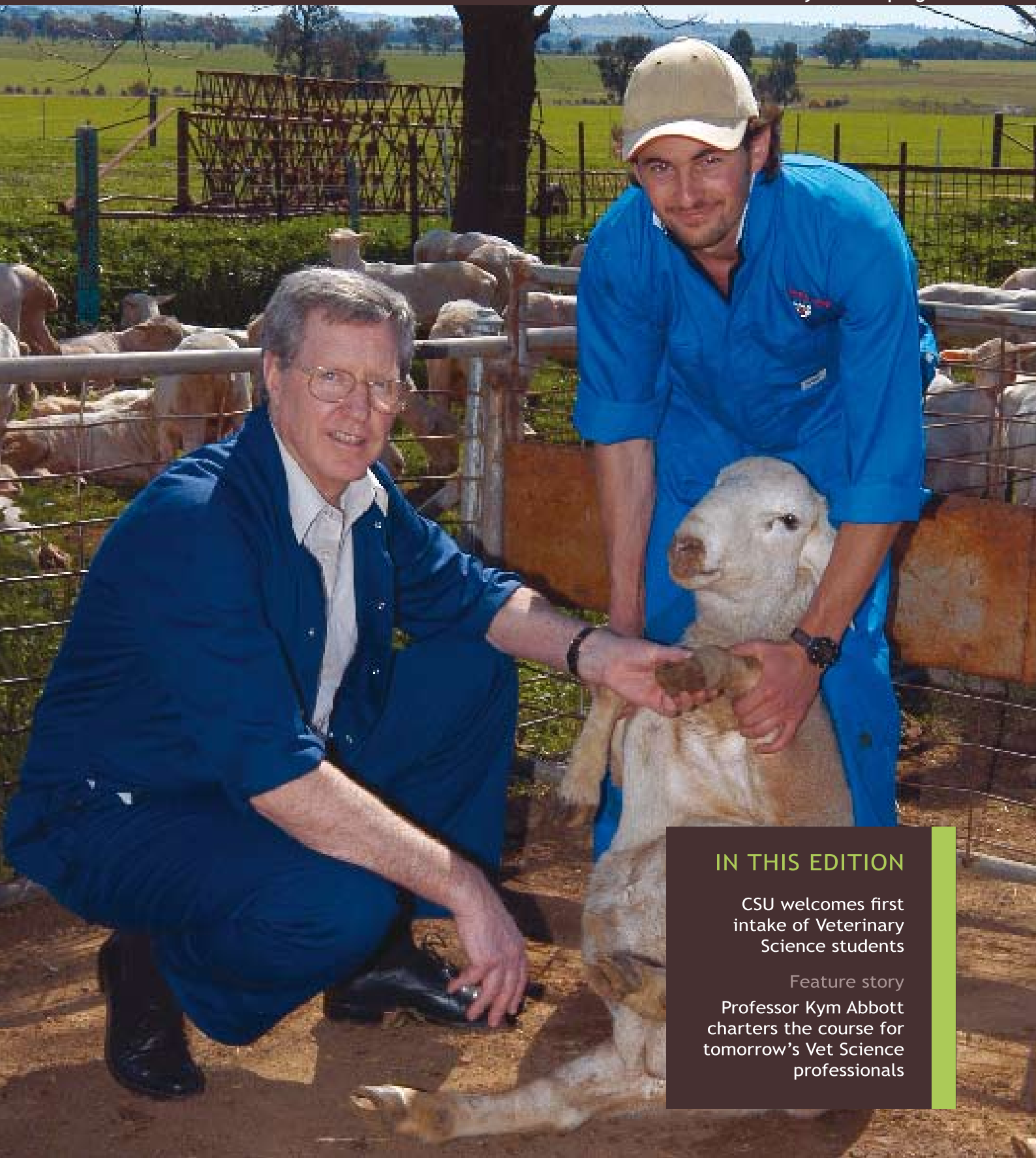


# CSU Tails

ISSUE 1 SPRING 2005

News from the CSU Veterinary Science program



## IN THIS EDITION

CSU welcomes first  
intake of Veterinary  
Science students

Feature story

Professor Kym Abbott  
charters the course for  
tomorrow's Vet Science  
professionals

# Welcome

It is with great pleasure I welcome you to the first edition of *CSU Tails*. I hope this magazine gives you an insight into the identity and purpose of Charles Sturt University (CSU), and the aims of our new Bachelor of Veterinary Science course, the latest degree of its kind in Australia.

