

Roundhouse

The University of Sydney, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Newsletter, Issue 2, December 1999



Roundhouse

is the official Newsletter
of the University of Sydney,
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Issue No. 2

A Faculty Built To Last
Veterinary Science Foundation Re-launch
VetWeek - The Start of a New Tradition
A Vet's Life - Beyond 2000
Extra Mural Workshop
The Next Generation of Veterinary Leaders
Rocket's Record Shunt
Cryptococcus wins the Prize
Australia's First Adjunct Professor of Veterinary Radiology
Rex Butterfield International Award
Indonesian Presidential Award
New Research into Controlling Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD)
From Brunei to Camden
The Dean in Practice – Out of the Ivory Tower
A Unique Veterinary Degree
International Animal Production Congress

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A Faculty Built to Last

Professor Reuben Rose, Dean

We are at the end of another academic year and despite the hard financial times, the Faculty continues to look to the future to ensure that we produce high quality veterinary graduates who can make major contributions to society, through their understanding and care of animals.

In this general context, I was interested to read the book *Built to Last* by James Collins and Jerry Porras (Century Business, 1998). This book is a detailed and fascinating analysis of US companies that have prospered and endured and have a record of continuing achievement in a changing world. The authors use the word visionary to describe these companies which are widely admired and have made a significant impact on society.

They include 3M, Boeing, General Electric, Merck, IBM and Walt Disney – all companies founded before 1950. In analysing the reasons for these companies' success and leadership, the authors make comparison with other companies that have been successful but are not at the leading edge.

Most of the visionary companies do not have a perfect record of achievement and often have had one or more major financial crises. However, they appear to have been able to cope with these crises, adapt and prosper, against a background of different financial conditions, fashions, leadership styles and personalities.

While the book is concerned with major business corporations, much of the material is relevant to the challenges that we face in veterinary education. In their introduction to the paperback edition of the book published last year, the authors note that in responding to a changing world, the critical question is not "How should we change?" but rather "What do we stand for and why

do we exist?". I believe that the latter question is a key one for us as the oldest veterinary school in Australasia. Our Faculty's vision is to be one of the world's leading veterinary schools, placing the provision of excellence in education as our highest priority. Our ability to continue to prosper will depend on our capacity to cope with change and manage this in a creative way that sustains our core vision and purpose.

Our University of Sydney Plan 1999-2004, promotes our "time honoured traditions" and indicates that we will demonstrate leadership by the innovation and quality of our teaching and research.

These are the key issues for us as a veterinary school and our new curriculum, which for the first time in any Australasian veterinary school has a lecture free final year, is an indication of our capacity to respond in an innovative fashion to a wide range of challenges.

Included in the Faculty's major aims is the development of centres of excellence and the forging of partnerships with the community and the veterinary profession. We have a continuous strategic planning process that has involved academic and general staff and a range of key stakeholders including students, veterinary practitioners, animal owners and research funding organisations. We have used working parties, workshops and

forums, where we challenged ourselves to think about our core purpose to ensure that we take responsibility for our future. It has been difficult to examine ourselves critically and the process has focussed our attention on our need to develop strong and effective relationships with our stakeholders and demonstrate our relevance and importance to the animal industries of Australia.

We have realised that we need to invest in our relationships outside the university to build a strong base of support and to communicate effectively the key role that our Faculty is playing in national life.

Recently, I have visited a number of veterinary practices and was struck by the affection that our alumni have for their University and their willingness to be involved in helping with the clinical training of undergraduate veterinary students. In these times when government support for veterinary education has decreased so alarmingly, it is wonderful to see the support provided by the larger professional family in helping to train the next generation of veterinarians. I have been gratified by the response to the first issue of Roundhouse and look forward to any comments or suggestions that you may have.

May I, on behalf of the Faculty, wish you a peaceful and rewarding Christmas and New Year.



Rocket's Record Shunt

Rocket the Labrador was 4 months old when his owners first noticed he was unwell.

He had not grown as fast as his littermates, was not able to exercise normal and always seemed 'tired'. When he began passing blood in his urine, his owners, Brad and Jacqui Horton, took Rocket to their veterinarian who diagnosed a congenital portosystemic shunt, an abnormal blood vessel allowing blood from the intestines to pass to the body without being processed by the liver. The only chance for Rocket to lead a normal life was to have the shunt closed surgically. An ultrasound examination showed Rocket's shunt to be inside his liver, requiring specialised expertise.

