



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Vetnews



Melbourne University
Veterinary Society

In this issue:

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- Development of Sheep Linkage Map
- Ivan Caple's Look at Veterinary History
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Letter from Dean Ken Hinchcliff

I am honoured to have been asked to serve as dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and look forward with excitement to this role.

I consider the Faculty of Veterinary Science at The University of Melbourne to be the premier veterinary school in Australasia, and one of the outstanding veterinary schools in the world. I look forward to working in a consultative and open manner with staff, students, and alumni to provide for the continued growth and excellence of the school.

In the coming months I will work to ensure that the momentum for progress and excellence that was evident under the leadership of Ivan Caple, and over the last 6 months, Glenn Browning, continues unabated. I will be consulting widely within the faculty and our stakeholder groups to ensure that the Faculty of Veterinary Science continues to be placed to make distinctive contributions in research, teaching, and knowledge transfer in the context of "Growing Esteem."

This is a time of change both at The University of Melbourne and in the veterinary profession. Implementation of the Growing Esteem strategic plan, including the Melbourne Model, increasing availability of veterinary education within Australia, and globalization of the profession provide us with challenges and opportunities. The Faculty of Veterinary Science must identify these opportunities. I invite all of you to work with me to capitalize on the opportunities that change provides for continued growth in the quality and size of our programs. I particularly invite our alumni and other valued friends of the school to contact me with ideas for advancement activities that will enable us to enhance and promote our programs.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you in the coming months. Please feel free to contact me through Bridie Blachford at 03-9731-2281 or by email at hkw@unimelb.edu.au.

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Vetnews

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

Winter 2007

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

Donors needed for Blood Bank

The Canine Blood Bank supplies blood and plasma products to our hospital and to veterinarians throughout Australia. It is one of a few such programs in the world.

We are very pleased to have support from over 200 donors for this important community service. There are two groups of blood donors including 50 resident Greyhounds (most of who retired from racing because they could not run fast enough!) and a growing number of privately owned pets.

For more information about our "Back a Blood Hound" program or about your dog becoming a donor, please contact the Canine Blood Bank at the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital <http://www.vch.unimelb.edu.au/> or email k9-bloodbank@unimelb.edu.au



President's Message

MUVS is an alumni society that seeks to keep graduate vets in touch with each other and the activities of colleagues and the university.

We all build up relationships with other vets and most of us have mentors within the profession. Veterinary science can be a very rewarding career path but it can also be very demanding. Many things cause stress and anxiety in our profession. Negative thoughts can creep in and impact on our lives. Identifying the sources of stress and anxiety and understanding the causes is the first step in dealing with these problems and techniques to manage and avoid stress should be put in place. Talking to friends and mentors within the profession is an important way of dealing with pressure. New graduates are particularly prone to feeling the pressure that creates stress. Ringing a friend from your graduate year and having a good old chat about things can work wonders. You will often find you are not alone in your feelings.

The practitioner in Residence program aims to assist students to effectively make the transition from study to practice. In many ways the better prepared students are to make this transition the more coping skills they can acquire. The PIR program is an initiative of MUVS and has been highly successful and will continue to be regarded as an important adjunct to the preparation of members of the veterinary profession.

Dr Peter Cullen BVSc Melb 1970
 President MUVS

Come see us at Open Day

Sunday 19 August 10am-4pm

Open Day on the Parkville campus is a chance to explore the university and learn more about the courses offered and research opportunities available. The Faculty of Veterinary Science will be located in the Wilson Hall foyer all day to give course and careers advice from staff and students. Associate Professor Bruce Parry will present 45-minute information sessions at 10:30, 12:30, and 2:30.

We'll also have academic staff on hand to discuss research opportunities in veterinary science, biomedical science and biotechnology. The Bio21 Institute will offer guided tours throughout the day.

Alumni and their families are invited to relax and enjoy a complimentary coffee and donut in the Alumni lounge. The Alumni lounge will be open all day in the Moot Court Room in the Old Quad.

Message From The Acting Dean

A key feature of the university's new strategic plan, "Growing Esteem," is the area described as Knowledge Transfer.

The plan indicates that the university will increasingly value and highlight its interactions with the wider community it serves. The Faculty of Veterinary Science has always placed great value on its relationship with the profession and with the wider community, and it is particularly pleasing to note that this newsletter contains news of awards to a number of our staff who have made significant contributions.

Associate Professor Kevin Whithear was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in January for his contributions to the poultry industry, the veterinary biologicals industry, to public health and to veterinary education, and subsequently received recognition at the AVA Conference in May with the award of the Gilruth Prize. Professor Ivan Caple presented the Kendall Oration at the conference and a number of staff members and alumni received Meritorious Service Awards.

The recognition of our alumni continued with the award of an Order of Australia medal to Dr Graeme Smith last month.

