

# Faculty of Veterinary Science

## r u m e n a t i o n s

Issue 7 March 2002

*Members of the Faculty's International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA) and Wild Group of the University of Sydney broke new ground during January, successfully hosting the first International Symposium of Wildlife Management for veterinary students ever held in Australia.*

Inspired by a similar event held in South Africa, the Sydney University students created, marketed and coordinated the 16 day conference. The twenty-eight symposium delegates – from the USA, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, Croatia, Greece and Canada – spent their time engrossed in conservation and wildlife issues, traveling widely throughout NSW and the ACT. Organisations involved included Taronga and Dubbo Zoos, the Reptile Park at Gosford, University of Canberra, and the Faculty through its facilities at Camden, Sydney and Arthursleigh at Marulan. International postgraduate students already working on projects at Arthursleigh provided access to platypus and wombat radiotracking and spotlighting.



### International Symposium Delegates

In addition to external lecturers, Faculty staff, including Associate Professors Tony English and Gary Cross and Dr Glenn Shea gave the group insights into Australia's feral pest control issues, the role of vets in conservation biology, sustainable use of wildlife, and reptile and bird diseases. The Faculty of Veterinary Science students responsible for organising the successful symposium included Caroline Kim, David McClelland, Anne Martin and Matt Luttrell.

### Faculty Supporters

As part of its fundraising role for the Faculty, the Veterinary Science Foundation seeks support for a range of Faculty initiatives. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors:



The innovative canine desexing clinic, part of the Faculty's surgical teaching program, has won financial and product support from CSL Animal Health. CSL is not only contributing to the program's operating costs, initially for three years, the company is also providing vaccines for the 400 dogs expected to go through the program annually.



Merial has increased its financial support of Roundhouse, the Veterinary Science Foundation's biannual newsletter. Merial's sponsorship will now contribute significantly to the production costs of this key Faculty publication.



Sponsorship provided by the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science (PGF) has secured the naming rights to a new component of the Professional Practice curriculum for years 1 and 2 – The Post Graduate Media and Communications Studio. The studio, to be located in the Veterinary Science Conference Centre, will house recording and video equipment enabling students to learn and practice communication techniques for a wide range of situations, from dealing with grieving and angry clients to undertaking radio and other media interviews. The PGF will also explore the possibility of developing media and communications seminars for small groups of veterinarians as part of the PGF program.

## From the Dean's Desk

### New Opportunities in Farm Animal Health, Production and Food Safety

A cornerstone of veterinary training is the understanding of the key issues around farm animal production and health and food safety. This broad area will become increasingly important in society, and building teaching and research capacity is critical for the Faculty.

We are in the process of making a number of new academic appointments to support this field of teaching and research with Dr Richard Whittington to take up the Sesqui Chair of Farm Animal Health (also supported by Meat and Livestock Australia) and Dr Peter Windsor the position of Associate Professor of Sheep Health and Production. Both the new appointees have international reputations in farm animal health. Currently they have positions with NSW Agriculture and with Richard and Peter's appointments, we are looking for ways to enhance collaboration between our two organisations. In addition we have appointed Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio to the position of Lecturer in Veterinary Epidemiology and Dr John House (currently at the University of California, Davis) to the position of Associate Professor of Cattle Health and Production and Head of the Bovine Clinical Unit. These key appointments will build our capacity to provide relevant teaching and research in the area of farm animal health.

Another significant development is a postgraduate training program in veterinary epidemiology and on 25 February we convened a major workshop involving key industry leaders to discuss the program and look at the skills required for veterinarians in the future. Our aim is to get this new postgraduate program in place for 2003 and we now have widespread industry support for this initiative.

These exciting developments for the Faculty will enable us to provide leadership and enhanced training in the area of farm animal health, production and food safety.

## Vets and Dragons

Faculty staff members escape to a surprising variety of leisure activities outside working hours. Associate Professor Chris Moran's passion is Dragon Boat racing and his team, Sydney Tsunami, came third in the top category of the January 2002 National Maritime Festival held in Newcastle.



**Chris Moran in the black cap, with his Dragon Boat racing team Sydney Tsunami.**

*Image Peter Stoop, Newcastle Herald.*

Chris, who has been racing for 11 years, finds the sport a great way to get fit, to involve family (his wife and children also compete), make friends, and enjoy exploring beautiful harbours and rivers around the country. He is keen to recruit new paddlers and can be contacted on (02) 9351 3553. Visit the team's website at <http://sydneytsunami.org.au>.

## Galapagos Study Tour

Associate Professor Tony English and Professor Frank Nicholas will lead a 2 week study tour to the Galapagos Islands during February 2003. Students, Faculty staff and alumni are invited to join the trip, which has space for 38 participants. The tour includes one week in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and one week visiting the islands on the NV Isabella, a 38 berth modern vessel (3 star). The total tour cost is around Aus\$9000 including airfares ex-Sydney.

Tony and Frank are familiar with the islands and have huge accumulated knowledge on Darwinism and the culture, history and biodiversity of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Contact Tony on (02) 9351 1675 or [anthonye@camden.usyd.edu.au](mailto:anthonye@camden.usyd.edu.au).

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