



Melbourne University  
Veterinary Society

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- Inaugural Dr Sue Newton Scholarship awarded



## Dean's Message

Ivan Caple, May 2006

I will be standing down as Dean at the end of 2006 after sixteen years in the position. After consulting with senior staff, Vice Chancellor Glyn Davis has announced the Dean's position will be advertised. My plans are to take long service leave after the 40th graduation ceremony in December, and decide what to do next such as continuing my appointment of Professor of Veterinary Medicine to 31 December 2011.

Much has happened at the Veterinary School since the previous newsletter was written in June 2005. One hundred and twenty students were selected into the first year class in 2006 (the graduating class of 2009), but one student has since deferred. What are they like? They are fantastic! Since the introduction of the new BVSc course in 1998, we have made first year students go through that uncomfortable experience of working in a syndicate team of five to prepare and present a 20-min oral presentation, and submit a 2000 word written report in electronic format. This happens in first semester of first year. The students do not like this learning experience, but based on their performances during the oral presentations, and the quality of reports received by email yesterday, I predict that the 2009 graduating class will be just as outstanding as previous classes. The graduating class of 2009 will certainly have better facilities for their learning during the course than previous graduating classes from Melbourne.

## 2005 graduates

The Melbourne University Veterinary Society welcomes graduates from 2005 (many of whom will be receiving this newsletter for the first time) to our illustrious fold. We wish you all the best at the start of what will undoubtedly be an interesting career in veterinary science. Please keep in touch with us to update your contact details, let us know about where you're working or if you have any stories about life out in the field you'd like to share. Our contact details are on page two of this newsletter.

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## Welcome to our new look newsletter

Vetnews is produced by the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010.

June 2006

The information in this newsletter was correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate.

Designed by Blue Vapours. [www.bluevapours.com.au](http://www.bluevapours.com.au)

For general enquiries call 9731 2000 or visit:  
[www.vet.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au)

For contributions to the newsletter or if you would like to be added to the mailing list for Vetnews, please email:  
[crubbo@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:crubbo@unimelb.edu.au) or phone 03 8544 7844

## President's Message

### Trends in Veterinary Science

Having been in small animal practice for over 30 years (yes it is time I gave it away) I have noticed many trends in the profession. One of the more obvious trends is the increased use of the internet by pet owners seeking information about various issues relating to their pets.

A good book written by Geoff Fethers in 1980 called "An Elephant in My Garden" detailed his veterinary practice experiences. In this book Geoff questioned the acquisition of scientific knowledge by the public through the media of the time. He felt that this knowledge was best left in the hands of professionals. How times have changed!

Recently we diagnosed Diabetes Mellitus in a dog owned by a frail 87 year old man. We thought we would have problems with understanding and treatment compliance issues. Not so! He arrived for his next appointment clutching a bundle of papers. He had downloaded & printed information about Diabetes from the net.

As practitioners, we are often confronted with clients pre-informed in this manner. Obviously the veracity of this information can be questionable, but it is now a fact of life and the sky is the limit. More and more people are using the net to choose a service provider so it is important in a business sense to use web based information about our services. In general veterinary practices have been slow on the uptake in this area. Recent graduates often provide the spark required for change as they are well versed in the computer age. Happy surfing!

Peter Cullen  
President MUVS.



You're invited to an elegant evening of French champagne, superb cuisine and fine wines in support of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

### Let's Swing

6.30pm, Friday the 25th August 2006.

We hope to see you there!

For more information contact Marie McCullough  
Tel: 9830 6148 or email [mccum@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mccum@unimelb.edu.au)

## AVMA Visit 5-9 March 2006.

The site visit team of Dr Tim Boosinger (Chair, Dean Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine), Dr Darcy Shaw (Atlantic Veterinary College, representing the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association), Dr Fred Troutt (University of Illinois, representing Large Animal Clinical Sciences), Dr Samuel Strahm, (Former AVMA president from Oklahoma, representing Private Food Animal Clinical Practice), Dr Beth Sabin (AVMA Staff Consultant), and two representatives of the Australian Veterinary Boards Council - Professor Lloyd Reeve-Johnson (University of Queensland) and Professor Paul Canfield (University of Sydney), conducted a thorough physical audit of the facilities at Maffra, Parkville and Werribee, and met with staff and students to assess if what we had written in our self-study report was accurate and met the 11 AVMA Standards for Accreditation.

