Third year veterinary student Raelene Reef, with her dog BJ, was part of the hardworking team of several hundred student volunteers working with the Veterinary Science Foundation for the 2002 vets@work Open Day. Raelene and BJ welcomed the crowd at the University Counsellor and Careers Day preceding the Open Day events taking place in the University Veterinary Centre and Faculty grounds.

Contents

ISSUE 7 NOVEMBER 2002

2 vets@work
3 Galah Occasion
3 Veterinary Public Health
4 Reprogen – the Story
5 Giving Nature a Helping Hand
6 Camden Clinic Opens New Stables
6 Undergraduate Activities
7 Professor Lonnie King

New capabilities for the veterinary profession
Professor Reuben Rose, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science

Media celebrities ABC Radio 702 Sydney’s Simon barren and Channel Nine Animal Hospital presenter Lochie Daddo comprised the lam entertainment stage, and a mix of sponsors and animal societies (WFES, the NSW Ferret Welfare Society, Pacifico alpacas and llamas, the Rabbit Fanciers Society NSW, RSPCA, Australian Herpetological Society, FATS (Frog and Tadpole Society), the Greyhound Adoption Program) captivated and educated the visitors.

vets@work 2002 attracted record sponsorship and the Foundation and Faculty are enormously grateful to these sponsors and animal societies (WFES, the NSW Ferret Welfare Society, Pacifico alpacas and llamas, the Rabbit Fanciers Society NSW, RSPCA, Australian Herpetological Society, FATS (Frog and Tadpole Society), the Greyhound Adoption Program).

The volunteer efforts of more than 250 veterinary students and staff for the Open Day, Fort Dodge, Intervet Australia, Abbott, Bayer, Iams, Apex Laboratories, Nestle Purina, Uncle Ben’s, AWA NSW, Hesta Superfund, Jurox, Provet, The Veterinarian, Novogam and Guild Insuance. A University of Sydney (Sodd Neighbour Grant supported the visit of Professor Lonnie King.

Open Day featured media celebrities, including Channel Nine Animal Hospital presenter Lochie Daddo (below), senior vet students performed pet health checks (over 4 students Vichya Saye and Adam Gaudy with one of the visiting dogs).

vets@work, the annual event organised by the Veterinary Science Foundation and a dedicated committee of veterinary students, this year featured a week-long visit by high profile US veterinarian Professor Lonnie King, an inaugural research day, a Trade Fair for our sponsors, the second annual Open Day for the general public, and the Vet Ball.

Professor King, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University, USA, delivered the Faculty’s 2002 J D Stewart Address, sponsored by Fort Dodge (see story page 7). The Internet Australia Research in Action showcased the diversity of research taking place across the Faculty, and the Open Day, held on Saturday 31 August to coincide with the University of Sydney Careers and Courses Day, again pulled around 3,000 members of the community and their pets.

The volunteer efforts of more than 250 veterinary students and staff ensured the Open Day’s success. Teams of students smashed last year’s dog wash record, shampooing 290 dogs, and senior veterinary students, under the supervision of clinicians, performed almost 200 pet health checks in the Sydney Clinic.

There is a widespread recognition in business of the need to invest in the development of staff and to capture the intellectual capital in organisations. In the Sydney Morning Herald’s October 1 front page article, one of a series on workplace revolutions, journalist Sherrill Nixon wrote, “Management gurus around the world have finally hit on the next big thing in business—treating people like human beings”. This may not seem particularly revolutionary but the important insight is that our ability to deal effectively with others and work successfully, often in the face of conflict, requires skills outside people’s technical training. Following the success of Daniel Goleman’s work on emotional intelligence, more organisations are realising the value of working on and recognising non-technical competencies. The four key emotional intelligence competencies have recently been reviewed by Loren Garv in the July 2002 Management Update Newsletter of the Harvard Business Review:

• Self awareness – accurately assessing one’s emotions and their impact on others
• Self management – dealing effectively with emotions, with self reflection, ensuring trust is built and there is flexibility in interaction with others and a projection of optimism
• Social awareness – awareness and ability to empathise with other people’s concerns and needs
• Relationship management – focusing on the ability to inspire, listen to and persuade others and resolve disagreements.

