The Henry and Banjo Garden
THE FACULTY 2005
THE NEW DEAN’S PERSPECTIVE

This is my first formal contribution to Roundhouse since becoming Dean in October 2004. Many of you will know there have been dramatic and far-reaching changes in the Faculty over the last five to six years producing some notable improvements and achievements. This is good and the changes essential for our survival – but are we on course for the University’s new strategic goal of attaining a rating of 1:5:40? The objective is for the University of Sydney to be first in Australia, fifth in the region and in the top 40 in the world. This must involve the whole span of activities in the University but from our perspective, most importantly it’s the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

So what does this mean for us? It indicates we need to step up the progress on many of the initiatives we set for the Faculty in 1999, early in Professor Reuben Rose’s Deanship. These have been refined and incorporated into our Strategic Plan (2005-2010). This current plan is supported by more detailed operational plans for Teaching, Research and the two Teaching Hospitals. In order to achieve 1:5:40 and to ensure the sustainability of our recent successes, our main challenge is that of resources. For example, we have:

a) successfully developed a new curriculum that has won acclaim by the University and the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC);
b) increased our undergraduate student numbers dramatically, thereby internationalising the Faculty and generating additional income; fee income has trebled over the last six years;
c) developed a new undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience) which is creating an important and exciting addition to the existing training portfolio coming from our Faculty and the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources;
d) improved and streamlined the running of the two Teaching Hospitals (Sydney and Camden campuses) and established a Partner Practice Program for final year student extramural rotations that involves some 400 partner practices in Australia and beyond;
e) established a very successful on-line Masters course in Veterinary Public Health Management and greatly improved the culture of shared leadership in the Faculty;
f) successfully expanded our research profile at both campuses and developed an innovative plan for the future of the Camden campus including a lecture theatre/conference complex and a Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre.

In order for the Faculty to achieve a sound financial future we must make greater efforts to:

a) provide an increased critical mass of staff to continue the necessary expansion of our teaching and research programs;
b) acquire institutional support for our clinical teaching program – as is the case for other professional faculties in this University and elsewhere;
c) continue to raise the necessary funds to support infrastructure improvements for both campuses as outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Finally, we need to internationally benchmark our teaching and research programs to ensure a sustainable future for the Faculty. This is underway through the current bid for American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation and the forthcoming Research Assessment Exercise in the University. With all this done, achieving 1:5:40 will be within our sights.
BACHELOR OF ANIMAL AND VETERINARY BIOSCIENCE
EXPANDING OUR DEGREE BASE

A new four-year degree program, Animal and Veterinary Bioscience, has been launched by the University of Sydney and will be administered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The new degree commenced in February 2005 with a higher-than-anticipated first intake of 75 HECS and four full fee-paying students (two international), indicative of the high demand for animal-related education.

The Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience is an applied science degree blending a basic science foundation with fields specific to animal sciences. The degree involves studies in the structure and function of animals, their management and welfare, and world’s best veterinary facilities. The Faculty and Foundation are enormously grateful for their continuing support. Below are just some of our valued veterinary industry sponsors:

**Agen** facilitated a new ISTAAT machine for the University Veterinary Centre (UVCS) – a portable clinical analysing machine with a turn-around time of 2 minutes. The ISTAAT is invaluable in the management of critical care patients such as dogs and cats with diabetic ketoacidosis, Addison’s disease and acute renal failure.

**Axel Laboratories** has provided a major donation to the UVCS redevelopment.

**Bayer Australia** actively supports a range of key projects as a major donor to the UVCS building campaign, sponsor of the Canine Desexing Clinic and Roundhouse, and supporter of the student Veterinary Society.

**Boehringer Ingelheim** sponsors the Canine Desexing Clinic.

**Certavet Australia** is principal sponsor of the 2005 J.D. Stewart Address and Roundhouse, and supporter of the student Veterinary Society.

**Cenvet Animal Health** is principal sponsor of the 2005 J.D. Stewart Address and Roundhouse, and supporter of the student Veterinary Society.

**Novartis Animal Health** is providing major support for the UVCS development.

**Pfizer Australia** funds a range of projects – the Canine Desexing Clinic, a major research project, and its supporting sponsor, 2005 Partners in Veterinary Education Conference.

**Provet** is the most significant corporate beneficiary of the UVCS building campaign, and principal sponsor 2005 Partners in Veterinary Education Conference.