The problem was, Rocket lived in Queensland, and the only centre routinely performing surgery for intrahepatic shunts was the University Veterinary Centre, Sydney.

Distance was no impediment for Rocket's owners, however, who drove to Sydney for the operation. A team of anaesthetists and surgeons performed a two hour operation to locate the shunt

within Rocket's liver and close it. They used a technique where the blood flow to the liver is stopped for between 8 and 12 minutes, allowing the shunt to be localised and a suture placed across it. First developed in Sydney in 1993 by Geraldine Hunt and Christopher Bellenger, this surgical technique was published in the leading



Dr Geraldine Hunt and 4th year student Penny Foster with Robbie Tran, whose owners brought him from Canberra for intrahepatic shunt surgery

international surgical journal, *Veterinary Surgery*, in 1996 and is now used in veterinary schools around the world, including the United States and the United Kingdom.

Four months after his surgery, Brad and Jacqui sent the first of many "Rocket Reports":

20th December 1996: "Today is Rocket's first birthday. HE MADE IT! We are very grateful to you for the role you played in getting him there."

13th August 1997: "It has been one year since Rocket's operation and although we're sure his surgery is an every day event for you it certainly is still very significant for us. We believe that anyone who can give the very special gift of life certainly is extraordinary."

12th September 1998: "It's now been over two years since Rocket's liver shunt operation and we just thought we would drop you a line to let you know that he is living the life of a totally normal labrador; running the house and sleeping in a King sized bed. We thought it was about time Rocket got a job to start paying us back for his medical bills so Brad put him to work at the office as a guard dog. He gets the sack every day!"

Over the last 10 years, the University of Sydney has become an internationally recognised centre for research and surgery of congenital portosystemic shunts in dogs. In addition to the new technique for intrahepatic shunt surgery, Geraldine Hunt and a Master of Veterinary Clinical Sciences student, Ruth Youmans recently reported in the *Australian Veterinary Journal*, a new



Rocket Horton

technique for cellophane banding extrahepatic shunts making the surgery safer and more effective than previous techniques.

This operation has now been performed successfully in over 50 cases at the UVCS, and by surgeons in the United States.

Penny Tisdall, then a BSc(Vet) student, studied portosystemic shunts in Maltese, establishing a breeding program for evaluating the genetics of shunts, and being the first to discover that a common test for shunts (bile acids) were unreliable in the breed.

Another BSc(Vet) student, Janet Hughes, studied outcomes of portosystemic shunt surgery in the largest series of cases published anywhere in the world. Research into the aetiology and better ways of treating congenital cardiovascular anomalies continues at the UVCS, because there is a long way to go yet.

Vet Week '99

The Start of a New Tradition

A new tradition was established in August with the inaugural VetWeek, a series of linked events celebrating Veterinary Science and showcasing the Faculty, its students and staff. Kept to two and a half days for purely logistical reasons, VetWeek revealed a range of hidden talents that crossed many creative boundaries.



Future Vets make music: the classical ensemble

Richard Morecroft, the well-known news presenter for the ABC, and successful inside-the-shirt baby bat-rearer, officially launched VetWeek on Thursday. His well-considered comments enlivened the occasion, and he spent some time talking to students and viewing the research posters prepared by postgraduates and BSc(Vet) students. At lunch the newly-formed veterinary ensemble performed a range of time honoured classics. A series of topical mini-lectures were presented throughout the afternoon by members of Faculty staff.

The Inaugural Awards Ceremony was held in the evening with academic prizes from the previous year presented to the

Dr Henry Collins and
Dr Rosanne Taylor

successful students by the donors, and the winners of the research poster competition and the student competitions - cartooning, photography, poetry and writing, were announced. An auction, held following the awards, raised more than \$7000 for the John Mercer Fund which assists students in financial difficulties. This was followed by a barbecue on the forecourt of the Veterinary Science Conference Centre during which a student band, formed especially for VetWeek, performed some great jazz.

