ROUND HOUSE

Newsletter of the
Veterinary Science Foundation
of the University of Sydney

Issue 12 May 2005

VSF
because animals matter

The Henry and Banjo Garden

ROUNDHOUSE

The Henry and Banjo Garden is a beautiful sandstone garden created to honour and cherish the memory of our animal friends. Located adjacent to the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney, it is a unique space where solid cast metal bowls, engraved in memory of much-loked pets, will sit on aged sandstone. Funds raised from the garden will directly benefit the building campaign for the University Veterinary Centre redevelopment.

CONTENTS
ISSUE 12 MAY 2005

All images by Kristen Clarke unless otherwise noted.

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;

Professor Leo Jeffcott, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science.

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.

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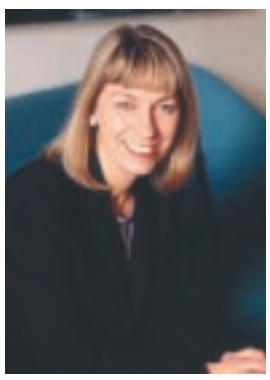
The Veterinary Science Foundation of the University of Sydney is the promotional and fundraising arm of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.



Dr Jennie Churchill, Director, Veterinary Science Foundation.

contact us

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ANIMALIA
Australian Youth Orchestra, Marshall McGuire and friends in a musical celebration of animals

Australian Youth Orchestra

AYO

Above: The young musicians of the Australian Youth Orchestra will star, with featured soloists including harpist Marshall McGuire, in the Veterinary Science Foundation's 2005 fundraising concert.

The best of the brilliant musicians of the Australian Youth Orchestra will come together for the Veterinary Science Foundation's 2005 fundraising concert, Animalia, to be held on Thursday 1 December in the Conservatorium of Music, Sydney.

The evening will be a unique, one-off performance of magnificent music, created by renowned harpist and musical curator Marshall McGuire specially for the Veterinary Science Foundation. ABC journalist and broadcaster Sally Loane will host the evening.

Animalia will feature, performing with the Australian Youth Orchestra, invited singers and instrumentalists including Riley Lee, Australia's only Grand Master of the exquisite Japanese flute, the shakuhachi. Expect an entertaining evening of wonderful music and, of course, a salute to animals of all kinds.

Animalia follows *Carnival of the Animals* – the Foundation's successful 2004 concert performed by the Australian Chamber Orchestra with Michael Leunig, which raised well over $80,000. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges our 2004 concert donors, attendees and sponsors: Accor Hotels and Resorts, Qantas, KPMG, Perpetual Trustees, ASX Perpetual Registrar Limited, Car Kleen Group, Meat and Livestock Australia, MBF Australia Ltd, Scopenergy, Royal Agricultural Society NSW, David Lawrence and Jigsaw, Oracle Corporation Australia, Pittendrigh Shinkfield and Bruce, Rose Bay Veterinary Hospital, Fiona and James Balfour, Maurice and Jeanette Newman, Deborah Smithers and John McMurtrie and Tyrrell's Wines.

Don't miss an invitation – contact us on (02) 9351 8026 or vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

great BiG AniMaL OpEn Day

On Sunday 9 October 2005, the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney is inviting the general public to visit the new Valentine Charlton Cat Centre. The event is part of the inaugural Great Big Animal Open Day – a new initiative of the Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners Branch (SMPB) of the Australian Veterinary Association (NSW). On the day, the Veterinary Science Foundation is joining with the University Veterinary Centre to stage a special ceremony commemorating the new Henry and Banjo Garden, our memorial in honour of animal friends.

The Great Big Animal Open Day, timed to celebrate World Animal Day on 4 October, will provide an opportunity for all Sydney veterinary hospitals to open their doors to the community. The SMPB hopes the event will grow and extend in future years to embrace rural as well as metropolitan veterinary practices statewide. **Visit the website: www.animalopenday.com**

2005 J D STEWART ADDRESS

Cenvet

Professor Richard Whittington, Chair of Farm Animal Health, will deliver the 2005 J D Stewart Address on Friday 15 July.

