

r u m e n a t i o n s

Issue 11 July 2002

Several thousand visitors took advantage of the Open Day hosted by the University Veterinary Centre at Camden last weekend, helping to celebrate the official opening of the new stable development by Sydney 2000 Olympic Games equestrian Rachael Sanna.

The Open Day, organised by Dr Christina Dart and the Camden Veterinary Centre staff, showcased the diverse small and large animal services of the University Veterinary Centre Camden. Practical demonstrations included the spectacular horse treadmill, cattle hoof trimming, the use of ultrasound, lameness in horses, small and large animal surgery displays, Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs for Independence, and dressage demonstrations by Olympic equestrian Rachael Sanna, a longstanding and loyal client of the Camden Veterinary Centre.

Senior veterinary students provided free pet health checks, and clinic staff gave a series of lectures including equine reproduction, arthroscopic surgery, hoof conditions and parasites; mastitis and foot care in dairy cattle; and talks about first aid, fleas and nutrition in dogs and cats. Different horse breeds were joined by llamas and alpacas, goats, cattle, reptiles, various dog and cat breeds, and many visitors brought along their own dogs.

The Open Day was designed to promote the University Veterinary Centre at Camden, its services and staff. Professor David Hodgson, introducing Rachael Sanna to the crowd, emphasised that, as well as the recent stable development, a major fundraising campaign would soon be undertaken to redevelop the entire Centre.



Dr Andrew Dart, Acting Director of the University Veterinary Centre Camden, with long-standing client 2000 Olympic equestrian Ms Rachael Sanna.



Associate Professor John House, Director of the Bovine Clinical Practice at the University Veterinary Centre at Camden, with Open Day visitors and some of the goats on display.



Dr Christina Dart, Senior Registrar and registered specialist in veterinary anaesthesia, and organiser of the Camden Open Day, with her dogs Zoe and Zac.

Christina Dart said she was overwhelmed by the support she received from staff across all areas of the Camden Clinic, Sydney Clinic, and veterinary students. She said, "As well as providing an important opportunity to promote the Veterinary Centre to potential clients, the Open Day turned out to be one of the best team building exercises we have ever done". The local community was also supportive – Cobbitty School catered for the day, and Camden businesses provided in-kind support and goods.

The reptile display was one of the most popular crowd-pullers on the day.



From the Dean's Desk

One of the ways the Faculty is raising its profile and attracting support is through the development and nurturing of external relationships – with the profession, industry, business, media and the broader community. To be successful in gaining funding, and in the development of industry and research partnerships, we must establish a healthy network of supporters who will be 'ambassadors' for the Faculty. Two events were held in June for external stakeholders.

External Advisory Group

The Faculty hosted its 2nd annual workshop for input from the Faculty's External Advisory Group. This group of 12 members are committed and high profile individuals drawn from the veterinary, research, government and business sectors with the capacity to provide valuable advice and insights into the challenges facing the Faculty. Members of the Faculty Executive, the Clinic and Veterinary Science Foundation Directors, and other senior staff, provided brief snapshots of 2001-2002 developments, and the following day the group met with the Faculty Policy Council for a series of workshops and presentations. The general consensus was very positive, and the group commented that the Faculty had progressed significantly since their first meeting in 2001.

Year 1 Evening with the Dean

An inaugural evening function was held for year 1 students and their families, providing an opportunity for parents to meet the Dean and staff, and to learn about some of the important initiatives being undertaken by the Faculty and the Veterinary Science Foundation.



Professor Reuben Rose, Ms Pritchard, student Mr Tim Pritchard, and ABC Science Show presenter Mr Robyn Williams at the Year 1 Evening with the Dean.

The Hon Justice Kim Santow, Chancellor of the University of Sydney since October 2001, also attended his first Faculty event, and guest speaker on the night was ABC Science Show presenter Robyn Williams. Student musicians Andrew Peters, Rachel Kent, Laura Bewley, Richard Lam, Louisa Ho and Sujatha Ramoo impressed the visiting families and reinforced the tremendous diversity of our veterinary students.



Ms Laura Bewley was one of the student musicians providing background music for the Year 1 Evening with the Dean.

Shared Leadership

The Faculty has initiated a leadership program for academic and general staff – **Shared Leadership for our Future**. This is a bold and exciting development for a University Faculty, and reflects the Faculty's commitment to its staff and confidence in their capacity to work together as a team despite the enormous challenges we face.

The 2002 program commenced in June with a 2-day interactive seminar for fifty members of staff, and will be followed by two intensive weeks in July and October for twenty staff. The program was open to every staff member, and attendees in June were drawn from all areas of the Faculty, and from both Sydney and Camden. The 2-day interactive workshop launched the leadership program and was designed to continue the work started in 2001 at the Faculty retreat and to allow a review of our progress, and discussion about future issues confronting the Faculty.

Shared Leadership for our Future focuses on the understanding of, and need for, leadership at all levels. Topics explored included how to lead in the Faculty; understanding the dynamics that impede learning and change; and the concept of exercising leadership

at all levels without formal authority. The seminar attendees also looked at the issues raised at the Faculty retreat, assessed progress, and worked on ways to reinforce and enhance these positive steps.

Progressive actions noted included the formation of the Faculty Communications Committee (see below); Veterinary Science Foundation publications including Rumenations; hosting of regular social functions to pull together Faculty members; tangible openness and staff interaction since the Faculty retreat; a better curriculum and increased focus on teaching quality; work on the AVMA Accreditation; increasing success with fundraising and the commencement of the new Sydney Clinic development.

The leadership program is being conducted by Michael Johnstone and Maxime Fern of Vantage Point Consulting, who work with a range of private and government groups in Australia and play an integral role in the Harvard Global Leadership Program in the United States.

Faculty Communications Committee

The Faculty Communications Committee, one of the outcomes of the 2001 Faculty retreat, was established by the Veterinary Science Foundation in early 2002. The committee's key focus is to improve communications within the Faculty – through encouraging the crossing of staffing hierarchy and location barriers, and working on practical processes and projects to ensure Faculty communications are streamlined and effective. The committee will also provide input into Rumenations and Roundhouse.

Issues the committee is already working on include photographic 'staff trees' in all buildings to assist students, staff and visitors to identify and locate staff; developing a process to ensure accuracy and inclusion of all staff in group email lists; taking responsibility for regular Faculty social events; and evaluating ways to improve induction processes for new staff within each area of the Faculty.



Left to right Sanaa Zaki (Sydney Clinic), Cassandra Pride (student), Shirley Ray (Faculty Administration Office) Jennie Churchill and Denise Popovic (Veterinary Science Foundation), Sally Pope (McMaster Building), Federico Costa (Faculty Web Services Coordinator). Inset - Imke Tammen (Camden Shute Building) our newest member.

The committee encourages suggestions from staff and students on relevant projects it can undertake, and welcomes feedback on the Foundation's publications Roundhouse and Rumenations. Send comments and suggestions to the committee care of the Foundation on vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.



End of meeting 5.30pm Friday afternoon.

Coordinator of Faculty Facilities

David Griffin, Professional Officer, has taken on the pivotal role of Coordinator of Faculty Facilities. The position gives David responsibility for establishing lines of command and communication for such matters as building and grounds maintenance, occupational health and safety, fire and first aid, and security. David has a network of responsible staff spread across the Faculty who have volunteered to assist. The Faculty's intranet site lists this network – check to find out who is responsible for what in your building or area.

Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Denise Popovic, VSF Communications Coordinator on 9351 8026.