania will work with its member organisations and other stakeholders to develop targeted communications that fit with and enhance existing communications strategies. UAR Oceania looks forward to working with its members and stakeholders across Oceania's research and policy community, with the aim of progressing openness that capitalises on and enables the enormous potential of 21st century life-science organisations in the Oceania region. For more information, please contact Bella Lear at [ajlear@uar.org.uk](mailto:ajlear@uar.org.uk).

### **Looking to 2023**

With heaps to celebrate in 2022, NAEAC is also looking forward to 2023!

The committee will be undertaking a strategic planning session early in the year to confirm their work plan. This will include progressing their work in the mātauranga Maori space and will likely include a joint workshop with the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. They will also be scheduling a mid-year AEC site visit. Additionally, the committee will also be undertaking the review of several codes of ethical conduct in 2023.

### **Need to get in touch?**

If you need to contact NAEAC please send us an email at [naeac@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:naeac@mpi.govt.nz).