The presenter of the 2005 J D Stewart Address, Professor Richard Whittington, aims to deconstruct the narrow perception of veterinarians as carers of individual animals with his Address titled: "Global Veterinary Defence – new roles for vets in public health, food safety, emerging diseases and bioterrorism".

Eminent research scientist and the Faculty's Chair of Farm Animal Health, Professor Whittington says veterinarians are increasingly working in critical front-line roles around the world, fighting emerging diseases and public health issues that affect humans as adversely as they do animals.

Sponsored by Cenvet Australia, the 2005 J D Stewart Address and reception will be held on the evening of Friday 15 July – contact the Foundation for more information.

FEDERAL FUNDING SUCCESS

The Faculty and the Veterinary Science Foundation successfully developed a proposal to secure a $2 million grant from the federal Department of Education, Science and Training's capital development pool fund. The grant, together with funds already allocated by the University towards this project, will support the construction of a new lecture theatre and teaching complex on the Camden Campus.

BACHELOR OF ANIMAL AND VETERINARY BIOSCIENCE

EXPANDING OUR DEGREE BASE

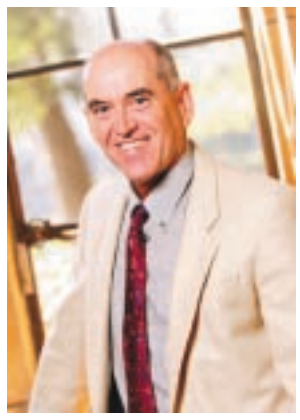
A new four-year degree program, Animal and Veterinary Bioscience, has been launched by the University of Sydney and will be administered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The new degree commenced in February 2005 with a higher-than-anticipated first intake of 75 HECS and four full fee paying students (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 in an agricultural, para-veterinary, laboratory or wildlife context. Students will learn how to apply the knowledge and principles of science to the understanding and management of the production, processing and marketing of animal products and to the management and conservation of our natural resources, including native and endangered species. Students must complete a major research project, taking up 50% of their final year.

The degree provides an excellent pathway to careers in the animal industries, and animal and biomedical research. Three faculties are contributing teaching resources: Veterinary Science 50%, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources 35%, and Science 15%.

Professor Chris Moran, the Faculty's Sub-Dean for Agriculture Teaching, said: "The Faculty of Veterinary Science has a strong commitment to postgraduate research. We are already benefiting from our previous undergraduate teaching in Animal Science, which has provided a steady stream of highly valued PhD students, and this is set to expand considerably with the new degree. These PhD students are working in fields as diverse as quantitative and molecular genetics, animal behaviour, wildlife nutrition and reproduction, endangered species conservation, and assisted reproductive technology, as well as the more traditional areas of animal production research."

"There is concern in the agricultural industries about the decline in educational opportunities for appropriately trained scientists. This new degree will provide a very positive boost in graduates trained in animal science to meet the needs of animal production industries and the broader



Right: Professor Chris Moran, Sub-Dean for Agriculture Teaching and the Faculty staff member responsible for the new degree program.

Left: L to R: First year Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience students, Melanie Booth, Danlu Hsu and Tom Vowell.

aspirations of potential students," he said.

First Year student Danlu 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," Danlu 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.

AVMA REVISITS FACULTY

VSF

Above: The American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation site visit team, led by Professor Mary Christopher (third from right, front row). Associate Professor Jennie Hodgson (centre front) coordinated the comprehensive visit on behalf of the Faculty.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accreditation site visit team made its second visit to the Faculty over four intensive days in April. A final decision on the Faculty's bid for accreditation will be made by the full AVMA Council of Education in October 2005, and if granted, accreditation will be backdated to 14 April 2005.

