

College COURIER

December 2010

Proposed Name Change to 'The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists'



New Zealand Councillor Stuart Burrough reflects on a shared history between our nations, whilst looking forward to even closer future ties through the College.

At this year's AGM the Special Business Motion to change the name of the College to The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists was defeated, despite unanimous support for the motion from those present at the meeting. This anomaly came about because the proxy votes resulted in an overall 64% support for the motion, failing to reach the 75% required for a Special Business Motion to be passed.



It was expected that the second motion to change the name of the College to The Australasian College of Veterinary Scientists would be passed. However, there was a very strong sentiment that this change was not acceptable and the vote from the floor was almost unanimously against this motion, with the proxy votes resulting in a total vote of only 53% for the motion.

Council have considered these voting results. It appears that in presenting two options for a name change effectively split



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the vote. Rather than leave it another 10 years before this issue is raised again, we believe that there was a clear mandate for a name change. The preferred option from those present at the meeting who had the benefit of hearing the arguments presented both for and against the motion was most definite; to include New Zealand in the name rather than use the ambiguous term Australasian. *Continued page 2*

Medicine of Cats Exams in the UK



In 2012, veterinarians in UK/Europe will, for the first time, be able to sit **Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (ACVSc)** Membership examinations in **Medicine of Cats** to demonstrate they have a high level of standing in this discipline. The examination will be conducted by the ACVSc through proud support of the **International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM)**.

The written examinations will be held in June 2012, with the practical/oral examination about six weeks later. The written examinations will be available at several locations throughout UK/Europe, while the practical/oral examinations will be conducted in a single central location in Birmingham, UK. *Read CEO Megan Parker's full report page 4*

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists



2011
Vet

Proudly Celebrates 40 Years in
World Veterinary Year 2011

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COUNCIL

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Moses

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For 40 years New Zealand members have had to accept a qualification and title that does not truly reflect their origin and training. Many have completed all their professional experience within New Zealand and not worked in Australia at all, yet they are branded with the Australian tag!!

The College is striving to raise its profile globally as part of the pursuit of international recognition of our Fellowship qualification. New Zealand is a highly regarded country that is admired globally. The addition of New Zealand to the name appropriately reflects the nature and stature of the College and will enhance the College's international weighting and standing.

Changing the name of the College to The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists is a clear,

unambiguous choice for a new title for the College, providing New Zealand members with adequate representation for the vital role they have played in the College throughout its 40 year existence. I urge you to give this matter your serious consideration and I look forward to seeing you with your arm raised for the motion at next year's AGM!



Contents: Inside Cover – Your College Contacts, President's Report, CEO Report, Council Corner, 10 Chapter Reports, Science Week Invitation, Meet Councillor Michael Paton, College Awards.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dr Robert Labuc

President's Letter

In my column I am again raising the topic of a proposed name change for the College because I am hoping to convey just how important this matter is to so many of our members.

Council has raised this issue in the previous year (and on three separate occasions prior to that). The matter was taken to the membership at the 2010 AGM and two special business motions were proposed to change the College's name to one that would reflect a good proportion of our membership that originates in New Zealand. Neither motion gained the 75% affirmative vote required by our constitution to make a name change. Therefore, the name stays the same.

On previous occasions, two options have been offered for a name change. Most recently, one option was the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, the other was the Australasian College of Veterinary Scientists. When we look at the combined votes of those attending the AGMs and those of the proxies for BOTH motions, it becomes evident that there is an overwhelming sentiment amongst voters that a name change should occur. However, in wishing to appease all of our members by offering a choice of titles for the College, we have always split the voting so that neither motion for name change can be passed under our constitution. I feel that by offering this choice, we have acted in error in the past

Having listened to our members (both from New Zealand AND Australia) it becomes clear as to what it is they wish to achieve. I, along with Council, have decided to immediately jump back

onto this horse that has thrown us off and to propose a special business motion once again in 2011. This time only one choice will be offered – that of **Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVSc)**. As before, I urge ALL members to use their right to vote, either in person or by proxy, for what I genuinely believe is a key issue for our College. In this, our 40th year of existence and when our numbers have swelled to over two thousand, I think it would only be appropriate that the name change becomes the focus of our celebration. We desperately need a name that fully reflects the strong and progressive membership representing such a large proportion of the active veterinary profession in Australia and New Zealand

At a time when we are forging our presence onto the international scene, through Chapter alliances being formed with our colleagues in North America, Europe and Asia, we need a name that fully depicts our membership and its immediate sphere of influence. The establishment of an International Recognition Task Force by Council has indicated the importance of this activity for the College. In our approach to these external bodies we need to be defined by who and what we are. Neither Australia or New Zealand are small minnows in the veterinary world. Many great innovations and discoveries have been made by veterinarians originally from or working in either Australia or New Zealand (or both) and this is acknowledged on the world stage. To accurately reflect whom our College truly represents, the inclusion of New Zealand is a key point in any submissions made to these other Colleges. The term Australasia has little meaning to many in the Northern Hemisphere specifically, yet New Zealand has.

