



Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2026 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: ssmith@foodprotection.org.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** (late reports will not be considered for awards):

REQUIRED:

This completed form (*in English*).

Your Association's list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

OPTIONAL:

Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.

IAFP accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee. To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.*

Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

New Zealand Association for Food Protection

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Delegate Name	Dr Aswathi Soni
Address 1	New Zealand Food Safety
Address 2	PO Box 2526,
City, State ZIP Country	Wellington 6011, New Zealand
Phone Number	+64-4-894 2523
Email address	Aswathi.Soni@mpi.govt.nz

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate "same" if person also serves as Delegate)

Same

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Membership List

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: 41
- b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2025? 2

3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

- a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.

Date and Time: 24/06/2025,

Attendees: 10

The NZAFP Annual General Meeting was held on 24 June 2025 at the Palmerston North Conference Centre, bringing together ten committed members for a focused and forward-looking session. Dr Craig Billington opened the meeting with updates, including the successful funding of a travel grant for international speaker Dr Kali Kniel, whose visit would later become a highlight of the year. Key outcomes from the meeting included re-elections, wherein Dr Craig Billington was re-appointed as President, Prof. Phil Bremer retained his role as Past President, and Dr Aswathi Soni was re-appointed as Secretary and newly appointed as International Delegate for 2025–2026. Members expressed heartfelt appreciation to Dr Roger Cook for his long-standing service as International Delegate. Through the IAFP Speaker Program, NZAFP welcomed Dr Kali Kniel to New Zealand, where she delivered a keynote presentation at the joint NZIFST and NZFSSRC conference held in Palmerston North from 25–28 June. Her talk on foodborne viruses was both timely and thought-provoking, drawing attention to emerging risks and control strategies in the global food safety landscape. Following her in-person presentation, Dr Kniel joined forces with New Zealand virology expert Dr Anne-Marie Perchec Merien for a webinar, hosted by Dr Craig Billington on behalf of NZAFP that expanded on the same theme. The session attracted 114 participants from industry, academia, and education, reflecting strong interest in viral foodborne pathogens and the value of international collaboration. The webinar format allowed for broader reach and deeper engagement, reinforcing NZAFP's commitment to accessible scientific dialogue. Another highlight of 2025 was the awarding of Lifetime Membership by NZAFP to Mr. Roy Biggs. This honor recognizes his leadership, mentorship, and enduring impact on the field, and celebrates his decades-long contribution to food safety science in New Zealand. After 25 years in factory and technical management in the UK's dairy and salmon industries, Roy Biggs brought his expertise to New Zealand in 1997, embarking on a new chapter in the poultry sector. His hands-on approach to microbiological controls played a pivotal role in improving the management of *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and *Listeria* across raw and ready-to-eat food production. Roy's influence extended beyond operations. He championed collaboration between industry, regulators, and researchers. His openness, technical insight, and collegial spirit

helped foster a culture of trust and shared learning—setting the tone for how New Zealand's food safety community continues to work together today. In the year 2018, The International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) had also recognised Biggs' commitment to excellence in food safety with its 2018 International Leadership Award, presented at annual conference held at Salt Lake City, Utah.

NZAFP also held a mid-year virtual catch up for our members to discuss ways to increase participation and improve student involvement. The meeting highlighted that there is a need to encourage students to participate more in NZAFP and to be retained in the food safety space (regulatory, academic or industry sectors).

b. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):

Date: 30 June 2026

Location: Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland

c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2025 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

AGM at Annual conference of New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology	24/06/2025, at Palmerston North Conference Centre. Number of attendees=10.
Midyear Catch-up for members	23/1/2026, Virtual event via Teams Number of attendees=12

4. Awards and Scholarships

- a. List members honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2025. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Not Applicable.

- b. List scholarships awarded during 2025; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

Not Applicable.

5. Web Communication

Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email, and other communications to your general membership.

Please provide your existing Affiliate's Web site address AND date last updated:

Not Applicable.

Did you launch a new Affiliate Web site in 2025? Y ☐ N ☒

Attachment A (completion required)**Association Officers List**

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (reminder: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide here is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below or may be sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Officer Title	President
Name	Dr Craig Billington
Address 1	ESR
Address 2	27 Creyke Road, Ilam
City, State ZIP Country	Christchurch 8041
Phone Number	+64 3351 0128
Email address	craig.billington@phfscience.nz
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Former International Delegate
Name	Dr Roger Cook
Address 1	Ministry for Primary Industries – Manatū Ahu Matua Pastoral House 25 The Terrace Wellington
Address 2	PO Box 2526
City, State ZIP Country	Wellington, New Zealand
Phone Number	029 894 2523
Email address	Roger.Cook@mpi.govt.nz
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Past President, NZAFP
Name	Distinguished Prof Phil Bremer
Address 1	Department of Food Science
Address 2	Archway West Building 90 Union Place East
City, State ZIP Country	Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
Phone Number	0212795469
Email address	Phil.Bremer@otago.ac.nz
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Secretary and International Delegate
Name	Dr Aswathi Soni
Address 1	Ministry for Primary Industries – Manatū Ahu Matua Pastoral House 25 The Terrace Wellington
Address 2	PO Box 2526
City, State ZIP Country	Wellington, New Zealand
Phone Number	02108607979
Email address	Aswathi.Soni@mpi.govt.nz
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y