The Chair of the group, Professor Mary Christopher from the University of California Davis, delivered positive commendations in the team's exit interview with senior University personnel, including Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Hirst. Professor Christopher said the group was most impressed with the Faculty's students, staff, teaching program and its research profile.

The Faculty is grateful to the alumni who met privately with the AVMA team to give their personal thoughts on issues such as the curriculum, alumni relations and graduate attributes: Dr Vera Pickering, Dr Julia Crawford, Dr Garth McGilvray, Dr Madeleine Richard, Dr Chris Brown, Dr Katherine Briscoe, and Dr Magdoline Awad.

THE NEW DOG CENTRE

Above: The new Dog Centre, Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the Faculty's small animal teaching hospital at Sydney. Digital image by Architects Gordon and Valich.

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 Julia Beatty and Vanessa Barrs, 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 the company's tremendous generosity follows similar significant support from the Provet group of companies, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Apex Laboratories, and Novartis Animal Health.

All donations to the Veterinary Science Foundation are tax deductible. For further information about how you can donate to our campaign to build a world class teaching hospital, or to arrange a visit to the new Cat Centre, please contact Jennie Churchill on (02) 9351 8024 or jenniec@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 magnificent 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.

Henry and Banjo's special garden is also helping future generations of animals: funds raised from the remembrance bowls are directly supporting the building campaign for the new teaching hospital. The remembrance bowls are 125mm in diameter and available in three materials and prices: $2,000 (aluminium), $5,000 (brass) and $10,000 (bronze).

The garden will be commemorated with a special ceremony on 9 October 2005 as part of World Animal Day celebrations and the Great Big Animal Open Day.

Gifts to the Veterinary Science Foundation are tax deductible and the donation for a bowl can be pledged over three to five years. For further information, please contact the Veterinary Science Foundation on (02) 9351 8026 or vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

The sandstone forming the Henry and Banjo Garden has come from historic Australian buildings including Maitland Jail and the Singer Sewing Company.

FELINE RESIDENT

Dr Amy Lingard (above) has joined the Small Animal Medicine Referral Service at the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney. Amy is undertaking a Residency 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 generous support of corporate sponsors. These companies directly contribute towards the education of the vets of the future, to animal health 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 Sydney (UVCS) – a portable clinical analyser 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.

Apex 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.

Boerhinger Ingelheim sponsors the Canine Desexing Clinic.

Cenvet Australia is principal sponsor of the 2005 J D Stewart Address and the new Companion Animal Practitioner in Residence Program.

Hill's Pet Nutrition was the first corporate to provide a major contribution to the new UVCS buildings.

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

Pfizer Australia funds a range of projects – the Canine Desexing Clinic, a major koala research project, and is 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.

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 teams 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 – 44 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 Johne's Disease – the Faculty and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), through a $3.2 million grant funded by the sheep industry, are partners in intensive on-farm and laboratory-based research into the devastating and ultimately fatal disease of sheep, Ovine Johne'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, focused on 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 Immunisation Research; Westmead 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 Johne's disease research groups are advancing studies on intractable problems facing the sheep industry: gastrointestinal nematodes that have developed resistance to common anthelmintics, and paratuberculosis.

DR BRIAN JONES

Massive devastation of wild pilchards occurred around the Australian coastline in both 1995 and 1998, the cause subsequently identified as a herpesvirus.

In 1995 and 1998 there were major epizootics in pilchards that spread from South Australia around the southern coastline of Australia until the entire geographic range of pilchards in Australian waters was affected. A herpesvirus was identified as the cause.

The virus caused a loss of 60% of pilchard biomass, devastation of the pilchard fishery and secondary effects on piscivorous birds such as penguins which subsequently failed to breed.

Professor Richard Whittington, Chair of Farm Animal Health, played an integral role in the investigation of the 1995 outbreak under the Joint Pilchard 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 still currently 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 infected fish, 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, and the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation is funding the project.