**Virbac Australia** is providing significant funding for a three-year Residency in Dermatology and associated research project.

**THE NEW DOG CENTRE**

The new Dog Centre, Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the Faculty’s small animal teaching hospital at Sydney. Digital image by Archibald Garden and Yolanda.

Fundraising for the new Dog Centre, scheduled for completion in 2006, is a key 2005 priority of the Veterinary Science Foundation. Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney, the Dog Centre will cost $2.2 million and the Foundation has already raised almost half of the funds required, including a $500,000 contribution from the Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown – an important endorsement of the University’s commitment to the Faculty’s vision.

The Stage 1 Valentine Charlton Cat Centre is completed and fully operational. Staffed by two of only nine feline specialists in Australasia, Drs Julie Beatty and Vanessa Bar, it is already benefiting the community’s animals and the clinical teaching of undergraduate students.

Opportunities are available, as for the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, for naming rights to different areas of the Dog Centre. Bayer Animal Health has recently secured naming rights to the Dog Reception and is an international, indicative of the high demand for animal-related education.

The new Dog Centre will provide a very positive boost to the veterinary profession trained in animal science to meet the needs of animal production industries and the broader aspirations of potential students.”

First Year student Danna Hsu says she has always had an interest in animals but that animal bioscience is much broader than straight veterinary science. “I can make a career by focusing on the genetic or nutritional aspects of animals, the conservation of endangered species or animal behaviour. In a way, this degree is more challenging because you never know where you might end up,” Danna said.

Melanie Booth, another first year student, says the words of novelist Milan Kundera inspired her when he wrote: Mankind’s true moral test... consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals. “I chose Animal and Veterinary Bioscience in the belief that it would provide me with a wide range of career prospects, ideally working with animals through conservation and welfare,” said Melanie.

For further information, contact Shirley Ray on (02) 9351 6932, email vetsci@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or visit the website: www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

**THE HENRY AND BANJO GARDEN – A MEMORIAL FOR ANIMAL FRIENDS**

The Henry and Banjo Garden is a beautiful sandstone garden created to honour and cherish the memory of our animal friends. Designed for the Veterinary Science Foundation and the Faculty of Veterinary Science by internationally-renowned landscape architect, Vladimir Sitta, the garden is a unique place where solid cast metal bowls, engraved in memory of much-loved pets, will be set on magnificently aged sandstone blocks.

Henry and Banjo were two black and white kittens adopted by the staff and students of the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney in 1989. They lived in the Centre’s original horse stables, once located where the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre now stands. The two feline brothers devoted themselves to their human colleagues and are still remembered with much affection.

**FELINE RESIDENT**

Dr Amy Lingard (above) has joined the Small Animal Medicine Referral Service at the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney. Amy is pursuing a major in Feline Medicine in the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

In a climate of shrinking core government funding, the Veterinary Science Foundation and the Faculty rely increasingly on the generosity of corporate sponsors. These companies directly contribute towards the education of the vets of the future, to animal health and
FARM ANIMAL AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2001 the Faculty identified an expanding range of opportunities available for veterinary graduates of the 21st century. Nowhere was this more evident than in the area of farm animal and public health and, with funding from Meat and Livestock Australia, a Chair in Farm Animal Health, held by Professor Richard Whittington, was created to push forward major research programs and stimulate the interest of undergraduate students in production animal veterinary science, food safety and public health.

Professor Whittington says, “The Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health academic and support team provide service to the community across many species - sheep, cattle, other ruminants, pigs, chickens and aquatic animals – various livestock industries, and scientific disciplines. They work extensively with collaborators from other institutions and the private sector both in Australia and overseas.”

Key programs include:

Veterinary Public Health Management Program – 14 postgraduate students are now enrolled in a new program designed to equip animal health professionals to be future leaders in the livestock sector. Key components are leadership, project management, epidemiology, food safety, risk analysis, and surveillance.

Major research program in John’s Disease – the Faculty and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), through a $3.2 million grant funded by the sheep industry, are partners in an intensive on-farm and laboratory-based research into the devastating and ultimately fatal disease of sheep, Ovine John’s Disease.

Aquatic Animal Health – teaching and research in aquatic animal health is already on the Faculty’s agenda, and it is involved in national and international aquatic animal research projects, the National Aquatic Animal Health Technical Working Group, and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Scientific Advisory Committee.

Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre – the Faculty leads the Education and Training Program in the Australian Biosecurity CRC. Developing emerging infectious diseases of animals and man. Outcomes will be a large number of trained researchers and a new set of training opportunities in epidemiology, risk analysis, emergency response and other disciplines that underpin biosecurity.

Interdisciplinary Network in Public Health (INPH) – a new alliance addressing public health issues, including emerging infectious diseases, from both veterinary and human disciplines. Supported by the Australian Biosecurity CRC, other members include the School of Public Health, National Centre for Immunosafety Research, Rupke Wimmer Hospital; Discipline of Medicine, Department of Infectious Disease; Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health; and the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety.

Gut Immunobiology Research Team – academic staff from the parasitology and John’s disease research groups are advancing studies on intractable problems facing the sheep industry: gastrointestinal nematodes that have developed resistance to common anthelmintics, and parabasalosis.

Professor Richard Whittington, Chair of Farm Animal Health, played an integral role in the investigation of the 1995 outbreak under the Joint Paddock Scientific Working Group, established at the time under the Consultative Committee on Exotic Animal Diseases to set priorities and coordinate research on the virus. The development of molecular diagnostic techniques was given highest priority as these would enable epidemiological studies to determine whether the virus is dormant in the pilchard population and whether or not it is coming into Australia through imported pilchard bait.

The aim of Professor Whittington’s current study, with Principal Investigator Dr Brian Jones of the Fisheries Department Western Australia, is to validate molecular diagnostic tests for pilchard herpesvirus and put them to use in elucidating the biology of the virus. The study will include a survey of wild pilchard populations to determine whether the virus is widespread, detectable and causing disease. It will also compare the herpesvirus strains from 1995 and 1998, investigate basic aspects of the disease and the tissue distribution of virus in selected species, and compare, at the molecular level, this herpesvirus disease with two other similar herpesvirus fish diseases that have been reported elsewhere in the world.

National collaborators for the project are Principal investigator Dr Brian Jones and Ms Melanie Crockford, Fisheries Department Western Australia; Wholesale Tribal John’s Animal Health Laboratory. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation is funding the project.

Emerging infectious diseases around the world have the potential to cause significant impacts on animal and public health, the economy, and the environment. Diseases that pose a serious threat include Newcastle disease and the highly pathogenic avian influenza for the poultry industry and classical swine fever for the pig industry.

A good understanding of the epidemiology and likely spread of these diseases, should they be introduced to Australia, is a necessary component of effective preparedness and response planning.

Postgraduate student Sam Hamilton, along with Faculty academic Dr Jenny-Ann Torbico and research collaborators Dr Graeme Garner and Dr Mike Nunn of the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, recognises the need to develop advanced skills in disease modelling that enable the evaluation of the behaviour of an exotic disease under Australian conditions and the effect of alternate control strategies.

Sam’s project, funded by the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for Emerging Infectious Disease, aims to develop a new model of the spread of one disease in particular within the Australian poultry industry – avian influenza - to try to assess the extent, impact and control of disease outbreaks.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza poses a serious threat to the Australian poultry industry and potentially to public health: given 52 human deaths in south-east Asia since 2003 from the H5N1 strain of this virus.

The model will be used to enhance national disease planning and will provide technical underpinning for Australia’s outbreak management policies.

PROTECTING AGAINST SALMONELLA

Salmonella are important pathogens of livestock and humans. Antibiotic therapy has been the treatment of choice in animals due to traditional salmonella vaccines only eliciting protection against a single strain of Salmonella (and in intensive animal agriculture, multiple Salmonella serovars are endemic). Growing concern about antibiotic use – increasing antibiotic resistance in food-producing livestock species, concerns about antibiotic residues, stock losses, and residual poor growth rates - suggests that vaccination will still be a more economically feasible way to manage the disease caused by Salmonella pathogens.

The challenge then remains to develop a commercial Salmonella vaccine that provides sustained cross-protective immunity.

Jennie Mohler is a Bachelor of Science (Vet) and PhD student undertaking a research project under the supervision of Dr Michael Mahan and Dr Doug Heihoff, University of California, Santa Barbara. The United States Department of Agriculture is funding the project.

The project team had previously discovered that DNA Adenine Methylase (DAM) attenuated Salmonella, although attenuated, confer cross-protective immunity to multiple Salmonella strains when used as modified live vaccines in mice and poultry. Homologous protection has also been demonstrated in cattle. This project aims to determine if Salmonella dam mutant vaccines can confer cross-protective immunity against multiple (heterologous) Salmonella isolates in calves.

The project’s broad objective is to develop safe and effective vaccines against Salmonella infection of cattle, and to demonstrate that this vaccine platform may be used to express cognate antigens from other pathogens (such as Enterotoxigenic E. coli), with a resultant improvement in the ability to protect animals from foodborne disease and reduction in Salmonella contamination of livestock. Equally significantly, the project will provide improved food safety through a reduction in Salmonella contamination of livestock-derived food products.

AVIAN INFLUENZA AND OTHER EMERGING DISEASES

Disturbing gaps have been identified in our ability to identify and respond to the risk of the significant sector of the pig-earthing community in Australia – the small-scale pig producers in peri-urban and regional areas. The lack of knowledge about these pigs, including their movements, health status and herd management practices, poses a high risk to Australia’s animal health industries.

Nicole Schiemer’s PhD project, supervised by Dr Trish Holyoake and funded by the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for Emerging Infectious Disease, aims to develop systems to minimise the risk of exotic disease occurring in Australia by targeting this sub-population of the pig-earthing community. The project will focus on improving methods for tracking pig movements, developing mechanisms for health surveillance, and improved extension in relation to disease detection and swill feeding.

National collaborators include the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry NSW; the NPAWV; Victorian and Queensland Departments of Primary Industries; WA Department of Agriculture, Rural Land Protection Board; QAF Meat Industries, and Australian Pork Ltd.
The Faculty of Veterinary Science is enjoying record research achievements, fulfilling one of its core businesses and a key focus of the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. Professor Gareth Evans, Associate Dean for Research, says, “2004 saw tremendous research achievements from staff across the Faculty and we anticipate 2005 will be even more successful.”

Over the past year, research grant income has continued to rise significantly, and during 2004 the Faculty became a core partner in two new federal CRCs (Cooperative Research Centres) – the Australian Invasive Animal CRC (Cooperative Research Centres) and the Internationally Competitive Pork Industry CRC, each worth in excess of $25 million total government funding for up to seven years. This secures a total of six prestigious CRC partnerships through the Faculty’s existing involvement in the Innovative Dairy Products, Sheep, Poultry and Biosecurity CRCs. These Centres involve collaboration with research partners at other Universities, with research providers and industry partners.

Professor Evans says, “Winning the CRC bids capped a series of good news items on the research front in 2004 – an overall increase in funding (set to boom in 2005) that included Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council funding in addition to our usual industry competitive grants, a greatly increased number of postgraduate student scholarships for 2005, improved postgraduate college of arts and law, continued high completion rates, a postgraduate supervision award, and a University postdoctoral fellowship.”

Despite LAC maintaining a conventional footrot eradication program (foot trimming, foot bathing and removal of non-responding animals) and the apparent recovery of all animals at the beginning of each monsoon season, many became re-infected during their annual migration to alpine pasture. The problem was being contained, but disease eradication remained unachievable.

Emeritus Professor John Egerton has long been involved in the management and control of footrot in small ruminants in the hills districts of Nepal. He was instrumental in establishing a footrot management project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to assist LAC with its work. Disease epidemiology was investigated, strains of Pasteurella multocida isolated in the disease in Nepal identified, then specific vaccines developed and used in a controlled field trial alongside LAC’s normal program. Positive results led to LAC previously conventionally vaccinated flock being treated with the specific vaccine, and within 2 years there was no evidence of virulent footrot in the population of sheep and goats in the study area.

A recently completed project, led by Professor Egerton with PhD student Dr Shiva Chandra Ghimire, surveyed for virulent footrot in endemic and non-endemic foot rot areas in Nepal using clinical examination, microbial culture and ELISA serology. It confirmed that virulent (as opposed to benign) footrot had been eradicated from the study area in the Kaski, Lamjung and Manang districts where the disease had persisted for nearly 30 years. The project also developed an amanostatic diagnostic test for the retrospective assessment of the life experience of sheep and goats with respect to infection with virulent organisms that could provide a basis for field testing and certification for freedom from virulent footrot.

