

CSU Tails



CHARLES STURT
UNIVERSITY

2009



www.csu.edu.au/vet

News from the CSU Veterinary Science program



IN THIS EDITION

- Research initiatives at CSU
- Focus on Class of 2014
- AHMS: students on the farm
- Dairy extension work in Pakistan

Contents

Page 1	Welcome from Head of School
Page 2	Charles Sturt University turns 20
Page 3	Students getting out and about
Page 4	Focus on Class of 2014
Page 6	Research Initiatives at CSU's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Page 9	Fred Morely Centre - consulting and research for the livestock industries Connemaras on Campus
Page 10	Animal Husbandry Extramural Studies
Page 12	Scholarships, awards and prizes
Page 14	Staff news from around the School
Page 17	CSU students on assignment in Pakistan
Page 20	Thank you to new donors
Page 21	Tales from the tearoom

Contact us

CSU Tails is produced by Charles Sturt University.
For further information contact the Charles Sturt Foundation:

Phone: 02 6338 4680

Fax: 02 6338 4833

Email: vetfoundation@csu.edu.au

Web: www.csu.edu.au/special/vetfoundation

Disclaimer

The opinions published in *CSU Tails* are not to be regarded as the official opinion of Charles Sturt University. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, no guarantee is given, nor responsibility accepted by Charles Sturt University for errors or omissions in the information presented. Before relying on any information in this publication, readers are responsible for independently verifying its accuracy, currency and completeness.

If you would prefer not to receive *CSU Tails* in the future, please email aimee.cook@csu.edu.au and type 'unsubscribe CSU Tails marketing' in the subject field, or call 02 6338 4680.

The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) Provider Numbers for Charles Sturt University are 00005F (NSW), 01947G (VIC) and 02960B (ACT).

© Charles Sturt University, 2009

Thank you

The Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation would like to acknowledge the support of new and continuing donors to the Veterinary Science program:

- Mr and Mrs Aird
- Albury-Wodonga Angus Breeders' Association
- Lyndall Angel
- Ardrossan Angus
- Argyle Pastoral
- Australian Veterinary Association
- Bahgallah Veterinary Services
- Gill Beaton
- Ben and Louisa Beck
- Doug Bryden
- Bukalong
- Cattle Council of Australia
- Jeffrey Chalmers
- Dr Harry Cooper
- Coopers Animal Health
- Bryan and Lucinda Corrigan
- John Dawkins
- Dunoon
- Dr Ray Ferguson
- A and K Gestier
- Hazeldean
- Mr Les Hill, Med-Chem Surgical P/L
- Hillgrove Pastoral Company
- Mr WP and Mrs AG Holmesby
- Dr John Holt
- Dr Lynn Ibbott
- Jancourt
- Jurox Pty Ltd
- Phil Kidd
- Dr Graham Lean
- Leeton Veterinary Hospital
- Lithgow Veterinary Hospital
- Dr J R V Lobban
- Mr A J Longman
- Lyppard
- Macleay Valley Veterinary Services
- Dr Peter Macneil
- Masterfoods Petcare
- McCaughey Memorial Institute
- Arthur Menzies
- Moruya Veterinary Hospital
- Mount Elephant Station
- Mount Raven Stud
- Dr A Newman
- NxGen Pharmaceuticals
- Onslow
- Robyn Paton
- Pine Hill
- Piper Street Veterinary Clinic
- Mr J R and Mrs H M Pither
- Provet
- Redgate Poll Herefords
- RennyLea Angus
- Steven Roberts
- Romani Pastoral Company
- Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga
- Scott's Angus
- Dr Alan Sharrock
- South Australian Connemara Action Group
- Springwaters Pty Ltd
- Stearman Bovine Handler
- Taloooby Trust
- Robin Tassell
- Thring Pastoral Company
- Dr Roger Turner
- Jill Walker
- Warby Street Veterinary Hospital
- Welch Allyn
- Westpac Banking Corporation
- W G Graham Trust
- Willurah
- Wiruna
- Dr U Wirth
- Wolbull
- Yabtree West
- Yavenvale

Cover image: Becci Robson (class of 2010) and Cam Hendricks (class of 2011) prepare for immunohistochemistry in a CSU research laboratory. Image: Shane Raidal



Welcome: Professor Kym Abbott Head of School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee visit

The School received confirmation that its short-term accreditation will continue into 2010 after a visit from the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC) in November last year. The Committee made a number of very positive remarks about the Veterinary Science program's curriculum, facilities, staff and students and acknowledged the high quality work by staff to develop and deliver the course. The Committee also made a number of recommendations that the School must address before the final accreditation visit next year. These recommendations align with the University's plans and principally relate to the delivery of the last phase of our course and the facilities and staff needed to provide it.

The full accreditation visit is scheduled for July next year, as the first cohort of students sit their final exams at the completion of their clinical rotations. To say that July 2010 will be a busy time is something of an understatement! A representative from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in London will accompany the VSAAC team next year with a view to the recognition of the program with that institution; thereby facilitating registration of graduates if they wish to work in the UK.

Our first graduation is almost upon us - the Class of 2010

As the Class of 2010 approaches the end of Year 5 of the six-year course, the pace is hotting up. Phase 3, with its focus on clinical rotations, is starting and the students are looking forward to this next and final stage of their program which is mostly spent away from lecture halls and laboratories, out in the world of the veterinary workplace.

Each student will complete a series of 10 clinical rotations, seeing equine, small animal, beef, dairy and mixed practices as well as placements in state medicine with Departments of Primary Industry or the Livestock Health and Pest Authority, in our Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and in specialist or consultancy practices.

Both the equine and small animal rotations will be intramural. We are very grateful for the strong support and cooperation that we have received from placement providers across south eastern Australia.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the developments, activities of staff and students in this edition of Tails. I trust you will get some sense of the excitement we all feel as the CSU Veterinary Science program approaches its first year of graduates.

Plans for the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) in Wagga Wagga



Situated on the site of CSU's Wagga Wagga South Campus, construction of the VTH commenced in May this year and is due for completion in January 2010. The clinic will provide clinical training for veterinary science students in Years 4 to 6 as well as opportunities for postgraduate training and clinical research. It will operate as a first opinion veterinary hospital and will include facilities and rooms for referral cases.

The building and facilities were designed to comply with the requirements and standards of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

As well as the traditional consulting and treatment rooms there will be seminar and teaching areas and accommodation for students to support 24 hour monitoring of animals after surgery or requiring intensive care.



The new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

The new laboratory is nearing completion. Work is progressing steadily with hand over to the School scheduled for the end of September 2009.

This facility will provide outstanding opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate training in pathology, parasitology and microbiology as well as provide diagnostic services in support of the region's veterinary practices and livestock producers.

Charles Sturt University celebrates its 20th anniversary

Charles Sturt University's 20th anniversary year provides an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as an institution.

While we are 20 years a University, our history of engagement in professional education and state-of-the-art relevant research spans more than 100 years, with the establishment in 1895 of the Bathurst Experiment Farm.

The first 15 years of our history as a university was a period of remarkable achievement, bringing together two distinct and successful institutions, distributed over a vast geographic area.

