

2006 J D Stewart Address: Dr Tracey Rogers Barometers of the Antarctic: What seals tell us about climate change



Left to right: Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott, Dr Tracey Rogers and new Director, Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, Associate Professor David Phalen (introduced as part of the Address).

Dr Tracey Rogers, Director of the Antarctic Marine Mammal Research Centre and Faculty Adjunct Senior Lecturer, presented the 2006 J D Stewart Address - with a timely presentation looking at current Antarctic research on leopard seals as an indicator of climate change. Dr Rogers has 15 years Antarctic research experience, often spending time based in the region.

In her presentation, she explained that climate change is a reality - seas are warming, glaciers and sea ice are retreating and the temperature has increased by 6 degrees centigrade in the last 50 years. There is evidence that supplies of krill, the major food source in the Southern Ocean, have declined by 80% in the last 30 years which was of enormous concern.

Her recent research has focused on leopard seal populations as they are long-lived, large-bodied animals with a low productive rate. They are less affected by local environment changes - but with no predators in the wild, especially no human threat, they are likely to be one of the first groups to respond to large-scale climate change.

Monitoring techniques of the leopards seals have included:

- Studies of their calling behaviour allowing the tracking of populations not only visually but also under the sea.
- Acoustic surveys and satellite imaging - establishing their preferred breeding habitat and providing a platform for the prediction of how changes might influence distribution and numbers.
- Scientific analysis of different tissues providing useful information about the seals' foraging patterns which can be compared to samples taken from much earlier expeditions made by Douglas Mawson, Ernest Shackleton and other explorers, to show changes in behaviour through past climate events, and allow predictions to be made on how they will cope with changes in the future.

Dr Rogers' presentation left the audience under no illusions about climate change and its effects, both from a scientific viewpoint but also in reflection to our responsibilities as individuals.

2006 Provet Partners in Veterinary Education Conference

Coinciding with the 2006 J D Stewart Address, was the Faculty's annual Partners in Veterinary Education conference - generously sponsored by Provet for the third consecutive year.

The two day event welcomed partner practitioners (the veterinarians who host student interns during their final year of the BVSc degree) from across the country to the University of Sydney for a packed and informative programme of presentations. This year showcased the expertise of Faculty staff - lead by Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott's seminar on 'Developmental disease affecting growing horses'.

New features of the conference this year were panel discussions with practitioners and recent graduates of the programme. Feedback from the event was very positive reflecting the variety of presentations covering both small and large animal topics. The presentation by Dr Paul Heinrich, Creative Director of the Pam McLean Centre at the Royal North Shore Hospital, on the different learning styles of students and practitioners, was also highlighted.

Faculty Honoured in 2006 Carrick Teaching Awards

The 2006 Carrick Teaching Awards were announced last month with the University of Sydney receiving 8 of the 210 national awards of \$10,000 - of these, the Faculty of Veterinary Science received two.

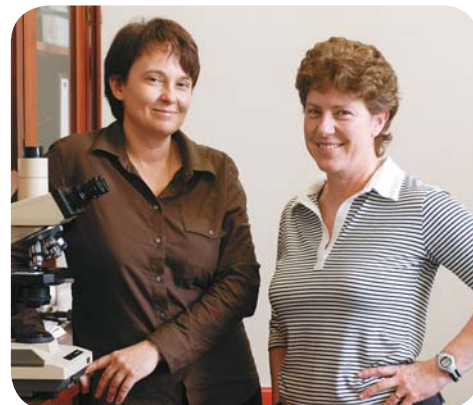
The Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching are highly competitive and involve an intensive selection process to assess the achievements of applicants. Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning category recognises and rewards the diverse contributions that individuals and teams (academic staff, general staff, sessional staff or institutional associates) make to the quality of student learning. Award recipients have made a significant contribution to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period and have received strong institutional endorsement.

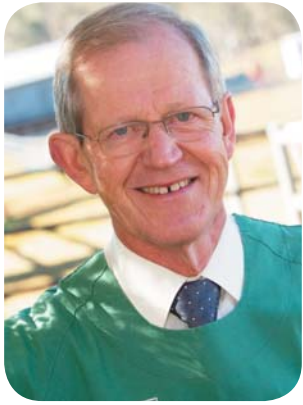
Faculty recipients were:

- **Hannah Forsyth, Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio, Professor Richard Whittington and Meg Vost** for the development of an innovative, holistic curriculum and learning

environment for relevant postgraduate education in Veterinary Public Health.

- **Associate Professor Jennie Hodgson (below right) and Dr Jacqui Norris (below left)** for the development of an innovative, clinically-applied Veterinary Microbiology course that provides constructive and collegial learning environments for developing evidence-based, critical thinking skills in undergraduates.