Jennie Mohler is a Bachelor of Science (Vet) and PhD student undertaking a research project aimed at protecting livestock from Salmonella.

Salmonellae 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 would still be a more economically effective way to manage disease caused by the Salmonella pathogen.

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 with national collaborators Dr Keith Walker and Dr Michael Hornitzky, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (NSW DPI), and international collaborators Dr Michael Mahan and Mr 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 avirulent, 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 Enterotoxogenic E. coli), with a resultant improvement in the health and productivity of livestock and reduction in Salmonella contamination of livestock. Equally significantly, the project team hopes to enhance food safety through a reduction in Salmonella contamination of livestock-derived food products.

The Faculty is involved in national research to develop models of emerging infectious diseases, such as avian influenza, that could have a catastrophic effect on both animal and human health in Australia.

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 Toribio 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.

FACULTY

Above: PhD student Nicole Schembri.

Left: Dr Trish Holyoake, Senior Lecturer, Intensive Animal Industries. Trish's current research interests include biosecurity for the Australian pork industry, improving the performance of gilts and their progeny, reducing pregnancy loss during seasonal infertility and disease diagnosis on smallholder pig farms in Vietnam.

BIOSECURITY FOR THE PORK INDUSTRY

Disturbing gaps have been identified in our ability to identify and monitor pig health in a significant sector of the pig-rearing 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 Schembri'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-rearing 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 NSW, Victorian and Queensland Departments of Primary Industries, WA Department of Agriculture, Rural Lands Protection Board, QAF Meat Industries, and Australian Pork Ltd.

Evelyn Hall, one of the Faculty's Dairy CRC PhD students, was invited to present her research project at the March 2005 Australian Dairy Conference Young Scientist's Competition. Evelyn's research project is using existing dairy herd data to characterise the lactation curve and establish Estimated Breeding Values for desirable lactation characteristics.

RESEARCH
IT'S ALL GOOD NEWS

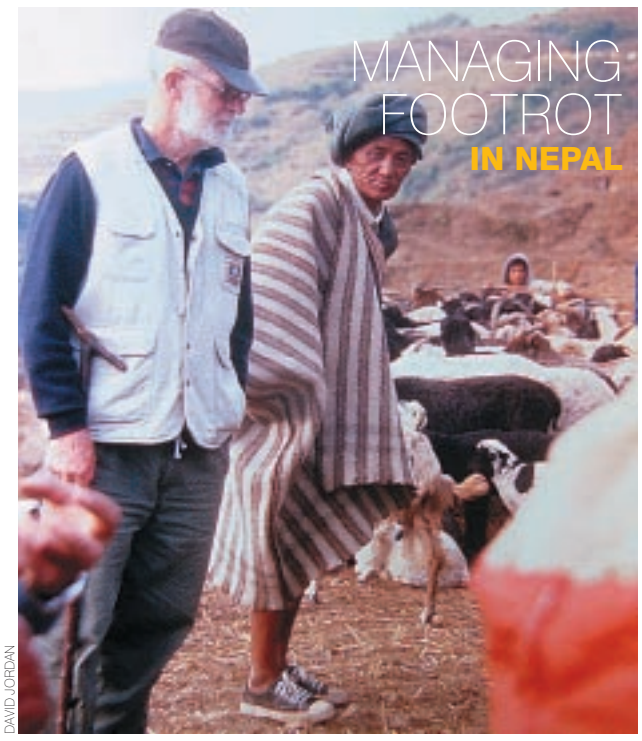
The Faculty of Veterinary Science is enjoying record research achievements, fulfilling one of its core businesses and a key focus of the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan.

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 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 experience surveys, continued high completion rates, a postgraduate supervision award, and a University postdoctoral fellowship".

Professor Gareth Evans, Associate Dean for Research.



DAVID JORDAN

Internationally-renowned veterinarian and footrot expert, Emeritus Professor John Egerton, with a shepherd in Nepal.