Over the last five years, we have focused on consolidating that achievement and have realised our ambition of being a national university, located in inland Australia, serving the broader professional needs of our national economy at every level.

CSU is committed to achieving excellence in education for the professions and to maintaining national leadership in flexible and distance education.

We are proud to be a leading player in international research in ethics, theology, governance, security, water, food, agriculture, education and environment.

Growing our University has been achieved through a fine balance of financial prudence and strategic investment. Like our name-sake, the celebrated Australian explorer Charles Napier Sturt, Charles Sturt University will continue on this exciting journey, exploring new and innovative ways of advancing discovery and learning.

I am grateful to our staff, students and communities for their support and look forward to enjoying with them the celebrations throughout 2009 of our 20th Anniversary of operation.

Professor Ian Goulter
Vice-Chancellor and President



Wagga Wagga Teaching College students on what is now CSU's Wagga Wagga South Campus



19 July 1989 - Charles Sturt University Act 1989 enacted



Wagga Wagga Experimental Farm students

Students getting out and about

Richard Sanders wins top meat judging award

Veterinary science student Richard Sanders received the Tom Carr Award for Coaching Excellence at the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition (ICMJ) in July. Richard makes his carcass evaluation skills available to fellow students and coached the CSU team for the annual ICMJ competitions. Richard, also represented Australia at ICMJ in the USA in 2005. He was assisted by Year 4 veterinary science student Stephanie Bullen who will continue

Richard's work.

Three animal science and agriculture students, Louise Lawrence, Victor Clifton and Jessira Perovic have a chance to be included in the Australian meat judging team as they were named among the nine finalists for an elite industry training workshop in Brisbane. The students wish to thank Cargill Beef Australia, Junee Abattoir, and Knights Meats for their sponsorship.



Richard Sanders and Stephanie Bullen with the meat judging team. Photo: Alix McFarland

Students visit Pine Park Piggery

Under the watchful gaze of Dr Ross Cutler, Adjunct Professor of Pig Medicine at CSU, Year 1 veterinary science students (pictured with owner Peter Cartwright) travelled to Temora to learn about local pig production.

During the visit, the students assisted in the post-mortem of a pig and toured the facilities. Dr Cutler credits much of the success of the early pig medicine program to the enthusiasm of Peter Cartwright, owner of Pine Park Piggery, who gives his time generously to our students.



Photo: Temora Independent



Photo: The Weekly Times

Simone Lee awarded major dairy scholarship

Year 3 student Simone Lee (pictured left) is the winner of the \$10,000 Greenham Dairy Scholarship awarded annually by the Tongala based firm WH Greenham & Sons.

The aim of the prize is to encourage young people to make a commitment to the improvement of the dairy industry through education.

Emma Packer runs the Gold Coast Marathon



In a stunning time of three hours and 10 minutes, Emma Packer (Class of 2010), ran the Gold Coast Airport Marathon in July this year.

Only 18 months ago Emma was badly injured in an accident and has worked hard to regain her health and strength.

Emma said she had a fantastic time at the marathon. "It was an awesome experience running with 23,000 people," she said. "I was placed 3rd in the 18-24 year age group and was 25th female overall. After the accident I was in a neck brace for some time. After the neck brace was removed I found I couldn't run to the end of the block because I was so unfit.

"I love training; it keeps me sane and helps me get to sleep at night. When I run I can get away to a whole other place mentally, forget about everything else, which makes things easier to deal with when I get back. To get ready for the marathon I ran 60-100km a week plus two cross-training sessions."

Focus on Class of 2014

Sixty students came together in February this year to form the Class of 2014. There are fewer male students (18%) than in previous years with almost 40% of the class having either completed a degree or worked towards a degree at another institution before deciding on veterinary science at CSU. Most of the students are from NSW with the next biggest group coming from Victoria, followed by Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT. Four students report on their journey:



Natalka Kohut

"Growing up in the suburbs of Melbourne I was lucky to have Dr Vanessa Gavensas as my veterinarian, friend and mentor

who continues to inspire me. Many experiences led me to pursue my passion for animal health and welfare including a turtle conservation project in Vanuatu. Unfortunately, in Vanuatu, I was struck more by the health of the roaming dog population. With very limited resources, I nursed a young puppy back to health after realising he had ingested toxic algae endemic to the island. It was incredibly rewarding to have contributed to his recovery and inspired me to continue my journey towards veterinary science studies.

"CSU is the fifth university I have attended, and stands out as the most welcoming and supportive. My passion for science and nature led me to complete a degree in environmental science and move on to veterinary science. I am interested in how animal management practices could be made more effective in relation to their dependence and impact on the environment. I see myself working with livestock in rural Australia and coordinating research."



Michelle Eastwood

"I can't remember when I first decided that I wanted to be a vet; it was just something that has always been there. In Year 10 I did

work experience at a local veterinary clinic and they offered me a job as a nurse on Saturdays. I worked there for two years before taking on a job with horses.

"I did an Applied Science (Equine) degree through Charles Sturt University in 2006 and swore that, after six years of distance education study, I was done with university. Then CSU offered veterinary science and, despite being older than most applicants, I decided to apply. Nineteen years after finishing high school, here I am just starting veterinary science at CSU.

"Studying and being a mother with young children is certainly a challenge but I am learning the art of time management! My children attend a local school and I have lots of community and family support, particularly from my husband, so I can get on with study. Early morning lectures were a problem but luckily my children were happy to sit in on the occasional lecture – fancy being at uni with mum!"



James Turnbull

"I grew up on a small property in central western Queensland where we run both sheep and cattle.

"I went to the local primary school until Year 7 when I moved to boarding school in Warwick.

"Having grown up on a farm and being involved in the daily life of farming, I have always had an interest in animals and always wanted to be a vet.

"CSU really appealed to me because it aims to train people towards large animal health and care and I had also heard a lot about it.

"Veterinary science at CSU so far has been really good and very enjoyable.

"Where would I like to be in 10 years? I would hope to have a job in a veterinary clinic somewhere in central Queensland or the Northern Territory."



Clare Ferris

"I grew up in Barraba in northern NSW on a property with a 250-head commercial beef herd, though recently we have started a small Blonde D'Aquitaine stud with an interest in producing bulls for stud and commercial herd use. We also run a 500 head feedlot. Living on a property all my life has exposed me to the highs and lows of farming and I have witnessed the continual advancements in technology. I was one of eight students in Year 8 at the local school and the only one to go to university.

"Our local vet, Ben Gardiner, told me about the course at CSU, which interested me as I wanted to be a vet and practise in the rural sector. CSU sounded right for me as it is located in the country, which would make adjusting to uni life easier.

"After graduation I plan to go overseas for 12 months to get experience in farming enterprises in Europe and USA. Eventually I intend to establish my own veterinary practice in a rural area."

O Week, overalls and a busy first semester

O Week started with a busy round of tours of the School and Campus where the students will spend the next six years. Talks from visiting veterinarians, the Australian Veterinary Association, industry representatives, completing medical forms for Q fever and gathering together laboratory coats, boots and the traditional green embroidered overalls filled the students' days.

The students got to know each other over barbecue lunches on the lawn behind the School where they mingled with the School staff.

The following weeks were taken up with lectures and practical classes dealing with animal handling where the safety of students and staff is a priority.