CSU is currently in one of the most exciting periods of its history as we continue to deliver industry-focused courses that benefit rural and regional Australia. This year CSU welcomed its first cohort of students studying the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree to our Wagga Wagga Campus, becoming the first non-metropolitan university in Australia to teach veterinary science.

CSU has been prominent in addressing the shortage of professionals in rural and regional areas, as demonstrated by our impact on the pharmacy sector. In 1997, CSU welcomed its first students to the only Pharmacy degree in Australia offered by a regional university. Prior to 2001, only three graduates each year Australia-wide were willing to practice in regional areas, with the majority choosing to remain in the urban centres. When the first CSU pharmacy class graduated in 2001, 31 of our 36 graduates accepted employment in regional areas. Since then 11 of our graduates have purchased their own pharmacies. The Veterinary Science degree offered by CSU is already generating interest Australia-wide and attracting students from Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, as well as from Victoria and New South Wales.

CSU continues to demonstrate its ability to attract students to regionally-based courses who are equipped for rural practice and willing to venture away from metropolitan Australia upon graduation. CSU is committed to addressing the shortage of veterinarians in rural and regional areas, and producing graduates who can make a valuable contribution to the future of the industry. I hope you enjoy reading *CSU Tails*.



CSU Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Ian Goulter

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# Welcome to the first edition of CSU Tails



Director of Veterinary Science, Professor Kym Abbott.

Kym

With the regular publication of this magazine we plan to inform the veterinary profession, the livestock industries and the community at large of new developments in the veterinary program at CSU and the work of the Charles Sturt Foundation in supporting the Veterinary program. It will also be a forum for us to publicly acknowledge the generous support provided by a number of donors to assist with the development of the course.

But first, let me tell you about the course. Charles Sturt University sought to establish a veterinary science program because it recognised the difficulties that rural and regional communities have in attracting and retaining experienced veterinarians. In common with other professions such as medicine and pharmacy, the principals of rural veterinary practices are experiencing shortages of young graduates who wish to make rural practice their career,

and who may be interested in buying the practices when they retire. In many areas of rural Australia, senior veterinarians face the possibility of having to shut their doors and walk away from their practices for want of younger colleagues keen to purchase and continue the business.

These problems were made clear in the Fawley Review of Rural Veterinary Services, published in January 2003, which documented this issue as well as a number of other areas where the future security and productivity of Australia's livestock industries were threatened by a looming shortage of skilled veterinarians.

The course at CSU is designed to produce the type of veterinary graduates that rural and regional Australia will need in the future. The nature of veterinary practice has changed dramatically over the past 20 years, for both companion animal and farm animal veterinarians. In many ways they have diverged into separate streams, with particular skills and disciplines being more important in one form of practice than the other. The production-animal veterinarian of the future will need a strong grounding in the skills necessary to manage animal health, welfare and productivity, national and local biosecurity and food safety in increasingly large populations of animals, as well as retaining the diagnostic skills essential for all veterinarians working at farm level. The demands on the skills and knowledge of the equine and small animal veterinarian will continue to expand as the expectations for technical excellence in diagnostics, therapeutics and surgery of the companion animal-owning public continue to increase.

We believe the new CSU veterinary program is one of the most exciting new developments in veterinary education for many years. The course will create substantial interest from veterinarians and veterinary professional bodies both in Australia and in other countries who share some of the problems we face in maintaining veterinary presence in our livestock industries. Through this magazine we will keep you abreast of our activities, our developments and our successes. We trust that you will be keen to participate with us and will continue to support us in this new venture.

## Best in practice anaesthesia

If you missed our "Best in Practice Anaesthesia" Roadshow, you missed some excellent presentations by leaders in veterinary anaesthesia, including:

**Dr Peter West BVSc Dip Vet Ana FRACVSc**  
(South Tyneside Animal Hospital)

**Dr Colin Dunlop BVSc Dip ACVIM**  
(Advanced Anaesthesia Specialists)

**Dr Grit Hülsmann BSc PhDs MVS FRACVSc Dip ECVIM**  
(Murdoch University School of Veterinary Medicine)

**Dr Helma Karius BSc Dip Ed BVSc(Hons) PhD MACVSc**  
(University of Queensland Veterinary School)

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# CSU welcomes first intake of Veterinary Science students

The first intake of CSU Veterinary Science students is an indication of the University's innovative approach to selection of its veterinary students. The majority of its students come from rural backgrounds with substantial prior experience working with farm animals.