Over the next few months, there will be yet further articles written by those passionate about making a name change. These will be appearing in the *Courier* and electronic mailings and will continue to promote the merits of such a name change. Closer to the time of the AGM, the motion will be proposed again, and along with that will come voting papers. I implore you all to consider this issue carefully and fully, and to exercise your right to vote on the motion.

I hope that in 2011 a decision can be made for the future of the College. I would hate us to have yet another tied vote, as has been seen in the Australian and Victorian elections of 2010!





Dr Megan Parker

Chief Executive Officer Report

Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners is undertaking a number of exciting initiatives under the new leadership of Chief Examiner, **Dr Mandy Burrows**. In July, the Board divided into two committees: The **Training and Credentials Committee**, chaired by the **Assistant Chief Examiner (Training and Credentials): ACE-T, Dr Mark Owen** and the **Examination Committee**, chaired by the **Assistant Chief Examiner (Examinations): ACE-Ex, Dr Liz Norman**.

These two committees now work on tasks specific to their allocated areas, which helps to distribute workload and further separate processes of training from those of examinations within the College.

The Training and Credentials Committee has been busy scrutinising Fellowship Candidate Annual Supervisor Reports, assessing new Fellowship Training Program Documents, reviewing subject guidelines and discussing and resolving new policies associated with training and reporting.

The Examination Committee has been working hard on discussing various examination matters and exploring ways to continue to refine and improve key operations such as the release of feedback to candidates and examiners and the electronic capture of examination results data and the planning of dates and timelines for the examination process for 2012.

Fellowship

All Fellowship Candidates were advised on 31 August of a large number of changes made to Fellowship training. There are currently 93 Fellowship candidates, 56% training or having trained in private practice and 44% training or having trained in university practice.

European College of Veterinary Surgeons

The European College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Surgery Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, being the certifying bodies in the discipline of Veterinary Surgery at Specialist level for Europe and Australia and New Zealand, respectively, share a common vision of a global standard in Veterinary Surgery in the interests of veterinary science, animal welfare and assurance of a quality service to animal owners and keepers. In pursuit of their shared vision, the ECVS and Surgery Chapter of the ACVSc have each signed a Memorandum of Understanding and developed a common framework document for minimum standards in training programmes and assessments in veterinary surgery.

The ECVS and Surgery Chapter of the ACVSc see as the ultimate goal a network of continent-based, specialist certifying organisations with common standards and full mutual recognition.

The long term goal of both the ACVSc and the ECVS is to have all Fellows of the ACVSc in Surgery recognised by the ECVS as equivalently qualified to Diplomates of the ECVS, in the same way that Diplomates of the ECVS are currently recognised by the ACVSc.

Cattle Fellowship Opportunities

The College is delighted to announce the offering of a new fellowship Subject in **Animal Nutrition and Management (Ruminant)**. The nutrition and management of ruminants is a traditional area of veterinary expertise, in which knowledge has burgeoned and the profession is very actively involved. Veterinarians have been leaders in this field. They have a unique and

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important position with their detailed knowledge of epidemiology, toxicology, pathology, parasitology, metabolic disease, disease and reproductive management that are critical factors that can influence the efficiency of production or are tools to understand the diagnosis of intervention failure. Nutrition is the single largest cost for ruminant enterprises, and a vast area of scientific research. It occupies a number of veterinarians as a sole or substantial area of veterinary practice. Specialism in this field will be a productive and important area of veterinary engagement in Australia and New Zealand.

Subject Guidelines for the new subject of ***Animal Nutrition and Management (Ruminant)*** are available from the College website. Special thanks are extended to **Drs Ian Lean, Jakob Malmo, John Penry, John House and Chris Petzel** plus other key members of the Cattle Chapter for their hard work in establishing this exciting new subject.

New Fellowship Subject in Aquatic Animal Health

Another major international development for the College has been the establishment of a Fellowship subject in ***Aquatic Animal Health***. The Aquatic Animal Health Chapter was established by interested full-time aquatic animal veterinarians in 2001 as a response to an obvious need to enhance the development of this veterinary sector, to service the rapidly growing aquaculture sector, disease risks of the wild fisheries industries and the related pet industry which can pose risks to all sectors. This Chapter now comprises nearly all of the eligible full-time or near full-time aquatic animal veterinarians, including those with decades of aquatic animal experience and members actively seeking to undertake Fellowship. The Chapter has worked hard to establish a world first Fellowship subject in Aquatic Animal Health. Subject Guidelines for Fellowship in ***Aquatic Animal Health*** are available from the College website.