The site visit team met with a distinguished group of our Alumni including: Peter Cullen (1970), Eric Allan (1971 and currently Practitioner in Residence) Hugh Millar (1976 and Chief Veterinary Officer), Warwick Bayly (1974 and currently Dean at Washington State University Veterinary Medical College who happened to be in Melbourne to celebrate his mother's 80th birthday), Roslyn Nichol (1979 and member of the Veterinary Board), Jenny Stillman (1984 who represents Faculty on the University Convocation Committee), Kate Woodward (1993 who re-arranged her diary to be there), Sarah Haldane (1997 who has recently arrived back from overseas), Matthew Costa (1999, who evidently had been instructed to wear a tie!), Rachel Guthry who eagerly represented the 2000 graduates, and later shared some experiences with the current undergraduate students along with Nathan Koch (1984). We had difficulty locating alumni from the graduating classes of 2001 (most were overseas), 2002, 2003 (those contacted were working). Andrew Down (2004) was the most recent alumnus, and was recovering from a fractured leg after being kicked by a horse!

Our alumni are very impressive, and we are most grateful to those who came to meet with the AVMA Site Visit Team. The highlight for the site visit team was meeting the current undergraduate students. Evidently our students must have impressed the visitors, as they were clearly identified as one of the strengths of the Faculty in the oral report provided to the Dean on the final morning.

We expect to receive a written report of the visit soon, but from the oral reports provided to the Dean and the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Vijoleta Braach-Maksyutis) we must prepare a DVD by 1 September to show that the building works, currently in progress at Werribee to correct the deficiencies identified in the 2004 AVMA Consultative Site Visit Report, have been completed. These building works are mainly in the Department of Veterinary Clinic and Hospital and include:

- An additional equine surgery built to contemporary requirements
- A new small animal surgical teaching unit
- A new small animal minor procedures room

- A refurbished diagnostic imaging section, with replacement of several pieces of equipment
- New small animal isolation wards with appropriate standard operating procedures, fixtures, and disinfection mats for biosecurity in place
- Equine isolation wards with standard operating procedures, fixtures and disinfection mats for biosecurity in place
- Additional small animal consulting rooms and enlargement of the small animal emergency section required to teach class sizes of 120 students have been completed
- Student break-out areas in the Small Animal Hospital where students can access the hospital records system for learning have been completed
- Flooring, wall surfaces, and signage have been brought up to contemporary standards

These building works, which will be displayed on our website, were long overdue. They have been planned to teach undergraduate student class sizes of 120 students, and provide more diagnostic and clinical research areas.

The AVMA Council on Education will make its decision on our accreditation status in September.

Staff, postgraduate students and undergraduate students at the Parkville and Werribee campuses have shown incredible tolerance while the redevelopment of the Melbourne Veterinary School has progressed from 2000 to 2006.

### Why have we undertaken this activity?

In 1998 the Vice Chancellor advised the Faculty that unless the School doubled its size the University was unlikely to maintain this discipline at Melbourne. A strategic plan prepared by a Faculty working group in 1999 recommended that class sizes be increased to 120 students, and we seek AVMA Accreditation. By the end of 2006 we may be near to achieving the goals of that plan. The incoming Dean will have the challenge of leading the School to achieve the triple helix goals of "research", "learning" and "knowledge transfer" of the new University of Melbourne Strategic Plan "Growing Esteem".

We are currently preparing another self-study report for the next visit by the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC) of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council in September. The building works being undertaken to meet AVMA requirements will also address the concerns listed in the report of the previous VSAAC visit in 2000. One task I certainly will not miss after standing down as Dean will be preparing another quality assurance self-study report!

## The Belle Bruce Reid Medal

The centenary of the graduation and registration of Belle Bruce Reid in 1906 will be celebrated this year. She was the first female to complete a four-year veterinary science course and be registered by a Veterinary Board in the English speaking world. She commenced the Balwyn Veterinary Surgery immediately after graduation. In 1923 she sold the practice to Phillip Kelynack (BVSc Melb 1916), who in 1967 sold the business to his associate Dr Hugh Wirth (DVSc Melb 2002).

This centenary provides an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that females have made to the veterinary profession in Australia, and more details will be provided soon. The Faculty is also planning to celebrate the centenary of the registration of the second and third female veterinarians in Victoria by striking a Margaret Keats Medal in 2022 and an Ann Flashman Medal in 2036. While it took 50 years to recruit three females to the veterinary profession in Victoria, alumni may be surprised to read that when the 2009 graduating class receive their BVSc degrees in Wilson Hall, equal numbers of male and female veterinarians will have qualified in Melbourne since 1891.