In their spare time, some students offered to help at the Downside Dog Trials in March, organised by Dr Helen McGregor. They were responsible for moving sheep around the yards and the timing and scoring of events.

Another group volunteered their services helping with veterinary checks on horses in The Rock's annual equestrian weekend under the supervision of Associate Professor Bryan Hilbert.



Charlotte May in a sheep practical class

Parents and Partners weekend

After two months of lectures and hands-on practical classes among the School's horses, sheep and cattle, interspersed with visits to farms and veterinary practices, the Class of 2014 invited their families to a weekend of entertainment to show where they worked, lived and played.

The Parents and Partners Dinner was a great success due to the organising capabilities of Kate Elder and Clare Ferris, class representatives, and their team of helpers in the Veterinary Students' Association.

Veterinarian David Hall from Walwa was guest speaker and treated guests to a pictorial retrospective of his experiences working as a veterinary adviser in developing countries. It is interesting to note that David's daughter Eve Hall is in the Class of 2014, together with four other students whose fathers are in the veterinary profession - George Johnston, son of Andrew Johnston; Rosemary McKean, daughter of Ian Gawler; Alex Kannegieter, son of Nick Kannegieter; and Tess Butler, daughter of John Butler.

The weekend's activities continued on the Sunday morning with a tour of the School buildings and cattle yards by Kym Abbott and Eric Allan for parents and friends who had not previously seen the School facilities.



Josephine Hale and Natalie Cheers taking a break between sheep yard duties

The Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation is seeking support from the industry and community to fund stethoscopes for new students each year.

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please call the Foundation on 02 6338 4680.



Listen and learn – stethoscopes for students

Along with their new overalls and lab coats, each student was given a stethoscope to assist with their learning over the next six years. Veterinary Practice Lecturer Eric Allan handed out the stethoscopes during class for students (pictured) to practise.

Later in the day, students were able to put the stethoscopes to good use as part of their activities during a cattle handling practical session at the cattle yards.

Research initiatives at CSU's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences

The Platypus – studying its health and habitat

The platypus, *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* is a monotreme; an egg laying mammal with one common opening for the reproductive, urinary and digestive systems and with abdominal testes in the male. They are distributed throughout the streams and lakes of eastern Australia, from Cooktown to Tasmania. Platypuses rely on relatively undisturbed stream banks to support their resting and nesting burrows and have home ranges of one to seven kilometres.

This unique creature remains surprisingly understudied with a lack of information on its abundance and health status. Although assumed to be common across their range, numbers are declining in some areas with no sightings reported in the last few decades. Many infectious agents and parasites are recorded, but of particular concern are the diseases caused by the fungus *Mucor amphibiorum* (mucromycosis) and the bacterium *Leptospira* (Leptospirosis). Other major threats to the platypus include predation by introduced animals and other misadventure, starvation/exposure of dispersing juveniles, the current drought and human impacts on their environment.

Dr Joanne Connolly (pictured) from the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Honours student Tom Claridge, in conjunction with Ian Links from the Department of Primary Industry and the EH Graham Centre, are researching the platypus in the Murrumbidgee catchment. The project will be the first comprehensive study of the platypus populations in this catchment. The aim is to compare the health of free-living platypuses from agricultural and undisturbed environments determining the extent to which detrimental changes in their environment impact on their health status.

Agricultural sites between Yass and Narrandera and undisturbed sites in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment including Kosciusko National Park are being surveyed. The platypuses are caught using monitored nets and are examined for external parasites and signs of injury or disease. Individuals are weighed, measured, condition scored by tail volume, sexed and aged by spur. Blood samples are collected as part of the health assessment (including blood smears, haematology, biochemistry and *leptospira* serology). Faecal samples and ticks are collected opportunistically. Each animal is identified by the aseptic insertion of a microchip prior to release. Habitat condition is assessed including riparian condition, stream characteristics, macro-invertebrates, water quality and land use. Recently a platypus was captured in Wagga Wagga, the first local one to be included in this survey.

The anticipated outcome will be an improved understanding of the impact of habitat on platypus health and abundance. This information will help in the better management of wild platypus populations, such as recommendations for catchment management and farm practices.

Dr Joanne Connolly, Senior Lecturer in Microbiology



Canis lupus dingo – the issue of its impending extinction

Dingoes have only been in Australia for 4000-5000 years. Founder members of the current population arrived on board the boats of South East Asian seafarers. Dingoes soon became firmly established and gradually out-competed the original marsupial top-order predator, the thylacine, and established themselves in its place.

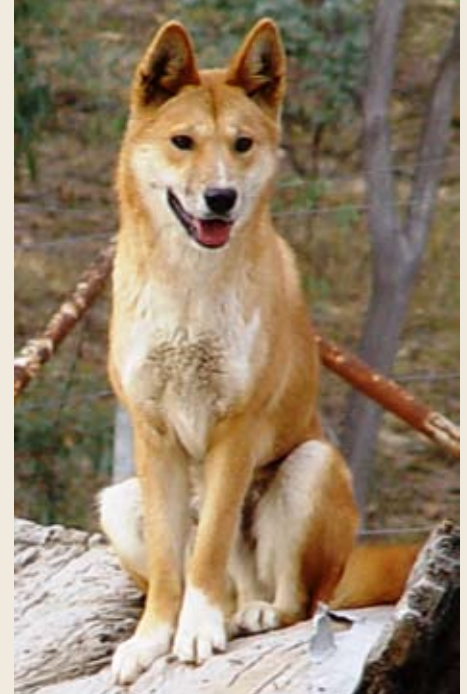
The arrival of domestic dogs and sheep with European settlers had a major impact on the fate of dingoes through habitat destruction/modification (e.g. construction of the dingo barrier fence), cross-breeding with domestic dogs and conflict with farmers because of their predatory habits with sheep. The result has been fragmentation of dingo habitat, extinction of dingoes in many areas (resulting in an unregulated kangaroo population) and the development of dingo/domestic dog hybrid populations in south eastern Australia.

The impending extinction of dingoes in Australia is of concern for many ecologists because dingoes have been identified as a keystone species, an essential part of the ecology maintaining top-down control of prey species populations (commonly herbivores), that in turn controls grazing pressure on the environment, ensuring maintenance of plant cover and reduction of erosion.

Over the past 10 years, Dr Jenkins has been working with a number of scientists around Australia investigating the dingo/domestic hybridisation issue, how wild dogs (dingoes and dingo/domestic dog hybrids) utilise their habitat, and the role of wild dogs in parasite transmission.

The movements of wild dogs fitted with satellite collars have been followed and have accurately established home range sizes and how wild dogs utilise these areas. Studies have shown that wild dog home ranges in south eastern Australia range from around 25km² to 60km² with the size being largely dependent on available food resources. Dingoes utilise the whole of their home range but they return regularly to a favourite place. It has been observed that, where dingoes are present, foxes and cats are either absent or at very low density. It is not fully understood if this is avoidance by cats and foxes or if wild dogs regularly prey on the two smaller carnivores.

Diet studies have revealed cat and fox remains in wild dog scats and it has been suggested that having dingoes in areas where there are also threatened species susceptible to cat and fox predation, would be a net ecological gain, despite a few individuals being lost to the wild dogs.