Christmas Greetings

2010 has been another fast, busy, and challenging but extremely rewarding year with ongoing efforts to embrace new opportunities for increased efficiency, professionalism and improvement of College's processes. We have continued to strive to further raise the profile of the College domestically and internationally, and we continue to enjoy strong and ever growing interest in the College examination system and Science Week.

I would like to acknowledge and thank **Mrs Elaine Lowe**, the College Manager, for her ongoing hard work, support and friendship in what has been a busy and challenging year. Also, **Sharon Tinsley** who cheerfully and competently assists Elaine in such a way that we have no idea how we ever coped before her arrival! In addition, Elaine's daughter, **Clare**, who works hard each year to help her Mum in the office and professionally, smoothly and extremely ably assist in the delivery of the prac/oral exams and Science Week. Also, Elaine's other Daughter, **Rachel**, who comes in from time to time to help out in the office. I would also like to thank **Dr Fran Musca**, who continues to enthusiastically compile and edit the *College Courier*.

I would like to acknowledge the current officers of the College; including the President **Dr Robert Labuc**; Honorary Treasurer **Dr Liz Dill-Macky**; Chief Examiner **Dr Mandy Burrows**; Assistant Chief Examiners **Dr Mark Owen** and **Dr Liz Norman**. These, plus all the other members of the Council, Board of Examiners, Chapter executives, Chapter committees and the examiners themselves continue to work incredibly hard; going far beyond the call of duty to give their time, support and expertise willingly and indiscriminately. Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged and it continues to be a pleasure and honour to work with them in this unique professional organisation, of which we are very proud. We wish all the members of the College a happy, relaxing and safe Christmas and a successful year ahead for 2011.



COUNCIL CORNER

Council Corner Dec 2010

Recommendation to Change the name of the College

At the July AGM, the following Special Business Motion:

That subject to availability the name of the College be changed to "The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists" abbreviated as ANZCVSc.

was defeated despite unanimous support from the floor because proxy votes resulted in only 64% of the vote being in support, yet 75% is required for a Special Business Motion to be carried.

The sentiment from the floor for the change was so strong that if Members appreciated the requirement for 75% of the votes cast to support the motion it is likely it will have succeeded and may succeed at a subsequent AGM.

It is important that those in support of the change of name to "**The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists**" attend the 2011 AGM and vote or if they cannot attend in person, send in a proxy vote in support of the motion which will be re-presented. Council has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the election process and the strong support and benefits for the name change.

Courier going fully electronic

Currently the College *Courier* is circulated electronically to all members with an email address. We also circulate by mail to members without an email address and to members who have specifically asked for a hard copy. The *Courier* however contains several colour photographs, which appear perfectly in electronic copies but quite poorly in the hard copy. To rectify the problem in the hard copy it is necessary to have the document printed in colour, which is quite expensive, and at least three times more cost than in black and white. If we print colour photographs into a black and white version the quality is very poor.

Electronic newsletters are assembled in a completely different way for computer reading but this type of format does not work for printed copies. Whilst we continue to offer the *Courier* in both formats we are restricted to a more customary document. We no longer consider it acceptable to continue sending out a sub-quality document. Council has therefore resolved to limit the circulation of the *Courier* to email only, after this edition, as we consider email to be a universally available form of media to our membership. The hard copy version will be discontinued following this edition.

Wellington Forum

In October, I attended an Australia/New Zealand Veterinary Education Forum in Wellington with the President, **Dr Robert Labuc**. The forum was a follow-up to one held in Canberra a few years ago and aimed to bring together the members of the profession who lead veterinary education in the region, to discuss current issues and opportunities. Topics discussed included assessment of degree outcomes, distributed veterinary education models, tracking and streaming, global accreditation and future challenges. Dr Labuc and I presented a briefing from the College about our perspective on resourcing of advanced education, the global context of advanced education, involvement of the profession in clinical training and the status of the profession.

During the forum, concern was expressed about the ongoing inadequacy of funding for undergraduate training, and the potential financial vulnerability of veterinarians, the likely oversupply of small animal veterinarians and the grave deficiency in numbers of veterinarians choosing to work in the production animal sector. With the key players in veterinary education and the professional bodies within Australia and New Zealand all attending and contributing to this forum, it is hoped that a more harmonized, cooperative and coherent approach is taken to the selection and training of undergraduates who will become future members of our profession.



