

New Director for the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre

Associate Professor David Phalen (pictured) has joined the Faculty as the new Director of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, due to open soon on the Camden campus.

Previously based at Texas A&M University in the Zoological Medicine Section of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Services, he has an extensive background in avian and exotic animal medicine. He has a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (Cornell University) and a PhD in Veterinary Microbiology (Texas) and is greatly looking forward to working with Australia's native species.

The new Centre is a major Faculty initiative made possible by a grant from the Federal Government's Sustainable Regions Program. It represents a 'first' in wildlife medicine in the region.

The Centre will focus on research, the training of veterinary students, postgraduate studies including the new Masters of Conservation Biology, community education programs and assistance for existing wildlife organisations. It will be a primary care and referral centre for privately owned exotic pets.

Associate Professor Phalen said "I believe the new Centre will usher in a new era in the understanding and treatment of one of Australia's most valuable resources – its wildlife".



Postgraduate Coursework Programs for 2007

In 2007 the Faculty is launching a series of new postgraduate coursework programs in veterinary studies, animal breeding management and veterinary public health. Within the University, these new courses will position the Faculty as a leader in this area of study - building on its success with the Veterinary Public Health Management course (VPHMgt) and the new program in Animal Science.

Animal Breeding Management, a joint venture of the University of Sydney and the University of New England, offers skills development in animal genetics, breeding program design, ethics, biotechnology, leadership, teamwork, communication and management. With the support of Meat & Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation, it is expected that several scholarships will be available for this program. The course will be offered *online with short residential sessions* in Sydney and Armidale.

The **Veterinary Public Health** program will include units of study offered in the Veterinary Public Health Management course and the Master of Public Health in the Faculty of Medicine. Offered *online*, it will include new material covering epidemiology, biostatistics, data analysis, data management, hazards to human and animal health and a range of elective options.

The Faculty has also extended and re-vamped its Master of **Veterinary Studies**. Internship programs in the University Veterinary Centres will now potentially be associated with Graduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters programs – developing a more academic approach as well as clinical skill development. New majors in Small Animal Clinical Studies, Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology, Equine Medicine and Surgery and Ruminant Medicine and Surgery will also be offered.

The postgraduate program in Veterinary Studies will also allow individuals the opportunity to select units of study - *online, on-campus or supervised (by arrangement)* - to build a degree to fit their own requirements.

Further details are available at:
www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/future_students/postgraduate/index.shtml
Or contact pgcinfo@vetsci.usyd.edu.au



From the Dean's Desk

Professor Leo Jeffcott

As many of you will know the University underwent a major re-structure of its senior management on 3 April 2006. The Vice-Chancellor brought this about to ensure the future viability and sustainability of this large institution in the face of escalating costs and diminishing support from State and Federal governments. The major change involved the dissolution of the College system and the establishment of separate portfolios managed by six Deputy Vice-Chancellors. The other significant feature was the appointment of a Provost, Professor Don Nutbeam, as the senior academic under the Vice-Chancellor.

There were two important initiatives in the Vice-Chancellor's plan. The first was to develop a system of shared administrative services across the University under the direction of Bob Kotic, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer. This will improve the general administration, HR, IT and financial services to faculties. The other initiative was to group the faculties into a small number of 'clusters' or units to take advantage of the improved administrative structure. Currently, the seventeen original faculties have become nine.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science has joined the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (FAFNR) to become a new 'Faculty of Science'. There will be many opportunities for us to share resources without losing the essence of our professional status and credibility with the veterinary profession. In particular there are enormous opportunities at Camden, working with the Plant Breeding Institute, FAFNR and the Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute to develop the campus into a world leader in research and teaching of veterinary science, animal and plant biosciences.

The re-structuring will provide our Faculty with challenges, however, I am confident that with the goodwill and support of the staff and the profession we will continue to succeed and grow.

Faculty News

July Seminar Speakers

Sydney Campus – Wednesdays, 1pm
Webster Lecture Theatre

19 July - Dr Mark Krockenberger: tbc

26 July - Professor Paul Canfield: My Life as a Sabbatarian

Camden Campus – Thursdays, 1pm
Shute Building Lecture Theatre

6 July - Peter Houweling: CLN6 expression levels in the Merino and South Hampshire sheep.

Associate Professor David Phalen:

Characterisation, growth, and pathogenicity of a novel yeast of the bird's stomach

20 July - Sam Hamilton: tbc

Bing Wang: Sialic acid in milk - a conditional nutrition for brain development

Agricultural Achievement Scholarship

Kylie Dunn (left) and Rachel Brodie (Coca Cola Amatil) at the awards ceremony during the Royal Easter Show



Kylie Dunn, Year 3 Animal and Veterinary Biosciences student, has won a Coca-Cola and Australian Council of Agricultural Societies' (ACAS) Regional Scholarship.

Kylie was one of the ten recipients - selected from 27 nominees across NSW - to receive the award for her achievements in agriculture. Nominees were required to be studying or have completed a tertiary course relating to agriculture; be involved in their local Show society and have career aspirations in the field of agriculture.

Following the success of the 2005 inaugural awards, 33 scholarships were offered nationally this year. Partners Coca-Cola Amatil and ACAS see the program as a means to reward young Australians working or studying in the field of agriculture who are giving back to their communities.



Queen's Birthday Honors List

Associate Professor Anthony English received a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honors list. He receives the award for services to veterinary science in the field of wildlife health and conservation through research, education and professional organisations, and to the deer industry in Australia.

Now a consultant and Honorary Associate Professor, he joined the Faculty in 1977 and officially retired last year. Whilst beginning in teaching of cattle health and production, he rapidly moved into the area of veterinary conservation biology, and was instrumental in developing a strong focus on wildlife within the Faculty. He was the first Director of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre.

Within the profession, among many roles, he is the Founder and President of the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AVA's wildlife special interest group) and an Honorary Veterinary Officer of the NSW Branch of the Deer Industry Association of Australia.