These skills and others that are the keys to enabling adaptive change, have been a major area of focus for the Faculty in the second half of 2002. A leadership development program involving twenty academic and general staff is being led by Michael Johnson and Maxime Fern.

These “soft” skills are increasingly being recognised in all areas of business and education as critical for our globalised and rapidly changing environment. To develop the skills needed for veterinarians and animal health professionals involved in the broad area of veterinary public health, the Faculty has developed a new postgraduate program – Veterinary Public Health Management, to commence in 2003. The material will be offered in distance education format leading to the award of a Certificate (one year part-time), Diploma (18 months part-time) or Masters (2 years part-time) qualifications. Apart from 1 to 2 week residential periods each year, study can be undertaken anywhere in the world. The program will provide postgraduate training in veterinary epidemiology, food safety, zoonotic diseases, animal health economics, disease control, and animal health policy development as well as core leadership and management skills that are increasingly relevant to all areas of veterinary science.

The Faculty’s vision is to provide innovation and leadership in veterinary science. I believe these new programs will assist students, staff and the profession to meet the many challenges facing the profession in the 21st century.

Vantage Point Consulting, from July 2002 to February 2003. The program involves two residential weeks and ongoing action learning projects. The aims include enabling people to be more self aware and more able to flexibly work with others; be better able to be part of and lead teams, and collaborate across the Faculty; have stronger communication and influencing skills; be able to effectively build trust; be more able to effectively adapt to and lead change; accept personal responsibility and contribute personal leadership, be better able to anticipate and respond flexibly to problems as they arise; and actively contribute to innovations and new initiatives.

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T he celebrate the commencement of the $3 million Stage 1 upgrade of the Faculty’s small animal clinic and teaching hospital and to raise funds for Stage 2, the Veterinary Science Foundation held a very special event on Friday 25 October. The Galah Occasion, a charity dinner in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney, attracted three hundred attendees and raised significant funds in aid of the Sydney Animal Medical Centre Capital Campaign.

Prominent artists (including Archibald, Wynne and Sulman winners), designers and jewellers passionate about their animals came together in an extraordinary display of support to create dog and cat collars for silent auction — worn in a parade of veterinary students and their dogs and cats, and led by Channel Nine Animal Hospital presenter Rebecca Harris. Designer and animal lover James Gordon generously created both a collar and props for the evening. Images of all the collars can be seen on the VSF website www vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation.

Animal trainer Steve Austin compered the Flyball Cup during pre-dinner drinks in the main Quadrangle with performances by the Parramatta International Agility Dog Group. Celebrity chef Luke Mangan, from Salt restaurant, The Wine Society, Koll’s Creek Vineyard and Toherys (Lion Nathan) subsidised or donated the food and drink, and Monica Trappa and her musicians provided entertainment. Monica is a committed animal lover and has just opened Animajingo Pet Emporium in Summer Hill (phone (02) 9716 0422).

VIP corporate tables were sponsored by Breville, Dairy Farmers, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, KPMG and Pet’s First. Many other individuals and companies generously supported the night, and recognition was made of the significant donations already made to the campaign by Provet, Hill’s Pet Nutrition and Apex Laboratories.

Stage 1 Development

A Capital Campaign Committee, chaired by former CEO of Bankers Trust Mr Rob Ferguson, is responsible for raising the funds for the Centre. Stage 1 will include the Valentine Chatham Cat Centre, being supported by $1 million from the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science. The University of Sydney is providing matching funding.

The architects Gordon & Valach have been appointed by the University as Architects and Principal Consultants for the upgrade — this firm has considerable and highly regarded experience in veterinary clinic design, and the University’s Tender Board agreed the company stood out as the lead candidate. Gordon and Valach are soon to commence documenting the early horse stables, expected to commence before Christmas and be completed in late January 2003.

The actual Stage 1 building work is expected to commence in June 2003 with completion by January 2004.

OVINE JOHNE’S DISEASE UNDER ATTACK

In the most concerted effort yet to come to grips with a complex and frustrating disease, the Faculty of Veterinary Science has joined forces with Meat and Livestock Australia to undertake intensive research into Ovine Johne’s Disease (OJD), a devastating and ultimately fatal disease of sheep already entrenched in south east Australia.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has provided a $3.2 million grant, funded by the sheep industry, to support research focused on the early diagnosis of infection. Professor Richard Whittington, Sesqui Chair of Farm Animal Health at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, says Johne’s disease is the most serious disease problem he has faced in a 22-year career. ‘Because this is such a complex and difficult disease, quarantine restrictions have failed to halt the spread of disease, the sheep industry is polarised in its views on control options and the newly released vaccine does not fully prevent infection’.