Footrot was introduced into the migratory flocks of Siklis 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 Agriculture Centre in Nepal (LAC). By that time the disease had spread to the flocks of the adjoining districts of Lamjung and Manang.

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 Dichelobacter nodosus involved 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 all previously conventionally vaccinated flocks 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 anamnestic 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL MASTITIS

FACULTY

Masters student Lucy Shum with one of her bovine research participants.

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 Streptococci and Staphylococci 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 reflects the prevalence of disease in pasture-fed dairy cattle. In contrast, the dairy industry in NSW comprises a diversity of management systems ranging from pasture-based to intensive freestall production systems. In fact, over the last 10 years, there has been a steady and continuing trend towards intensification of the NSW dairy industry with more farms providing supplementary or total mixed ration feeding similar to dairy production systems in Europe and the United States.

Early results of mastitis cultures conducted at the University Veterinary Centre at Camden from intensive dairy production systems in NSW show that coliform mastitis appears to have a higher incidence than has been reported from Victoria. The results of this study, if significantly different to Victorian data, will have important ramifications for mastitis treatment and management in the NSW dairy industry.

FROM GOURAMIS TO MURRAY COD

VSF

Veterinary student Jeffrey Go (centre) receiving the 2004 H R Canne Prize for Excellence in Bachelor of Science (Vet) from the Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott (left), and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Beryl Hesketh (right).

The research project of Bachelor of Science (Vet) student Jeffrey Go not only provided proof that highly contagious diseases of the Australian aquaculture industry have the capacity to be introduced through the ornamental fish trade, the findings of his study were communicated to relevant government authorities, leading to a review of import policy for freshwater ornamental fish.

Through his impressive research, Jeffrey also became the recipient of the annual 2004 H R Canne Prize for Excellence in Bachelor of Science (Vet).

His project was initiated following the 2003 outbreak of iridoviral disease in Murray cod in an aquaculture facility in Victoria that resulted in 90% losses. Laboratory testing of viral inclusions did not indicate epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus infection, the only systemic iridoviral disease of fish known to occur naturally in Australia.

A molecular epidemiological approach was undertaken to determine the relationship between this new virus and other iridoviruses. Results showed an extremely high nucleotide sequence homology between the Murray cod iridovirus (MCIV) and tropiviruses, particularly infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus and dwarf gourami iridovirus (DGIV), indicating that MCIV and DGIV were strains of the one species of tropivirus.

These findings suggested a common geographic origin, and the entry of Murray cod iridovirus into Australia through trade in ornamental fish.

This was confirmed in a survey of routine mortalities in gouramis from pet shops in Sydney that showed positive testing for the iridovirus in gouramis in two of four pet shops. The disease was subsequently shown to be transmissable to Murray cod through cohabitation and organ filtrates.

FACULTY

Left: Helen McGregor is one of a number of PhD students working on the epidemiology and management of Ovine Johne's Disease.

OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE
WILL GUDAIR MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The University of Sydney has a strong research interest in Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) epidemiology and is extending this research into on-farm studies. Helen McGregor's PhD project, funded by Meat and Livestock Australia, includes improving existing knowledge on the use and effects of Gudair ® vaccine in OJD infected flocks.

To date, the recommended use of Gudair ® vaccine is limited to young sheep in an attempt to protect sheep before OJD pathology becomes advanced. This project looks at the vaccination of all sheep on an OJD-affected farm experiencing very high mortality rates. The major cause of the deaths was first proven to be OJD by post mortem findings and these suggested an annual mortality OJD rate of 18.1% (+/- 12%).

On this property, vaccination was favoured as the quickest way to reduce OJD-contamination of pastures, the incidence of OJD and the death rate due to OJD.

Vaccination is considered by many graziers to be their best option for reducing losses and managing the disease. Careful documentation of the effects of vaccination in this high prevalence infected flock will enhance knowledge and understanding of the benefits of the whole-flock vaccination strategy.