On Friday morning, the entries for the student cartooning, photography, poetry and writing competitions were on display, along with the cartoons produced by Arnie Leon, a British vet graduate, and Kerry Millard and Robert Johnson who studied at Sydney. All three have been extensively published in leading newspapers and journals

Friday afternoon provided a highlight for students at a seminar series at which a number of graduates described their career experiences in practice, Government and the Media. One of the points noted by all speakers was that their veterinary education gave them outstanding problem solving skills.

Sponsors for VetWeek included Guild Insurance, IAMS, Reed Elsevier, Vetgroup Australia, Hill Pet Nutrition, Boehringer Ingelheim, CSL limited, Australian Veterinary Association, Bayer and VetSoc.



Future Vets performing some great jazz

A Vet's Life - Beyond 2000

Dr Rosanne Taylor

The Forum for veterinary students which was held as part of VetWeek looked at the breadth of possibilities for a career in veterinary science. The event was sponsored by The Veterinarian, CSL, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer, Easy Vet and Hills, who presented trade displays during the day.

At this well attended event recent and experienced graduates recounted fascinating personal stories of veterinary work in practice, industry, government, overseas and in the media.

The speakers provided insights into how they cultivated their own career niches and achieved personal fulfilment, often doing something quite different than they had expected.

In keeping with the "feminisation" of the student population, several speakers also considered how they balanced demanding professional and family roles to achieve "a life".

The messages from the afternoon were clear; a) there is more to veterinary science than private practice, b) most graduates sample a variety of veterinary work before finding their career niche and c) the range of possibilities for veterinary employment are immense and limited only by your imagination!

The Next Generation of Veterinary Leaders

The Pfizer Student Leadership Program

Discussions with senior executives at Pfizer Animal Health, Australia earlier this year indicated that the Faculty and Pfizer were both thinking about the vital area of leadership and innovation in the veterinary profession.

This led to a new program at the Faculty of Veterinary Science which may revolutionise the way Veterinary Science students are trained. The Pfizer Student Leadership Program was run as a pilot scheme for 22 students this year, and emphasised the key skills needed to operate in a highly competitive business environment. The program was developed by Professor Reuben Rose and Mr Philip Pogson of Scenario Management and Artistic Services.

"Veterinary Science is no longer simply about looking after animals", Professor Rose said. "Today's vets are expected to be community and business leaders who have a strong sense of service to the communities in which they live and work. Our new leadership program has been specifically designed with this in mind," he said. Both rural and urban veterinary practice has changed radically in recent years and there is now an urgent need for new veterinary skills beyond those contained in the traditional science-based curricula models.

"The next generation of Vets must be leaders in every sense of the word, with the skills to proactively influence and transform animal production industries and to lead animal health and welfare issues at a high level," Professor Rose said.

Key elements of the new program include developing students' skills in areas such as project and change management, decision making and priority setting. The Leadership Development Program will expand its activities for 2000 and will continue to be sponsored by the leading veterinary pharmaceutical company, Pfizer Animal Health, Australia until 2002. The program has been enthusiastically endorsed and welcomed by the many sectors of the veterinary industry.

"This is an exciting and important step forward in preparing the vets of tomorrow to be multi skilled professionals able to anticipate and meet the needs of customers in their community," said Grant Duff, Director of Sales and Marketing with Pfizer Animal Health.

From Brunei to Camden

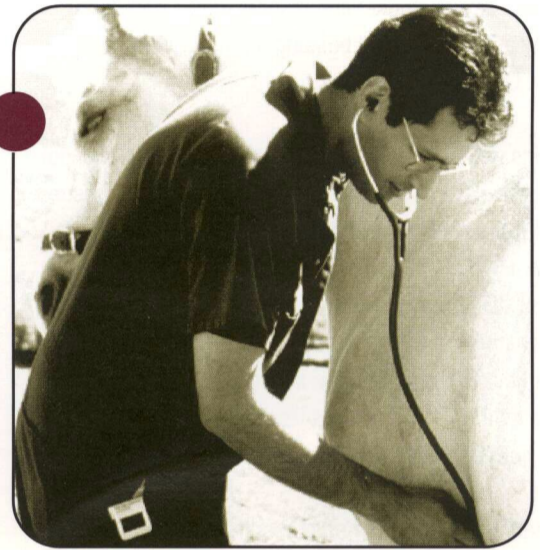
Karim Kooros BVetMed, MRCVS, is the new Senior Registrar at the Equine Ambulatory Service, University Veterinary Centre, Camden.