While such recognition of past contributions is always gratifying, it is even more important to recognise those who continue to maintain our close relationship with the profession. Dr James Gilkerson, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Virology, was last week inducted as president of Equine Veterinarians Australia, adding to his work as editor of Australian Equine Veterinarian. Other members of staff, including Associate Professor Bruce Parry, serve on Executive Committees of the Victorian Division and/or branches of the AVA. Other staff contribute advice to government bodies and, of course, our clinical staff in particular provide much advice to the practising profession and to the general public.

It is important that we don't see this relationship as one-sided. The profession continues to make a major voluntary contribution to the veterinary school, and we take great pains to bring this to the attention of the wider university and to government. One aspect of this is the role played by the Melbourne University Veterinary Society's annual Practitioner-in-Residence, which again received considerable sponsorship from the Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners Branch. Dr Oliver Wilkinson continued in the shoes of previous Practitioners-in-Residence by adding a distinctly different dimension to the experience of final year students as they prepare for their final semester, when they become trainee veterinarians.

It is particularly pleasing that two graduates in our first AVMA-accredited class, Erin Branter and Allyson Groth, have acquired internship positions at the Animal Emergency Center in New York.

As I finish my spell as Acting Dean of the faculty and hand over the reins to Ken Hinchcliff, I would like to thank the staff of the school who have supported me over the last 6 months.



Glenn Browning

Special Thanks to Glenn Browning

Professor Glenn Browning served as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science from January to July 2007. These months were filled with many changes and challenges at the University, including the launch of the Melbourne Model. Prof Browning represented the Faculty at several important strategy and planning meetings, and we are thankful for his efforts and contributions.

Prof Browning will continue in his roles as Deputy Dean, Associate Dean of Research and Research Training, Second Year Coordinator, Head of Microbiology, and Lecturer.

Focus on Research

Along with teaching, research is a major focus of The University of Melbourne. Research groups at the Faculty of Veterinary Science have been involved in a variety of projects leading to increased agricultural productivity, vaccines and diagnostic products that have been commercialised throughout the world, enhanced animal welfare and improvements in public health, as well as contributing to basic understanding of animal biology.

Laboratories at the Faculty of Veterinary Science include:

- ➔ Biochemistry
- ➔ Bone and Muscle Cell Biology Research Group
- ➔ The Centre for Animal Biotechnology
- ➔ Laboratory for Equine Infectious Diseases
- ➔ Laboratory for Foetal and Neonatal Immunology
- ➔ Microbiology
- ➔ Sheep Genome Mapping
- ➔ Veterinary Public Health

Advances in Lice Treatment

Hatchtech, a company founded by Dr Vern Bowles in 2001, is working towards the answer to many parents' frustrations over head lice. DeOvo™ has completed its first human trials (Phase I) with the results showing no side effects or other adverse events. Thirty-two patients were treated at escalating dose levels and monitored by observation, blood tests and electrocardiography.

DeOvo™ is "a low-toxicity ovicide" or egg-killer. Dr Bowles said "the approach is based on the understanding that metalloproteases are important in the development and hatching of many organisms including insects. Hatchtech's approach has been to identify metalloprotease inhibitors that are able to interrupt the insect's life cycle changes in the egg and prevent hatching."

"We also believe that the DeOvo™ product will eventually be the most effective anti-head lice product on the market despite some significant milestones still to come on our path to market," said Dr Paul MacLeman, Chief Executive Officer of Hatchtech.

For a product to receive regulatory approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration, it must undergo several clinical trials to test for both safety and efficacy. The Phase 1 trial was conducted by Q-Pharm in Queensland from February to April 2007. Hatchtech intends to file an investigational new drug application with the US Food and Drug Administration later this year in preparation for a phase II trial in an affected patient population to take place in early 2008.

"These phase II studies are designed to show clinical efficacy against lice and are likely to take place in both Australia and in the USA," stated Dr Bowles. "Upon the successful completion of these trials, a series of multi-site phase III studies will be undertaken in various parts of the world. Following these studies, Hatchtech will seek to register the product in various parts of the world, including the USA and Australia."



Dr Vern Bowles

Along with the head lice treatment, Hatchtech is developing other products aimed at controlling parasites and pests of humans, animals, crops, and the built environment. Hatchtech's crop protection product is currently undergoing safety and efficacy studies in greenhouse trials.

Dr Vern Bowles is a Senior Research Fellow and the Deputy Director of the Centre for Animal Biotechnology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, and Chief Scientific Officer of Hatchtech. He can be reached by email at vmb@unimelb.edu.au. Hatchtech is an unlisted company. More information can be found at their website <http://hatchtech.com.au>.