The project’s international collaborators and funding supporters are the Overseas Development Administration, Government of UK, and the Lumle Agricultural Research Centre, Royal Government of Nepal. Funding has also been provided by ACIAR.

Footrot was introduced into the migratory flocks of Sikli village of Kaski district in Nepal during the 1960’s with sheep imported from New Zealand. Control measures began in 1975, assisted by the United Nation’s Development Programme and the Lumle Agricultural Research Centre, Royal Government of Nepal (LAC). By that time the disease had spread to the flocks of the adjoining districts of Lamjung and Manang.

Improvements in milking management in the dairy industry have led to a significant drop in the prevalence of contagious mastitis in dairy cattle over the last 20 years. Intra-mammary infections are now caused predominantly by environmental pathogens: particularly environmental Streptococcus and Staphylococcus species, and coliforms.

In a study funded by Pfizer Animal Health, Masters student Lucy Shum is determining the prevalence of different mastitis pathogens on intensive dairies in NSW and investigating the interaction between diet and environment on the major groups (coliforms and streptococci) of environmental pathogens.

Lucy’s project is testing the current mastitis data, which has largely been determined from surveys conducted in Victoria and subsequently extended to the prevalence of diseases in pasture-fed dairy cattle. In contrast, the dairy industry in NSW comprises a diversity of management systems ranging from pasture-based intensive freestall production systems. In fact, over the last 10 years, there has been a steady and continuing trend towards intensification of dairy production in NSW and continuing trend towards intensification of intensive freestall production systems. In fact, over the last 10 years, there has been a steady and continuing trend towards intensification of dairy production in NSW and continuing trend towards intensification of intensive freestall production systems. 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Tell us about your pathway to veterinary science

I completed a Bachelor of Science (Hons) at the University of Sydney followed by several years in medical (cancer) research. Feeling dissatisfied with this direction, I took a break and trekked around Nepal, deciding on this trip to leave research and study veterinary science.

What has the decision to study vet science been a good one?

I believe so. It’s incredibly difficult at times to fit life around study, however the course is challenging and interesting and I find being a vet-in-training infinitely more rewarding than my previous career. I am constantly inspired by the diversity of interesting people in veterinary science - the profession appears to attract an eclectic mix of individuals from a variety of backgrounds.

What do you think the future will hold after graduation?

Travelling, mountain climbing, living in Italy, spending more time with my family and friends... Professionally, I have an interest in emerging and zoonotic disease so I would like to pursue a career as a veterinary pathologist. I hope to become Board Certified in the US but understand that Internships are incredibly competitive so this may be a long and arduous path.

Tell us about your extra-curricular interests

For the past 3 years I have worked part-time in the pharmaceutical industry as a Clinical Research Associate (CRA), managing and monitoring industry-sponsored clinical trials. This year I am working independently as a contract CRA as it became increasingly difficult to attend project meetings and I was losing touch with moose cows in the background (much to the amusement of all involved) while also trying to fit in lectures. Contracting gives me greater control over my time and allows me to prioritise study while also funding my final years of vet science. I’m also the Hill’s Student Representative (2004-2005) and run the Hill’s Pet Nutrition Student Program in the Faculty, designed to provide and foster industry support for undergraduate veterinary education. I am also looking forward to knowing the role of AVA Student Representative in June.

What do you do with your spare time?

I enjoy climbing, trekking, photography and cycling and have recently developed a tragic addiction to golf. I had planned to climb Mt Cook in New Zealand last year but due to the weather conditions this was not possible and we somehow ended up spending the time playing golf instead. I am learning to play the piano, which is relaxing for me but seemingly not for those who live with me. I enjoy good wine, the company of friends and my animal companion, ‘Lioneer’ (Panthera). I also try to fit in a daily run and time with my partner Glenn.

Who or what inspires you and why?

People who are passionate about what they do, with a strong sense of their own identity and who live life as their own journey. Activist Henry Spira comes to mind. I’m also inspired by the tranquility of the outdoors and the creatures that live there.