CSU believes that training young professionals in a regional environment, rather than at metropolitan universities, will lead to greater numbers choosing to live and work in rural Australia. This has been proven correct for the Pharmacy course, and CSU identified an opportunity to do the same for Veterinary Science. This proposition was accepted by the State and Federal Governments in December 2003, with the announcement that CSU would be permitted to divert some of its existing Commonwealth funding for student places from other courses to Veterinary Science.

According to CSU Director of Veterinary Science, Professor Kym Abbott, CSU was determined to do things differently from other universities, if that was necessary to achieve its goal of providing professional graduates for regional Australia.

"Clearly, one major difference is our regional position - Wagga Wagga is in the centre of a large and thriving agricultural community and the local economy is dependent on its livestock industries," says Professor Abbott.

"Another important difference in our approach is that we select only those students who are able to demonstrate to us that they have a strong interest in livestock production. This is achieved by a rigorous selection process, based on a written application and interview. While it is also necessary for the successful applicants to have evidence of substantial academic abilities, the emphasis on academic grades is lower than at other veterinary schools in Australia. The change in emphasis provides significantly greater opportunity for students educated in regional Australia - who are most likely to have the background experiences that we are looking for - to gain entry to Veterinary Science at CSU."

*"Clearly, one major difference is our regional position – Wagga Wagga is in the centre of a large and thriving agricultural community and the local economy is dependent on its livestock industries."*

As befits a program intended to expand veterinary roles in agriculture, CSU is introducing into its course an increased exposure to farm animal practical skills, population health and production management, business and communication skills, emergency disease management and public health, among others. In recognition of this necessary expansion in content, CSU has developed a six-year program, rather than the more conventional five-year program.

Importantly, a CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital is not planned. Instead, partnerships have been created with local veterinary practitioners to provide the structured clinical training essential to a sound veterinary education.

"This model is not only of great benefit to our students. It also enables practising vets in our region to have exposure to new ideas and approaches from our students and our clinicians," explains Professor Abbott.

The result of the selection process has been to create a student body of substantially different demographic composition than other Australian veterinary programs.

A survey conducted of the student intake in April this year indicated that the 'average' student studying Veterinary Science at CSU is 19 years of age and has substantial prior experience of caring for animals, mainly farm animals and horses. In the survey, the five most important reasons for CSU students choosing Veterinary Science were 'an interest in working with animals', 'a love for animals', 'a desire to live and work in a rural area', 'a desire to help farmers', and 'a concern for animals'.

"We have a truly enthusiastic and motivated group of 45 students who share CSU's vision of supporting rural and regional Australia and are eager to put their knowledge into practice," said Professor Abbott. "Time will provide the proof of the impact on the profession of this different approach to veterinary education, however our student backgrounds, our curriculum and ideal location, combined with the passion and experience of our staff, look like a good recipe for success," says Professor Abbott.

\*Hyams, J; Baguley, J; Heath, T. (2005)

(Right) First year students Matthew Peterson and James O'Connor practise their hoof-trimming skills during a practical class.



# Veterinary Pre-Clinical Centre underway for CSU

Construction has commenced on a Pre-Clinical Centre to support the new Veterinary Science program at the Wagga Wagga Campus of Charles Sturt University (CSU), signalling the next phase of extensive capital works planned to ensure students are surrounded by excellent facilities to support their learning.

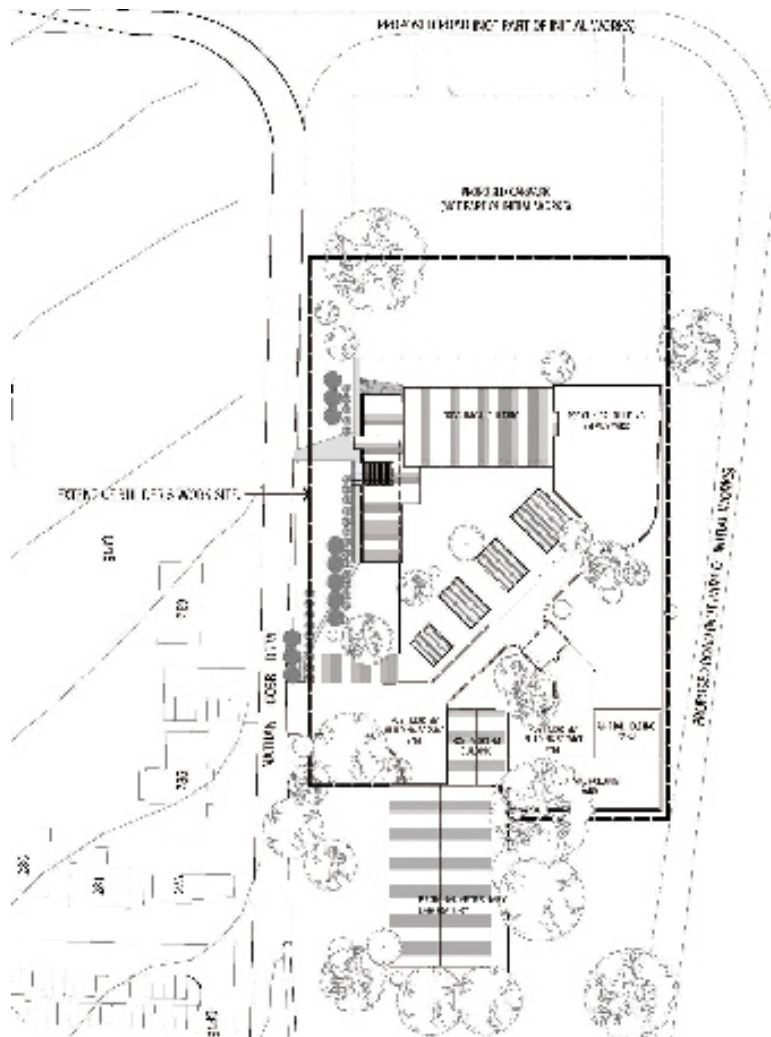
The Centre will be the first purpose-built facility to support the new CSU course and will complement the extensive facilities already available on the Wagga Wagga Campus. It has been designed to provide a student-centred professional learning environment. The Centre presents a public face and identity for the Veterinary Science program to the community, industry and prospective students.

The Pre-Clinical building is under construction close to other School of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences facilities, including the existing Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory which will also undergo refurbishments in the near future.

The building will be approximately 1200m<sup>2</sup> and include an anatomy dissection room with associated preparation and support rooms, a museum, clinical skills laboratory, tutorial rooms and communication skills suite.

New cattle handling facilities and sheep yards are also under construction and will be completed in October. Construction of the Pre-Clinical Centre is expected to be completed by April 2006.

(Right) Artist's impressions of the new CSU Pre-Clinical Building.  
Image courtesy of Woods Bagot.



## Students 'Cotton on' to life after graduation

Director of the University of Sydney Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science, Dr Michele Cotton, was invited to give a guest lecture to CSU's Vet Science students and jumped at the chance to explain how having a veterinary degree is about more than de-sexing cats and dogs.

With extensive experience, ranging from clinical diagnostic pathology and parasitology at the University of Sydney, immunology research in the Division of Animal Medicine at the University of Washington, Seattle USA, and working as the veterinarian to the

Riyadh Zoo in Saudi Arabia, Dr Cotton fascinated students with the varied employment options available to veterinary science graduates.

"Life as a veterinary graduate, as is the case with so many other degrees, can be as interesting and as varied as you care to make it," explained Dr Cotton. "The scientific training of undergraduate years, coupled with the intensive requirements for communication skills, an enquiring mind and an interest in all creatures great and small, is perfect for a stimulating and rewarding life."



Michele Cotton (centre) spends time after her guest lecture chatting with CSU first year Veterinary Science students Emma Packer (left) and Erin Davis.



# Kym Abbott charts the course for tomorrow's Vet Science professionals

## Loves livestock, stimulated by students



Students Bruno Ros, Richard Sanders, and Coco Willsallen with Heidi Austin, CSU Course Coordinator (centre) and Professor Kym Abbott (right).

**P**rofessor Kym Abbott has been appointed as the Director of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University (CSU), charged with the responsibility of developing all aspects of the course. With the first intake of students occurring in 2005, Kym has been kept busy over the past 12 months and *CSU Tails* asked him to take some time out to tell the story behind the face of Vet Science at CSU.