The genetic studies have revealed around 80-85% of the wild dogs in areas in and around the Kosciuszko National Park contain detectable domestic dog genes. Hybridisation is obvious where the domestic dog genes code for coat colour but may be visually undetectable in dogs containing domestic dog genes coding for more subtle changes. An important trait in domestic dogs is they can breed twice per year while dingoes can only breed once. Data collected thus far indicate that dingo hybrids living in the bush are still only breeding once per year.

Dingoes are susceptible to infection with all the helminth parasites seen in domestic dogs. They are important in spreading hydatid disease to kangaroos and wallabies in the bush and may act as a conduit of infection for sheep on farms adjacent to national parks and state forests. Recent work by one of Dr Jenkins' PhD students, Jessica King, has shown dingoes capable of acting as a definitive host for *Neospora caninum*, a protozoan parasite causing late-term abortion in cattle. This important work is continuing.

Dr David Jenkins, Senior Research Fellow, Parasitology



EverGraze – more livestock from perennials

EverGraze is a national project supported by the Future Farm Industries Co-operative Research Centre (CRC), Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation. It is a network of research sites with on-farm demonstration/evaluation sites across southern Australia with a focus on developing livestock systems that best utilise perennial pastures (native and improved) to improve profit and environmental outcomes.

Dr Michael Friend and colleagues at CSU have managed three large research projects east of Wagga Wagga, at sites with a mean annual rainfall of >600mm, since 2006. In the largest project (62 hectares) they are examining the production of various Merino-based systems differing in ewe stocking rate, lambing time and proportion of flock joined to a Merino or terminal sire, managed on a perennial base of lucerne, tall fescue and phalaris. Large differences in production and gross margin per hectare between the systems have been observed over the three years of below average rainfall and failed springs.

The system with the most flexibility, enabling marketable stock to be sold quickly in unfavourable conditions or retained to finish to heavier weights on more favourable conditions, has produced the best gross margins. Systems which economic modelling suggested would be the most profitable in an average rainfall year have produced the worst gross margins. Lucerne has been the most valuable pasture and has persisted better than phalaris or fescue.

The second project is examining whether the provision of green feed over joining can increase ovulation rates in ewes. The practice of flushing ewes with lupin grain over joining is well known but utilising green feed



could theoretically have the same effect. Over the past three years it has been shown that giving access to green pasture to oestrus-synchronised ewes between days 9-14 of the cycle increased ovulation rate by 10-20%. This work is now being extended to see if a similar response can be obtained in unsynchronised ewes and to examine the importance of the timing of increased nutrition on ovulation rate.

The third project examines the effect on survival of single and twin lambs of either hedgerows of overgrown phalaris or permanent shrubrows designed to reduce winter

windspeed. It has shown little effect of late due to relatively mild winters and drought-limited shrub growth, although trends suggest the shelter is effective.

The use of GPS collars and proximity loggers to demonstrate the way sheep and lambs interact and utilise shelter when it is provided is yielding some interesting observations. These data will be used to model lamb survival across a wider range of years and locations to determine which conditions are likely to have an economic benefit.

Dr Michael Friend, Senior Lecturer in Animal Production

‘Lucerne has been the most valuable pasture and has persisted better than phalaris or fescue.’

Fred Morley Centre – consulting and research for the livestock industries



The late Dr Fred Morley

The School is pleased to announce the creation of the Fred Morley Centre – a consulting and research group aimed at the improvement of the sustainability and profitability of the broad-acre agricultural industries with a particular focus on livestock production.

The Advisory Board was formed early in 2009 and includes Mr David Pockley (Chair), Mr Grant Burbidge, Mr David Sackett, Mr Geoff Daniel and Professor Kym Abbott. The Board has appointed Associate Professor Bruce Allworth to be the inaugural Director of the Centre.

Both David Pockley and Grant Burbidge are graziers in the Wagga Wagga region with a passionate interest in their industries and the development of more efficient and sustainable livestock production systems. David Sackett and Geoff Daniel are veterinary graduates; David recently retired from Holmes, Sackett and Associates, an agricultural consultancy company he founded with Phil Holmes, and Geoff operates an agricultural enterprise from his home base in Tumbaramba.

The Centre is named after Dr Fred Morley, an outstanding veterinarian and research scientist who, from the early 1980s, led the Mackinnon Project at the University of Melbourne and

was responsible for the postgraduate training of a number of veterinarians to work in the livestock industries.

Dr Morley's interest and knowledge of farm animal production, grazing systems and genetic improvement, combined with his passion for rigorous evidence-based science, had a profound influence on the careers of many who worked with him at Mackinnon. Bruce Allworth, Geoff Daniel, David Sackett and Kym Abbott are all graduates of the Mackinnon Project.

The Fred Morley Centre has a strong commitment to postgraduate training and, through its presence in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, will also influence the development of its veterinary undergraduates. Currently, two veterinarians, Dr Helen McGregor and Dr Karianne Lievaart-Peterson, are training as consultants for the Centre under the supervision of Bruce Allworth.

Connemaras on campus

The collaboration between Charles Sturt University and the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society of Australia (CPBSA) was celebrated recently with the second annual Connemaras on Campus meeting held this year on Saturday, 18 April. The collaboration between the School and the Breeders' Society provides support (and ponies) to the School for teaching equine husbandry and reproduction, and support to the Society through clinical services and education.

Wagga Wagga turned on its lovely warm autumn weather for the day, which was busy with horses being washed and brushed and smartly kitted out for the events.

The Parade of Ponies featured partbreds, geldings, mares and stallions including those leased by the University for the Veterinary Science and Equine Science programs.

The parade was followed by a Working Hunter Class of purebreds followed by partbreds where the horses were worked in the indoor arena in led classes and over a

Lecturer in Equine Science Hunter Doughty with the winner Flashy Diamond (first on left) and other Connemara ponies leased to CSU



jumping course built by Hunter Doughty (pictured above with the CSU leased Connemara ponies).

The chief judge, Claire Oakes from Ireland, was impressed with the horses presented to her and ranked Glenormiston Flashy Diamond in first place. Flashy is leased by CSU and is in foal to Wychwood Willy Wagtail ("Bill"). Glenormiston Lisheen was also well placed.

John Smart and his team are to be congratulated for their work in preparing the arena and surrounds for the events, which received high praise from the participants.

John Bromfield deserves a special mention for his work breaking and riding the ponies with great determination and skill.

Following the events, the Society held its Annual General Meeting in the Veterinary Clinical Centre and ended the day with the annual dinner for members in the CSU Convention Centre.

CPBSA President John Dawkins and his committee was pleased with the day and is looking forward to expanding the event in coming years.

Animal Husbandry Extramural Studies (AHEMS)

By Karen Butts – AHEMS administrator

The School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences considers practical experience in the handling and management of domestic livestock run under commercial conditions to be an essential component of training to become a veterinarian.

Young graduates find that they are often judged by their clients on the basis of their animal handling skills as much as on veterinary acumen. At the end of their training, students should have the confidence to discuss treatment options with clients and approach, handle and treat the stock to ensure the optimal outcome for the animal and a professionally satisfying experience for the veterinarian.