Development of Sheep Linkage Map

Dr Jill Maddox (1981) is one of a small number of scientists throughout the world working on mapping the sheep genome. Sheep possess many heritable traits that are of economic importance, such as susceptibility to certain diseases. Internal parasites pose the biggest problem to flocks in Australia, costing the industry approximately \$370 million per year, as well as presenting many concerns over animal welfare. Whilst, in extreme cases gastrointestinal parasites may kill their host, the more common scenario is that sheep, especially lambs and pregnant ewes, do poorly and are more prone to other diseases such as flystrike. Affected animals deposit parasite eggs onto the pasture which causes a rapid increase in the parasite burden of a flock when weather conditions favour the development of the eggs on pasture to infective larvae. Drenching is currently used to control internal parasite disease, but researchers like Dr Maddox are trying to identify a new way to manage it through genetic mapping and breeding programs.

Some ruminants show a genetic resistance to diseases like footrot and parasites like Barber's Pole Worm (*Haemonchus contortus*). By identifying which genes are responsible for parasite resistance, breeders may be able to identify resistant progeny and eliminate susceptibility to the diseases. Over the past sixteen years, extensive efforts have been made by the international sheep gene mapping community to develop a useful sheep linkage map. Traits that have had genes identified are Spider Lamb Syndrome (a congenital disease in Suffolk sheep), fecundity (the Booroola (BMPR1B) and Inverdale (BMP15) genes), and meat with increased muscle and decreased fat (the myostatin (GDF8) gene and callipyge locus).

"There is great potential for the findings of research based on these maps to boost rates of genetic improvement in livestock," Dr Maddox said. "By being able to identify genetic markers of key economic importance, there is huge future potential to enhance the quality and diversity of sheep and their by-products. There is also the potential to improve the health and welfare of sheep by eliminating genetic diseases."

One of the driving factors in the mapping project has been the discovery of the "golden ram" in a flock of sheep at the University of New England in the 1980s. "Goldie's" progeny showed high resistance to Barber's Pole Worm, and their progeny have continued to carry this resistance, confirmed by faecal egg counts in several



Dr Jill Maddox

Mapping Jargon and Useful Vocabulary

Genotype: The particular alleles at a specified locus or loci present in an organism; the genetic makeup of an organism.

Phenotype: The traits or characteristics expressed in an organism. The phenotype of an organism depends on which genes are dominant and on the interaction between genes and environment.

Locus: The position that a given gene occupies on a chromosome.

Allele: One of the alternate forms of a gene, locus or marker. Each animal inherits one allele from its sire and one allele from its dam for autosomal chromosomes and the pseudoautosomal region of the X chromosome/Y chromosome.

Recombination (crossover): A process that occurs during meiosis. The frequency of recombination between two loci on a chromosome depends on their distance apart. This process leads to offspring having different combinations of genes on a single chromosome to either of their parents.

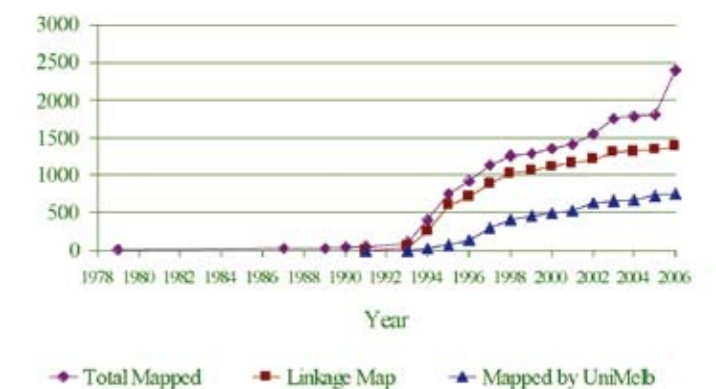
generations. Scientists were immediately interested in determining the genetic basis for this resistance and a comprehensive linkage map will aid sheep producers with breeding selection for continued resistance.

Along with fertility, seasonality, and muscular hypertrophy, other sheep traits being mapped include the presence of horns, wool quality, milk traits, and genetic diseases. "Breeders have always relied on time-consuming phenotypic testing methods, such as progeny testing. With a complete sheep genome map, simple DNA tests will enable farmers and woolgrowers to achieve more rapid genetic gains by using marker assisted selection," Dr Maddox continued.

Dr Maddox's research is largely funded by SheepGENOMICS, an initiative of Australian Wool Innovations Ltd and Meat & Livestock Australia. For more information on the sheep genome mapping project, please visit Dr Maddox's website <http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~jillm/jill.htm>. Dr Jill Maddox is a Senior Research Fellow at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Melbourne.

Virtual Sheep Genome <http://www.livestockgenomics.csiro.au/vsheep>
International Sheep Genomics Consortium <http://www.sheepmap.org/>

Development of Sheep Linkage Map



Linkage (genetic) map: A map that is based on observed recombination events. Loci are mapped by genotyping a sufficient number of animals from suitable pedigrees. An ideal pedigree consists of large 3-generation full-sibling families; however livestock mapping often uses large half-sibling families for species where the mother only has one or two offspring at a time. When mapping a trait, the cross should be between phenotypically divergent animals for the trait of interest.

centiMorgan: Distance unit commonly used in linkage mapping. 1cM = ~1Mb (Megabase). 1 cM = ~10 genes. Sheep genome size ~3,600 cM.

