

## Faculty of Veterinary Science

# r u m e n a t i o n s

Issue 3 October 2001

*More than 100 members of staff attended the Faculty's Culture Building and Planning Workshop held on-site over three days at the Camden Campus in late September.*

This was an important milestone for the Faculty, and feedback from participants indicates the program created a genuine and significant momentum for implementing change to the Faculty culture. Staff from all areas of the Faculty attended – academic, clinical, technical and professional, and administrative – and the student body was represented by both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The workshop began by exploring personal profiles and moved through team building and performance to the planning and setting of strategies to secure changes to the culture of the Faculty.

Key issues under discussion included the cultural divide between the Sydney and Camden campuses, strategies to develop a culture of teaching excellence, pathways to achieve effective and efficient communication, coordination and consultation, ways to help people adjust to and feel at home with the new Faculty structure, and proactive strategies to build the culture described in the Faculty's culture statement.

During the workshop, participants undertook an outdoor exercise focusing on teamwork that has been completed by other major organisations across Australia, including the military. The University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science now has the distinction of completing this exercise in the fastest time ever, the previous record being held by the Australian Army – an impressive achievement.

Mr Walter Bellin, Chairman and CEO of Corporate Crossroads, facilitated the workshop. Following his arrival in Australia from the United States in 1979, Walter established the Crossroads personal development workshops, highly successful

human potential programs that achieved attendance of more than 35,000 within a few years. Walter consults with large Australian and international private and public sector organisations, including most recently Microsoft, ABN-Amro, Macquarie Bank, Toshiba, the Federal Departments of Defence and Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the ANU Law School.



It's not surprising Wally the Wonder Dog is a hit on the VEIN website. Wally is also a favourite with students and is owned by Dr Paul McGreevy, Senior Lecturer in Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare Science.

### VEIN

**VEIN: keep your finger on the pulse!**  
<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/VEIN/>

The VEIN Website currently comprises 510 individual pages and from 1 April to 31 August, 2001, the site received 67,360 unique page hits. The most popular pages include the Links index, the Foot and Mouth Disease page, VEIN Community and the Research Databases pages. Most popular keyword searches to find information include 'Foot and Mouth Disease' and 'Wally McGreevy'!

Contact Su Hanfling on 9351 5426 or email [S.Hanfling@library.usyd.edu.au](mailto:S.Hanfling@library.usyd.edu.au).

## From the Dean's Desk

Thank you to the 102 members of staff who worked so hard to contribute to our successful Faculty Culture Building and Planning Workshop. One outcome of the workshop was the recognised need to hold a similar two day program each year to maintain the enthusiasm and progress generated. A full report will be distributed to all members of the Faculty.

I am also grateful for the efforts of all staff in welcoming the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC). The visit went well and Mr Roger Eddy, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, has since written to say how much he was impressed by the "dedication and motivation of the overwhelming majority of your staff working under ever increasing financial pressure."

## Faculty Staff Movements

Mr Les Bowen has retired after 40 years service to the Faculty on the Camden Campus. Les started working for the University Farms in 1961 as a farm hand, before becoming Building Attendant.

Dr David McNeill has joined us from Queensland University as Senior Lecturer in Ruminant Production. David has a very broad background in ruminant production, with a special interest in dairy cattle nutrition. He will be based in the cattle group at the M C Franklin Laboratory, Camden.

Dr Bob Ratcliffe has been appointed to a part-time position as Associate Professor in Clinical Veterinary Practice. Bob will liaise with more than 50 partner practices of the Faculty and develop appropriate learning outcomes and assessment strategies. Bob has been a private practitioner, and has held the roles of Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Laboratory Animal Services in Sydney. On a voluntary basis he is Business Development Advisor to the Sydney Clinic and played a major role in Vet Week 2001.

Dr Lee Morris has also joined the team at Camden as Senior Registrar in Equine Reproduction. Lee will work between the Camden Clinic and research on sperm sexing in horses in the ReproGen Centre. Lee returns to Australia from the Equine Fertility Unit at Newmarket, affiliated with Cambridge University, where she worked with Professor Twink Allen.

Mr Federico Costa has commenced as Web Services Coordinator for the Faculty, with responsibility for the development and management of all the Faculty's web-based resources. Federico brings wide technical and project management skills to the role.

The Sydney Clinic has gained a number of new staff since July. Professor Max Zuber is the new Director and Head of Surgery. Max has combined 30 years in practice at Gladesville Veterinary Hospital with 16 years as a part time lecturer at Sydney and stints at Sydney and Florida Universities.

Dr Jason Beck is a Senior Lecturer and registered specialist in small animal surgery. A Queensland graduate, Jason undertook his residency at Sydney. He has a Masters in Canine Gastric Dilation and Volvulus, is a Fellow of the ACVS and worked at Washington State University in the surgical team.

Other new Sydney Clinic staff include Primary Care Practice clinicians Drs Matt Almond, Joanna White and Jacqui Norris, and Dr Kim Ticehurst has joined the anaesthesia team.

## Key Dates

**8 October** *Camden Staff Meeting Faculty Finances, 1-2pm, Breakwell Building*

**30 October** *Sydney Staff Meeting Faculty Finances, 1-2pm, McMaster Seminar Room*

**1 November** *Teaching Development Workshop 3, 10am-12pm (Rosanne Taylor)*

**8 November** *Teaching Development Day, 9.30am-4pm (Rosanne Taylor)*

**16 November** *Deadline for the Pfizer Teaching Awards (Michelle Hyde)*

## Contact Us

We want your comments and contributions. Contact the newsletter team on email [vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto: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.