Karim is a graduate from the Royal Veterinary College, University of London and has more than 10 years experience in equine practice in many parts of the world including England, Australia, South America and Asia.

Most recently Karim was the consulting veterinarian to the Sultan of Brunei and was responsible for the veterinary care of the more than 400 polo ponies and an equal number of brood mares in the Sultan's stable. Prior to that Karim was a senior veterinarian at the Macau Jockey Club where he and another

graduate from the University of Sydney, John Williams, were responsible for the veterinary supervision of more than 1100 thoroughbred racehorses stabled on course at the club.

Karim also has vast experience in general and reproductive equine practice and we are delighted to have secured the services of such a highly skilled veterinarian at the University Veterinary Centre, Camden. Karim will head our Equine Ambulatory Service and is already developing a cadre of clients in the Camden and surrounding area.



Karim Kooros in practice

The Veterinary Science Foundation Re-Launch

Andrew Thyne Reid Charitable Trust Provides Financial Support

The Annual General Meeting of the Veterinary Science Foundation, held earlier this year, saw the retirement of the first President, the Rt Hon JD Anthony and the election of a new President, Mr Dick Austen AO.

At the suggestion of Mr Anthony, a decision was taken to drop the JD Stewart name from the Foundation as it was confusing to a number of donors and benefactors. JD Stewart will still be honoured in the annual JD Stewart Lecture, which was held this year in August during VetWeek.

The Faculty is fortunate to have Mr Austen as the President of the Foundation. He was co-founder of Austen and Butta Limited, a coal mining and marketing company and in 1982 was awarded the Order of Australia for services to the Australian Coal Industry. He has also been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of New England for services to industry and the University. Dick has been the Chairman of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation and currently is the Chairman of the Sydney Aquarium, a Director of Eltin Limited, Australia's largest contract miner, the Chairman of Hassall & Associates and the President of the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association. Dick has a number of pastoral interests and, with his wife, operates beef cattle properties at Hartley and Coonamble in NSW and at Clermont in Queensland. He is Chairman of the Armidale based Cooperative Research Centre for the Cattle and Beef Industry (Meat Quality).

The concept underpinning the Veterinary Science Foundation is that the general community has a vital interest in improving animal health and welfare, and veterinarians are seen as playing a key role in this task. The Foundation and the Faculty have the

opportunity to leverage the positive response animal issues raise in the community, and link this to the highly favourable and trusting view held of veterinarians. The Foundation recognises that the veterinary profession is changing rapidly, driven by increasing urbanisation, the ongoing crisis in the rural industries, new diagnostic and treatment technologies, and rising public interest in animal health, welfare and conservation issues. The Foundation now sees itself not only as a fundraiser, but as engaging in a broad range of activities which will strengthen the "brand" of the Faculty, build new partnerships, influence and educate the public, and highlight the leadership role Veterinarians play in many aspects of Australian life.

The Foundation has identified four major areas which offer potential for raising support:

- Companion Animal Health and Welfare
- Corporations
- Livestock Health and Production
- Wildlife Conservation

The Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor (College of Sciences and Technology) have agreed to invest strategic funds for three years, to permit the Foundation to progress and seek outside support. This commitment from the Vice-Chancellor helped us in seeking the support of the Andrew Thyne Reid Trust, which has agreed to provide support for the Foundation in its fundraising objectives. In addition, the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science have offered their support for this financial year.

The Veterinary Science Foundation is off to a good re-launch and will take up residence in a renovated office in the original Veterinary Science Faculty building.

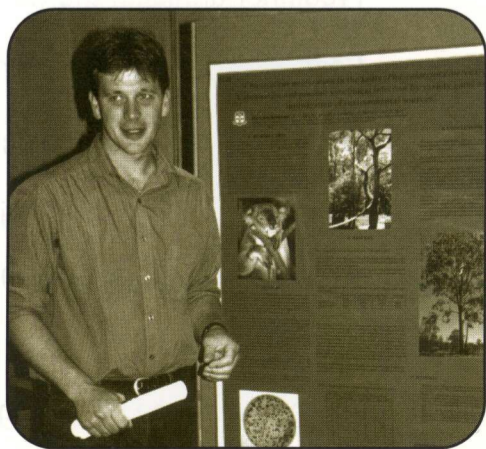
Cryptococcus Wins the Prize

Mark Krockenberger, PhD student in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, has won a prize which all research students will understand the importance of.