4 <sup>th</sup> year students					
	Vet. Medicine	Vet. Surgery	Horses cattle & meat inspection	Result	
13 Belle Reid	Good	Very Good	Good	Passed	} 2 <sup>nd</sup> class honors
	Approved	Approved	Good	Good	
	Approved	Good	Good	Good	
	Approved	Very Good	Approved	Good	

Class of 1906 academic records.

## Centenary of the Faculty of Veterinary Science

Veterinary education commenced in Melbourne in 1888 following the passing of the Veterinary Surgeons Act in December 1887.

There was a seamless transition of educating qualified veterinarians from the Melbourne Veterinary College (GMVC) and the University of Melbourne following establishment of the Faculty of Veterinary Science in 1908. The last GMVC certificates were awarded in 1908 and 1909, and the first BVSc and DVSc degrees were awarded in 1909. Many of the GMVC graduates also later gained the BVSc degree. Veterinary Science has made an outstanding contribution to development of the State of Victoria, and a centenary celebration provides an opportunity to plan for the next 100 years.



The original Veterinary College building still stands today, in Brunswick St, Fitzroy.

## Staff Matters

Dr Jean-Pierre Scheerlinck has taken on the Directorship of the Centre of Animal Biotechnology (CAB) at Parkville following Dr Els Meeusen's resignation to take up an appointment as Professor in the Department of Physiology at Monash University.

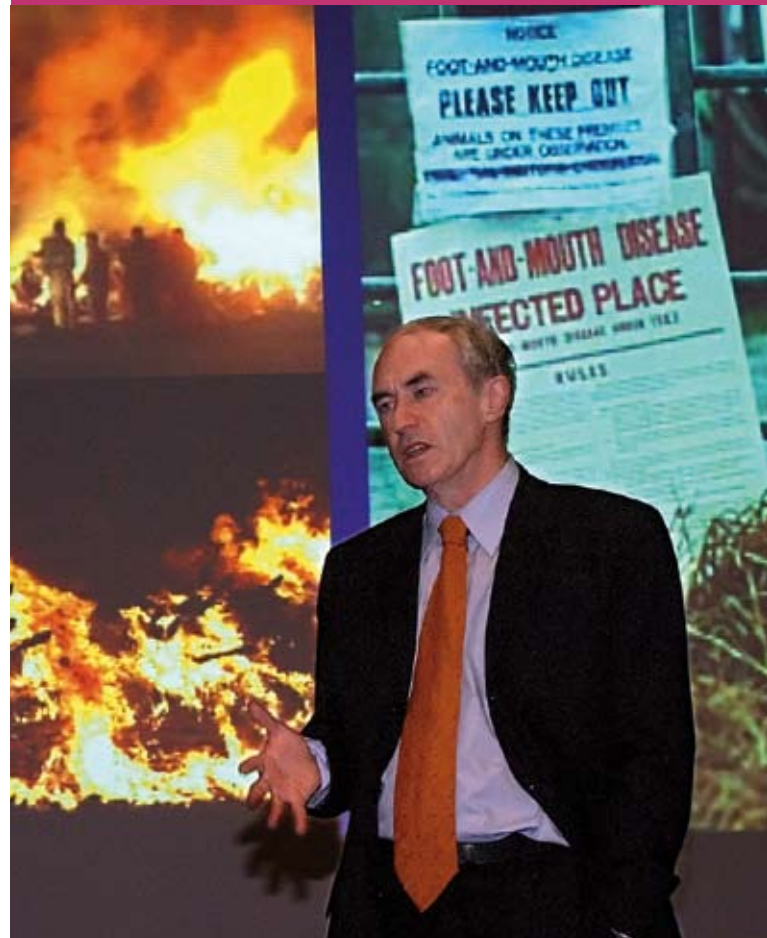
Els became Director of CAB following the resignation of Dr Mal Brandon, and her appointment at Monash recognizes her outstanding research and postgraduate training record at CAB.

Professor Andrew Clarke (BVSc 1978) has completed his five-year appointment as Chair of Equine Studies. This position was funded as a partnership between Racing Victoria and the University. Andrew made a significant contribution to increasing the profile of equine research to the industry and public during his appointment, and was instrumental in planning the redevelopment of the Equine Centre in the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital. The first stage was opened in September 2002.