Johne’s Disease exists worldwide and many countries live with the disease. Efforts are being made in Australia to control the disease long term, but Richard says lack of basic knowledge about the disease hinders the development of improved tests, treatments and effective vaccines.

The MLA grant will enable a team of five leading scientists and additional research students to be established at the Faculty’s Camden laboratory to study the basics of Johne’s infection. The latest genetics technology will be applied to the problem, and over three years it is hoped that discoveries will be made leading to tests capable of detecting the infection before it has had a chance to spread.
**Reprogen – The Story**

Reprogen, the Centre for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction, was launched in December 1999 within the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Co-founders Professors Herman Raadsma and Frank Nicholas could see the Faculty had strengths in animal genetics and reproduction capable of bringing advanced animal breeding technologies to the animal industries. They added a third strength - the then-emerging discipline of cell-based animal biotechnologies.

Herman Raadsma was appointed Director in April 2000. He says, “The establishment of Reprogen as a University-approved specialist research centre allows us to be recognised as a national focal point for integrated research, training, and the practical application of genetic and reproductive knowledge. Reprogen’s mission is to apply this knowledge towards the sustainable utilisation and well-being of domestic animals”. Herman maintains harnessing the synergy between Reprogen’s three core disciplines – genetics, reproduction and cell biology – is essential if applied outcomes such as germ plasm conservation, early genetic/diagnostic screening, gene therapy, and accelerated genetic gain for animal industries are to be achieved.

Reprogen has already achieved notable success. In addition to international recognition for the project Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals (see below), milestones include:

- Breeding the world’s first lambs born from sex-sorted frozen semen
- Discovery of the causative mutation for chondrodysplasia (dwarfism) in Dexter cattle
- Establishing the most comprehensive genetic maps for major genes affecting production traits and disease resistance in pigs and sheep
- Undertaking transplantation therapy of neural stem cells in inherited demyelinating disease (Twitcher Disease) in mice

Reprogen is continuing the Faculty’s distinguished history in animal reproduction and genetics. Since 1936, when Professor Gunn’s work led to the birth of Australia’s first lamb from artificial insemination, and including the work of the Faculty’s founding geneticist Professor Stuart Barker from 1956, the Faculty continues to achieve major breakthroughs in animal reproduction and genetics.

Reprogen began with seven founding members, two honorary fellows, five postdoctoral fellows, and seventeen research students. The founding members had diverse areas of interest: Professor Herman Raadsma (DNA technologies in animal breeding, the genetics of disease resistance), Professor Frank Nicholas (genetic identification of the genetic basis and control of inherited disorders), Associate Professor Clas Maxwell and Professor Gareth Evans (applied reproduction in domestic and wild animals, sperm sexing, semen and embryo preservation and transfer), Associate Professor Chai Morlan (genomics research in the pig), Dr. Peter Thompson (quantitative biology), and Dr Rosanne Taylor (gene therapy, neural stem cell research). Dr. Paul Sheehy added strengths in cell biology, and the research focus of the first founding postdoctoral fellows, Drs Imke Tammen, Jacques O’Brian, Yizhou Chen, Bill Billakoff and Sharon Mortimer, ranged from gene mapping, DNA tests to eradicate disease, sperm function and preservation to the conservation of endangered species.

Since 1999, Reprogen has experienced rapid growth. A first commercial spin-off company for sperm sexing technologies is on the drawing board with industry partner US-based XY Inc., and an initial grant income base of $300,000 pa (from diverse industry and government sources) has grown to over $2 million for 2003. Reprogen’s most significant achievement, becoming lead agency in the gene discovery program of the CRC for Innovative Dairy Products (securing $7.3 million over seven years), means responsibility for a large functional genomics program in lactation biology.