It was awarded for the "best submitted poster presentation" at the 4th International Conference on Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis held at the Royal Society, London 12th-16th September 1999.

His poster was entitled "*Cryptococcus neoformans* in the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*): Colonisation and possible subclinical infection by the variety *gattii* and investigation of environmental sources." and the authors were Mark Krockenberger, R Malik, P Canfield, J Connolly, C Halliday and D Muir.

The first four are from the Faculty of Veterinary science at Sydney University while C Halliday is from the Department of Microbiology at Sydney University and D Muir is from the Australian Mycology Reference Laboratory, Royal North Shore Hospital.



Mark Krockenberger, winner of best poster award.

The work was funded by a generous donation from the Estate of WV Scott and travel to London was assisted by The British Society for Medical Mycology.

Australia's First Adjunct Professor of Veterinary Radiology

Graeme Allan is the first veterinary practitioner to be appointed to the post of Adjunct Professor.



Professor Graeme Allan

In 1976 the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association honoured him with the award of Practitioner of the Year.

Professor Allan graduated from the University Sydney Veterinary School in 1966 and from 1968 to 1977 he worked in North Shore small animal veterinary practices. He completed a part-time Masters degree in Veterinary Radiology at the University of Sydney in June 1970 and in

In 1977 he travelled to the United States and joined the Radiology Section of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences as a Resident and became Assistant Professor with a Diplomate from the American College of Veterinary Radiology. He returned to Australia and in 1980 commenced in practice as a veterinary radiologist achieving Fellowship of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (Radiology) in 1982. From 1984 to the present he has been Consultant Veterinary Radiologist to the University of Sydney Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Currently, he is the senior partner in Veterinary Imaging Associates and has a significant role teaching veterinary students at the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney.

Professor Allen has undertaken a wide range of research projects, predominantly with small animals. He has contributed to a number of professional organisations and has been very active with presentations and short courses to the profession through the Australian Small Animal Association, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and the Postgraduate Foundation in Veterinary Science. The award to Graeme Allan of the title of Adjunct Professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences is a fitting recognition of the key role that he plays in teaching and research at the University of Sydney.

International Award for Professor Rex Butterfield

Emeritus Professor Rex Butterfield was the 1999 recipient of the American Meat Science Association International Award.

Emeritus Professor Rex Butterfield was the 1999 recipient of the American Meat Science Association International Award. This Award was established to honour an individual for internationally recognised contributions to meat science and technology and the promotion of international activities in this field.

Professor Butterfield attended Roseworthy Agricultural College in South Australia from 1938 to 1940 after which he enrolled at the University of Adelaide for one year prior to serving from 1941 to 1945 in the Australian Army during World War II. He attended Sydney University from 1945–1950 where he earned a Bachelor of Veterinary Science. He then spent 10 years in private practice as a country veterinarian where he worked with horses, sheep and cattle. In 1960 Professor Butterfield moved to Queensland to become a Research Fellow at the University of Queensland

where he spent the next 6 years doing research on growth and body composition. While there he submitted his thesis on Reproduction in Thoroughbred Mares and was granted a Masters in Veterinary Science in 1961.

While at Queensland Professor Butterfield and his colleagues advanced the concept that muscle, fat and bone develop at variable but systematic rates. He and NDS May published the book *Muscles of the Ox* in which they not only identified the various muscles but also traced their origin and termination and their contributions to total muscle mass.

His anatomical approach to understanding muscle, fat and bone growth led to a PhD in 1963. In 1966 Professor Butterfield was appointed the first Professor of Veterinary Anatomy at the

University of Sydney. From 1970-73 and again from 1978-79 he served as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. In recognition of his research contributions to meat science, to the veterinary profession and to animal industries he was honoured by the University of Sydney with the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in 1996. Professor Butterfield is the author and co-author of numerous books, research publications and presentations. It is doubtful if any other meat researcher has exerted as much influence on the growth and development of meat animals – the fundamental basis of meat – as Professor Butterfield.

