

## From the Dean's Desk



Professor Leo Jeffcott

### Accreditation Visit Complete!

The Veterinary School's Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC) has just completed a comprehensive review of the Faculty against the 12 standards, and gave us commendations and recommendations at an exit meeting with Bob Kotic (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer). We are yet to receive the formal report, but we were given some verbal feedback. The VSAAC team noted that the Faculty has undergone significant reorganisation, and believes that the restructure will allow us to flourish into the future. Several other key highlights included:

- the efforts of the Faculty to provide student exposure throughout the early curriculum to live animals.
  - the content review, redevelopment, revision and process in place for the improvement of the curriculum was encouraging. The VSAAC team were particularly impressed with the culture of support at all levels for curriculum and learning. Our leaders in this area were considered to have real vision and drive.
- the ongoing push to develop a high quality experiential learning in Year 5 particularly in the area of its detailed organisation of the program and management.
  - staff planning, development and PM&D reviews were considered to be Faculty strengths.
  - staff activities reflect the encouragement of research in the Faculty.



The VSAAC Team during the site visit

*This was all very encouraging, and means that the Faculty is well on its way of achieving the University's goal of 1:5:40. My heartfelt thanks to all academic and support staff for all their continuing hard work.*

L-R: Prof Gail Anderson - AVA Representative, Prof Paul Canfield, Prof John Edwards - Australasian Veterinary Deans Committee Representative, Prof Leo Jeffcott, Professor Tim Parkinson - NZVA Representative, Prof Norm Williamson - VCNZ Representative, Dr Ray Batey - AVA Representative, A/Prof Rosanne Taylor, A/Prof Richard Squires - James Cook University, Dr Julie Strous - Executive Officer, AVBC.

### 2007 Carrick Award

Please join me in congratulating the Year 5 team for their 2007 Carrick award for *"the development of authentic, varied and rigorous assessment procedures that foster independent and lifelong learning in veterinary professional environments"*. John Baguley, Christine Hawke, Melanie Robson, Federico Costa and Susan Matthew have won a \$10,000 award, and continued the Faculty's proud track record in local and national teaching awards.

The citation for the award recognized their achievement in developing assessment and feedback methods for the final year internship programme of the Veterinary Science degree which effectively foster independent, lifelong learning attitudes and abilities. Students are active participants in designing, negotiating and reviewing their performance in work placement-based assessments, in association with professional practitioners, clinicians and academic staff. This effectively supports the transition to self directed learning in professional practice and have been commended by fellow staff, the University, and the broader community.

## Congratulations

At the Australasian Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB) meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, 2 - 5 September, the Vet Faculty had two outstanding successes.

PhD student Kiri Beilby won the prestigious Meat and Livestock Australia New Scientist Award with her very first major scientific conference presentation.

Postdoc Katherine Morton was awarded the Society's TJ Robinson Travel Fellowship to represent the SRB's young scientists and present a lecture at next year's International Congress on Animal Reproduction in Budapest.

Congratulations to both on these fine achievements.

Congratulations are also in order for PhD students presenting at the recent Genetics Society Australasia conference in the Veterinary Science Conference Centre, 5 and 6 September, namely Hannah Siddle - Best Overall student presentation, Camilla Whittington - Best presentation in Comparative Genomics and Mini Singh - Best Poster

Congratulations to Elissa Kluger who was awarded equal First Prize in the Young Speakers Program at The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' Science Week held 18 - 16 August. Well done!

It is also extremely pleasing to let you know that two of our PhD candidates - Navneet Dhand and Sam Hamilton - successfully completed the membership examinations for the ACVSc Epidemiology Chapter last week. In addition Navneet was awarded the Chris Baldock Prize for achieving the highest score this year.

## Improving the profitability of dairy farming in Pakistan

As part of a gift from the Australian government A/ Prof Peter Wynn and Dr Russell Bush have been commissioned by the Australia government agency ACIAR to develop training strategies for extension workers involved in advising farmers on how best to improve farm productivity in Pakistan. David McGill, a first class honours graduate in Agricultural Science from the University of Sydney, majoring in dairy production has joined our team to initiate a survey of farm and community practices in the dry semi desert or barani region of West Punjab.

The project will involve staff from a number of institutes Australia wide including Charles Sturt University, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, QDPI and the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.



L-R:  
Dr Saadia Hanif,  
Dr Hassan  
Warriach,  
(Pakistani  
appointees)  
A/ Prof Peter  
Wynn, Mr David  
McGill, Dr Russell  
Bush

## Sydney and UNE unite to deliver by distance

An initiative sparked by seed funding from Meat & Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation, launched "Animal Breeding Management" (ABM) in February this year

The new Masters program equally combines units of study in Animal Genetics and Biotechnology from the University of Sydney with units in Advanced Genetics and Breeding Program Design at the University of New England (UNE). Students will spend some time in Armidale, this semester, in a new scheme to train experts in animal breeding management.

Modeled on the highly successful postgraduate program in Veterinary Public Health Management, ABM combines advanced and applied study in animal genetics and breeding with leadership, managerial skills, change management and project management.

The course is predominantly taught online, a mode that best suits people who are also working full-time. This semester, Animal Breeding Management students are working on Project Management with Juergen Oschadleus and Genetic Evaluation and Breeding Program Design with Julius van der Werf.

## Faculty Calendar

### Animal Forensics and Animal Cruelty

By Dr Melinda Merck - World expert in Veterinary Forensics from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

When: 1.00pm, Monday 8th October

Where: Webster Lecture Theatre

### Faculty Lunch Time Seminar Series

1.00pm, Wednesdays, Webster Lecture Theatre

19th Sept **Dr Philip Boughton**, Bioabsorbable systems for orthopaedics and tissue engineering

3rd Oct **Dr Charlotte Taylor** TBA

10th Oct **Dr Glenn Shea** Land of lizards: the expanding reptile fauna of New Caledonia

17th Oct **Grand Rounds**

24th Oct **Dr Rachael Grey** TBA