Welcome to the inaugural issue of our Faculty newsletter, a monthly email publication brought to you by the Veterinary Science Foundation.

This will be your newsletter. We invite you – staff and students – to tell us about your triumphs, research coups, new staff members, special events and seminars, and we don’t even mind a little gossip. We plan to deliver news from the Dean and Faculty Executive through to editorial from undergraduates.

Before we begin – our newsletter needs a name. Send your suggestions to the Veterinary Science Foundation on vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au and you could win a very nice bottle of red courtesy of the Veterinary Science Foundation.

Drs Harry Cooper, Katrina Warren and Karl Kruszelnicki are just three of the stars of Vet Week 2001 which includes, for the first time since 1991, an Open Day for the general public. Held on Saturday 1 September, The Open Day will promote the Sydney University Veterinary Centre.

Thursday 30 August
- 6pm – The Bayer Vet Week 2001 Launch by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, VSCC
- Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Gardner Murray presents the J D Stewart Address
- Artworks by Bozena Jantulik, Faculty Scientific Illustrator, and students
- All staff and students welcome – RSVP by 15 August on vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

Friday 31 August
- 9.30am - Veterinary Science Trade Fair with our sponsors – PGF, Bayer, Ralston Purina, Iams, CSL, Intervet, Jurox, Uncle Bens, Nature Vet, AVA NSW, Guild Insurance, Provet, Elianco, Pfizer
- 12.00-2.00pm – FREE lunch for staff, students and industry, VSCC lawns
- 2.00pm – Vet Sports - stay tuned
- 5.30pm  - Staff Student Debate, Webster Lecture Theatre, and the Vet Soc BBQ

Saturday 1 September Sydney Veterinary Centre OPEN DAY 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Dr Harry Cooper and Dr Katrina Warren
- Free dog shampoos, pet health checks and tours of the Clinic
- The Purina Ring with Steve Austin, Batman and Bobbie, the Parramatta Agility Club and Guide Dog Association
- WIRES, ferrets, bats, trade stands and Uncle Ben’s Doggie Café
- The Post Graduate Foundation Vet Ball, Pier One, The Rocks

Make our Open Day HUGE – on Saturday 1 September we need students and staff willing to roll up their sleeves to shampoo dogs with the help of professional Aussie Pooch Mobiles (we’re out to break the Guinness Book of Records). Or you can help in other ways. Contact us on 9351 8026 or vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au – we’d love to have you on the team.
Welcome from the Faculty Executive team to this first edition. We’re proud to contribute to Issue 1 with news of some great achievements by Faculty staff:

Congratulations to the hard working staff in both clinics. Your efforts have resulted in a significantly improved financial performance for the first 6 months of the year with both Sydney and Camden clinics ahead of budget.

We now have one of the best performances in the College of Sciences and Technology with improved performance in teaching, research and marketing of our degree resulting in a 16% increase in the Faculty budget projected for 2002.

The first meeting of the Faculty External Advisory Group, a group of distinguished veterinarians and business people, achieved important outcomes for the new Faculty Plan.

And a first in Australia, the new dog spey/neutering program is receiving excellent feedback from students. Run in conjunction with Blacktown City Council, the program provides two positive outcomes - surgical experience for final year students and new homes for the animals.

Renowned US veterinarian Dr Steve Ettinger will deliver a lecture “New Concepts in Atrial Fibrillation and Ventricular Atopia” at 1pm on Monday 6 August in the Webster Theatre during his Pfizer-sponsored Australian tour. All staff and students are welcome – contact Professor Brian Farrow for further details.

Since the launch of VEIN in May, the Veterinary Education and Information Network has received over 22,000 hits, and more than 50 of the 100 proposed links pages are now in operation. The VEIN team is led by Su Hanflying of the University of Sydney Library (9351 5426 or email S.Hanflying@library.usyd.edu.au) and nine staff members, including 5 librarians, are working on the site with contributions by Faculty academic staff. Access to CAB Abstracts and Medline is now available for VEIN Community members. VEIN staff will also undertake research inquiries for this group - recent obscure topics have included artificial insemination in geese.

Dr Michelle Hyde and Dr Henry Collins are two of only three academic staff from the University of Sydney to be nominated for a National Teaching Award. Michelle and Henry were recently awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2001.

We want your comments and contributions. Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Denise Popovic, VSF Communications Coordinator on 9351 8026.