This information will have immediate application to a large number of affected producers in NSW who have chosen or are considering vaccination as their major or initial method of OJD control.

CLOSE UP

STUDENT PROFILE
KIM BONNER

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.

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 choice. 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, mountaineering, living in Italy, spending more time with 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 conduct teleconferences with mooing 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 assuming 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, 'Leander' (Rex Rabbit). 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 tranquillity of the outdoors and the creatures that live there.

RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARD
SUPPORTING THE YEAR 5 EXPERIENCE

The NSW Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) is providing crucial rural veterinary experience 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 interns 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 zoos and research experience to the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr Clive Roberts is the District Veterinarian for the Dubbo RLPB and his personal contribution to the program is always praised warmly by student veterinary interns. 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 Breeders. I learnt a lot and thoroughly enjoyed my time in Dubbo".

SARAH CHAN

Dr Clive Roberts, District Veterinarian, Dubbo Rural Lands Protection Board.

Dr Roberts has enjoyed a varied career, beginning in veterinary practice in the UK, followed by thirty years in 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.

undergraduate activities

RAS

A delighted Ashley Wright-Hands, Year 4 vet student, at the announcement of her success in the 2005 Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition.

Year 4 student Ashley Wright-Hands is the 2005 Land Sydney Royal Showgirl. Selected from 600 entrants from across the state, Ashley represented her home community of Berry at local and regional agricultural shows before reaching the final. Before the win was announced at the Royal Easter Show in April, Ashley underwent three days of judging, pre-show events, and an interview that ranged from local agricultural issues to the Iraq War. Her duties now include appearances 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 emphasis its importance in NSW. And, as a veterinary student, I enjoyed meeting the vets working behind the 'Show' scenes," Ashley said.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Sydney University Wildlife Society, enthusiastically driven from within the Faculty of Veterinary Science, has a full schedule of activities planned for 2005. The Society's secretary, Rebecca Robey, gave a presentation in May on a personal visit to the Borneo orangutan rehabilitation centre – initiating plans for Wildlife Society trips to Borneo in the future. Other speakers will deliver lunchtime talks in 2nd semester. External activities include whale watching during winter and a weekend trip to Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo, and plans are underway for a summer trip to Africa. In October, the PGF (Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science) is joining the Wildlife Society to present the Society's annual conference, which again promises to be a weekend of wonderful speakers from around the world.

For further information, contact President Pru Harvey on pharvey@mail.usyd.edu.au.

VSAW AIDS TSUNAMI ANIMALS

HSI

Vets treating a dog post-tsunami with support from Humane Society International.

VSAW (Veterinary Science for Animal Welfare) is a proactive veterinary student association dedicated to promoting and exploring issues of animal welfare.

The group ran a raffle in first semester to raise much-needed funds to assist the animal victims of the Tsunami disaster. First prize was donated by Ralph and Rose of the Vet Café (free coffee/hot chocolate for a month) with other prizes donated by Hills Pet Nutrition, Metacam and the Veterinary Science Foundation.

VSAW President, student Izidora Sladakovic, who was interviewed by Sally Loane on ABC 702 Sydney, said, "Animals are such a vital resource to the affected communities, and while this is one of the worst humanitarian disasters in living history, it is important not to forget the animal victims".

Funds raised have been donated to the World Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society International to supply food, clean water and veterinary supplies for affected animals. For more information, contact Izidora Sladakovic on isla6654@mail.usyd.edu.au.

AVA GREAT DEBATE

The AVA Great Debate is fast becoming an annual institution, attracting Faculty students and staff, AVA staff and members of the profession. Organised by the student AVA representative – in 2005 Ms Elva Cha – and held in the Faculty's Webster Lecture Theatre, the AVA Great Debate tackles issues relevant to the profession with humour and wit.