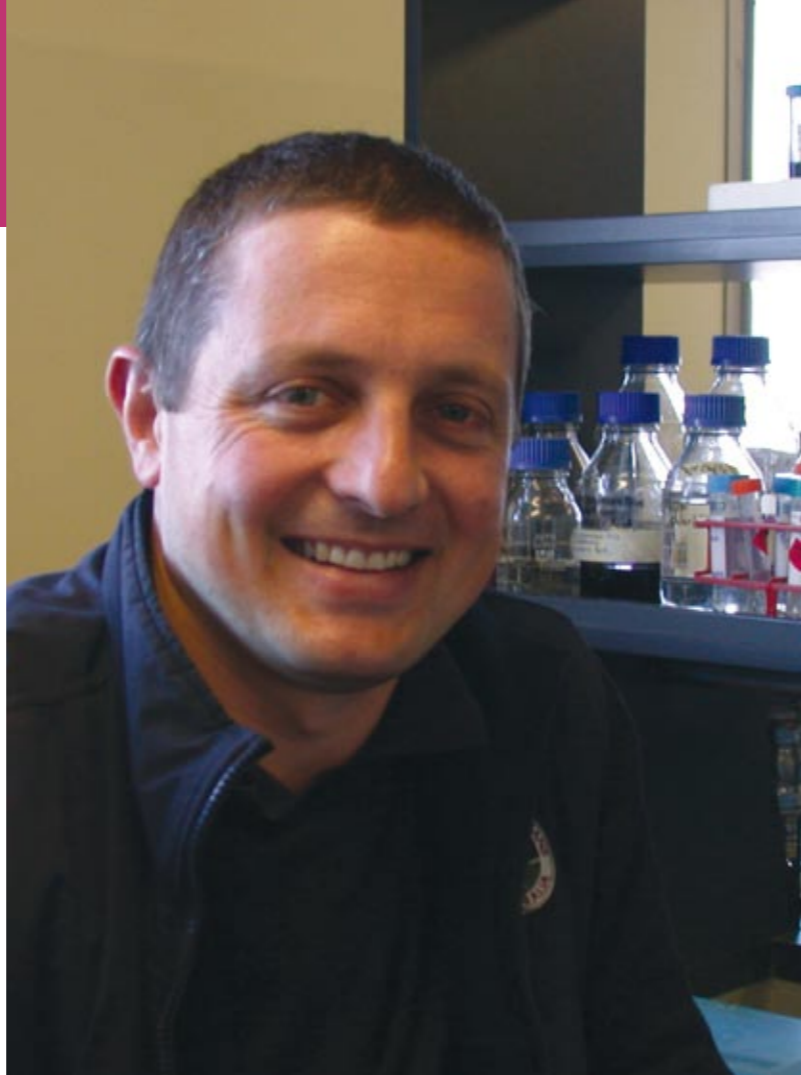
Marker assisted selection (MAS): The process whereby a genetic marker is used for indirect selection of a genetic determinant of a trait of interest (i.e. disease resistance or quality). MAS is used in plant and animal breeding.

IMF – International Mapping Flock: A three-generation full-sibling mapping pedigree, developed by AgResearch in the early 1990s. The current sheep linkage map, version 4.7, is based primarily on the IMF.

Dr James Gilkerson Named President of Equine Veterinarians Australia

Dr James Gilkerson was recently inducted as president of Equine Veterinarians Australia. "The EVA is a special interest group of the AVA, consisting of over 950 members in seven countries. Our goal is to promote the interests of equine veterinarians and be the industry leader in knowledge, skills, research, and education," Dr Gilkerson said. He has also served as the editor of the Australian Equine Veterinarian peer-reviewed scientific journal since 2001. The Australian Veterinary Association awarded him a Meritorious Service Award at their 2007 Annual Conference in recognition of his service to the AVA Victorian Division.

Dr Gilkerson is a Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Microbiology, Head of the Equine Infectious Diseases Laboratory, and Associate Dean (Students). In addition to teaching commitments, he manages several research projects into equine infectious diseases, particularly equine herpesvirus 1 and *Rhodococcus equi* epidemiology, and he has been particularly active in building better links between the AVA and veterinary students.



Ivan Caple's Look at Veterinary History

Professor Caple presented the 15th Kendall Oration at the 2007 AVA Conference. Prof Caple was given this honor in recognition of his long service and contributions to the veterinary profession in a variety of areas. He retired as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at The University of Melbourne last December, after serving in that role for sixteen years. He continues to be active in the veterinary profession and remains willing to give advice and assistance.

In his oration, Prof Caple reflected on the history of the veterinary profession in Australia, a history that dates from 1870 when lobbying for a veterinary school in Melbourne first began. The Melbourne Veterinary College commenced teaching in 1888, with Dr William Tyson Kendall at the helm.