From the Dean's Desk

I am delighted to welcome to the Faculty and the Veterinary Science Foundation new Director, Jacqueline Booth and Project Coordinator, Georgina Springer.

Both join us from Northcott Disability Services: Jacqueline has led both fundraising and marketing teams, developing and extending their fundraising and promotional programmes, increasing the profile and support for the organisation and its projects - their events and donor development winning a business excellence award. As Special Projects Coordinator, Georgina was extensively involved in fundraising projects, donor development, sponsorship and event development and management.

I am greatly looking forward to working with them to continue the Foundation's fundraising and promotional work on behalf of the Faculty. I know that Jacqueline and Georgina are very keen to meet all staff and those connected with the Foundation so all visitors to their office will be warmly received. *Professor Leo Jeffcott*

Faculty News

Meat Judging Competition Success

Thirteen students from the Faculty's Beef Science Course competed in the annual International Champion Meat Judging (ICMJ) competition held in July at the University of New England, Armidale.

The team was highly successful in this year's competition, having previously only undergone a four day tutorial course. Prize winners were:

Sabrina Lomax - Overall Individual Champion (Founders Buckle); Champion Individual Pork Judging; Champion Individual Questions and Reasons.

Sophia Butler - Runner up Overall Individual; Runner up Individual Pork Judging

Catherine Gulliver - Champion Individual Beef Carcase Judging

University of Sydney Team consisting of Sabrina, Sophia, Catherine and Megan Donahoo scored Champion Team in Beef Carcase Judging; and were the Runner up Team in Retail cut and Primal Identification, Questions and Reasons, Placings, Pork Judging and Lamb Judging as well as being the Runner up team for overall competition.

Sabrina, Sophia and Catherine were placed in the top 15 students and have been selected to attend further training in Brisbane (from which 5 are chosen for the Australian team to compete in America).

August Seminar Speakers

Sydney Campus – Wednesdays, 1pm, Webster Lecture Theatre

2 August Grand rounds, UVCS cases

9 August Associate Professor Rosanne Taylor: "Therapy for inherited disease in the developing brain: Lessons from the lysosomal storage disorders" and visiting Professor of Animal Science, University of Hawaii, Charlie Weems: "Pregnancy-Prevention of Luteolysis"

16 August Gwilym Haynes: "Population Genetics of an invasive species, the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in the Murray Darling Basin: Implications for evolution and management." and Dr Lucia Calleja: "Atherosclerosis and Mediterranean diet"

23rd August Professor Leo Jeffcott: "Forty years of clinical research and its application to the horse industry"

30 August Lee Miles: "Towards a microsatellite based linkage map for the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodyllus porosus*) and Kerry Daly: "Leaping and bounding into marsupial immunology"

Camden Campus – Thursdays, 1pm Shute Building Lecture Theatre

3 August Dr Chris Grupen; "From pig cloning to monkey ART; In search of the perfect egg" and Associate Professor Peter Windsor: "The new sensation, too wet a gestation"

17 August Dr Doug Begg; "Seeing spots? Cytokines for sheep" and Michelle Gresham; "Circulating porcine ghrelin concentrations are responsive to energy metabolites and not insulin"

31 August Dr Kumi de Silva : (Topic to be confirmed) and Associate Professor Peter Wynn: "Dairy production in Pakistan and China: What can our Faculty do to assist?"

*** Special Sydney Presentation: Monday 7 August Dr Paul Mills** (University of Queensland Veterinary School): "Enhancing learning (and integration) in Veterinary Science Students using group projects", including a demonstration of "Development of Virtual Microscopy for veterinary teaching" (venue to be confirmed).

Science Week 2006

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists conference

The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (ACVS) held its annual conference in July on the Gold Coast. This event is opportunity for College Members and Fellows who are at the forefront in their fields to present their latest findings in a number of disciplines. Once again the Faculty was well represented by staff and students attending and presenting sessions – two prizes were won in the research abstract session:

Dr Tina Baxter (Veterinary Dermatologist Resident, University Veterinary Centres)

– Ulcerative dermatosis of Border Collies in Australia: a novel disease that may represent a form of Canine Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus.

Ms Susan Gottlieb (BScVet, Year 4 BVSc) – Trends in resistance of canine and feline bacterial isolates to veterinary fluoroquinolones.

Veterinary Public Health Management Course Residential



Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott (centre), pictured with VPHMgt students visiting the Faculty to undertake a residential course. This is one of the opportunities students on this unique online course get to work with each other and lecturers in person. Students are often based in different countries - participants of this course have come from the UK, US, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand.