

Faculty of Veterinary Science

r u m e n a t i o n s

Issue 15 November 2002

A Galah Occasion — the first major fundraising event to be staged by the Veterinary Science Foundation — raised more than \$80,000 for the Sydney Animal Medical Centre Capital Campaign and profiled the Foundation to a diverse audience of three hundred supporters.

The event, held on 25 October in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney, celebrated the commencement, by the end of 2002, of the \$3 million Stage 1 upgrade of the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney. The initial works will include the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, supported by \$1 million from the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science. The University of Sydney is providing matching funds.

The VSF Events Committee, convened by the Veterinary Science Foundation and chaired by Deborah Smithers, national head of KPMG's Board and Corporate Governance Advisory Services, organised the event. Registrar Martine Perkins spoke as a representative of the UVCS, and other student and staff volunteers made a tremendous contribution to the night's success – Louise Baker, Sandra Barnard, Leonie Beadman, Susan Gottlieb, Rachel Kent, Eloise Koelmeyer, Sandra Macheroux, Catherine Majorich, Jeremy Pearson, Andrew Peters, Denise Popovic, Philippa Ravens, Shirley Ray, John Thirlwell and Sarah Whiteford.



John Thirlwell Vet 3 wearing the Peter Kingston collar and Batman (courtesy of Steve Austin) wearing a collar by Aida Tomescu.

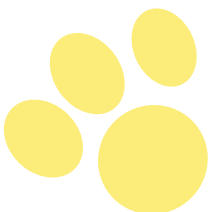
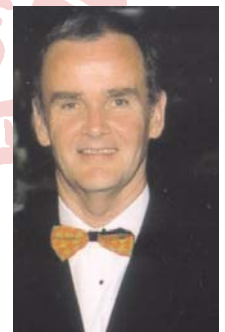


Eloise Koelmeyer Vet 3 wearing the Joan Rabinowitz piece and carrying a poodle and collar created by the James Gordon Workshop.

The Galah Occasion was planned to be fun and memorable and commenced with Flyball performances by the Parramatta International Agility Dog Group in the main Quadrangle, compered by animal trainer Steve Austin. The silent auction items were unique – dog and cat collars created by eminent artists, designers and jewellers passionate about animals – and Channel Nine Animal Hospital presenter Rebecca Harris led a parade of vet students and dogs and cats wearing the artists' creations (visit www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation to view the collars).

Mr Rob Ferguson, Chair of the Foundation's Capital Campaign, acknowledged the significant gifts already made to the fundraising campaign by major donors Provet (\$140,000 – naming rights to the Pharmacy), Hill's Pet Nutrition (\$100,000 – naming rights to the consulting rooms) and Apex Laboratories (\$100,000 – naming rights to the new Diagnostic Tutorial Room). On the night, \$5,000 VIP corporate tables were sponsored by Breville, Dairy Farmers, Hill's Pet Nutrition, KPMG and Pet's First, and many other individuals and companies generously supported the event.

Rob Ferguson, Chair of the Sydney Animal Medical Centre Capital Campaign. High profile Managing Director of Bankers Trust Australia between 1986 and 2001, Rob and his wife Jenny are committed to animals and, with Gerry Harvey and John Singleton were founders of the Magic Millions thoroughbred sale.



Dr Martine Perkins, representing the UVCS.



From the Dean's Desk

October 23 and 24 saw staff from the Teaching Hospitals at Sydney and Camden, taking time out to plan for many of the challenges facing us in the future. The introduction of the new curriculum to Year 4 in 2003 is a great challenge as is the need for more commercial approaches to running our two teaching hospitals. The planning days were facilitated by Mr Denis Hussey, a respected consultant in the agribusiness area. Important outcomes were decisions to undertake detailed business plans for each of the major business areas for the two clinics, developing a strong financial base to ensure more effective outcomes for our core business of teaching and research. Senior Faculty staff have a two day retreat planned for late November to construct operational plans for 2003 and 2004, as well as looking out 10 to 15 years to plan for the future.

Staff News

Associate Professor David Emery is the Faculty's new Principal Research Fellow in Farm Animal Health. He will be based at Camden and his work will focus on the new Ovine Johnne's Disease pathogenesis research program, funded for 3 years by Meat and Livestock Australia. David has a distinguished international track record in animal health research, most recently in immunoprophylaxis of internal parasites in sheep, as well as considerable experience in international animal health issues through Biosecurity Australia.

Dr Michelle Hyde has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. Michelle has also been selected as one of the recipients of the prestigious NSW Minister for Education and Training and Australian College of Educators Quality Teaching awards for 2002.

At the recent World Veterinary Congress in Tunisia **Associate Professor Tony English** was elected Chairman of the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV), which has more than 400 members in 50 countries.

Other new appointments – Dr Joan Lloyd, Academic Manager Postgraduate Program in Veterinary Public Health Management; Dr Jane Stevenson, Associate Lecturer in Veterinary Anatomy; Dr Wendy Muir, Lecturer in Intensive Industries; Dr Felicity Cole, Associate Lecturer in Equine Medicine and Surgery.

NEW Foundation Website

The Veterinary Science Foundation's new website is going "live" on Tuesday 12 November — the URL is www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation. The Faculty's website coordinator Federico Costa has worked closely with the Foundation to create the site and we are very grateful for his expertise, patience, hard work and great ideas.

In addition to information about donations and bequests, other features include Media News (listing all press releases distributed by the Foundation on behalf of the Faculty) and Events. Visit the Events section to read about the Galah Occasion and view images of the dog and cat collars created by eminent Australian painters, designers and jewellers to raise funds through silent auction.

Meat Judging Win

Four students enrolled in the Animal Production stream of the Agricultural Science degree, taught by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, have defended our title as Australia's best meat and carcass judges at the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging competition held at Cargills Meat plant at Wagga Wagga in October. Sponsored by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), the contest aims to give tertiary students a better understanding of meat quality, yield and selection.

Michael Connors, Steven Downes, Sheridan Payne and Kirstie Martin won the Roy McDonald Shield for the team event, defeating 8 other teams from around the country. Michael, who topped the class and will lead the Australian team in the USA in January, equalled the best scores in the competition over the past 15 years. Our continued success is undoubtedly due to the outstanding knowledge and dedication of the coach, Colin Cavanagh, a PhD candidate working on the genetics of meat production with Imke Tammen and Herman Raadsma.

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.