

* r u m e n a t i o n s

Carnival of the Animals Veterinary Science Foundation 2004 Fundraising Event



Michael Leunig



MC, Sally Loane

Student volunteer, Pru Harvey, presents flowers to Richard Tognetti, ACO Artistic Director



Winning bidders - Mr John McMurtrie and Ms Deborah Smithers, VSF President

On 17 December the Veterinary Science Foundation held its 2004 fundraising event at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music – a special benefit concert featuring the Australian Chamber Orchestra performing Saint Saën’s Carnival of the Animals, accompanied by narration and illustration by Michael Leunig.

The event raised more than \$80,000 and the Foundation gratefully acknowledges the wonderful generosity of the evening’s sponsors, donors and all attendees, as well as the many supporters who purchased raffle tickets or gave a donation despite being unable to attend.

To Michael Leunig and the Australian Chamber Orchestra - our warm appreciation for joining with us to match the Veterinary Science Foundation and its pledge, *because animals matter*, to such beautiful and appropriate music.

The evening was hosted by special guest and Master of Ceremonies, ABC journalist and broadcaster Sally Loane. Sally, a loyal client of the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney, and Dean Professor Leo Jeffcott, addressed the audience before the concert. Guests enjoyed a first half of well known classical pieces interspersed with Michael Leunig’s poetry readings, followed by the second half performance of Carnival of the Animals. Leunig’s classic drawings of the animal characters and his witty Australian adaptation of Ogden Nash’s poems - featuring crocodiles, mosquitoes, rabbits and geckos – accompanied the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Michael Leunig generously donated one of his drawings for auction at the conclusion of the concert, then donated a second when the losing bidder promised to match the winning bid. The winner of the raffle first prize is now planning her trip for two to Shanghai, courtesy of Qantas and Accor Hotels and Resorts.

Our sponsors’ contribution towards the success of the event was enormous, and we are pleased to thank and acknowledge: Accor Hotels and Resorts, Qantas, KPMG, Perpetual Trustees, ASX Perpetual Registrar Limited, Car Kleen Group, Meat and Livestock Australia, MBF, Scopenergy, Royal Agricultural Society NSW, David Lawrence and Jigsaw, Oracle Corporation Australia, Pittendrigh Shinkfield and Bruce, Rose Bay Veterinary Hospital, Fiona and James Balfour, Maurice and Jeanette Newman, Deborah Smithers and John McMurtrie, and Tyrrell’s Wines. The Australian Chamber Orchestra and Moorish Restaurant kindly donated raffle prizes.

The Foundation also thanks our event volunteers – all our special events are staged with the enthusiastic support of Faculty staff and students.



As we begin another academic year, it's worth reflecting on 2004, a year of continued change and development in the Faculty. It is encouraging that, according to student questionnaires, the Faculty continued to improve its high standards of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. We increased our success in obtaining research grant income, and December 2004 marked the graduation of the first cohort of students to complete the full new curriculum.

Good news on the research front came with the federal ministerial announcement of funding of Cooperative Research Centres, with Faculty of Veterinary Science staff now core partners in two (of only five) new CRCs: the Australian Invasive Animal CRC and Internationally Competitive Pork Industry CRC, each worth in excess of \$25 million total government funding (the Faculty is already involved in Dairy, Sheep, Poultry and Biosecurity CRCs). The Faculty also achieved a record number of postgraduate research student scholarship awards, two new University-funded lectureships, and, to cap it all off, secured a federal Department of Education, Science and Training capital development pool grant of \$2 million to support the Camden Campus redevelopment.

Success, of course, brings challenges, and 2005 will be another year of sustained effort. With key new clinical and academic appointments adding to our team, I am confident we have the staff to meet new challenges while maintaining the high standards of our core activities.

At the end of February we welcome the first student intake into the new Bachelor of Veterinary and Animal Bioscience degree. On 23 February we host our first industry research workshop to explore potential strategic research alliances with Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation, and we hope to stage future workshops with other industry research partners. The increasing number of staff and students has put pressure on infrastructure, although we are now hopeful of fast-tracking Phase 1 of the Camden Redevelopment Plan, incorporating new lecture and conference facilities and the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre. Finally, in April, we host the visit of the American Veterinary Medical Association Accreditation Review Panel. All in all, 2005 promises to be a very busy and fruitful year for Faculty.

The Veterinary Science Foundation is offering the opportunity of a lifetime to visit Antarctica in early 2006. Following the success of the Foundation's 2003 fundraising trip to Nepal, we are again collaborating with World Expeditions to organise this exciting Antarctic odyssey.

Beginning on 19 January 2006, the 20-day adventure will take travellers to Argentina to visit Buenos Aires and the Iguassu Falls before boarding the Polar Pioneer (below), with specialist lecturers, to sail to Antarctica. This unique voyage is designed for exploration of the remote Weddell Sea, a wild and exciting area alive with wildlife such as penguins and other bird species, seals and whales. The emphasis will be on wildlife encounters and personal contact with the environs through maximum time ashore.



VSF 2006 antarctic adventure

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end of year success

In addition to the announcement of the Faculty's involvement in two new Cooperative Research Centres, other major end-of-year successes were:

University Veterinary Centre Sydney Building Campaign

Bayer Australia Ltd, Animal Health division, has made a significant contribution to the University Veterinary Centre Sydney building campaign, securing naming rights to the Stage 2 dog reception area. Bayer Australia joins other major corporate donors Provect, Apex Laboratories, Hill's Pet Nutrition and Novartis Animal Health.

The planning and design of the Stage 2 Dog Centre is now underway. For further details about how to contribute to this campaign, please contact the Veterinary Science Foundation on (02) 9351 8024 or email jenniec@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

Federal Funding Success

Professor Chis Maxwell, Associate Dean for Staff and Students, and the Veterinary Science Foundation successfully developed a proposal to secure a \$2 million grant from the federal Department of Education, Science and Training for a new lecture theatre at Camden.

These funds, together with the funds already allocated by the University towards this project, will support the construction of a 250-seat lecture theatre suitable for our growing student body and for community, national and international conferences.

Each year the Faculty presents the Grace Mary Mitchell Awards to staff nominated by other Faculty members for their outstanding contribution over the year. Initiated in 1989, the awards are part of a bequest from Ms Mitchell to benefit the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The 2004 recipients were:

Awards for service

Lino Nastasi
Meg Vost

Awards for teaching and teaching support

Rhondda Canfield
Christine Smith
Gerard Marcus

Awards for research and postgraduate support

Mark Krockenberger
Shirley Ray

grace mary
mitchell '04
awards

We want your feedback and contributions.
Contact the newsletter team on email
vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au,
or phone Zara Gosson on (02) 9351 8026.