

From the Dean's Desk



Professor Leo Jeffcott

Welcome to the first edition of Rumenations for 2007, and a belated Happy New Year to all our readers! We are close to the start of a new academic year and will soon be introducing the new intake of first year students (BVSc and BAnVetBioSc) and, of course, welcoming back all the continuing students. I wish them a wonderful year of learning, discovery and challenge as they work towards their personal goals within the Faculty of Veterinary Science- safe in the knowledge that they are in the best place in the world for learning all aspects of their chosen discipline.

As the academic year gets under way it is good to be able to report that the new Teaching facilities at Camden and the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre have been officially commissioned, and the Faculty has at last taken over possession. With this \$5M project now complete, plans are underway for the Official Opening Ceremony in May, of which you will read more detail in the content of this edition; suffice to say that we expect it to be attended by several high profile VIP guests, staff, students, community leaders and political statesmen. We are planning "Much ado about something!"

However, please don't feel you must wait until May to see these impressive facilities. I invite you to take the time to inspect them on your next visit to the Camden campus, and I encourage you to speak to Imke Tammen or David Phalen to arrange a tour.

VSF On Safari with World Expeditions

Lions stalking their prey, hippos wallowing in murky waters, elephants trumpeting for all to hear – the wildlife is certainly a major draw card for visitors to Africa.

Tanzania has some of the best wildlife viewing possibilities in Africa; The Serengeti with its endless plains and the biggest migration on earth, Tarangire with its unique landscape and elephant population, Lake Manyara with dense forest and tree climbing lions and of course, Ngorongoro, a magnificent extinct volcano teeming with wildlife. Spending time in each park, we have the chance to get off the beaten track, and take advantage of opportunities as they arise in the company of an expert safari guide. Stunning sunsets seem to appropriately conclude each day, leaving lasting impressions of the charm and diversity of Africa.

Accommodation is in good quality hotels in the cities and towns, and comfortable, exclusive mobile camps that allow you to fully enjoy and appreciate the African wilderness.

Join us on this journey and let Tanzania captivate your imagination and satisfy your curiosity.

Limited to 20 places. For full itinerary, more information, or to book call World Expeditions on 1300 720 000.



Tour dates are 11 to 29 June, 2007 and the cost is \$8,290 twin share -fully escorted from Sydney.

Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, Camden Campus



After many months and many "false starts" the faculty has now taken possession of the wonderful Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, Camden. The project was funded by a grant under the Australian Federal Government's Sustainable Regions Initiative and in acknowledgement of this, the facility will be officially opened with much fanfare on Wednesday May 2, 2007. A major effort is being made to engage a high profile VIP guest speaker to attend both the Official Opening Ceremony and the more local community based Open Day to be held on Saturday May 5. Key partners from business, government, community and the University will be invited to participate in these events. The launch of the WHCC will be an auspicious occasion for the University, so watch this space for details as they come to hand.

Faculty News

The WHCC has a new team!

The Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre is excited to introduce three new members of its team. Neil Loomes is our new Administrative Assistant. Neil comes to us with training as an electrician, experience as a pet store owner, and 17 years working at zoos. For the past 16 years Neil worked as a keeper, in products and promotions and lastly in tourism and group sales at the Taronga zoo. He will be the new face and voice of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre as many aspects of his job involve the general public.

Sharon Andronicos is our Veterinary Nurse. Sharon has a Bachelor of Science with a major in ecology and biology and is a level IV certified veterinary nurse. Sharon has extensive nursing experience in private veterinary practices, including emergency clinics, and in zoo and wildlife medicine. Her last position was Divisional Manager of the Veterinary and Quarantine Centre and Wildlife Clinic at the Taronga Zoo. Sharon has also worked in private industry and has skills in marketing and sales.

Anne Fowler is our Senior Clinical Veterinary Registrar. Anne is a 1992 graduate of the University of Sydney and has extensive private practice experience. She has worked on both large and small animals, but her passions are exotic animal pets (birds, reptiles, and small mammals) and wildlife. Anne has an excellent reputation as a wildlife veterinarian and speaks to wildlife care organizations all over Australia. Most recently, she has been involved in helping to provide care for the 300 koalas burned in this summers bush fires in Victoria. Anne is an active member of the Australian Veterinary Association, the Unusual and Exotic Pet Special Interest Group, where she will be president in the coming year, and the Association of Avian Veterinarians. She has spoken regularly at national meetings of these groups.

Neil, Sharon and Anne were the first choices for these positions and we are delighted that they agreed to join us. Together they are my "Dream Team" and their varied and extensive experience bodes well for the future of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre.

David Phalen, Director, WHCC

READER SURVEY

We invite your input..... Rumenations was initiated as a communication tool for our valued students, staff, donors and friends. We want to keep it relevant and seek your input on the layout , regularity and content. Please take a moment in your busy day to tell us what you think, so we can continue to produce a publication that is relevant to our readers' needs.

What would you like to see more of in Rumenations?

What would you like to see less of in Rumenations?.....

How often should we produce a new edition?

Do you feel it keeps you informed or are you receiving the information elsewhere?

Do you refer it on to interested friends, family, associates?.....

Any other comments you may wish to make:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR FEEDBACK

Your response can be faxed to 02 9351 8025

We want your feedback and contributions. Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, phone Georgina Springer on 02 9351 8026 or fax 02 9351 8025