The Faculty will be advertising for a Chair of Veterinary Clinical Sciences to lead the Department of Veterinary Clinic and Hospital which has been an academic department of the Faculty at Werribee since 1986. A new staff structure has been developed for the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital following the AVMA Site Visit in March and a Business Review in 2005. There will be three Divisions: a Small Animal Hospital, an Equine Hospital, and a Diagnostic Imaging Division. The Small Animal Hospital will initially have three sections – (1) Primary Clinic, Emergency Medicine and Critical Care, (2) Small Animal Medicine and (3) Small Animal Surgery. The Equine Hospital will have Surgery and Medicine Sections. The veterinary professional staff structure will now comprise four levels of appointment (1) Principal Veterinary Registrar/Associate Professor, (2) Senior Veterinary Registrar/Senior Lecturer, (3) Veterinary Registrar/Lecturer, and (4) Veterinary Resident/Tutor. The \$10 million re-development of the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital since 2002 provides a more conducive facility to provide quality undergraduate teaching, primary and referral veterinary services, and advanced clinical training and research.

Finally I can report that at the end of April 2006 the Faculty had nearly 500 undergraduate and postgraduate students, and 207 staff in Academic Teaching and Research, Research Only, Veterinary Professional, Technical and Administrative appointments. There were an additional 106 casual appointments on the payroll.

The University has taken a while to appreciate the key strengths of the Faculty of Veterinary Science include being embedded in the Veterinary Profession, and having productive international research collaborations. Seventy percent of our alumni are in Victoria and in direct contact with the community. The Academic Associate's program, which has been extended to overseas countries, provides a learning community of over 500 veterinarians. This arrangement, built up over 40 years, lays the foundation for demonstrating world's best practice in "knowledge transfer"!



Prof McConnell presents "Animal Plagues of the 21st Century".

## Distinguished Miegunyah Fellowship

Professor Ian McConnell from the University of Cambridge completed an outstanding term as a 2006 Miegunyah Fellow in Veterinary Science. He presented the inaugural Dr Sue Newton Travelling Scholarship lecture "One Medicine" in the new Bio21 Lecture Theatre adjacent to the Veterinary School at Parkville in November 2005. In February 2006 he presented a public lecture "In Fear of Food" in the Copeland Theatre on the main University Parkville campus and a scientific lecture "Animal Plagues of the 21st Century" in the Bio21 Lecture Theatre.

The highlight of Professor McConnell's Miegunyah Fellowship were the discussions he had with staff and postgraduate students, and I will always remember Ian's comment "there's a hell of a lot of quality veterinary science research going on here!" Professor McConnell has encouraged the Faculty to develop a "Global Program for Animal and Public Health" through the extensive collaborations staff have with leading research groups throughout the World.

For more information contact Chloe Rubbo  
crubbo@unimelb.edu.au

## Sheep trial brings new hope in treating cancer

Melbourne scientists have successfully used plastic submicroscopic nano-particles to stimulate the immune system of sheep – a breakthrough which could hold the key to developing new cancer treatments and vaccines for humans and animals.

Researchers at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Animal Biotechnology and the Austin Research Institute are trialling the effectiveness of nano-beads – measuring 40 nanometres (or 40 millionths of a millimetre) – as an adjuvant, a substance which is added to vaccines to boost immune responses.

Centre for Animal Biotechnology scientist, Dr Jean-Pierre Scheerlinck, says most adjuvants stimulate antibodies only against a particular disease. The nano-bead technology gave the immune system a further boost, producing T-cells which are needed to eliminate viruses or cancer.

The sheep trial showed that the nano-beads, in this case attached to an egg protein, produced strong antibody and T-cell responses. The only adjuvant currently approved for use in humans in Australia does not significantly stimulate T-cells.

"Such a strong response in sheep to the nano-bead technology is an important step towards clinical trials in humans," says Dr Scheerlinck.

"It is also a great boost for our work at the Centre for Animal Biotechnology in developing vaccines for animals against parasite and viral infections such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Bovine Diarrhoea Virus."

Associate Professor Magdalena Plebanski, who developed the nano-bead adjuvants through her work at the Austin Research Institute, said size and mode of action, not the chemical composition of the particles, was the key to its success.