Today Reprogen has eighteen PhD and Masters students. Dr Imke Tammen has recently been appointed a University of Sydney Sesqui Lecturer in Animal Biotechnology, Associate Professor Peter Wynn has joined the team and further senior appointments will include a Bioinformatics Fellow and a new Chair in Livestock Functional Genomics – believed to be the first in Australia. There are also seven new research/postdoctoral Fellows in place with more to come - Drs Cavanagh, Eriksson, Gulliam, Morris, Nutt, Riley and Zenger. The initial core species focus has also expanded, from pigs, sheep, cattle and mice to include the horse, dog, pescary and the crocodile.

Herman Raadsma predicts revolutionary advances in cell biotechnologies and says Reprogen must capture these to achieve improvements in animal production and to combat inherited diseases. “This is an incredibly exciting era for animal biology and Reprogen intends to provide the Faculty with a seat in the front row”.

Professor Frank Nicholas is the curator of a massive comparative database of inherited disorders of farm and companion animals, Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals (OMIA). OMIA will ultimately include all published references on all supposedly single-locus traits (including disorders) in all domestic animals, together with summary paragraphs about each trait and/or disorder. The project began in 1980 and went ‘live’ on 26 May 1995 via the home page of the Australian National Genetic Information Service (ANGIS) - http://www.angis.org.au/omia. Compilation of information has continued since the project’s inception and while the task of maintaining the database is huge, Frank says it is rewarding to see OMIA being accessed from around the world each week.

Modeled on Professor Victor McKusick’s human database Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), the project has been undertaken in collaboration with ANGIS and internationally with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), Washington, and with Professor McKusick at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.

Since October 1997, hyperlinks from OMIM to OMIA have enabled human medical geneticists to gain instant access to up-to-date information on animal models of human inherited disorders.

As part of a sister site for OMIA, Drs Paul McGreevy, Peter Thomson, Paul Dela Torre and Frank Nicholas are developing a website called Listing of Inherited Disorders in Animals (LIDA). LIDA will provide veterinarians, breeders and pet purchasers with up-to-date information on the prevalence of inherited disorders, as recorded online by cooperating veterinary practitioners throughout Australia.
Reprogramming the sperm of Hamadryas baboons could lead to breakthroughs in the conservation of endangered primates according to post-doctoral Fellow Dr Rosanne Taylor. She is investigating the potential to restore myelin in the brain and spinal cord.

Sex cells have great potential for repair. They are multipotent - that is, they are capable of making many different cell types - and can respond appropriately to damage. Stem cells come from a variety of sources, including the brain, bone marrow, stroma and embryo, but the characteristics and therapeutic potential of each have yet to be fully explored. Can adult stem cells, such as those from marrow as opposed to those from embryos, still be multipotent? Some scientists believe this occurrence is too rare to be useful for therapy. The Reprogen stem cell team has taken up this challenge and is testing different types of stem cells in mice with myelin damage. Based at the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney, the group – postgraduate student Guoying Zhao, research staff Nigel McCarthy, Kerrie Murdoch and Brad Dong – are investigating neural stem cells with collaborator, Dr Evan Snyder at Harvard University, embryonic stem cells with Dr John Harlow at the Centenary Institute Sydney and marrow stromal cells with postdoctoral fellow Dr Julian Lamouy at St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney. Their work is supported by National Health and Medical Research Council, Multiple Sclerosis Australia and Hunter’s Hope, USA.

The group’s long term objective is to develop stem cells that will preferentially migrate into areas of damage in the brain and develop into mature cells that can replace the function of those lost to disease. The group is particularly interested in treating myelin damage – the loss of the insulating sheath that enables nerve axons to transmit messages efficiently. This occurs in Multiple Sclerosis, a common cause of disability in young adults, and in Krabbe disease, an inherited disease of children.

The group is achieving encouraging results. In myelin damage caused by immune attack, Rosanne’s team has genetically engineered cells that produce transforming growth factor beta, a factor that reduces the damaging immune response and enhances the cell’s development into myelin-forming oligodendrocytes. The cells are tracked in the mature brain by inserting a “glow in the dark” green fluorescent protein gene from jellyfish, visible under a fluorescent or confocal microscope. The group has also found that neural stem cells genetically engineered to express a missing enzyme, galactocerebrosidase, are more resistant to toxic damage in a mouse model of Krabbe disease.

