

From the Dean's Desk



Professor Leo Jeffcott

Official Opening of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre and Teaching Facility on Camden Campus

You are cordially invited to the Official Opening of Sydney University's Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre and Teaching Facility on Camden Campus on Wednesday 2nd May. The Official ceremony will start at 11.00 am and will include an entertaining address by Mr John Dengate, Naturalist, Author and Broadcaster. Following the ceremony a light lunch will be served and guided tours of the facility will be available. Our Rumenations readers are encouraged to attend - please RSVP by 24.04.07 to vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au for catering purposes.



Open Day at Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre Camden - Saturday 5th May 10 am - 4 pm



This is a family fun day out to promote the WHCC to the local community. Come along and join in the fun! For the kids there's face painting, jumping castle, Teddy Bear Clinic and a sausage sizzle. Hear about caring for your native or exotic pet from the experts!

Tour the hospital in the centre, meet a number of native animals, up close and personal and see displays of exotic birds, fish, reptiles and insects from local breeder societies.

For more information phone 02 9036 7761

Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, Werombi Road, Camden



Faculty News

You will be pleased to hear that we have had a successful BAnVetBioSc enrolment this year. We have currently exactly filled our HECS quota of 80 places, although this means we are likely to be about 6 places below quota by census date. We also may have a few local fee payers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome several new members of staff who will be involved in both the Animal and Veterinary Bioscience and the BVSc program. Dr Jeff Downing and Dr Kathy Belov were appointed to continuing positions commencing on July 1 last year. Although Kathy has accepted her position, she has deferred taking it up and will continue in her current full time research position supported by external funds. In January this year, Dr Kyall Zenger and Dr Damien Higgins commenced their continuing appointments. Additionally Dr Jaime Gongora and Dr Russell Bush have been appointed to contract positions. Two technical positions based at Camden are in the process of being filled.

Chris Moran
Sub Dean, Animal and Veterinary Bioscience

A good news story! The table below indicates where Vet Science stands among all University faculties in the research postgraduate student experience survey. Some of you may be aware that 4 years ago Vet Science was pretty well bottom of most categories, but rose to be number 1 in most in the 2005 survey and was noted by the University hierarchy to be the gold standard last year. During this time the number of PGR students rose by 30% too. It is extremely satisfying to note that the 2005 position has been sustained in 2006, and confirms that it was not a statistical aberration.

Of course, this lofty position has not come about by accident. Everyone in the Faculty can share in the credit for a collective effort, including those researchers who are increasingly busy raising funds to support the students and their research. However, special mention should go to Frank Nicholas, who started a strategic remedial process when he was Sub-Dean-PERTC, and to Merran Govendir who has developed and implemented the plan together with the dedicated team of PERTC members who put in an extraordinary amount of behind-the-scenes work as Postgraduate Coordinators. Also deserving special mention are the general and academic staff and students who organise the annual postgraduate conference.

PERTC is not resting on its laurels! Efforts are continuing to improve the student experience within the financial and infrastructure constraints placed on the Faculty from outside. PERTC also welcomes ideas and self-help contributions from the PG student body.

Gareth Evans
Professor of Animal Reproduction
Associate Dean for Research

| Faculty | Response % | Supervision | Infrastructure | Research Climate | Generic Skills | Overall Supervision |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| University | | 74 | 64 | 57 | 77 | 80 |
| Dentistry | (too small) | | | | | |
| Health | | | | | | |
| Sciences | 70 | 76 | 62 | 58 | 79 | 84 |
| Medicine | 59 | 76 | 73 | 63 | 83 | 85 |
| Nursing | (too small) | | | | | |
| Pharmacy | 58 | 70 | 65 | 61 | 82 | 74 |
| Arts | 58 | 74 | 43 | 49 | 74 | 71 |
| Music | 50 | 69 | 55 | 41 | 66 | 77 |
| Economics & Business | 57 | 75 | 66 | 54 | 71 | 80 |
| Education & Social work | 69 | 79 | 51 | 50 | 73 | 81 |
| Law | 55 | 79 | 49 | 44 | 65 | 87 |
| College of Arts | 53 | 72 | 65 | 49 | 69 | 72 |
| Ag | 59 | 62 | 71 | 60 | 82 | 81 |
| Arch | 63 | 76 | 64 | 58 | 71 | 73 |
| English | 59 | 70 | 75 | 58 | 78 | 78 |
| Science | 56 | 73 | 73 | 62 | 79 | 79 |
| Vet Science | 69 | 79 | 71 | 67 | 81 | 87 |

Congratulations to the following postgraduate research students who participated in The Australian (national) Dairy Conference at Shepparton, VIC, earlier this year. Faculty boasted four of the 10 finalists for the The Young Dairy Scientists' Communication Award.

I am delighted to relay the news that Shelley Underwood was placed first, and James Neal second. Helen Smith and Mariana Pedernera were also in the top 10. Well done all, and particularly our quinella at the top!

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The secret life of ... Mrs Jeckel and Dr Hyde - By day she is a part time senior lecturer in Animal Science based on Camden Campus, but by night (and at any other chance she gets), Dr Michelle Hyde is a creative writer and she's now won the inaugural *Southern Highlands and Tablelands Literature Competition*.

Her story about a young girl's first day at university - her misgivings and her delights, was penned in only two weeks as that was all the time she had after first seeing the poster about the competition two weeks before entries were due in.

Of the fifty entries received, Michelle's was awarded the winner and the \$1000 prize money. Congratulations Michelle!



READER SURVEY

Thanks to the respondents to the readers survey from the last issue. From their feedback, we seem to be on the right track with Rumenations but as always, welcome any input from our readers.