The NSW Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPBR) is providing crucial rural veterinary experiences through the involvement of District Veterinarians in the Rural Public Practice Program unit of the Faculty’s Year 5 extramural rotations. During the lecture-free final year, Year 5 veterinary students make the transition to practice through clinical rotations at the Faculty’s teaching hospitals, small and large animal rotations in the field, and electives ranging from zoo and research experience to the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr Clive Roberts is the District Veterinarian for the Dubbo RLPBR and his personal contribution to the program is always praised warmly by student veterinarians. Dr Roberts ensures students are involved for their entire visit. “The first challenge is to make sure this is a fun visit. Many students don’t have much knowledge of rural areas, and I take them everywhere – from the abattoirs to Western Plains Zoo – to try to give them an idea of life in the country. I believe potential rural vets need to get a broader view of country lifestyle as well as a knowledge of animal health issues,” he said. “And the students are always surprised there is so much interesting veterinary work involved with farm animal health.”

He is keen to praise the Year 5 interns. “I believe the practice of veterinary science needs mental discipline first and foremost and the calibre of the students has been excellent. They’ve all been motivated so you just need to make ‘signposts’ to encourage learning,” he said.

As for his students, Year 5 intern Sarah Chan said, “I enjoyed the rotation much more than I expected to and Dr Roberts was a wonderful supervisor. He was always concerned for our safety and made sure we were secure and comfortable wherever we went. He also gave us a variety of experiences including visits to the zoo and Macquarie Artificial Breeder. I learnt a lot and thoroughly enjoyed my time in Dubbo”. Dr Roberts has enjoyed a varied career, beginning in veterinary practice in the UK, followed by thirty years of mixed practice in New Zealand. He subsequently worked in research for the New Zealand Meat and Wool Board, and spent thirteen years teaching technical anatomy and physiology to medical nurses and technicians before taking a break to farm sheep. In 1993 he moved to Australia as District Veterinarian in Condobolin, then in Dubbo the past 4 years.

RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARD

Supporting the Year 5 Experience

The University of Sydney Wildlife Society has successfully driven extramural rotations from within the Faculty of Veterinary Science, has a full schedule of activities planned for 2005. The Society’s secretary, Rebecca Robjoy, gave a presentation in May at a personal visit to the Borneo orangutan at state agricultural events, and she has already met the Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir and Federal Agricultural Minister Warren Truss.

It was a great experience, meeting people working in the agricultural community and now I have the opportunity to emphasize its importance in NSW. And, as a veterinary student, I enjoyed meeting the vets working from local agricultural issues to the Iraq War. Her duties now include appearances from local agricultural issues to the Iraq War. Her duties now include appearances.
**BEQUESTS TAKING GIVING INTO THE FUTURE**

Bequests are the life-blood of not-for-profit organisations. They make a real and lasting difference to the work charities undertake, often facilitating major initiatives that may otherwise not be possible.

Bequests to the Veterinary Science Foundation all benefit the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Past gifts have provided funds for new buildings, enabled innovative education and training programs, supported academic Chairs, and facilitated world first research.

Mr Stu Wilson is a devoted animal lover and loyal client of the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney who has made the decision to leave a gift in his will to the Faculty through the Veterinary Science Foundation. He also provides much-valued support for the Foundation's special events.

He says he feels thankful to the dedicated and caring “family” of animal lovers at the Sydney University Veterinary Centre. “About 3 years ago the staff of the Sydney Vet Clinic - I call them angels” - successfully removed over two kilos of cancer from my best mate Ghost. Within a few days he was back home with me and his beautiful young girlfriend Glenda. I know Ghost would not be alive today without their care,” he said.

The late Mr Bruce Hydes was also a longstanding client of the Sydney teaching hospital. His generosity and desire to provide a lasting benefit for the Faculty led to a significant gift in his will. His bequest is contributing significantly to the new Dog Centre and the planned Clinical Tutorial Room will be named in his memory.

A gift in your will to the Veterinary Science Foundation will support excellence in veterinary education, world class facilities, vital research, and ground-breaking developments in animal care. We would be pleased to speak with you confidentially about our bequest program, or forward our bequest brochure with information on the planning of bequests, including guidelines for the wording of your will.

For further information, please contact Jennie Churchill on (02) 9351 8024 or email jenniec@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

**BENEFICIARIES FOR EDUCATION**

Two generous individuals, Mr William Blackshaw and Emeritus Professor Ian Beveridge, have made important contributions towards educational opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students with highly significant donations through the Veterinary Science Foundation.