His work has influenced animal growth and thus meat production worldwide. The Faculty offers its congratulations to a very worthy recipient.

A Unique Veterinary Degree

Dr David Evans,
Associate Dean, Teaching

The Faculty of Veterinary Science completed a comprehensive review of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) in 1999. The review has involved not only academic staff and students, but also members of the veterinary profession. The review process identified many areas that needed improvement, and the revised course will commence with the Year 1 students enrolling in 2000.

One of the driving philosophies has been greater integration of topics within the course, and a need for more contextual learning. At the moment the course is dominated by "basic sciences" in Years 1 and 2, and students do not begin to deal with real problems in animal health or animal production until Year 4, when they commence work in the University Veterinary Centres.

The Faculty has therefore committed to earlier introduction of units of study that deal with animal behaviour, clinical problems and diseases and the integration of topics. In addition, new topics have been introduced that deal with some of the core elements of veterinary practice, such as communication and business skills.

Some important features of the new course include:

- Physics will no longer be taught as a discrete unit of study in Year 1. Appropriate content will be introduced contextually throughout the course.
- Chemistry content will be reduced and revised, reflecting the specific needs of the Faculty.

- Biochemistry and Cytology content will be integrated in new units of study in Cell Biology presented in Year 1.
- Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology units will be integrated in Years 1 and 2.
- A new unit in Veterinary Conservation Biology will be introduced in Year 2.
- New Professional Practice units will be introduced for Years 1-3. These units emphasise personal and professional development, and focus on generic skills and attributes of students. They will also facilitate contact between students and veterinary practices, and problems and scenarios in veterinary science will be studied from Year 1. Examples of issues covered include aspects of animal welfare, client communication, grief management, and legislative concerns in veterinary science.
- Units in Bacteriology, Virology and Parasitology will be replaced by units in Veterinary Pathobiology. The new units

“new topics have been introduced that deal with some of the core elements of veterinary practice”

will emphasise an integrated approach to cases and problems in animal disease.

- A new unit in Animal Behaviour and Welfare Science will be introduced in Year 3 of the course.
- Animal Husbandry in Year 1 will be expanded, and will integrate selected topics. Aspects of feeding and management of companion animals will be expanded in these units.

- Animal Genetics and Biometry will be also taught as an integrated unit of study in Year 2.
- The new course will also introduce a new elective unit in Year 5.

Clinical 'Internship' in Final Year

In addition, the Faculty will introduce a major change to the final two years of the degree.

Students will spend their final year in clinical practice activities, in what will be in effect, an "internship" prior to practice. The new course structure involves students completing their lectures and practical classes in 4th year, with the first half of the year at Sydney and the second half at Camden.

There will be limited clinical case management during this year but the students will be involved in practical classes to gain expertise in medicine, surgery, radiology, anaesthesia and clinical pathology of both small and large animals. The final year will then be a practice-based year, with periods of time spent in the University Veterinary Centres at Sydney and Camden, as well as in private veterinary practices.

We believe that these changes will permit students to make the best use of clinical case material during their final year. We are confident that these changes to the course will retain the strong scientific background that has been a long-term strength of the degree.

The changes will also contribute to development of the skills and professional competence of our graduates, and so ease the transition to the sometimes very demanding work schedules and challenges involved in a veterinary practice.

Research into Controlling Ovine Johne's Disease

Since the first diagnosis in 1980, the number of sheep flocks in NSW known to be affected by OJD has risen to over 300, with much of the increase in the past three years. The diagnosis of OJD has a substantial impact on the profitability of affected flocks, not just for the direct effect of the disease but also as a result of restrictions on trade which have been financially crippling for some producers.

Despite intense interest in the disease amongst sheep owners, little is known about the epidemiology of OJD in Australian sheep flocks. Attempts to control the disease within sheep flocks and limit the impact it has on flock production must be based on sound epidemiological knowledge - knowledge which is seriously lacking at present.

In August a research team, headed by Dr Kym Abbott of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, commenced a 3 year study to investigate the ways in which young sheep become infected with *Mycobacterium avium* subsp *paratuberculosis* and to determine the best strategies to protect sheep from contracting the disease.