### *What are your qualifications?*

I have a Veterinary Science degree and a Master of Veterinary Studies from Melbourne University and a PhD from Sydney University. I am a member of the Epidemiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, I have a Fellowship in Ovine Management and Diseases and I'm a registered sheep veterinary specialist.

### *What positions did you hold prior to joining CSU?*

In the three years before joining CSU I was a Senior Lecturer at the Royal Veterinary College in London. Before that, I spent 10 years in the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney. My latter career in veterinary education followed 19 years of veterinary practice which included mixed rural practice and sheep specialist practice.

### *Where did you work following completion of your undergraduate degree?*

I went first to Geelong (Vic) for one year and then to Hamilton (NZ) for a year working in mixed practice. It was the training that I received from those two jobs that gave me the confidence to open my own practice in the Adelaide Hills, which I developed into a three-person practice prior to selling it in 1986.

### *Who would you describe as your mentors?*

Jack Arundel first tweaked my interest in working with farm animals, and then, in those first years in practice, Gerry Swinburn and Ian Young from Geelong and the vets I worked with in NZ. They were all people that influenced, enthused and stimulated me and I learnt a lot from them.

In terms of a love for the profession it was Sandy Sutherland who made the greatest impact: he was the father of a good friend and there was a group of us who saw a lot of him through our undergraduate years and he continued to show an interest in our professional lives during our early years in practice. He made us feel we were important members of the profession. Later, Fred Morley at the University of Melbourne, was an important mentor at a time in my professional life when I was looking for some new challenges.

Veterinary Schools and the veterinary profession have, in recent years, started to see the importance of nurturing new graduates in response to problems, with new graduates going into practices feeling unsupported and even leaving the profession. I was fortunate to have that support as a new graduate and I attach great value to it. It is our plan to foster this through the way we mentor students and introduce them to the veterinary workplace and the communities that they will serve. We want our graduates to feel comfortable and at home in veterinary clinics, laboratories and offices and to fit into the social structure and culture of practices, particularly rural practices, and their communities.

### *How did the move to academia come about?*

I had worked for 19 years in practice, when out of the blue I received a letter from the Head of the Department of Animal Health at the University of Sydney asking if I'd be interested in applying for a position as a lecturer in Sheep Medicine. The jump was challenging, but it was immensely rewarding to develop a course in sheep health and production that reflected my experience in practice and especially consultancy practice. The opportunity to conduct research work was also rewarding and another strong attraction.

# Feature story

## *Where do you call home?*

Wagga now, but Adelaide was home. I still have family there and we spend most Christmases there.

## *And your family?*

I'm married with three children and two grandchildren. My eldest daughter is in Tasmania and my son and daughter are both in Wagga. My younger daughter has just completed a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from Cornwall and my son is still in secondary education with an eye on a career in the Army.

## *When did you decide you wanted to be a vet?*

My interest developed over the last couple of years at school starting with a love of dogs. I saw Vet Science (then) as something that would enable me to work in different parts of the world and would be relevant to livestock farming. Even though I then had no real knowledge of animal production, I was very curious about it. My parents had grown up in rural areas of South Australia and were very positive about their experiences there.

During my university years I was lucky to have the opportunity to work on a beef cattle property in Mt Moriac (near Geelong). I spent a lot of time there during my student uni years. That stimulated my interest in herd management, herd recording and genetic selection.

## *What attracted you to CSU and Wagga?*

The way [Professor] Jim Pratley [CSU Dean, Faculty of Science and Agriculture] described his vision for the course; what he envisaged for the course gelled very well with what I saw as the need for a new Vet School.

## *What are three things you hope to achieve in your role over the next 10 years?*

To see the first CSU Veterinary Science graduating class go through is my number one goal over the next five years; to build a body of staff that maintain the enthusiasm and excitement that we now have about the CSU program and what we're doing; and to develop first-class facilities, both on campus and in the practices where we have developed relationships for clinical training. Good students, facilities and staff: what more could I ask for?

## *What do you think is the significance of Vet Science at CSU for the industry?*

Each year Australia graduates some very gifted vets and some do go to rural areas and make an enormous contribution to rural industry. We want to be the pre-eminent School providing graduates to work in the rural livestock industries in a range of areas, not just rural practice. We want to be the university responsible for swelling the numbers of veterinary professionals in rural Australia.

“ *Good students, facilities and staff: what more could I ask for?* ”

## *What have been the highlights so far?*

Our students. We set out to do something different in terms of student selection and we can now see we have achieved what we intended to do. We selected a group of students with different backgrounds, expectations and career aspirations to the average student in other Schools and have therefore introduced further diversity into the veterinary graduate scene. We have based everything on sound logic and that's why I believe we will achieve our desired outcomes. We now have a group of enthusiastic and highly motivated young people with the background and experience we hoped for.

The staff that were here and that we have attracted are another highlight. We have had a huge amount of interest from the profession, particularly in Australia, and also the United States. Vet schools in America recognise that the problems we have are similar to those they're facing, so they're curious and interested in what we're doing. Interest from them and those working here was definitely another highlight.

The third would be the outstanding support from within CSU: not just within the Faculty or the School, but the whole University. There has been a very positive response to the course's introduction and a lot of interest in it - which has made it a pleasure to come and work here on this project.

## *What area of Vet Science interests you the most and why?*

Sheep and beef cattle production and developing undergraduate teaching programs that align graduate attributes with the goals of livestock producers. The interest has developed from when I was first doing dairy herd health practice work, through to when I was in sheep and beef cattle consultancy practice and then, over the past decade, from teaching.

## *What would you describe as your career highlight?*

A surgical success in a dog with a diaphragmatic hernia in my first year post-graduation in Geelong stands out as the first time I thought I could really make a difference! Since then, the highlights have been more diverse, and include the sense of satisfaction from developing a successful practice in the Adelaide Hills and also, I think, the same sense of making a contribution or achieving something for my clients when in consultancy practice.

## *What inspires you and why?*

Keen young people that want to be vets. In fact, young people generally. I like to help them and work with them.

## *Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?*

On my sheep and cattle farm.

## *What do you believe is the biggest challenge for the industry today and in the future?*

Producers are under continuing financial pressure to increase productivity and performance. Against that background, veterinarians are going to be called upon to take leadership roles in ensuring our animal food and fibre products are safe, of high quality, disease-free and have been derived from systems where the welfare of animals has been guaranteed. It will be a significant challenge to combine all of these objectives, but veterinarians are the professionals charged with this responsibility.

## *What piece of advice do you know now that you wish somebody had told you earlier?*

Work hard at university.

## *What pets do you currently have?*

I have a kelpie and a cat. It is the first time in 35 years that I don't have a horse, a cow, or a sheep, but I'm working on that.



Professor Kym Abbott and his kelpie Taylor.



# Industry support the foundation for CSU's Veterinary Science course

While other universities have received government contributions exceeding \$10 million to establish Veterinary Science Schools, CSU is relying on the support of industry, and a belief that it can make a difference in the recruitment and retention of veterinarians in regional Australia, to drive its initiative forward. Redgate Poll Herefords has led the philanthropy charge by making a substantial contribution to the commencement of the CSU Veterinary Science course, with a number of other industry organisations following their lead.

The Rutherglen-based cattle breeders have donated cattle to initiate the establishment of a CSU cattle herd to be used by the School of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, to ensure students have the resources to complete their studies, particularly the practical component of the course. A number of other individuals have also contributed to the now complete herd or contacted the University with offers of support, including Lucinda and Brian Corrigan; Doug and Barbara Tozer, 'Onslow'; the Locke Family, 'Wirruna'; the Pearce Family, 'Yavenvale'; W R Lillie & Sons, 'Wolbull'; Murray Garnock, 'South Bukalong'; Andrew and Anne Hicks, 'Pine Hill'; Chas and Vi Hawkins, 'Mt Raven'; the Harbison Family, 'Dunoon'; and Antony Baillieu, 'Yarram Park'.

The owners of Redgate Poll Herefords, Robert and Moira O'Reilly say they are honoured to contribute to the success of the CSU course. In addition to the donation of the cattle, Mr O'Reilly is sponsoring the prize for excellence in the Animal Production and Principles of Genetics subjects, and is also providing an annual scholarship through the Charles Sturt Foundation to a Veterinary Science student.

Another generous contribution to the School has been the donation of funds by Louisa and Ben Beck towards the purchase of additional veterinary science textbooks to add to the growing resource materials available to students through the Charles Sturt University library.



Emma Pallet and Robert O'Reilly at the 2005 Charles Sturt Foundation Scholarship Ceremony.