'Real Vets are Men' was the typically contentious subject for the 2005 Debate, held in April. The Realists team (for) featured Dr Bruce Cartmill, Dr Peter Gibbs and Jason Kwan (Year 4), and the winning XXceptionals (against) were Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt, Dr Lydia Brichta and Alison Avery (Year 2). The Adjudicating Panel included Dr Joanne Sillince, Dr Mark Lawrie and Mr Greg Aspinall.

FACULTY STAFF NEWS

(Above L to R): **Meg Vost** (service), **Shirley Ray** (research and postgraduate support), **Lino Nastasi** (service) and **Gerard Marcus** (teaching and teaching support) were recipients of the annual Grace Mary Mitchell awards, presented to staff nominated by other Faculty members for their outstanding contribution over the year. Other 2004 recipients were **Dr Rhondda Canfield**, **Dr Christine Smith** (teaching and teaching support) and **Dr Mark Krockenberger** (research and postgraduate support).

Senior Lecturer **Dr Paul McGreevy** has been awarded the 2005 Australian Veterinary Association Excellence in Teaching Award. Senior Lecturer in Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare Science for the past nine years, Paul is a pioneer in these fields of research, a recipient of prestigious international animal welfare awards, and author of books on small animal and equine behaviour. He is one of only two RCVS Recognised Specialists in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine world-wide.

Dr Chris Moran has been promoted to Professor. Chris is a keen Dragon Boat competitor and has recently won the right to represent Australia at the World Championships in Berlin in August.

New academic staff include Research Fellow **Dr Mahesh Bandara**, Research Associate **Dr Douglas Begg**, Post Doctoral Research Fellow **Dr Katherine Belov**, Lecturer in Anatomy **Dr Rachel Grey**, Associate Lecturer **Dr Sarah Jobbins**, Senior Registrar **Dr Thomas Russell**, Registrar **Dr Amy Lingard**, and Veterinary Interns **Drs Sheree Houston** (Sydney), and **Timothy Choi**, **Marietta Foo**, **Mellora Sharman** (Camden). **Ms Hazel Bateman** is the new UVCS Practice Coordinator.

The following staff received University of Sydney Long Service Medals in recognition of their contribution and commitment:

25 years – **Professor Paul Canfield, Mr Don Slade**

20 years – **Associate Professor Bob Ratcliffe, Professor David Fraser, Ms Patricia Martin, Mr David Palmer**

15 Years – **Associate Professor David Evans, Ms Elizabeth Thomas, Mrs Helen Laurendet**

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.

Benefactor to the VSF, Mr Stu Wilson, and his much-loved dogs: 16 year old Ghost and his companion Glenda, aged 5 years.

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.

Stu 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 Uni 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 Hynes 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 booklet 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.

BENEFACTORS

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 in 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 disease studies, particularly in koalas, and a three-year research project focused on the two most devastating infectious diseases of koalas - chlamydiosis and cryptococcosis – 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 Mayne Vetnostics. 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.

Dr Mark Krockenberger, head of the ARC koala research project team.

WILD MASTERS PROGRAM GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

TONY ENGLISH

Wildlife Masters student Mark Semeniuk with a brown antechinus at the Faculty's Marulan NSW property, Arthursleigh, during the April WILD Field Studies Unit. Mark is a biologist researching frogs.

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 to managing burnt and injured koalas. Visit the website: www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/wild.

Masters student and veterinarian Dr Gabrielle Tobias is undertaking an epidemiological survey in Australian zoos on a chronic eye and skin syndrome seen in captive Malayan Tapirs worldwide. Gabi 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 and I believe a multidisciplinary approach is essential to understanding wildlife health and management".

CLOSE UP

STAFF PROFILE
LEONIE BEADMAN

What is your current position?

I am head of the Unit of Administration and Reception at the University Veterinary Centre (UVCS) at Sydney, the Faculty's small animal teaching hospital. I have been working here for 12 years. I began my career at the University before then, working in the Admissions Office and Student Centre.