*Dr Jean-Pierre Scheerlinck, Director, Centre for Animal Biotechnology*

"There is a magic size of 40 nanometres, a similar size to many viruses, where the nano-beads are taken up abundantly by the immune system and tricked into producing high levels of many types of T-cells," she said.

"It does not matter what they are made of – thus far any inert particle at the right size will do the job."

The nano-bead technology has been licensed from the Austin Research Institute as DCTag™ by Panvax, a subsidiary of Prima Biomed Ltd.

The Centre for Animal Biotechnology and Panvax have received an Australian Research Council linkage grant to trial the nano-bead adjuvant in sheep together with researchers at the Austin Research Institute, and to use the technology to do further research into the development of animal vaccines.

Results of the trial have been published online in the prestigious journal "Vaccine".

For more information contact Jean-Pierre Scheerlinck at:  
[j.scheerlinck@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.scheerlinck@unimelb.edu.au)

## Tapeworm vaccine to help end lethal brain disease

By Janine Sim-Jones

**New research has moved University of Melbourne scientists a step closer to eradicating a parasite that infects 50 million people annually and causes a lethal brain disease that kills 50,000 in the developing world each year.**

The scientists, from the University's Faculty of Veterinary Science, have developed a vaccine to immunise pigs against the parasite *Taenia solium*, which causes tapeworm infestations in 50 million people each year.

Tapeworms can grow many metres long in humans with no health implications, but the eggs laid by tapeworms – which are transmitted only in human faeces – cause the often fatal brain disease, neurocysticercosis.

Vaccine project leader Associate Professor Marshall Lightowlers said a major challenge in fighting parasitic diseases was that many parasites varied genetically in different countries or regions, making it difficult to develop a single vaccine.

But new experimental results, published by Associate Professor Lightowlers and colleague Dr Charles Gauci in the *Journal of Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, shows there is little variation in the *Taenia solium* parasite across 10 different countries in Asia, Africa and Central America.

"Now we know the parasite doesn't change, we have overcome a major hurdle," Dr Lightowlers said. "It is likely that we can use this vaccine on pigs anywhere in the world."

The University of Melbourne team developed the vaccine by isolating the genes of proteins taken from tapeworm eggs and then growing those genes in bacteria to generate a pure vaccine protein.

Dr Lightowlers said previous field trials of the vaccine in Mexico, Peru, Cameroon and Honduras showed the pigs vaccinated had a 99.5 per cent immunity against the *Taenia solium* parasite.

According to the World Health Organisation, neurocysticercosis is the leading cause of epilepsy in many countries in the developing world.

It is an extremely serious health problem in Asia, Africa and South America. Those infested with the parasite form cysts in the brain which can cause paralysis and death.

In countries without proper sanitation, and where pigs and humans live in close quarters, there is a constant cycle of re-infection.

Pigs contract the tapeworm parasite from contact with human faeces, it is then passed on to humans who eat improperly cooked pig meat, and then more seriously, from human to human via exposure to tapeworm eggs in human faeces.



*Dr Marshall Lightowlers*

Dr Lightowlers said researchers had decided to develop the vaccine to protect pigs against *Taenia solium* rather than humans as it was easier and more cost-effective.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science has received a five-year, \$1.8 million grant from the Wellcome Trust UK to further develop the vaccine and conduct field trials until 2009.

Dr Lightowlers said the group was aiming to conduct a trial in an isolated location such as an island – vaccinating pigs against the disease and treating all humans in the area for tapeworm.

"Our ultimate goal is complete eradication of the disease," Dr Lightowlers said.

For more information contact Dr Marshall Lightowlers at: [mwl@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mwl@unimelb.edu.au)

## Vet Science student working on a Community Development Project in Laos



Tess Vitesnik, a Bachelor of Animal Science student has jumped at the chance to spend 6 months in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) to contribute to important research and work with the local community. "The opportunity to live and work in another country was far too exiting to pass up," she said.

Now after months of planning she is in Laos working as a Training Officer for pig health and production within the National Animal Health Centre in Vientiane. She is contributing to an important CSIRO project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research that is aimed at managing Classical Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease at the village level.

Tess will be working both in a laboratory and with the local village women in order to improve village management of pigs and their protection from Classical Swine Fever by producing some basic training materials and working with the current swine fever vaccine.

"I am looking forward to discovering a whole new culture, learning a new language and experiencing working in a research lab in a developing country," said Tess.