The School is indebted to many people in the farming community who have generously opened the gates of their properties to students, sharing with them their knowledge and experience.

The aims of the AHEMS program are to enable the students to:

- gain a broad range of experience in animal husbandry in a variety of placements
- consolidate learning at university through better appreciation of its practical relevance
- develop skills, principally in the areas of animal husbandry and communication

- build self confidence in the handling of various animal species
- gain a better understanding of the animal industries
- gain an appreciation of the management and organisation involved in the animal industries
- take responsibility for their own learning through identifying their personal learning objectives for each placement
- engender an awareness of the value of continuous learning
- develop the ability to cope with change and use diversity as a resource for learning
- have ongoing opportunities to attain the CSU Veterinary Graduate Attributes.

The AHEMS program should be completed by the middle of Year 3. AHEMS has direct relevance to many important elements in undergraduate training including animal production, genetics, epidemiology, medicine and personal and professional development.

Students are expected to set their own learning objectives, arrange the farm visits before asking the School to contact the provider, undertake the experience and complete assessment tasks.

There are over 400 farmers on our contact list of AHEMS opportunities for our students. CSU ensures that students are fully covered by insurance during placements and associated travel.

Students attend placements under the following criteria:

Enterprise		Minimum stock	Weeks
Sheep		1000	2
Beef Cattle		100	2
Dairy Cattle		100	2
Horses	- stud	40 mares at stud	1
	-performance	10 racing animals 5 sports performance horses	1
Pigs		50 sows	2
Poultry		20000	1
Any of the above or other *			1

* Other possibilities such as aquaculture, zoo animals, kennels and wildlife sanctuaries are considered.



Students on placement in the Northern Territory

Two students tell of their AHEMS experiences

Currently in Year 3, Catherine (Cat) Tuckwell started her AHEMS in Year 1 by going to a sheep farm in Forbes. She selected this farm after contacting several farmers from the list of cooperating farmers and deciding which farm best suited her needs.

Cat was born in Canberra. Both parents were farmers before Cat was born but she grew up in the city. To follow her passion for agricultural pursuits before being accepted at CSU, she worked during holidays on farms, one of which was a dairy in Berry.

The sheep property in Forbes was a good choice for AHEMS as it had a lamb feedlot where there was always something happening, and a grazing property of 2000 sheep due for crutching.

She worked on various aspects of the property from management issues within the feedlot to hands-on experience with shearing and marking.

Her host commented, "Cat was a great student – very willing to have a go at all tasks. A very good listener and great at asking questions. She was excellent to have around. A great future vet!"



Catherine Tuckwell

"I found the experience extremely rewarding and worthwhile."



Ian Croft

Ian Croft was born in Guyra and wanted to be a vet after reading James Herriot's books. Following undergraduate education at the University of New England, Ian completed a Master degree in Agriculture at the University of Queensland before undertaking veterinary science at CSU.

Currently in Year 3, Ian spent two weeks at Australia's largest pork producer at Corowa. The experience provided him with the opportunity to gain insight into intensive pork production.

During his AHEMS placement he was involved mainly in the company's research and innovation department, as well as observing the general management of a large intensive

operation. Ian was able to complete his learning objectives with the generous time given by staff at the piggery. He feels he has been able to gain an excellent understanding of intensive pork production and the future direction of innovation within the industry.

His host commented, "Ian is a very mature student and showed great enthusiasm. He had good prior experience and knowledge."

"I now feel very comfortable handling pigs."

Associate Professor John Glastonbury is the academic coordinator of the program and would be pleased to speak to more farmers who wish to join the program. Contact John on 02 6933 4380 or Karen Butts on 02 6933 2760 for more information.

Scholarships, awards and prizes

Scholarship ceremony – May 2009

Retiring Head of Campus Professor David Green welcomed donors and guests to the ceremony where more than 90 scholarships were awarded across all the Faculties. Congratulations to the winners!

The School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences was well represented with the following recipients:

A&K Gestier Scholarship – Alistair Grant

Redgate Poll Hereford Prize

– Jennifer Coonan

JH Chalmers Memorial Scholarship

– Jessica Said and Lauren Said

Redgate Scholarship – Katelyn Braine

Mars Petcare Scholarship

– Lakmini Weerakoon

The Rural Scholarship – Louisa Booth

Mars Petcare for Companion Animals

Scholarship – Greg Dale

Bush Children's Education Foundation

Scholarship – Clare Ferris

Goulburn CAE Alumni Scholarship

– Meika Croker

June Shire Council Scholarship

– Angela Muller

WACOBUS Scholarship – Tristan Robinson



Redgate principal Robert O'Reilly with recipients Katelyn Braine (left) and Jennifer Coonan

Pfizer Animal Health Scholarship

Pfizer Animal Health awarded two scholarships, each of \$1000 value, to two students in Year 5 for the first time in 2009.

The scholarships are for financial support during their professional

experience programs. The recipients are Bec Robson and Emma Packer.

Pfizer Animal Health also awarded a \$500 prize to the best Year 5 Consultancy Project, which was judged by a scientific panel at Pfizer. This

project is a professionally researched and presented consultancy report for a farm or other animal population system.

The prize was shared by Matt Petersen and Al Grant who collaborated on the project.

Rotary Club Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga has thrown its support behind CSU veterinary students by electing to award a Professional Experience Scholarship of \$1500 to a senior CSU student studying veterinary science.

The successful applicant for 2008 was fifth year student Richard Sanders (pictured right). Richard and Professor Kym Abbott attended a Rotary dinner meeting earlier this year where Richard made a presentation about his progress in the course and plans for the future, and received his award.

Amy Wynn is the 2009 winner of the scholarship and will shortly address a dinner meeting of the club.



Dean's Awards and prizes

In a ceremony held in April this year many of our students received a Dean's Awards to acknowledge their academic performance. The students are:

5th year – Greg Dale, Al Grant, Matthew Muir, Bec Robson, Emma Packer and Coco Willsallen

4th year – Honor Waller and Cassie Weller

3rd year – Kate Arnell, Kate Burnheim, Jayne Milward, Catherine Tuckwell and Jayne Milward

2nd year – Andrea Ballard, Adam Brookes, Jennifer Coonan, Jannah Pye, Amanda Walker, Lakmini Weerakoon, Freya Worne and Hugh Wrigley

Congratulations and well done.

Professional experience scholarships

The Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation's professional experience scholarships are designed to assist students with the costs associated with work placements during their study. Veterinary science students now have the opportunity to apply for 17 professional experience scholarships in their fourth and fifth year of study.

The awarding of these scholarships is dependent on the generosity of donors who wish to assist veterinary students financially in attaining their goal of becoming well-rounded graduates with wide experiences during their training.

We are very grateful to Coopers Animal Health, Piper Street Veterinary Clinic, Moruya Veterinary Hospital, Pfizer Animal Health, WP and AG Holmesby and the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga for their continued support.

The 2009 recipients of professional experience scholarships are: Coopers Animal Health – Victoria Buck, Nicole Burns, Erin Davis, Jenny Hanks, Fiona Kelk, Bryce Mooring, Tim Quast, Richard Sanders, Lauren Tyrell and Felicity Wills; WP & AG Holmesby – Al Grant and Annie Seager (shared); Moruya Veterinary Hospital – Stephanie Bullen; Piper Street Veterinary Clinic – Rhys Duncan and Tristan Robinson.



Tara Mills – 2008 Coopers Animal Health recipient

2008 Coopers Animal Health recipient Tara Mills said the Scholarship provided her with several opportunities that had been previously unattainable.

"I was able to purchase Pharmacology and Equine Medicine textbooks that are invaluable for my studies," she said.

"The Scholarship helped towards my accommodation for two weeks of Clinical Extramural Studies while I was in Western Australia over the summer.

"I went to a 4-5 vet mixed practice in the Peel region south of Perth that provided a wide range of experiences in mixed practice workload. Small animal consultations were done in the morning before travelling hundreds of kilometres to sheep and cattle farms in the afternoon.

"I also had some varied horse work experience from small pony studs to large thoroughbred studs, which gave me good insight into the possibilities of equine veterinary work in a country practice.

"The remainder of the scholarship allowed me to travel to Perth to attend the 2009 AVA student conference hosted by Murdoch University."



Al Grant – 2008 Piper Street Veterinary Clinic recipient

2008 Piper Street Veterinary Clinic recipient Al Grant said he was lucky enough to receive the scholarship which enabled him to take a practical

placement in Cobram during spring and in Scone in summer.

"Without this scholarship, the placements may not have been possible," he said.

"Cobram proved to be a great experience with a large and intensive dairy caseload as well as some interesting small animal cases.

"Such experiences help to consolidate the theory learned at CSU with the practical skills to complement the knowledge.

"The two weeks at Scone were spent on a polo stud where there were a large number of horses used for breeding and competition. The timing of my practical placement landed me in the middle of the breeding season. A nucleus of mares is used to provide embryos for transfer into recipient mares, thus provided an in-depth experience in equine reproduction and management that I very much enjoyed. That, and an interesting assortment of cases with athletic injuries and the occasional small animal made this placement very beneficial for my training."

The Veterinary Science Foundation welcomes donations from people willing to help alleviate the financial burden faced by students who are obliged to leave their usual accommodation and jobs to travel to distant practices during the course of their training.

Interested in finding out how you can help?

Please contact the
Veterinary Science Foundation on
02 6338 4680 or
email vettfoundation@csu.edu.au

Staff news from around the School

Appointment of Associate Professor Bruce Allworth

Dr Bruce Allworth has been appointed Associate Professor in Ruminant Health and Production and Director of the Fred Morley Centre. He will be working in collaboration with Dr Helen McGregor, Lecturer in Sheep Veterinary Practice, and Dr Karianne Lievaart-Peterson, Lecturer in Ruminant Medicine.

Bruce graduated from the University of Sydney in 1984 and spent 1985 as a Lecturer at Massey University in the Sheep Health and Production Unit before becoming a Consultant, then Senior Consultant at the Mackinnon Project, University of Melbourne. There he completed his Master degree examining control and eradication options for ovine footrot. He later completed his PhD on the same topic at the University of Sydney.

Bruce is a registered Veterinary Sheep Specialist and a sheep producer, operating a farm at Holbrook, NSW. He is a member of NSW Farmers, the AVA, past-president of the Australian Sheep Veterinarians and a member



Associate Professor Bruce Allworth

of Australian Cattle Veterinarians. He was on the Board of Examiners for the Australian College of Veterinary Science 1994-1996 and Chief Examiner, Sheep Medicine. Bruce has been a Foundation member of

the CSU Veterinary Science Program Committee before joining the staff of the School to lead the Fred Morley Centre. He remains the Principal, Allworth Sheep and Cattle Production Services.

Our office staff



Liz Anschaw "I have been working in the School since August 2007 as personal assistant to the Head of School. I am involved in student selection and maintenance of the web pages. Prior to life at CSU I worked for 20 years for a private sheep and cattle production consultancy in Wagga Wagga. I grew up on a small property on the Murrumbidgee River just out of Wagga Wagga. Away from work I enjoy travelling around Australia and overseas, hiking, camping, reading, gardening, hockey, riding Harleys and doting on my granddaughter."



Rhonda Thomson "I have worked within CSU for over 13 years in various Divisions. My duties in this School include student administration and finance. I look after the students after enrolment. I live on a small property at Shepherds Siding. My outside interests focus on four adult

children and three grandchildren. I love gardening, music, bush walking and travelling and relaxing with a good book."



Trish Schipp "I am new to the School but have spent seven years working at CSU. I'm in an administrative support role, with my time divided between fielding inquiries from students, assisting the academic and technical staff and helping with the finance matters of the School. Away from CSU I spend time with my husband and teenaged children (and two dogs) on our beef cattle stud at Gumly Gumly."



Karen Butts "I was born and raised in Dubbo. After working in Orange and Sydney, I settled in Wagga Wagga. I've worked in administration and finance areas in the government and private sectors. My two sons and little dog enjoy camping trips along

the river, movies and reading. At the School I am student placements officer and organise where the students go for their Animal Husbandry and Clinical Extramural Studies placements. Having just joined the School, I look forward to getting to know all the students and staff."



Ruth Roach "I am a city girl who left the southern beaches of Sydney to move to Wagga Wagga where my husband was taking on a job. Our two young daughters came, as well with our boxer dog. In my previous life I had jobs in the finance sector and the pharmaceutical industry and I have completed a Diploma in Management. Outside of work my time is taken up with family activities, exploring the local area and meeting new people. I really want to get back into skiing now I live closer to the mountains! I joined the School in August 2008 and assist the staff with travel plans and student placements."

Staff profiles

Margaret and Jacob Michelsen

Margaret and Jacob Michelsen (pictured right) joined the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in August 2008.

Margaret is a country girl from Scone in the Hunter Valley and Jacob was born in Denmark, emigrating with his family to Australia when he was five years old.

They met at university and worked in country practices until they married, buying a practice in Camden only 18 months after graduation.

Practice ownership was a big step requiring dedication and hard work but Jacob and Margaret found the work to be professionally very rewarding.

Sydney's urban sprawl changed Camden from a country town to a suburb and the Michelsens found their practice profile also changed.

After 14 years they decided to try something completely different and moved, with two small children, to live and work in Denmark.

They relocated to the south Funen region of Denmark where they were employed at Svendborg Veterinary Hospital. Jacob became the Head Small Animal Veterinarian with Margaret in a support role while she came to grips with the language.

Registration as a veterinarian in Denmark requires applicants to have language skills to HSC level – no easy task. It was, however, easier for the children and they settled well into the local school.

The Michelsens enjoyed living in Europe but were lured back to Australia by the opportunity to teach and undertake further study.

Jacob is studying for a fellowship in small animal surgery and is developing a surgical referral practice at CSU with the assistance of Professor Bruce Christie.

Margaret organises and runs the Year 4 spey clinics and is involved in teaching Year 2 anatomy practicals.

They have bought an 85-acre farm in Oura, near the Wagga Wagga winery, with a great view over the Murrumbidgee valley and love the peace and quiet. They ran sheep until they ran out of feed but hope to restock when the seasons improve.

Tatty, their cat, went to Denmark and came back again – a well travelled animal! Their children Kitta, aged 10, and Erik, aged 8, catch the bus to school from the front gate and have settled well into the local school but chafe at the restriction placed on them - no climbing trees or running on concrete!