What does your role encompass?

It is my job to support the academic daily schedule and make sure it all runs smoothly – our staff are academic as well as clinical vets and teach senior vet students. I also have responsibility for making sure our reception staff provide excellent service for the clients and compassion for their animals.

Have you always worked with animals?

I've mainly worked in reception and administration and have several certificates in Business and Office management. Having grown up on a farm with a large menagerie of varied animals, when a position came up in the UVCS, it seemed the perfect working environment for me. I also love cooking, and I took time off for several years to run my own restaurant – Leonie's Place at Hurstville. I really enjoyed it, moving between cooking and running the front of house, and many staff members from here were patrons. I moved on when I was made an offer to sell that was too good to refuse!

What makes working for a University Teaching Hospital different to a private practice?

The UVCS has given me the diversity of meeting all types of personalities, working closely with the students, and forming strong friendships with staff and students – I really love the students. And working at a veterinary teaching hospital means I can take Harley and Sassi, my two little dogs, to work each day.

What do you most like about your role?

I like the day-to-day interaction with the clients and interns (our senior veterinary students), and with the animals themselves (although I have to admit some days have their moments).

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy music, fishing, reading and getting home regularly to the family farm in the Riverina – we have wheat, sheep, cattle and horses. On the farm I do whatever is required, work on the header at harvest time, muck out the stables, work with the sheep. I'm involved in the charity work of Father Chris O'Reilly and his organisation Kids off the Streets. I help to raise funds, work in the food kitchens, and have spent a few Christmas Days cooking for homeless kids. I am also a member of the State Emergency Service and help out on the food vans on weekends during emergency situations such as bush fires.

Who or what inspires you and why?

My veterinary colleagues, because of their dedication and enthusiasm and very long hours of commitment.

THE 2005 PROVET

PARTNERS IN VETERINARY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

PRO VET®

VSF

Veterinary imaging specialist Professor Graeme Allan, with Dr Vanessa Barrs, will be keynote speaker at 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 Student Interns to assist 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.

DR ARTIS MEDENIS

One of the stalwarts of the veterinary profession, Dr Artis Medenis has retired after an extraordinary 52 years in practice on the NSW south coast.

PAUL FAHY, KIAMA INDEPENDENT

Born in Latvia in 1920, Artis graduated with a veterinary degree from Riga University in 1943. While at university, he married Aina, a nurse, then worked as a vet in rural Latvia. When the Red Army overran Latvia, they fled to a refugee camp in Germany. Artis worked as a veterinarian in Germany for 3 years, before migrating to Australia.

Their ship landed in Australia on Aina's birthday, 28 October 1948 with the next stop, the Bathurst Migrant Camp. Artis worked in the camp office while restudying Veterinary Science at Sydney University, regaining his veterinary degree in 1952. He started work in Gerringong in May 1953 and retired in April 2005.

Artis' expertise in dairy cattle practice, particularly obstetrics and infertility management, was recognised in 1971 when he was invited to join the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists as a foundation member.

In 1995 he received the Seddon Prize, awarded for meritorious clinical contributions to veterinary science in NSW, and has served as president of the South Coast Branch of the Australian Veterinary Association. Artis still visits Latvia and will speak at the 2006 Latvian Veterinary Association conference.

Artis and Aina Medenis have been married 62 years and have four children. The Gerringong practice is now in the hands of their son, Andrejs, a 1980 Sydney graduate.

50 YEAR REUNION

VSF

Veterinary Science graduates from 1955 gathered at the Faculty in Sydney on 16 March to mark their 50 year reunion. The distinguished group included internationally-renowned members of the profession and previous Deans of Massey and Murdoch veterinary schools.

Left: This eminent group of graduates from 1955 celebrated their 50 year reunion at the Faculty in March.

The full day's program began with a tour of the Faculty, including the new Valentine Charlton 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 alumnus 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.