*"Support from industry in the form of donations of livestock, equipment, funds for books, prizes, scholarships, professorial appointments and capital works projects is vital to ensure our students have access to the same support that the more established university courses have."*

Heidi Austin, Veterinary Science Course Coordinator.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of organisations and individuals, like Redgate Poll Herefords, who have been instrumental in securing support from industry, and I hope this will be part of an ongoing trend as industry comes to recognise the significance of what we are achieving at CSU," said Ms Austin.

CSU has developed a Vet Science fund within the Charles Sturt Foundation to assist with administering donations to support the development of the course and provide tax deductibility benefits to donors.

The Charles Sturt Foundation is a non-profit organisation that is affiliated to CSU, which acts as Trustee for a number of funds on all of its campuses. The Foundation was established with the sole purpose of providing a fabric of support for the University, its students, and their educational activities. It is involved in providing funds for a range of activities including a capital development program, internships, guest lectureships, cooperative research projects and a scholarship scheme.

"I would encourage anyone interested in supporting our course to contact the School or the Foundation on 02 6338 4202 to find out how they can help support our students, or to utilise the Foundation membership form on the back page of this magazine to make a donation," said Ms Austin.

A black and white photograph of a woman, Heidi Austin, standing next to a horse. She is looking down at the horse's head. The background shows a rural setting with a fence and some buildings.

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# Veterinarians recognised for their assistance to CSU

Representatives of 16 veterinary practices from Albury, Wagga Wagga and the surrounding districts were awarded certificates of appreciation at a CSU presentation ceremony held in May.

The special presentation ceremonies held at the Albury and Wagga Wagga Campuses of CSU recognised the contribution made by veterinarians participating in the CSU Veterinary Science student placement program. The program is designed to provide students with experience in the field by working at local veterinary practices.

“On behalf of CSU, I would like to thank every one of the veterinary practices that have volunteered their time and resources into training our rural vets for the future,” said Professor Kym Abbott, Director of Veterinary Science. “One of the primary goals of the CSU Veterinary Science program is to provide students with highly developed practical skills, skills developed through practice and experience in a variety of settings, both on-campus and off.

“The key to delivering this unique learning environment is the support of industry and it would not be possible without the commitment and support of each of the veterinarians supporting the placement program.”

Veterinary practices who are involved in the CSU placement program include: Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital, Family Vet Centre - Wodonga, Family Vet Centre - Albury, Allpets Veterinary Hospital, Hume Equine Centre, Hume Animal Hospital, Melrose Animal Hospital, Moorong Veterinary Clinic, Lake Road Veterinary Clinic, Riverdene Equine Hospital, Leeton Veterinary Clinic, Cooper Street Veterinary Hospital, Cootamundra Veterinary Clinic, Tumut Veterinary Clinic, Adelong Veterinary Clinic and Young Veterinary Clinic.



(Above) Supporters of the CSU Veterinary Science course that attended the Wagga Wagga ceremony included - Front (L - R): Ms Karen Bradbury (Leeton Veterinary Clinic), Dr Yvette Cameron-Cook (Cootamundra Veterinary Clinic), Dr David Golland (Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital), Prof Kym Abbott (CSU), Dr Jim Della Vedova (Cooper Street Veterinary Hospital), and Dr Jim Dorling (Lake Road Veterinary Clinic). Back (L - R): Dr Louisa Beck (Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital), Dr Cleo Gooding (Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital), Prof Peter Chenoweth (CSU), and Heidi Austin (CSU).



(Right) Attendees at the recognition ceremony held at Albury included - Standing (L - R): Dr Peter Lee (Family Vet Centre), Professor Kym Abbott (CSU), Dr John Paton (Family Vet Centre), Dr Bob Fielding (Hume Equine Centre), Dr Rohan Goyné (Melrose Animal Hospital/Hume Animal Hospital), Dr Arthur Fraunfelder (Melrose Animal Hospital/Hume Animal Hospital). Seated (L - R): Dr Jennette O'Reilly (Hume Equine Centre), Heidi Austin (CSU).

## Inaugural CSU Parents and Patrons Dinner a huge success

The first CSU Parents and Patrons Veterinary Science Dinner was held in April and was hailed a huge success by organisers, with more than 144 people in attendance.