Margaret and Jacob Michelsen



Kitta and Eric Michelsen

Staff profiles

Eric Allan – author

Born in Scotland, Eric is a Melbourne University graduate who had a varied career in small animal medicine, managing his own practice for 25 years, before accepting a position at CSU as Lecturer in Veterinary Practice.

His interest in writing started when his clients asked for a recommendation of a reliable and relevant Australian text on dogs. He realised there wasn't one so he wrote *Everydog*. This book is due for release in its fourth edition in September followed by his later books *Everycat* and *Every Puppy*.

Another opportunity arose when Eric was asked to write a book to help children when a new puppy joins the family. *Sally's New Puppy* was written in 1992 with delightful illustrations by Jocelyn Bell. It is currently out of print.

Eric is also Technical Editor of a large series of Owner's Guides for pet owners that promote responsible and informed pet ownership. The booklets are in the *about pets* range from Landmark Press and include the management and care of rats, kittens, guinea pigs and goldfish.

Books are only a part of Eric's passion for effective communication and he is currently working with veterinary science students at various stages of their training to ensure our graduates are not just good communicators - Eric says they need to excel!

Eric has been busy with the Year 5 students, running the inaugural Transition to Practice program. Students have been given the opportunity to discuss aspects of veterinary clinic management with practitioners and have received advice on many aspects of working in the veterinary community.

Dean of the Faculty of Science's Performance Awards – April 2009

The following staff were acknowledged by the Dean of the Faculty of Science for their excellent contribution to the activities of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences:

Jenny Hyams – Lecturer, Problem Based Learning and Student Selection Coordinator

Terry Spithill – Research Professor, Veterinary Parasitology

Tony Hobbs – Technical Assistant, Cattle

David McGill – Research Associate

Murray Reid – Technical Officer, Equine Centre

Bec Frauenfelder – Administrative Assistant, Veterinary Clinical Centre

Joe Price – Technical Officer, Veterinary Anatomy



Welcome to new School staff in 2009

VETERINARIANS

Scott Edwards (pharmacology)

Bruce Allworth (sheep)

Kapil Chousalkar (poultry)

Ellie Withnall (anaesthesia)

Kris Hughes (equine medicine)

Jane Heller (epidemiology)

Emma Scholz (veterinary practice)

Interns: Mara Schier (small animals); Pi-Jie Yang (pathology)

Residents: Hadley Willsallen (equine surgery)

TECHNICAL OFFICERS

Felicity Stanley (anatomy and physiology)

Kristie Hann (diagnostic laboratory)

Sarah Hanlon (diagnostic laboratory)

Cara Platt (administration)

CSU students on assignment in Pakistan

By David McGill

Current press reports about Pakistan focus on the country's troubles. The articles fail to mention the good things that are happening; projects that are picking up the pieces left behind by the conflicts and human tragedies. Charles Sturt University is running a project aimed at improving the dairy production of small dairy farmers by updating the current extension practices available in the country. This work is funded by the Australian government and is part of its Agriculture Sector Linkages Program (ASLP) with Pakistan.

Fertile soil, an efficient canal irrigation system and over 50 million buffalo and cattle results in an immense amount of milk production and places Pakistan in the top five milk producing countries in the world. Despite this production there is still room for improvement and CSU is working closely with the Livestock and Dairy Development Board (LDDDB) of Pakistan to implement this project.

In early 2009, CSU provided some undergraduate students the opportunity to get closely involved with the project. Four students visited Pakistan for one month in order to:

- gain valuable experience working in a developing country
- be involved in farmer discussion groups in country villages
- initiate and set-up a calf rearing project with a Pakistani university
- interact with Pakistani students
- develop training material to be used for farmers and field workers
- see and enjoy the life that Pakistan has to offer.

The students selected to go to Pakistan were Year 3 and Year 4 veterinary science students Amanda-Lee Charman, Rhys Duncan and Shahid Khalfan, and Year 2 animal science student Emma Hand, under the supervision of project leader David McGill and Lecturer in



Students examine inadequate forage for calves

Animal Systems and Extension Allison Southwell.

One of the key objectives of this visit was for each of the students to collate relevant information from Pakistan and Australia that could be used to train field workers and farmers on some simple dairy management issues. To do this, the students were each given a topic to research in Australia. While in Pakistan, they could then put this research into the perspective of a small dairy farmer in Pakistan.



Rhys Duncan, Shahid Khalfan, Amanda-Lee Charman and Emma Hand with UAF personnel at the calf rearing trial in Faisalabad

Calf project innovation

One area of research identified the management and rearing of calves from birth to weaning. In general, Pakistani farmers disregard the importance of calves and do not see them as an important part of their dairy enterprise. For this reason the ASLP Dairy Project is working with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and the Punjab Livestock Department to determine target weights for the local Sahiwal breed by following simple husbandry and feeding practices.

The four students were involved with setting up the experiment and developing a daily protocol for feeding, cleaning and data collection. They collaborated with the university staff in Faisalabad, including UAF Master student Faisal Ahmed, passing on key issues concerning cleanliness, hygiene and management.

The experiment has now ended and Faisal is including the results in his Master's thesis.



Shahid Khalfan working with Faisal Ahmed and Sunny at the UAF calf rearing trial

Students comment on their experience in Pakistan

Shahid Khalfan

"Taking the opportunity to travel to Pakistan revealed to me a couple of things; first, beneath a media-darkened smoke screen there is an incredibly hospitable and culturally majestic nation that maintains an unbreakable positive attitude towards the future of the country.

"Second, it is hard to realise the power you have as an undergraduate or even just as an individual to make a change.

"So, however 'out there' or 'against the grain' the opportunity may be, I encourage other students to consider it because, for me, Pakistan was a phenomenal experience and one I will never forget."

Amanda-Lee Charman

"From the first time I heard of the great work ASLP were performing in Pakistan, I wanted to become involved.

"To be able to help the dairy farmers of Pakistan to achieve a greater return on their hardworking efforts was the opportunity of a lifetime.

"I experienced the challenges of working in a developing country, the differing expectations, the red tape and the cultural constraints. I also experienced the highlights of such a colourful culture, the beautifully natured people and visions of hope.

"I would like to thank Peter Wynn, Russel Bush and David McGill for granting such a rewarding and unforgettable experience."

The Future of ASLP

A recent review of the project has provided positive feedback and has extended its funding for a further four years. In the extension phase of our project, we hope to expand into different areas and reach many more small dairy farmers for the benefit of the country's dairy sector as well helping to alleviate poverty and improve food security. We hope to continue our presence in Pakistan despite the current political situation and involve more CSU students in the future. If you have any questions or queries please contact:

David McGill

Project Manager
dmcgill@csu.edu.au

Peter Wynn

McCaughy-CSU Professor of Animal Production
Project Leader
pwyynn@csu.edu.au

Student Forum

At the completion of their one month tour, the four students became the leaders of a three-day Student Forum held at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) in Lahore.

The aim of the Forum was to empower students from all over Pakistan in the development of their dairy sector by contributing to extension material to be used for training field staff and small dairy farmers.