The aims of the research program are to provide workable recommendations to affected producers on managing OJD to reduce the impact that the disease has on the health, welfare and productivity of their flocks, and to provide insights into the epidemiology and immunology of OJD in neonatal and weaned sheep.

The \$580,000 grant for the study is provided from the National Ovine Johne's Disease Control and Evaluation Program, administered by the Australian Animal Health Council and Meat and Livestock Australia.

Dr Richard Whittington, from NSW Agriculture, is the principal collaborator in the project. Two other members of the Veterinary

Clinical Science staff, Miss Helen McGregor and Mr Craig Kristo, will be involved in aspects of the research.

Field work for the experiment is being conducted at Arthursleigh Farm, the University's large grazing property at Marulan in the southern Tablelands.

Laboratory studies will be conducted at the Department's laboratories in the JL Shute Building at Camden and the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute at Menangle.



Kym Abbott

Bayer Supports Extramural Clinical Program Workshop

Dr Jill Maddison

On Saturday November 13th, The Faculty hosted a workshop and lunch for veterinarians involved in the extramural clinical practice program for 4th and 5th year veterinary students. The workshop was very generously supported by Bayer.

Veterinarians travelled from as far afield as Moruya, Wollongong, the Central Coast and Bathurst to attend and participate in very fruitful discussions about adult learning issues, assessment of students and features of the extramural program that could be improved. The Faculty is most grateful to those who attended as the extramural clinical program is a vital part of the undergraduate educational experience and the enthusiastic participation of the veterinary profession plays a key role in its success. The notes from the meeting are being collated and will be circulated to participating practices.

Indonesian Presidential Award

A former Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, Dr RVS Bain has been acknowledged for his outstanding work on the health of the Indonesian livestock industry by the award of Outstanding Star Medal from the Indonesian Government.



Dr Bob Bain with Reuben Rose

He was awarded the medal for long and loyal service to Indonesian development, from the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

The award was officially made on August 17, 1998

(Indonesia's National Day). However, Dr Bain was not able to travel to Indonesia and receive the medal due to illness, so a representative from the Indonesian consulate in Sydney came to his home and formally presented it to him in January. This extraordinary medal, which is a great honour, especially for a non-Indonesian, recognises the enormous input that Dr Bain had to Indonesian animal health activities over many years. A small ceremony was held by the Faculty in July to acknowledge Dr Bain's award.

The Dean in Practice:

Out of the Ivory Tower

During November, the Dean, Professor Reuben Rose, visited a large number of veterinary practices throughout the Sydney metropolitan area.

The aim of these practice visits was to find out how the Faculty could better assist and support practitioners. Also discussed were methods to enhance the clinical practical work program where students visit practices for a total of 6 weeks experience in practice.

The key points raised by veterinary practitioners were:

- All enjoyed having students in their practice.
- A clear definition of the learning objectives and tasks would assist them in enhancing the students' experience.
- The key issue for most practitioners is communication - making students aware of this was extremely important.
- The financial and business concepts of students and new graduates were very limited and needed improvement.
- Finding associate veterinarians for practice would be difficult in the future.

All practices visited were delighted with the approach of the new curriculum and a number of practitioners have agreed to help in the teaching of the new unit of study called Professional Practice. The Dean will be visiting country practices in the new year.

International Animal Production Congress

The Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production is an umbrella organisation representing the diversity of interests of animal production societies throughout our region from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to Japan and South Korea as well as Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and New Zealand.

The executive of this organisation rotates through the region according to the location of the venue for the next biennial scientific meeting.

The next meeting will be held at the University of NSW from 2 - 7 July 2000 in conjunction with the biennial meeting of the Australian Society of Animal Production. The strength of this meeting is the unique mixture of topical issues covering the full spectrum of activities from the molecular through to the management of animals in extensive grazing ecosystems. This year the meeting will focus on the requirements of the consumer, the development of novel products and consumer perceptions of

animal production have been emphasised. The growth in the world population and competition for rate limiting resources such as land and water have resulted in many of the animal industries undergoing change to meet both consumer and environmental demands.