Kendall arrived in Melbourne in 1880 en route to New Zealand. A veterinarian by trade, Kendall decided to settle in Melbourne when he saw there were only four other veterinary surgeons in the area. He was instrumental in lobbying the Victorian government for support until they passed the first Veterinary Surgeons Act of Victoria in 1887.

"Kendall by his own initiative, intellect and drive and in response to many challenges he had to overcome at different stages in his life, set very high standards on which to build the Australian veterinary profession. Kendall had the most important attributes for a veterinarian, including the attribute of empathy: empathy for animals, empathy for people, and empathy for the environment," Prof Caple remarked.

"The Australian Veterinary Profession has a rich history of achievements, and it is important to celebrate them. I have been fortunate that my life span has enabled me to share in several centenary celebrations in veterinary science in Australia," he continued. "In 1988 we celebrated the centenary of the establishment of the first veterinary surgeons board of Victoria in 1888, and the commencement of teaching at the Melbourne Veterinary College established by William Tyson Kendall in Fitzroy. In 1991 we toasted the centenary of the first graduating class. In 2006 we set about to organize another important centenary celebration in veterinary science, that of Dr Belle Bruce Reid, the first female to register as a veterinarian in the British Empire."

Prof Caple went on to acknowledge the challenges facing the veterinary schools and profession today. "They will be no less daunting than those faced by Kendall and the graduates from the Melbourne Veterinary College during their lifetimes. There are many opportunities for the profession to be closely involved in veterinary education and lifelong learning through interacting with the veterinary schools and their students."

The Kendall Oration was established in 1930 by the five sons of Dr William Tyson Kendall who is accepted as the father of the veterinary profession in Australia. The oration is delivered at the Annual Conference of the AVA when held in Canberra or Melbourne and a medal is presented to commemorate the occasion.

You can read Professor Caple's full oration on our website at <http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/oration/index.html>

Something to Crow About

Throughout his career, Associate Professor Kevin Whithear has helped shape the Australian poultry industry.

He is based at the Werribee campus where he carries out research as Program Manager of the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). In the past, Dr Whithear played key roles in the administration of the Faculty, including serving as Deputy Dean, Associate Dean for Students and Multimedia Coordinator. He has selflessly dedicated time to mentoring and developing the teaching and research careers of many junior staff.

Dr Whithear has also been very influential in the classroom. He was the first person to use interactive multimedia in the veterinary science curriculum with the introduction of computer-assisted problem-based learning in the subject of veterinary microbiology in 1989. This pioneering effort to transform veterinary teaching and learning attracted interest from veterinary schools throughout Australia, the United Kingdom, Israel, the United States and Canada. Dr Whithear was invited to give presentations of these new teaching and learning methods in several veterinary schools and at international conferences and a number of academics from around the world came to Melbourne to observe first hand how it was done.

Research done by his team has led to a considerable reduction of the need for antibiotics. As a result, there has been less development of antibiotic resistance in bacteria in poultry, which in turn benefits public health. Dr Whithear was the key scientist responsible for the production, development, successful registration and commercial release of two vaccines, ts-11 and MS-H, to control major diseases of poultry.

"While the use of these vaccines has provided a substantial cost and animal welfare benefit for the poultry industry, the reduction in the need to use medically useful antibiotics to control two major poultry diseases has reduced selection pressure towards the development of bacterial antibiotic resistance and thus could have a human health benefit as well," he explained. As a result of the development and subsequent commercialization of these vaccines, there has been a 90% decline in the use of macrolide antibiotics in poultry. Around 160 million doses of the vaccines are used around the world each year.

Associate Professor Kevin Whithear was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for "service to veterinary science and education, particularly through research, development and production of vaccines to control major diseases in poultry" in January 2007. He then received the Gilruth Prize from the Australian Veterinary Association at its 2007 Annual Conference. This prize, the highest-ranking award of the AVA, is given to members in recognition of meritorious service to veterinary science in Australia. Dr Whithear was also the recipient of an ASTE Clunies Ross Award in 1998.



Postgraduates Receive Scholarships and Prizes

Andrew Cust (2001) received the John Nevill Research Scholarship. This is awarded annually to a BVSc graduate from The University of Melbourne currently enrolled in a postgraduate program.

Sandra De Cat received the V.W Officer Prize in Veterinary Science. This annual award recognizes research into disease and husbandry of sheep and cattle.

Julia Lackenby received the Sunshine Foundation Scholarship. Please see the profile of Julia on page 9.

John Scanlan was awarded the Rowden White Scholarship for his achievements in research. John is interested in virology and his current project is "Investigation into the role of glycoprotein G in equine herpesvirus-1 pathogenesis."

Wildlife Warrior

Laura Schram, a second-year BVSc student, volunteers as much as possible caring for wildlife. She is passionate about her work and hopes to work in a large country practice or zoo once she's a registered veterinarian.

Laura describes her work with wildlife as "...heartbreaking. Many sleepless nights are involved and because the animals you treat are normally sick enough to be noticed and caught by the general public, most of them either have to be euthanized or will die in your care despite your best efforts. It's sad, but the joy and love you receive from these animals, especially the ones that survive, make it worthwhile."