On the third and final day of the forum, the students finalised their research and prepared to present their findings to the entire forum. Each group presentation finished with a question and answer session where the audience was able to discuss key points with the group.

Following the Forum, our four CSU students completed writing up the

information collected on their topic and produced a module that is now being used as training material for field staff by the ASLP Dairy Project team.

Overall, the visit of the four students from CSU to Pakistan and the Student Forum was an outstanding success.

The interaction between all of the students, the great leadership shown by the CSU students and the positive linkages created between all involved was astounding.

CSU research leader in Pakistan, David McGill, reports that all four of the CSU students should be highly commended for how well they immersed themselves into the Pakistani culture and the project. With their help the project has made great progress in achieving its goals. Furthermore, the students carried out all their work with great

professionalism, good humour and an excellent display of leadership making them worthy representatives for CSU and Australia.



Emma and Shahid look at poor quality corn stover



CSU group at the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore

Thank you to our new donors

The School is grateful to a number of very generous donors who support the school by giving their time, expertise and money to help improve the quality of education that we provide. Some of these generous donations are acknowledged here:

Dr Alan Sharrock donates his time, knowledge and experience to the teaching program in pig health and production. Dr Sharrock is principal of the Lachlan Valley Veterinary Clinic and comes to the Campus every year for two days to assist with the intensive introduction to pig production and the pig industry for the first year veterinary students.

Dr Sharrock's voluntary contribution is a valuable part of the early exposure of our students to Australia's animal industries and the ways that veterinarians can work in and support the producers and their animals.

Donation of the Stearman Bovine Handler



The Bovine Handler was generously donated by David Stearman, father of Emily (Class of 2010).

The handler is used extensively in cattle handling classes to develop clinical examination skills, and the safe and secure handling of cattle feet.

The handler is especially useful in diagnosing lameness, and foot

trimming can be performed quickly and safely.

The picture shows Ruminant Health Lecturer Chris Petzel demonstrating use of the handler to Year 4 students during a practical class at the cattle yards, where the equipment was recently installed by Mr Stearman.

Donation of funds for the new Artificial Insemination Facility

The recently constructed AI Facility is located on the site of the former CSU dairy yards and was made possible through generous donations from the Albury-Wodonga Angus Breeders' Association and Prattley Livestock Equipment.

The Albury-Wodonga Angus Breeders Association (AWABA) was formed in 1987 by six cattle producers with the aim of marketing top quality female Angus breeders. Sales at Wodonga became recognised as one of the premier Angus female sales on the

calendar with purchasers from all eastern states. AWABA pioneered video selling with the final two sales completely by computer with no cattle yarded.

The AWABA wound up in 2008 after reduced demand and poor seasons. Its surplus funds of \$18,000 were donated to assist in the development of facilities for the CSU Veterinary Science program and in particular the AI Facility, which will be an invaluable addition to the School's infrastructure for teaching.

Donation of books from the Riverine branch of the AVA

During their meeting at CSU last year, members of the Riverine branch of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) moved to donate a substantial sum to the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences for the purchase of books for the veterinary science course.

The branch has strongly supported the aims of the course since its beginnings in 2005.

Attracting students from country areas with the purpose of providing veterinarians for regional areas is one of the objects of the CSU course and we are grateful for the generous donation of books to assist the students in their studies.

The books are located in areas around the School where they are on hand for instant referral.

There are some books in the Microscopy Room, the Veterinary Clinical Centre, the Green Room (site of Problem-Based Learning sessions) and several will be located in the small animal clinic of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital from early 2010.



Martin Combs is a University of Sydney graduate who came to CSU from a veterinary practice in Katoomba. He is a Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine and leads the small animal clinical teaching in Phases 2 and 3 of the course.

Martin is also the Secretary of the Riverine branch of the AVA and is pictured above with some of the books donated to the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

Tales from the tearoom



Professor Peter Chenoweth

underwent coronary bypass surgery at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney.

He returned to work in May after recuperating at home under the care of his wife Lee and Spot the dog.



Tiggy Grillo left us in May to take up a position as Project Coordinator of Wildlife Disease Surveillance at Taronga Zoo. Tiggy lectured the students in veterinary

parasitology and was involved in the PBL and veterinary practice programs.

She and husband Jason came to us from Glasgow where Tiggy completed her PhD.

We are sorry to see Tiggy go but look forward to continuing associations with her in particular through her research interests.



'Colesy' at the Pavilion

Once a month Friday nights at The Pavilion in Wagga Wagga have become a relaxing way for the staff to end the week

due to the talented piano work and vocals from John Coles, veterinarian and Diagnostic Imaging Registrar. 'Colesy' specialises in hits from the 70s and 80s but is willing to have a go at almost anything.

'VETRAP' – class of 2010 review their time at CSU

The inaugural Student Revue was very successful with a full house in Joyes Hall of appreciative students, staff and parents. The staff were soundly ragged in song, dance sequences and plenty of action on stage. All students are to be congratulated on a fun night that sends out a challenge to future students to do better in coming years. The DVD of the night will soon be on sale.



Glen Borrowdale and Heidi Horwood



Sean McGrath and Sarah Charlton

Weddings: congratulations!

Glen Borrowdale (Class of 2010) married Heidi Horwood in Inverell in early April. The ceremony was held on Heidi's family property 'Lochiel' with the reception in the gardens. Their daughter Kiara was flower girl.

Sean McGrath and Sarah Charlton (both Class of 2010) were married in St Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga on a glorious sunny day in April. They are the first of our students from the same year to tie the knot.

New babies: welcome!

Tash Lees (Lecturer in Dairy Cattle Practice) gave birth in June in Wagga Wagga's Calvary Hospital to a dear little boy, Lachlan Patrick.

Tash's husband Mark Booth is a veterinarian at Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital and is actively involved in the training of students at the practice. Lachie is a brother to Charlotte, who is 18 months old.



Tash Lees, Mark Booth, baby Lachie and Charlotte

Rebecca Frauenfelder, receptionist at the Veterinary Clinical Centre, and her husband Sam were delighted to welcome to the world their beautiful little boy, Wil Samuel, in July.



CHARLES STURT
UNIVERSITY

www.csu.edu.au/vet



Illustration by Jan Austin (Inland by Hand)
<http://www.inlandbyhand.com.au/>



Veterinary Science Foundation

I would like to support the Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation by becoming a:

- ☐ supporter \$250 per annum for five years
☐ donor \$1,000 per annum for five years
☐ governor \$5,000 per annum for five years

OR

☐ I would like to donate the amount of \$.....
towards:

- ☐ a Professional Experience Scholarship
☐ a scholarship for a student in Year 1, 2 or 3
☐ facilities, equipment and books
☐ an academic position

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

Email:

Please invoice me in(month)
each year for the above amount

OR

Please charge my credit card:

- ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Cardholder's name:

Card number:/...../.....

Expiry date:/.....

Amount of authorisation:

Signature of cardholder:

OR

- ☐ Please use the enclosed cheque
(made payable to **Charles Sturt Foundation**)
☐ Please send me information on how I can include
the Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation
in my will.

The Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation

The Grange
Charles Sturt University
Panorama Avenue
Bathurst NSW 2795
Fax: 02 6338 4833