

Professor Larry James ('Jim') Hone

Jim Hone's professional career began following graduation from the University of New England (Armidale, New South Wales) with a B. Rur. Sci. (Hons.) in 1975, when he was appointed as a Research Officer in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture. In that position he conducted research on common myna, the diets of foxes, house mouse plagues and feral pig impacts and control, and completed a Masters of Science degree at the University of Sydney in 1981, with his thesis investigating theoretical and practical issues in the use of transect counts for estimating animal abundance: the practical application was to feral pigs. Mr Hone was appointed Lecturer within the Division of Resource Science in the Canberra College of Advanced Education in 1983. While lecturing he undertook his doctoral studies at the Australian National University and was awarded his PhD in 1987. Continuing with the feral pig theme, his doctoral thesis was titled 'Theoretical and practical aspects of feral pig control'. The Canberra College of Advanced Education became the University of Canberra in 1990 and Dr Hone was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1996, Associate Professor in 2000 and Professor in 2005.

The emphasis of Professor Hone's research has been wildlife population dynamics and management, particularly of vertebrate pests. Feral pigs are a major environmental and economic pest in Australia, and understanding the dynamics, impacts and cost-effectiveness of control of this species has been a theme in Professor Hone's research career, starting with his Masters and Doctoral research and continuing with his long-term monitoring of feral pigs in Namadgi National Park, Australian Capital Territory. Professor Hone made a key contribution to the field of vertebrate pest control by linking predator-prey theory and control methods using the example of helicopter-based shooting of feral pigs. Professor Hone was also at the forefront of applying theoretical models of disease transmission to applied problems of disease in wildlife and livestock. He subsequently contributed his expertise to wildlife disease research in New Zealand and the United Kingdom, coauthoring a series of papers on bovine tuberculosis infection in wildlife.

As well as publishing more than 65 articles in peer-reviewed journals, Professor Hone has sole-authored two important books in the field of vertebrate pest control, 'Analysis of Vertebrate Pest Control' (1994) and 'Wildlife Damage Control' (2007). Both books filled major gaps within the field of wildlife management, are widely cited and have been / are being used as textbooks or reference books within New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the USA.

Professor Hone has supervised or co-supervised 14 completed Master of Applied Science and six completed Doctor of Philosophy students. Those students have undertaken research on a wide variety of taxa and management problems in Australia, New Zealand and Africa. As well as the scientific contribution of those 20 theses, many of those students have since made important contributions to wildlife management in Australasia. The importance of Professor Hone's supervision of students to wildlife management in Australasia cannot be overstated.

Sensing a need for a society catering to the needs of wildlife management professionals working within Australia and New Zealand, Professor Hone helped found the Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) in 1988. Professor Hone was the inaugural President and has since been active in other office-bearing roles within AWMS, and has organised three annual conferences.

In summary, Professor Hone has had a highly influential impact on the theory and practice of wildlife management in Australasia for 35 years. Jim's legacy includes critical theoretical developments in the dynamics of vertebrate pest populations and their impacts, the formation of AWMS, and inspiring a generation of students to better understand wildlife populations and their management.