The Faculty is well represented on the organising committee with Associate Professor Frank Nicholas as Federal President of the Society and Associate Professor Peter Wynn as Secretary of the Society and of the organising committee. This meeting is one not to be missed and if you are interested in attending the meeting, please refer to the conference web site at www.asap.asn.au

The Roundhouse

Associate Professor,
Paul Canfield

Do You Remember?

Nobody visiting the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Sydney could help but notice the quaint black wooden rotunda, topped by a weather vane depicting a pointing dog, sitting slap-bang in the centre of administrative buildings, laboratories and lecture theatres. Nobody could deny its uniqueness uniqueness bordering on the bizarre?

And yet this oddity was purpose built for the Faculty. It even has a building code, B11, which suggests that it was no 'fly-by-night' construction!

So, what's the story behind this eccentric structure; surely it wasn't built as a joke? Rest assured, this is not the case. The Round House has both historical and architectural significance, and is currently a heritage listed building on the Camperdown Campus of The University of Sydney.

The story begins with the establishment of the Veterinary School and its opening in 1910. In those days, the horse was the *raison d'être* for veterinary science; and the horse comprised many of the animal clients visiting the clinic in the School. In those early years, Professor JD Stewart, the first Professor and Dean of the school, was constantly battling the University for new and improved facilities. He knew that the survival of the School depended on its clinical prowess and its capacity to train veterinarians, both of which were intrinsically linked.

One of his requests was based on the need for on-campus accommodation for a farrier and horse attendant. It is purported

that he sold this idea to the University on the basis of the need for improved security in the veterinary precinct: being next to Parramatta Road, the area was exposed to any Tom, Dick or Harry walking off the street and interfering with the animal clients stabled or held. Whether this risk was real or not, the argument was convincing and the University approved funding for the building of an animal attendant's lodge on the 23rd of August 1920. So where does the Roundhouse come in? Well, it just so happens that at the same time The University also agreed to provide funding for the building of an animal observation box (the original title of the Roundhouse). Professor JD Stewart was obviously a convincing individual.

By October 1920, the plans for the attendant's lodge and observation box had been drawn up by Professor Leslie Wilkinson, and by the 13th of December a tender had been accepted to the value of £2202. Now this process may seem to be exceedingly fast by today's standards, but never fear, the construction took some 3-4 years to complete. There is no doubt that the foundations for both buildings were laid in 1921, but the completion date is a little hazy. Both buildings first appear in the 1923 University Calendar; but it is more than likely that completion occurred in 1924. Of course, there was an excuse for this delay in completion, one that actually may have been true. Construction of the two buildings was close to the site of the old Orphan School Creek and a large collection pond, which probably meant that the foundations had to be revised and perhaps shored up over a period of time.

So, why is the Roundhouse important to The University? Well, it stems from the fact that it and the attendant's lodge are some of the earliest examples of University buildings designed by Leslie



The Roundhouse by Faculty artist Bozena Jantulik

Wilkinson. Leslie Wilkinson was said to be the first University Architect. Before him, University buildings were designed by the New South Wales Government Architect.

And why is the Roundhouse important to The Veterinary Faculty? That's simple, it is part of our heritage and tradition. Its initial use was for the observation of veterinary procedures carried out on horses. However, with the decline of the use of the horse and the rise of dogs and cats as household pets, the use of the Roundhouse also declined. There were periods of complete disuse and consequent deterioration. But many past veterinary students would fondly remember the end of term kegs held near or in the Roundhouse. Some might even remember the nude plays put on by the Sydney University Drama Society. These were definite highlights and were only discontinued when students complained of their lecturers missing too many classes!

Today, the Roundhouse is in need of renovation, which is imminent and absolutely essential. Until then, it will continue to be lovingly cared for by staff and students, and to be occupied by an indigenous family of brushtail possums!

Faculty of Veterinary Science University of Sydney

Year 2000 Alumni Dinner

Saturday February 12th 2000 from 7.30 pm

McLaurin Hall, Main Quadrangle, The University of Sydney

After Dinner Speaker, Ian Kiernan

Master of Ceremonies, David Church

Predinner drinks in the Quad

Cost: \$85/head or \$750 for a table of 10* (*table of 10 must be organised, booked and paid for by one person)

Organise a table of friends from your year and relive old memories!

All alumni will be sent individual invitations in early January, however, if you do not receive one or would like further information prior to then please contact:

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