She works at a wildlife park and as a wildlife carer. This requires two permits: a Wildlife Carers Permit and an Assistant Displayers Permit, both of which are issued by the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Some of her work involves bottle feeding and hand-raising koalas, fruit bats, squirrel gliders, Eastern Grey kangaroo joeys, and other young animals. She also educates children and adults about wildlife through presentations to school groups and birthday parties.

"My favourite work out of all of this has to be caring for koalas, especially the young ones. The bond you form with them is like the bond between mother and child"

"My favourite work out of all of this has to be caring for koalas, especially the young ones," Laura said. "The bond you form with them is like the bond between mother and child. Last year during the Anakie fires, I worked with other volunteers to rescue koalas whose habitats were destroyed. I helped a local vet provide ongoing medical care, bottle-raise orphans, and euthanize animals."



Laura with a wombat from Totally Native wildlife park in Tarneit, Vic

Laura is also involved in raising stray kittens left at vet surgeries or found in the streets. She takes care of them at home until they are old enough to be re-homed. She advertises "free to a good home" in publications like the Trading Post, and does her best to screen and educate families who want to take a kitten, urging them to have the kitten de-sexed. She estimates that she's raised and re-homed around 75 kittens in the last 18 months. "Ultimately I would like to end up in a position where I have some influence over the laws governing the way in which animals are treated in our society, especially those promoting de-sexing of domestic pets and those addressing the problem of animal abuse."

Like most vets, Laura has always loved animals and decided on a career as a veterinarian at a young age. "The BVSc course is really tough, but it's rewarding," she said.

"I've always liked working with animals and want to make a difference. I find it very difficult when I don't know enough to be able to help a suffering animal. I realise that you can't save everything, but being a vet will put me in a much better position to make a difference."



The World of Worms

Julia Lackenby wasn't aware of parasites until she saw an episode of RPA. "There was a man who underwent surgery to remove a hydatid cyst from his liver. I was spellbound," she said.

"There was something fascinating about these organisms that are the most successful form of life we know, yet we know so little about them. How can so many different forms have evolved to live in such a hostile environment such as the human or animal body? And not only do they survive, through sometimes complex multi host lifecycles, they thrive!"

"My fascination with the world of worms grew from there to the point where I approached a lecturer in second year of undergrad and asked him how I could get his job!"

Julia completed a Bachelor of Science focusing on Microbiology/ Immunology and Environmental Science from the University of Adelaide. In her Honours year, she focused on Marine Parasitology where she developed a treatment plan for ectoparasites on farmed Yellowtail Kingfish in South Australia. She enjoyed this research project so much that she decided to pursue a PhD.

Julia's work has particular implications for the populations of Asia, Africa, Central and South America where larvae of the tapeworm *Taenia solium* encyst in the brain and eyes of people in parts of the developing world.

"My PhD is part of a project to develop a recombinant vaccine against infection with this tapeworm. Currently the only means of treating both intermediate and definitive host with tapeworm infection is with anthelmintic drugs that do not prevent reinfection. Vaccines will therefore allow us to prevent infection in the pig host, indirectly preventing infection in humans."

Testing vaccines involves expensive and time-consuming challenge trials. Because the *T. solium* parasite is not available in Australia for challenge, another way to test the vaccine was needed.

Julia's research focuses on finding a comparable substitute. "My project involves determining the level of antigenic cross reactivity between antigens from different but closely related tapeworm species. If a significant level is identified, is serum from an animal vaccinated against *T. solium* able to kill the larvae of a different tapeworm species in vitro? If so, this species of tapeworm is able to substitute for *T. solium* in an in vitro assay that will allow us to test the immune response in vaccinated pigs without the need for the *T. solium* parasite."

My fascination with the world of worms grew to the point where I approached a lecturer in second year of undergrad and asked him how I could get his job!



Julia Lackenby, Sunshine Foundation Scholarship winner

"There is great enjoyment in working on original research, particularly something that when finished will not only improve the animal's quality of life and save farmers money, but more importantly, save a few human lives along the way."

I would very much like to stay in parasitology, be it back in marine parasitology or staying with veterinary, I may even venture into work on human parasitic diseases. Working in the areas of histology, pathology and more molecular biology would also be interesting. From there I will just have to wait and see what opportunities arise and keep an eye on what exciting new research is occurring."

Julia received the Sunshine Foundation Scholarship for 2007. This scholarship is awarded to a postgraduate student for outstanding achievement in veterinary science.



Alumni Gain Recognition

The Faculty is proud to be associated with such outstanding veterinarians.

Dr Graeme Smith (1975) was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2007 with the citation "For service to animal welfare through The Lost Dogs' Home, and to sport through junior soccer development." Dr Smith has been the Managing Director of the Lost Dogs' Home for the past 20 years and is often consulted as an expert in animal welfare issues.