Tess is travelling as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) that is funded by AusAid. The Program provides support to cover the costs with volunteering overseas, including pre-departure medicals, insurance, travel, in-country allowance, and the support of a dedicated In-country Manager.

Tess is also the recipient of the Ethel and William Walters Scholarship from the Faculty that will assist with her travels.

Bachelor of Veterinary Science students are encouraged to take a year out of their studies to research an area of interest by completing the Bachelor of Animal Science. Recent projects have been completed by students undertaking research in Austria, Canada, France, Thailand, Kenya and Peru. Students are required to prepare a thesis under the supervision of an academic. Tess is being supervised by Professor Colin Wilks, Dr Laurence Gleeson and Dr Ross Cutler.

For travel updates visit:  
[http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/news/tess\\_laos1.html](http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/news/tess_laos1.html)



Lilly Brophy at graduation

## Indigenous Vet Sci graduate plans dairy industry career

Courtesy of Uninews 6 - 20 February 2006

An Indigenous student who worked on an animal health project in Arnhem Land as part of her practical training graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree from the University of Melbourne recently.

Lilly Brophy, 22, from Yeppoon in central Queensland, is only the second Indigenous student to graduate with a BVSc in the Faculty's 97-year history.

Ms Brophy attended the University of Melbourne on a National Indigenous Scholarship and was also the recipient of a Champion de Crespigny Scholarship for 2001 and 2002, followed by a R F Stuart Burnett Scholarship for 2003 to 2005 from Trinity College.

She said the highlight of her practical work requirement was a visit to Gunbalanya – the land of the Dog Dreaming stories – where she worked on the Western Arnhem Land Dog Health Project under the supervision of University of Melbourne lecturer Dr Liz Tudor.

Ms Brophy is one of many University of Melbourne Veterinary Science graduates who have contributed to animal health programs in Indigenous communities – through private veterinary practices, university projects or volunteer programs.

She hopes to gain employment in the dairy industry after graduation, and eventually wishes to work in herd management and consultancy.

Since January, Dr Brophy has been working in a practice at Deloraine in Tasmania, and presented a paper "Transition to Practice: Experiences of a New Graduate" at the Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference in Hobart last May.

## Alumni in Rwanda

Victorian reproduction specialist veterinarian John Cavalieri (1986), has helped to set the stage for an innovative aid project aimed at improving the quality of life for the people of conflict-ravaged Rwanda.

In March, he was invited to travel to the province of Umatara in the eastern part of Rwanda to investigate the resources available, the training required and the potential benefits for an innovative aid program devised by the Gippsland Anglican Diocese.

Local Gippsland dairyfarmers and residents were invited to raise money to help establish a cattle cross breeding and artificial insemination project – under a “Cash for Cows” program - in the Gahini diocese in Umatara.

The task, with the assistance of funds raised by the Gippsland community, Cue-Mate progesterone delivery devices provided by Bioniche Animal Health Australasia, and insemination equipment and dairy semen provided by Genetics Australia, is to establish a cross-breeding program to improve meat and milk productivity and survival rates for the local herds.

The aim of the project is for every parish in the Gahini diocese to have a cow. That would be approximately 40 milking and breeding cows.

Survival of appropriate type cows is a real issue in Rwanda. Under the ‘Cash for Cows’ program, the original native breed, the Ankole, is to be crossbred with dairy breeds to give a reasonably productive milk and meat animal which will be more tolerant of inadequate nutrition, disease and insects.

The Ankole breed is known for its impressive horns and hardiness but productivity is low. Trypanosomosis – a disease caused by protozoa transmitted by tsetse flies, anthrax, lumpy skin disease, buccellosis,



Victorian reproduction specialist veterinarian John Cavalieri

and tick-borne diseases such as theileriosis, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis, are rife and can easily destroy European breeds, yet in this environment the Ankole has survived. Prophylactic use of vaccines or anthelmintics are not undertaken because of cost.

The cross-breeding program is centred on the Rwanda National AI Centre’s own activities. Twenty cross-breed cows bought with funds from Gippsland, and additional 10 heifers formed the basis for the program.

Most of the cows were at least 50 per cent Bos Taurus, and all of the heifers were Ankoles. Cavalieri said: “If we end up getting 20 calves with this part of the project, it would be very satisfying. That would be instrumental in laying the foundations to build on. The Rwandans have moved quickly with the resources that we have provided and since March have inseminated more than 250 cows. So already we are seeing positive outcomes from the project.”

