Dr Chris Brown, media vet, author and alumnus of the Faculty, returned to the Faculty as special guest on Sunday 9 October for ‘Cats (and Dogs) on Campus’, presented by the University Veterinary Centre Sydney and the Veterinary Science Foundation. The event was part of the AVA Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners ‘Great Big Animal Open Day’.

Around 1,000 visitors took part in a series of activities, including the Waratah National Cat Alliance Cat Show. The show proved a major attraction throughout the day with 62 felines of more than 25 breeds. Visitors took the opportunity to talk to the cats’ owners, cuddle the contestants and watch the judges make their selections.

Other activities included tours of the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre and University Veterinary Centre (UVCS), many visitors bringing their pets for a free health check by final year interns.

A special and moving commemoration of the new memorial garden for pets - the Henry and Banjo the memory of past pets as well as contribute towards the UVCS building campaign through the purchase of engraved solid metal bowls.

The ceremony was followed by the presentation of the Cats on Campus People’s Choice Award by Dr Brown. The winner, a magnificent Somali kitten (pictured with Dr Brown, left) was voted favourite feline by visitors to the Cat Show.

The winners of the VSAW Animal Welfare Photography Competition were announced by guest judge Mr John Olsen, the only Australian photographer to be acknowledged in the 2004 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. The prizes, including two digital cameras, were generously donated by the Broadway Branch of Harvey Norman. Winners are listed below.

The day was a great success with many clients and visitors delighted to meet staff and students of the UVCS and have the chance to get beyond the consultation rooms and into the heart of the Veterinary Centre and its new world class feline facility, the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre.

Animalia:
concert and raffle tickets now on sale

Tickets to Animalia, the Veterinary Science Foundation’s 2005 fundraising concert, are now on sale. Animalia will take us on a festive season musical tour of the animal kingdom with performances by the best musicians of the internationally acclaimed Australian Youth Orchestra and superb soloists including leading harpist Marshall McGuire and mezzo-soprano Suzanne Johnston. The concert will be held on one night only - Thursday 1 December in the Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Raffle tickets with the following terrific prizes are selling fast:

1st Prize
Take a friend and unwind in the comfort of a Qantas business class flight to Hong Kong where you’ll enjoy five fabulous nights in the luxurious five star J W Marriott Hotel Hong Kong (total prize retail value $18,530).

2nd Relax in the Daintree with three nights at the stunning Coconut Beach Rainforest Lodge at Cape Tribulation, courtesy of Voyages and Mary Rossi Travel. Australian Airlines will take you there with two return flights to Cairns.

3rd Refresh your spirits with a two-night stay in the historic and elegant 1850s Stone House at Markdale, the 6,000 acre Ashton family property with Edna Walling garden at Binda, NSW. Visit www.markdale.com.au.

4th Enjoy the wonderful music of the Australian Youth Orchestra with two concert tickets for the AYO’s Sydney Opera House opening night concert on Saturday 5 August 2006.

Cost: one ticket for $20, 3 for $50 or 7 for $100. For further event details, to request an invitation or purchase concert or raffle tickets please visit www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation/events_animalia.shtml, email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, call (02) 9351 8026 or drop in to the VSF office.

Thank you to our generous sponsors
• During September I travelled to meetings in Lausanne (Switzerland) and London on matters associated with the International Equestrian Federation and the next Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. In a dramatic change to the original plan, it has been decided that the Equestrian Events (Showjumping, Dressage and Eventing) will not be staged in central China with the other sports, but on Hong Kong Island instead. The decision is due to the problem of infectious disease status of indigenous horses in China making the quarantine arrangements for visiting competition horses impossible. These Games will be held at the height of summer and so will have the added complication of difficult weather conditions (i.e. very high temperatures, humidity and possible storms). However, the facilities provided by the Hong Kong Jockey Club will be as good as we have ever had before - so we can guarantee the safety of the horses and expect some great competition.

• Another significant event in recent weeks has been the Senate approval of an Adjunct Professorship for Chris Bellenger, currently Principal of Macquarie University’s Robert Menzies College. This is good news for the Faculty and acknowledges the considerable contribution Chris made over many years to both the University and the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. The appointment is important for the Faculty as Professor Bellenger will continue to assist with teaching and research in the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney, providing academic leadership in developing a centre of excellence in small animal surgery.

From the Dean’s Desk
Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott

The University of Sydney Alumni Relations Office is running a series of Graduate Connection Breakfasts, providing an opportunity for alumni to meet and hear from other graduate guest speakers. The next breakfast will be held on Wednesday 23 November 2005 at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Sydney, from 7.15 to 8.45am.

Guest speaker is Mr Martin Hoffman, CEO of ninemsn Australia. ninemsn is Australia’s number one web destination capturing 7.2 million people monthly. Martin previously worked at John Fairfax Holdings Ltd in a number of senior roles including Publisher, Business Magazines, Managing Director of On-line Classifieds, and Chief Executive of SOLD.com.au.

Breakfast bookings are $45.00 each or $300.00 for a table of 8 – cost includes breakfast, tea, coffee and juices. To register or for more information, please contact the Alumni Relations Office on (02) 9036 9222 or email alumniadmin@vcc.syd.edu.au.

For more information and registration forms please visit www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/vetsoc or contact avsc2006@gmail.com.

47th Bayer Australasian Veterinary Students Conference

From 16 to 20 January 2006, the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney will host the annual conference for veterinary students from Australia and New Zealand. Bayer Australia is the generous naming rights sponsor.

The conference encompasses a range of educational and social activities, and provides an opportunity to form contacts and networks with future colleagues.

Confirmed speakers (with more to come) include Dean of the Faculty Professor Leo Jeffcott (experiences as Chief Veterinarian at six Olympic Games), Dr David Vella and Dr Paul Hopwood (wildlife and related issues), and representatives of the Australian Equine Veterinary Association. Social activities include a Gala Dinner, afternoon sailing cruise and evening at Luna Park.

Registration fees:
- Conference only - $450
- Conference plus accommodation at Wesley College - $650 (includes $100 refundable deposit)

For more information and registration forms please visit www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/vetsoc or contact avsc2006@gmail.com.

Artist Suzanne Archer, pictured in front of her piece Hoisting of Pegasus, recently launched her exhibition Horsepower at the Campbelltown Arts Centre. Faculty students and staff attended the launch of the exhibition which is the culmination of a body of work based on horse anatomy practicals undertaken within the Faculty. The exhibition was originally shown at the University of Sydney but this is the first showing off campus. The display runs from 2 September to 23 October with a free Artist Talk event on Saturday 22 October at 2pm - bookings are essential. For further details contact Campbelltown Arts Centre on (02) 4845 4100 or email artscentre@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au.

Horsepower

The University of Sydney Graduate Connection Breakfast with ninemsn CEO Martin Hoffman

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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.