Congratulations to Dr Alex Tinson (1977) for receiving the Distinguished Camel Scientist Award at the International Camel Conference. This conference was held at the College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Bikaner, Rajasthan State, India in February 2007. Dr Tinson has been working in Dubai where he has made breakthrough discoveries in embryo transfer programs and founded Harry's Endangered Friends Foundation.

The Australian Veterinary Association held its annual conference in Melbourne in May 2007. A highlight of the conference was seeing many of our alumni and staff recognized for their efforts and accomplishments. The following alumni received Meritorious Service Awards for special or long-term service to the Australian Veterinary Association and its Divisions, Branches, or Special Interest Groups.

Dr Matthew Makin (1998) is currently employed in a predominantly large animal practice specializing in Dairy Cattle Medicine, Farm Management Consultancy and Education Service. He previously worked at Flemington Racecourse, Melbourne, in a practice servicing the thoroughbred racing industry. Dr Makin has been the recipient of two Australian Federal Government leadership scholarships and one National Farmers' Federation scholarship.

Dr Bernie Mason (1976) has been the backbone of the Rural Veterinary Practitioners Branch of the AVA for more than twenty years. Through his efforts, the Branch remained active and provided a focus for country members. He was responsible for the organization of stimulating professional development sessions in large animal topics at Branch and Divisional meetings. Dr Mason specializes in dairy cattle and livestock.

Dr Michael Sheedy (1971) has been an active member of the AVA since his student days. Along with being president of several branches and groups, Dr Sheedy has assisted in and represented the AVA at the annual World Animal Day Dog Walk around Lake Wendouree for over ten years. He is currently the President of RSPCA Ballarat Branch and has held this role in 1982.

Dr Colin Trengrove graduated with a Master of Veterinary Studies degree from The University of Melbourne in 1991. He specialized in Clinical Sciences and has worked mainly in rural South Australia. Dr Trengrove was recognized for playing a major role in ensuring the on-going activities of two country-based Branches of the AVA. He is currently President of the South Australia Division.

Congratulations to Dr Neville McCarthy

Dr Neville McCarthy was made an Honorary Member of the AVA at the 2007 conference. He holds a special place in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at The University of Melbourne. Neville and his wife Margaret established the Robert McCarthy Memorial Scholarship in honour of their son. Rob completed his BVSc in 1984 and his PhD in 1989 and then worked as a Research Fellow in the Faculty until 1993. This scholarship enables those students who, after completion of the preclinical years of the BVSc course, are selected to participate in research projects related to equine health and performance during summer holidays.

In addition to this meaningful contribution, Dr McCarthy has been a Director or Board Member of several key organizations that impact on members of the veterinary profession, including the Australian Meat and Livestock Research and Development Corporation and the Victorian Meat Authority. He was Managing Director of Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) from 1974-1990. Dr McCarthy has had a long-term interest in cattle through his cattle property at Yea in Central Victoria, and a personal interest in veterinarians.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following graduates who were recipients of award by the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists:

- Lee Berger (1993) Ian Clunies Ross Award
- ACVSc Fellowship
- Dale Tyrrell (1999) Veterinary Radiology
- ACVSc Membership
- John Howie (1973) Animal Nutrition (Ruminant)
- Dianne Phillips (1989) Epidemiology
- Lee Skerrat (1994) Epidemiology
- Michael Dhar (1995) Medicine of Dairy Cattle
- Claire Sellick (2000) Medicine of Dairy Cattle
- Marjorie Milne (2001) Radiology
- Jane Colline (2000) Small Animal Medicine
- Lydia Hambrook (2002) Small Animal Medicine
- Kathryn Heading (2000) Small Animal Medicine
- Julian Sze (2000) Small Animal Medicine
- Craig Reeves (1998) Small Animal Surgery
- Kirsten Aberle (2000) Emergency & Critical Care
- Jennifer Cole (1998) Emergency & Critical Care
- Joanne Gill (1996) Emergency & Critical Care
- Rachel Peacock (2002) Emergency & Critical Care

Globe Trotting Vet Becomes Assistant Professor

"Veterinary Science is such a great profession that can lead you down many different paths during your career. Always be prepared to try new things and keep learning!"

Stewart Ryan (1989) has certainly followed his own advice throughout his career. After graduating, he worked in practices with dairy cattle and small animals. He and his wife Faye travelled through Europe, the US and Singapore before deciding to "...join the great Australian diaspora and move to Hong Kong. I took a two-year contract position in a veterinary clinic there. Like many Hong Kong expats, we went for two years and ended up staying for ten!"

Stewart's years there kept him busy with a large surgical caseload, as there were no registered specialists in Hong Kong. He became an ACVSc member in small animal surgery in 1995 and benefited from his mentors Drs Geoff Robins and Rodney Straw who visited Hong Kong regularly for surgeries. Stewart later became President and Treasurer of the Hong Kong Veterinary Association (HKVA) and organized veterinary conferences. He also started a mobile surgery consultancy practice which allowed him to help general practice veterinarians learn new surgical techniques and allow a more flexible schedule.