The Blackshaw Residency in Ruminant Health and Production is a new three-year postgraduate program that will provide clinical and research training in farm animal health and production with particular emphasis on the cattle industry. The resident, who will work towards Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and a Master of Veterinary Clinical Studies, will be part of the Faculty’s Bovine Clinical Service and supervise senior veterinary students.

The Resident will spend time in rural practice on completion of the program, and the Residency aims to fulfill Mr Blackshaw’s objectives: to support young students and to encourage the flow of veterinary graduates to a career in rural areas.

Emeritus Professor William Ian Beveridge has funded the Ian Beveridge Lecture on Comparative Medicine: One Medicine, enabling an eminent academic to visit the Faculty every 1-2 years.

An alumnus of the Faculty, Professor Beveridge began his career with the CSIRO before becoming Professor of Veterinary Pathology at Cambridge. He achieved international renown as a highly respected expert in comparative medicine, particularly through his work on infectious diseases for the World Health Organisation.

**WILD NEWS**

**ARC KOALA PROJECT**

The Faculty of Veterinary Science has a long and productive history in wildlife research, particularly in koalas, and a three-year research project focused on the two most devastating infectious diseases of koalas - chlamydiosis and cryptocoecosis – has attracted a large Australian Research Council (ARC Linkage) grant and drawn together a multidisciplinary research team and industry partners.

Project partners include the Australian Koala Foundation, Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, Koala Preservation Society NSW, WiRES (Wildlife Information and Rescue Service) and Mycine Veterinary Tools. The project will also involve the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie.

The total funding of $1.05 million dollars comprises generous contributions of cash and in-kind support from these partners to match the ARC Grant of $392,262 and the University’s own contribution.

**WILD MASTERS PROGRAM GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH**

WILD, the Masters of Applied Science (Wildlife Health and Population Management) managed jointly by the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the School of Biological Sciences, expands its student base each year. Research projects range from wombats to marine turtles.

Wildlife Masters student Montserrat Yuste with a green arrowhead vine at the Faculty’s Walter Tull campus. Montserrat, among the first 2008 Field Studies Unit staff, is a biologist researching fungi to managing burnt and injured koalas. Visit the website: www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/wild.

Masters student and veterinarian Luke Gabriele Tobias is undertaking an epidemiological survey in Australian zoos on a chronic eye and skin syndrome seen in captive Malayan Tarsius worldwide. Gabrie, says, “After working as a private practitioner for 6 years, and having always been interested in wildlife work and conservation, I wanted to undertake postgraduate studies. I chose this wildlife Masters because it is based on veterinary conservation biology rather than just veterinary medicine. I believe a multidisciplinary approach is essential to understanding wildlife health and management.”
THE 2005 PROVET PARTNERS IN VETERINARY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Provet 2005 Partners in Veterinary Education Conference will be held at the Faculty on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 July. The Faculty is very grateful for the continuing generous support of principal sponsor Provet, again facilitating a two-day conference for our veterinary partners. Pfizer Australia is supporting sponsor.

The 2005 continuing education focus will be ultrasonography, led by Professor Graeme Allan, with Dr Vanessa Barrs. Topics include training in the use of ultrasound, its application in practice, its use as a diagnostic tool and advice on the model to purchase for your practice. The Faculty will also invite input from Partners about their experience with modifications of the program and how it might best prepare students in the earlier years for this opportunity.

Training will be provided for any attending practitioner who has not yet supervised an intern. The Conference will include, on the evening of Friday 15 July, the J D Stewart Address and reception, generously sponsored by Cenvet Australia and delivered by the Faculty's Chair of Farm Animal Health, Professor Richard Whittington.

The Faculty looks forward to welcoming its partners to the 2005 Conference. For further information, please contact Dr John Baguley on (02) 9036 9479 or j.baguley@vetc.usyd.edu.au.

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The full day’s program began with a tour of the Faculty, including the new Valentine Cat Centre and the recently-renovated B Richards Laboratory, followed by a welcome and presentation by the Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott, Veterinary Science Foundation, and academic staff members. Organised by Dr Ian Martin, fellow 1955 alumnum and Faculty staff member, with the support of the Veterinary Science Foundation, the reunion provided the group with the opportunity to catch up with old friends, and to hear about current Faculty projects and future plans including research, the curriculum, and fundraising. Professor Paul Canfield, unofficial Faculty archivist, reminisced with a presentation of photographs of the Faculty, staff and students from the 1950s.