Ultimately the team’s work has the potential to improve the mobility and quality of life of the many people suffering from debilitating nervous system diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis.
You came to vet science with farming experience and a passion for pigs – what did you do after you left school? I am the third son of a farming family from Gunnedah and after completing my HSC in 1983 I joined my brothers to work on the farm in cropping, beef, lambs and wool, and pigs. We started the piggery in the mid-70s and it grew to 130 sows – it was always my favourite farming activity and because it earns the person in the family most responsible for the piggery management.

When did you think about becoming a vet? We made the decision to sell the farm in 1994 and I went to Western Australia to manage a piggery for two years. The people I met there and the work I was doing made me start to think seriously about a career in veterinary science. My wife, who also grew up in the country, encouraged me and I first began a science degree at the University of Sydney in 1997 before transferring across to vet science in 1998. The decision has been a good one. Yes – it’s been a wonderful experience and I feel extraordinarily privileged to have had the opportunity to become a veterinarian.

What attracts you to working with pigs? I love pigs as animals but I also like the way the animal production industries are closely integrated and controlled. A vet can have a profound influence on everything from food production, health and disease management and animal welfare issues to the lifestyles and protein sources of those who own and work with pigs.

What are you planning to do after graduation? As my wife has a very good job we plan to be looking for a job either in a mixed country practice (I still like cattle, sheep and horses), a specific porcine practice (although they are rare) or working with pigs in an industry position. Further study is also an option and I would be interested in undertaking a Master of PhD – in pig health and production of course.

Do you believe this course prepared you for your career plan? I am in the second last year before the new curriculum reaches fifth year and I think for us there has been too much emphasis on small animals. The new curriculum should address that there has been too much emphasis on small and large animal services of the University Veterinary Centre Camden (U/VCC). In addition to the diversity of animal species on display – reptiles, different horse breeds, llamas and alpacas, goats, dogs and cats - senior veterinary students provided free pet health checks, and clinic staff gave a series of lectures on equine reproduction, arthroscopic surgery, hoof care, and parasite free mustis and foot care in dairy cattle. Practical demonstrations included the spectacular horse treadmill, cattle hoof trimming and the use of ultrasound.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERINARY CENTRES

CAMDEN CLINIC OPENS ITS NEW (STABLE) DOORS

Several thousand members of the general public joined staff, veterinary company sponsors and students in June to celebrate the completion of the new and renovated stables at the University Veterinary Centre Camden. The event’s focus was the official opening of the stables by Rachel Sanna, Sydney 2000 Olympic Games equestrian and longstanding client of the Camden Clinic.

Organised by Senior Lecturer Dr Christina Dart and the Camden Veterinary Centre staff, the Open Day showcased the diverse small and large animal services of the University Veterinary Centre Camden (U/VCC). In addition to the diversity of animal species on display – reptiles, different horse breeds, llamas and alpacas, goats, dogs and cats - senior veterinary students provided free pet health checks, and clinic staff gave a series of lectures on equine reproduction, arthroscopic surgery, hoof care, and parasite free mustis and foot care in dairy cattle. Practical demonstrations included the spectacular horse treadmill, cattle hoof trimming and the use of ultrasound.

CAMDEN HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

Assoicate Professor Andrew Dart has been appointed Hospital Director of the University Veterinary Centre at Camden. A oncology, emergency, small animal, surgery, and anaesthetic surgery, Andrew’s career has been highly focused on developing expertise in large animal medicine and surgery, starting with a Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Studies at Camden. He undertook a Residency Certificate in Large Animal Surgery at the University of California at Davis, USA, becoming Staff Surgeon from 1991 to 1993. Back in Australia he worked as an equine surgical specialist at Tamworth before returning to Camden in 1994 as Senior Registrar Large Animal Surgery. Andrew is a Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery, Australia, a Diplomate of both the American and European Colleges of Veterinary Surgeons, and an Associate Member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

A lecturer to veterinary undergraduates, Andrew has also supervised more than thirty-five candidates in postgraduate and Australian College of Veterinary Surgeon studies - he is now the Chief (Australian) College Examiner in Equine Surgery. Andrew’s research has led to the publishing of more than seventy papers in refereed journals and he has contributed chapters in a number of large animal medicine and surgery texts.