## Alumni in China

Roger Morris (MVSc 1973) was seen attending the Greater Mekong Subregion Workshop on Surveillance and Response in Guilin, China.

Roger is the Gilruth Professor of Animal Health and Co-director of the Epicentre at Massey University, New Zealand.



## POVS Annual Symposium

The second annual symposium of the Postgraduates of Veterinary Science (POVS) was held on Friday 21 April 2006. Approximately 70 staff and students attended the event.

The Symposium assists postgraduate students by integrating students and staff from all groups within the department of Veterinary Science. This helps to create a cohesive, "collegiate" atmosphere within the school from which students can draw support and knowledge.

The Best Postgraduate Speakers were awarded to Mr. Yasser Ahemed from the Laboratory of Bone and Muscle Cell Biology and Ms. Stacey Harbour, from the Centre of Animal Biotechnology, primarily for clarity of presentation. Judges were Dr Phil Markham, Alison Every, Agi Swierczak and Smitha Georgy.

## Mycoplasma Award Won

Dr Phil Markham has been awarded the Derrick Edward Award of the International Organisation for Mycoplasma for 2006. The Derrick Edward Award is made in memory of D.G. Edward and is given in recognition of outstanding contributions in research in the field of mycoplasma by young investigators entering the field of mycoplasma.

## Communication Skills Recognised

Kelly Tivendale is one of eight PhD students who were chosen to speak at the CRC Association Annual conference. The students were selected on their ability to communicate their research achievements to a non-specialist audience.

The title of her presentation in "Taking the Nasties out of E. coli" with the key message is that we have identified a number of genes believed to contribute to the virulence of E.coli in respiratory disease of poultry.

Kelly hopes to gain insight into research undertaken by CRCs other than the Poultry CRC, experience in presenting to audiences of varied backgrounds and further her skills in effective communication at the media skills workshop.

## Reunions

Several reunions are coming up this year.

Classes of 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986 are already planning on holding reunions. Details aren't yet available, but be sure to contact your Class Secretary to find out what's happening.

<http://www.muvs.unimelb.edu.au>

## Hurricane Katrina

Good news from David Senior (1969) who is Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

David reports he and his family are well after hurricane Katrina but it was a very hectic time for everyone. The veterinary school was an animal rescue centre and provided shelter for displaced animals. David described it as 'an unforgettable experience'.



## Where are they now?

Please let us know if you can help us "find" these past students.

Contact the class secretary or Virginia Studdert at:  
vet-alumni@unimelb.edu.au

**1968:** Peter Williamson **1969:** Peter Mulhearn **1970:** Anthony Vallance **1971:** Siat Chin, Michael Hayes, Jonathan Sayer **1974:** John Gillick, Neil Jackson **1975:** Anne Kirby **1978:** Reinhard Gregg, Ian Jerrett **1982:** Adele Austin, Russell Williams **1983:** Hanan Lasch **1984:** Jonathan Adams **1986:** Cathleen Jeffreson, Helen Mallinson **1987:** Andrew Barr, Sally Whalan **1988:** Joerg Bednarik **1989:** Catherine Brown **1990:** Nicole Mock, Kathryn Robins **1992:** David Allen **1993:** Nicole Dawson **1994:** Jenifer Heislars, Anna Morton **1995:** Cheryl MacPherson **1997:** Stefan Tulloch **1998:** Rachel Holmes, Michelle Peters, Melinda Zomer **2000:** Susan McLaughlin, Mark Yee, Megan Semple **2002:** Sally Ivens

## Congratulations

**Cameron Fairbrother** (1996) who graduated MBBS Hons (Melb) in December, 2005.

**Stephen Inglis** (1989) Diplomat, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Canine/Feline Practice

**Hock Gan Heng** (MVS 1997) - Diplomat, American College of Veterinary Radiology

**Gail Anderson** (1978) recently appointed Professor of Veterinary Surgery at the University of Queensland.

## Vale

It is with much sadness that we farewell **John Galvin**, one of our 1976 alumni who died in March, and **Alex Hauler** from the class of 1970, who died in May. Our thoughts are with their friends and families.

## Scholarships

### Inaugural Dr Sue Newton Scholarship awarded

PhD researcher Mark Pellegrino received the inaugural Dr Sue Newton Scholarship, awarded at a celebratory University of Cambridge lecture given by Professor Ian McConnell.

