

Prof Ned Donkin

Prof Ned Donkin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria. He is also the Research Theme Leader **Sustainable animal and plant-based food production in a resource constrained environment** in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Well-being at the University.

Prof Donkin began teaching at the newly established Faculty of Veterinary Science at Medunsa (The Medical University of South Africa) in 1986. He has taught Animal Science and Veterinary students.

The Milk Goat Project was established in 1987 with sponsorship from Janssen Pharmaceutica, and managed within the Department of Animal Health & Production, headed by Professor Philip Boyazoglu. It became self-sustaining through sales of milk, culled animals and breeding stock. The Milk Goat Project has been used for teaching (undergraduate and postgraduate), research and outreach purposes.

In 1999 the Faculties of Veterinary Science were merged and the Milk Goat Project was moved to the Onderstepoort Campus. In 2005, after a rearrangement of the curriculum for Veterinary students, the Milk Goat Project was moved again to the Hatfield Research Farm of the University of Pretoria. The Project is now sponsored by the National Department of Agriculture, and training courses are presented for livestock specialists from South Africa and other SADC countries.

Research projects have led to the development of practical management techniques, including feeding, kid rearing, fertility management and disease control.

Examples of some significant research topics include:

- Crossbreeding and the effects on milk production and resistance to Heartwater.
- The use of lactoperoxidase in goat milk and the effects on cheese.
- Mastitis and withdrawal periods of antibiotics in milk goats.
- Goat kid rearing techniques.
- *Leucaena* as an alternative fodder resource for milk goats.

Professor Donkin has attended International Conferences on Goats in India (1992), China (1996), France (2000), South Africa (2004) and Mexico (2008). He was on the Organizing Committee of the ICG in Pretoria in 2004. He was Country Representative (2000-2004) of the International Goat Association (www.IGA-goatworld.com), a Board Member (2004-2008), and is now a Vice President of the IGA.

He can be contacted at ned.donkin@up.ac.za