"I volunteered for Animals Asia Foundation to assist in surgery to aid the rehabilitation of bears that had been farmed for bile in mainland China. These bears were housed in terrible cages and had catheters in their gall bladders. We surgically removed the catheters and established a sanctuary to allow them to live outside."

For more details on Animals Asia Foundation, please see www.animalsasia.org/

"After surviving bird flu, SARS and worsening air pollution, it was time for a move, but we were not ready to head back to Australia yet. I applied and matched for a small animal surgical residency at Colorado State University (CSU) in 2003. They offer a great combined Master's Degree and residency training programme. Despite being an 'older in life' resident, I coped with going back to the basics and I learned a lot of new skills and techniques, and I unlearned a lot of old habits," he reflects. "I undertook a four-week outside rotation at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. It was a great opportunity to see human cancer treatment and see the translational research opportunities we have between animals and people in this field."

Stewart completed his residency training in July 2006 and passed the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) Board exams last February. He also completed a Research Fellowship in musculoskeletal oncology at CSU with the Animal Cancer Center. "This position allowed me to be involved in primary research which was not as easy to access during the residency. Research projects have spanned isolated limb perfusion with samarium to new prostheses for osteosarcoma treatment to analyses of risk factors for contamination



of human allografts." Stewart received the Mark Bloomberg Resident Research Award to present his research at the 2007 Veterinary Orthopaedic Society Annual Conference.

The Ryan family has decided to settle in Colorado. Stewart recently accepted a special appointment faculty position as Assistant Professor at Colorado State University. His focus will be primarily on research project management for musculoskeletal oncology projects but he will also lecture and hold clinical service responsibilities.


Stewart's wife Faye is based at home in Fort Collins, Colorado but works for a hedge fund company located in Connecticut. They have a daughter, Georgina, who's eight years old.

There has been a long history of Australian involvement with Colorado State University including Simon Turner (1972), David Maggs (1988), Robert Wrigley, Kate Savage (1987), Georgina Child, Colin Dunlop, Rick LeCouteur, Rod Straw (1979), Simon Kudnig (1990), Sonya Bettenay (1980) and Julius Liptak (1992), to name just a few.




UVet Seminar Series Continues

Our very popular seminar series continues in August with CT/MRI/scintigraphy. Don't forget to book your place with Mrs Gerry Hardie (9731 2000).



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE
Vet Clinic
& Hospital



Venue:
Large Lecture Theatre,
Veterinary Clinic & Hospital
250 Princes Highway,
Werribee, VIC 3030

Time: 6.30pm Light snacks
7.00pm Seminar begins

Cost: Nil

UVet 2007 Seminar Series

Seminar Format for 2007

1. Seminars offered as continuing education for veterinarians at no cost.
2. Topics selected on basis of usefulness to veterinarians in practice.
3. Short (5 to 10 minute) update on a topic/area from a recent conference attended by a staff of uVet included in each seminar.
4. Donation (tax deductible) towards equipment upgrade in uVet welcomed from the attendees.

Registration

Enquiries: Dr Wing Tip Wong (9731 2000 Mon – Thur) RSVP: Mrs Gerry Hardie (9731 2000)

CT/MRI/scintigraphy - Where do I start? Is there an endpoint?

Tuesday, 21st August 2007

In recent years, there has been an explosion in the use and availability of advanced diagnostic imaging to aid in the diagnosis of small animal problems. It can be confusing for clients and at times veterinarians in general practice as to which modality is likely to provide the most useful information so that the problem can be expediently identified and treated. A not uncommon situation is that the client has exhausted his/her financial resources by the time a diagnosis is reached and cannot proceed further with treatment even though the prognosis is favourable. With the use of case examples from our patient data, we will highlight the special features of each of these imaging modalities and guide you in your selection of diagnostic imaging techniques.

Dr Reuben Fliegner, Registrar (Small Animal Medicine)
Dr Dayle Tyrrell, Registrar (Diagnostic Imaging)
Dr Majorie Milne, Resident (Diagnostic Imaging)

Application of cytology and microbiology in clinical practice

Tuesday, 23rd October 2007

Various techniques to obtain a representative fine needle aspirate for cytological evaluation will be highlighted. Simple yet useful tips on the preparation and staining of cytology smears will be presented. Cytological features of the more commonly encountered soft tissue masses will be shown. What is the best way to submit a sample for bacterial culture? How do I interpret the results from sensitivity testing and how do I apply this information in my selection of antimicrobial therapy? These simple yet important decisions will be addressed. "The cytological findings are only as good as the smear - Peter Lording"

Professor Glenn Browning, Professor (Veterinary Microbiology)
Dr Peter Lording, Registered Specialist (Veterinary Pathobiology)
Dr Dayle Tyrrell, Registrar (Diagnostic Imaging)