Mr Pellegrino will use the scholarship to travel to Glasgow where he will present his research at the 11th International Congress of Parasitology and then to the University of Zurich where he will continue laboratory studies on the interactome-based search for novel regulators in *Caenorhabditis elegans* development.

"What I hope from being the inaugural recipient of this award is to obtain novel and fascinating results from my project and to have the opportunity to communicate these findings on an international scale," he said.

The scholarship celebrates the life and work of Dr Sue Newton who was a highly respected and recognised Research Scientist, Head of the Molecular Vaccines Department in the former Victorian Institute of Animal Science, and a Visiting Research Fellow of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Melbourne, when she died tragically and unexpectedly in March 2003.

The Dean Professor Caple has invited Mr Pellegrino back to speak at the 30 year anniversary of the award.

If you would like to contribute to the important Dr Sue Newton Scholarship please contact Chloe Rubbo at:  
crubbo@unimelb.edu.au or (03) 8344 7844



L-R: Geoff Edwards, Mark Pellegrino, Gordon Edwards and Adrian Newton at awards presentation

### Postgraduate Scholarships

#### ➔ Barrenger Overseas Veterinary Scholarships

Applications are invited from graduates in Veterinary Science, from The University of Melbourne to pursue postgraduate studies overseas in veterinary clinical and paraclinical sciences.

#### ➔ The W.E.J. Craig Travelling Scholarship

Open to University of Melbourne graduates planning to undertake research or postgraduate study in animal husbandry at an overseas tertiary institution. While preference is given to applicants whose research or study will be undertaken at Queen's University, Belfast, all applicants who wish to undertake study in animal husbandry at any overseas institution are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information regarding these scholarships visit:  
<http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/postGradScholarship.html>

## Building Works Update

The Veterinary Clinical Centre at Werribee is currently in the middle of a major upgrade of its facilities.

Late 2005 saw the opening of a new wing adjoined to pathology to house the Mackinnon Project, the Australian Poultry CRC and microbiology researchers amongst others. Rooms for the individual sections as well as seminar rooms and a common room have seen a considerable improvement in staff conditions and morale.

2006 has seen building works mainly in the Clinic and Hospital. A new high grade equine surgery with new induction, preparatory and recovery rooms will become operational in early June.

A new reception area for the small animal emergency centre with an additional consultation room and a laboratory equipment room will also be operational in June. The new reception is located next to the emergency centre's ICU and will vastly increase staff efficiency.

A grieving room is also included in this area. Clients will now be able to deal with the loss of their pets in a more private setting.

Ongoing works in addition to these are new procedure rooms for medical and surgical cases, new radiology teaching spaces, a staff tearoom and computer server rooms. The procedure rooms will also act as tutorial spaces for undergraduates and continuing professional education seminars. They will be equipped with multi-media facilities to maximise the educational activities occurring in these rooms.

The radiology teaching space is being equipped with new computers as part of the digitalisation of diagnostic imaging. Students will be exposed to the latest technology available. It is planned to have diagnostic examinations available online throughout the hospital to improve case management and communication.

The hospital staff are keenly looking forward to being able to utilise the improved hospital facilities.

For more information contact : Mark Davis BVSc. MVS MACVSc.,  
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## Clinic and Hospital Seminar Series

The seminars are intended to be informative, practical and enjoyable. Every night begins at 7:00pm (talks start at 7:30pm sharp) and concludes at 10:00pm. Light snacks and supper will be provided. Each evening costs \$55.00, inclusive of GST.

Bookings essential. Contact Liesje Grieve, Seminar Series  
Tel: 9731 2000

### Immune Mediated Diseases June 15th, 2006

IBD, Cytological findings for IBD and other Immune Mediated Diseases and Treatment Options for Immune Mediated Diseases

Dr. Sue Bennett (Registrar- Small Animal Medicine)

Dr. Bruce Parry (Associate Professor- Clinical Pathology)

Dr. Carolyn O'Brien (Senior Registrar- Small Animal Medicine)

### Luxations August 15th, 2006

Including Hips, Elbows and Patella luxations

Dr. Wing Tip Wong (Consultant- Orthopaedic and Neurologic Small Animal Surgery)

Dr. Guy Yates (Registrar— Small Animal Surgery)

Dr. Marjorie Milne (Resident- Diagnostic Imaging)



## MUVS Class Secretaries

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