CLINICS ACHIEVE COLLEGE SUCCESS

Staff from the University Veterinary Centres at both Sydney and Camden achieved outstanding results at the July 2002 College Science Week.

successful Faculty candidates in College, a number of examinations were Camden College Registrars Jo Rainsong (equine medicine) and Rachel Tun (equine medicine). The Sydney College was supported by new College Registrars Sally Pegrum, Julian Lunn and Martine Perkins (all small animal medicine), Resident Craig Bailey (small animal surgery), and Registrant Karen Illmer (emergency medicine). A highlight was then-Sydney Registrar Penny Tidball gaining a Fellowship in Small Animal Surgery.

Craig Bailey and Senior Registrar Jody Bradnock (small animal medicine) won the Small Animal Young Speakers Awards at the conference following the College exams.

UNDERGRADUATE ACTIVITIES

Parents meet the Dean

ABC Science Show presenter Robyn Williams, the University of Sydney Chancellor, The Hon Justice Kim Santow, and the Dean, Professor Robert Rose, addressed Year 1 students and their parents in June during a special evening that gave students and parents an opportunity to learn about some of the initiatives undertaken by the Faculty and the Veterinary Science Foundation.

Student musicians Andrew Peters, Rachelle Kent, Laura Bewley, Richard Lam, Louise Hs and Sujaitha Ramo reinforced the tremendous diversity of the Faculty’s undergraduates.

Exercise Minotaur testing students as well as vets

Learning opportunities from Exercise Minotaur, the highly publicised national foot and mouth response simulation, were extended to veterinary students through a workshop on the principles of emergency disease management.

One hundred and twenty Year 3 students tackled the issue of sudden death during a September 2002 visit to the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) at Camden as part of a series of weekly case studies in second semester.

The students were taken through the process adopted by NSW Agriculture when a producer submits a tissue or blood sample from a dead or sick animal, and prized on the correct sequence of events following an emergency response announcement (they were considered ‘up speed’). Their visit coincided with the actual simulation and is part of a push by EMAI and the Faculty to build on existing collaboration and to develop future joint projects.

Veterinary science students Andrew Peters and Laura Bewley were two of ten student musicians providing background music for the Year 2 Evening with the Dean.

Above: Lienees and alԀead friends with the Open Day visitors Left: Open Day coordinator Dr Christina Dart, Senior Lecturer and registered specialist in veterinary anaesthesia, with her dogs Zoe and Zac.

Christina enthused the support of local Cobbtby and Camden businesses and the community – Cobbtby School catered for the day – as well as Faculty staff and veterinary students. She said, “We welcomed old clients and made new friends and, as well as providing an important opportunity to promote the Veterinary Centre to potential clients, the Open Day turned out to be one of the best team building exercises we have ever done!”
21ST CENTURY VETS
SAFEGUARDING HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Professor Lonnie King became the second veterinarian to address the National Press Club in Canberra (the first was Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Doherty) during a visit that contributed significantly to current debate on exotic disease surveillance and preparedness, food animal health and production, the rural vet crisis, and future veterinarians and their place in public health. He visited Australia in August as a guest of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, presenting the 2002 J.D. Stewart Address, sponsored by Fort Dodge. His visit was also supported by a University of Sydney Good Neighbour Grant.

Professor King is Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University, USA. He recently spent time at the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta working on infectious diseases (he is involved in the current US outbreaks of West Nile disease) and his previous role was Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the United States Department of Agriculture (USA’s chief veterinary officer).

His time in Australia coincided with the federally-funded Rural Veterinary Review, and the visit to Canberra, with Dean Professor Reuben Rose, included discussions with key federal Ministers and their staff, senior staff from Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia and the Department of Education Science and Training, and Animal Health Australia.

Professor King’s National Press Club address – Safeguarding Human and Animal Health: The Changing Face of Veterinary Medicine in 2002 – highlighted the expanding role of the veterinarian and issues of bioterrorism, zoonoses and emerging disease. The address can be viewed on the Veterinary Science Foundation website:


Faculty Staff News

Dr Richard Malik’s (above) long standing work on diseases of the cat, including feline leukaemia virus, feline infectious peritonitis and feline calicivirus, has contributed to his international standing and recognition.