The afternoon commenced with a bus tour of the Wagga Wagga campus of CSU, led by Associate Professor Peter Cregan, Head of the School of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences. During the tour, Professor Cregan spoke to the group on the opportunities the Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences students have within the University including the subjects, departments and facilities. After taking in the buildings, laboratories and the equine and sheep centre, the tour concluded at the CSU wine and cheese tasting centre where the group sampled the University's award-winning produce.

Pre-dinner drinks were held in the foyer of the CSU Convention Centre enabling parents, partners and students a chance to get to know each other prior to enjoying a two-course meal.

The evening provided guests with the opportunity to listen to a range of entertaining speakers including the Director of Veterinary Science, Professor Kym Abbott; Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Professor Jim Pratley; and both the President and Vice-President of the Vet Students' Association, Sarah Charlton and Andy Hancock.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr Jervis Hayes who owns a grazing property and veterinary practice in Adelong, where he has lived for the past 50 years. Dr Hayes shared his experiences in the veterinary profession and what he believes the students can expect upon graduation.

The co-ordinator of the event and Bachelor of Veterinary Science student, Anneliese Seager said the evening was considered a great success and plans are already underway for the next function.



CSU Veterinary Science students enjoying the night.

# Professor Peter Davie joins CSU

Professor Peter Davie has joined CSU's Veterinary Science program as the Professor of Veterinary Anatomy, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with tomorrow's veterinary practitioners. Professor Davie has more than 24 years experience in teaching veterinary anatomy and physiology at Massey University in New Zealand. Professor Davie believes science is the underpinning principle that is at the foundation of how we live our lives and raise our animals and was attracted to the opportunity to share this with CSU students.

"The new CSU teaching program offers an exciting and unique opportunity to develop a distinctive veterinary science graduate for animal-based industries in Australia and internationally," Professor Davie said. "I was attracted to the opportunities that Veterinary Science Schools can afford researchers. The standard of living, scientifically speaking, is better in Veterinary Science Schools than many other departments except medical or dental schools."

Professor Davie will be conducting research into comparative cardiovascular physiology and in animal welfare at CSU and will draw upon the unique

opportunities at the Wagga Wagga campus and its close proximity to other centres of research excellence.

According to Professor Davie, his career highlight to date has been the sense of worthy contribution and achievement he has received through peer esteem.

"Most people need positive feedback from their jobs and careers for it to make sense. Academics are no different in this," explained Professor Davie. "Examples such as acceptance of scientific papers for publication, invited reviews and editorial board membership of major international scientific journals, help make the academic career path worthwhile."

Professor Davie is confident the CSU Veterinary Science program will be an overwhelming success.

"The CSU program will work because of the plain logic of the need for Veterinary Science in support of animal-based industries - industries which have a vital role to play in the economies of countries like Australia and New Zealand. It makes national economic sense and therefore will be sustainable," he said.



Professor Peter Davie.



## CSU appoints a lecturer in Anatomy

Dr Geoff Dutton has turned his back on the bright lights of Sydney and joined CSU's Veterinary Science program as a lecturer in Anatomy, attracted by the opportunity to be involved in the development of a new course.

Armed with a Bachelor of Science (Newcastle), Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Sydney), Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Conservation Biology) (Qld), and more recently a PhD (Sydney), Dr Dutton believes he can bring an interesting approach to teaching and relevance to the students at CSU.

"I am very excited about being involved right from the start with a new course and then seeing it evolve, unlike coming in later and having difficulty changing things," said Dr Dutton.

Dr Dutton believes there is no doubt the veterinary program at CSU will be a success.

"We have lots of new, hard-working, dynamic staff and a new way of thinking about teaching the Veterinary degree. I am confident this will help our students be interested in what they are learning and instil in them a life-long learning attitude that is essential for Veterinary Science and the profession," he said.

"Things can always change, but in 10 years time I see myself still at CSU, where I would like to be recognised for good teaching by the students, as well as doing some leading research. Simple really, but hopefully I will still be enjoying what I am doing by then, as this is the key."

*"The vets of today need to recognise situations and attitudes are continually changing. They not only need to treat animals but be advisers as well, and good ones, which is difficult and something we are hoping to instil in our students at CSU."*

Dr Geoff Dutton





# Charles Sturt Foundation membership

## CSU's vision:

to attract and retain veterinarians in rural Australia. If you share this vision, support future issues of *CSU Tails* through advertising/sponsorship.

Contact the Foundation on 02 6338 4411

# CSU Tails

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*Illustration by Jan Austin (Inland by Hand)*  
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