Faculty staff members have recently been honoured with exciting and prestigious awards and appointments:

Feline specialist and Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science Valentine Charlton Fellow Dr Richard Malik received the 2002 European Society of Feline Medicine International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Feline Medicine when speaking in Munich in September. Richard is the only Australian veterinarian to be acknowledged by this Society at the highest level.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Reuben Rose, was presented with the FMS Award for Excellence in the Equine Veterinary Field, announced at the July 2002 Bain Fallon Equine Conference. This Australasian equine award recognises leadership and enterprise, contribution to knowledge, involvement in postgraduate education and significant contributions to the equine veterinary profession.

Professor Richard Whittington received the Ian Charles Ross Memorial Award, an honour given to a young veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to veterinary science in Australia and New Zealand.

The recent World Veterinary Congress elected Associate Professor Tony English Chairman of the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV) for the next 4 years. The WAWV, which is part of the World Veterinary Association, has over 480 members in 50 countries.

Dr Kathy Zhu, a Research Fellow working with Professor David Fraser and Dr Heather Greenfield in the field of nutrition, was awarded the Young Investigator Award for her presentation ‘Effects of milk supplementation on bone turnover in Chinese adolescent girls’. Dr Rosanne Taylor received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Teaching 2002.

In other staff news, Associate Professor Andrew Dart has been appointed new Hospital Director of the University Veterinary Centre Camden (see story page 6). Dr Imke Tammen, is the Faculty’s Sesqui Lecturer in Animal Biotechnology, Dr Michelle Hyde, Senior Lecturer, Dr Mark Kroekkenhorger, Lecturer in Veterinary Pathology, Dr Jody Braddock, Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine; and Dr Jan Williamson is Practice Coordinator of the University Veterinary Centre Sydney.

Portrait of Professor Graham Mitchell AO, Faculty of Veterinary Science alumnus, featured in Schools of Thought.

Dr Rosanne Taylor received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Teaching 2002.

FORT DODGE SPONSORED THE 2002 J.D. STEWART ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR LONNIE KING FROM MSU, JUNIOR HEALTH (FORT DODGE), PROFESSOR DAVE ROSSEN (FORT DODGE) AND DEAN PROFESSOR REUBEN ROSE.
Kristen Clarke nearly half of all dog bites occur and this sometimes results in injury to animals, large and small. How children and grown-ups can safely understand how animals talk to each other, and why, is designed to explain animal behaviour, just as relevant for adults and it is passionate about the human-animal bond, and about exploring and understanding animals can benefit too when children and parents, the Veterinary Science Foundation is sponsoring the distribution of the book to every NSW state school.

Paul says children instinctively want to approach and interact with animals, and this sometimes results in injury—nearly half of all dog bites occur because of some ill-considered human action. “Animals and children can gain so much from playing together if the kids, and parents, are equipped with the right information.” He also believes in the important lessons children can learn from animals. “Having a pet teaches children all sorts of things—empathy, gentleness, responsibility and tolerance,” Paul says. “And the animals can benefit too when children know how to handle them properly.”

Handle with Care is sponsored by the Veterinary Science Foundation and endorsed by both the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and Kidsafe. In recognition of the book’s role as an important educational resource for children and parents, the Veterinary Science Foundation is sponsoring the distribution of the book to every NSW state school.

Handle With Care – P McGreevy, Halstead Press, hardback RRP $27.95, ISBN 1 875684 76.

HANDLE WITH CARE

Senior Lecturer and animal behaviour expert Dr Paul McGreevy is passionate about the human-animal bond, and about exploring and encouraging behaviour that enables people and animals to live together in harmony. His new book, Handle With Care, may be a children’s book, but it’s just as relevant for adults and it is designed to explain animal behaviour, how animals talk to each other, and how children and grown-ups can safely meet and make friends with all kinds of animals, large and small.

Paul says children instinctively want to approach and interact with animals, and this sometimes results in injury—nearly half of all dog bites occur because of some ill-considered human action. “Animals and children can gain so much from playing together if the kids, and parents, are equipped with the right information.” He also believes in the important lessons children can learn from animals. “Having a pet teaches children all sorts of things—empathy, gentleness, responsibility and tolerance,” Paul says. “And the animals can benefit too when children know how to handle them properly.”

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Handle With Care – P McGreevy, Halstead Press, hardback RRP $27.95, ISBN 1 875684 76.

HANDLE WITH CARE

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