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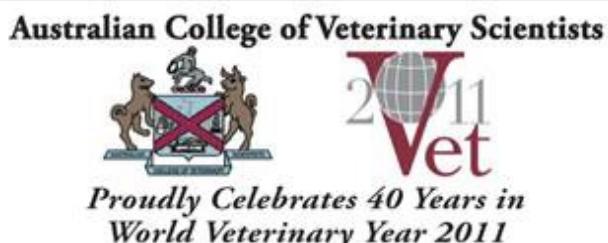
Vet 2011

World Veterinary Year

The world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France, in 1761, shortly followed by the Alfort veterinary school, near Paris, in 1764, at the initiative of French veterinarian **Claude Bourgelat**. By setting up the world's first veterinary training institutions, Bourgelat created the veterinary profession itself. 2011 has therefore been declared **World Veterinary Year** and the College has been accepted by the Vet 2011 committee as a corresponding member. It is anticipated that Vet2011 will be celebrated at Science Week through a presentation at the Awards Dinner and various highlights conducted in association with the AVA.

College 40th Anniversary

In addition, the College itself will be proudly celebrating the 40th year of its establishment on 18th May 2011 and will be promoting this in a celebratory logo, which will appear on all official correspondence in 2011. The logo also acknowledges that it is World Veterinary Year during this important anniversary for the College.



Meeting with the Asian Board of Veterinary Specialties

Councillor **Dr Philip Moses**, and I will in December attend an Intermediary Meeting for the Formulation of the Asian Board of Veterinary Specialties to offer support and the College perspective on establishing and managing a College. The foundation meeting will be attended by a variety of invited representatives from the American and European Colleges and Boards of Veterinary Specialists on 15-16 December in Bangkok, Thailand.

It is part of the College's Strategic Plan (Strategy 1.7) to assist with the development of overseas Colleges when approached, and we believe that this venture will provide tangible benefits also to our membership and profile. We believe we have an ability to contribute to the set-up of the Asian Board and its Colleges ('Societies') and to offer our expertise and guidance on their proposed structure, training programs, examination system etc.

We are truly interested in supporting our colleagues in Asia and fostering relationships with them and other overseas Colleges and Boards and look forward to this important meeting.

Dr Megan Parker

College Apparel

Navy Blue College Shirt \$25

College Ties \$15

College Vest \$40

Jersey with white collar \$50

Contact the College Office to place your order:

07 3423 2016



Anaesthesia & Emergency/ Critical Care

Hello to all our members. Although it seems only like Science week was yesterday, the hardworking science week committee are already hot on the tracks of organising yet another fantastic meeting. It seems to be a never-ending job and we thank **Julie Waring** and **Gabby Musk** for constantly astounding us with their organisation prowess!

Science week 2011 is looking to be of an international theme with our guest speaker **Dr Eddie Clutton** flying over from Edinburgh to update on the latest in Anaesthesia and Critical care. The program is still in its infancy but rest assured we will let you know about it as soon as the details are finalised.

If you have any ideas on future topics or themes that you would like to see your chapter participate in, then please email your ideas to **Joanne Gill** and we can direct it to the right people. joanneg@aecvets.com.au We wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and New Year. Take care and happy trails.

Dr Joanne Gill

Aquatic Animal Health

I am pleased to announce that the final format of the Fellowship in Aquatic Animal Health has been lodged, ratified and now posted on the College website. It is now open for candidature. Thanks to all who contributed to creating this opportunity.

At the recent science week AGM, the members present felt it would be worthwhile being involved in a session at the 2011 Science Week. Rather than undertake a standalone session, it was felt there would be benefit in interacting more directly with other chapters, based on the success of the Wildlife – Epidemiology interaction in 2010. Pleasingly preliminary discussions with the Epidemiology Chapter have been positive to develop a shared session

at the 2011 Science Week. This will be an opportunity for members to interact with a chapter that has considerable cross-over in the fields of work AAH Chapter members are engaged in.

Please make a space in the diary to come along, support the chapter and enjoy the collegiate nature of science week.

There are likely to be 3 -4 places for presentations at the meeting, and I would like to get a commitment from members who wish to present. Priority will be given to presentations that have an epidemiology component. Could members please contact me to book a space, so we can formalise the program. **Matt Landos** 0437 492 863 matty.landos@gmail.com

Hope all enjoy a break over the festive season.
Matt Landos, President Aquatic Animal Health Chapter

Cattle

The Cattle Chapter is busy preparing for another busy and informative Science Week in 2011. We were very pleased with the calibre of the speakers we had this year as well as the attendance they generated. The Science Week 2011 Program aims to be as equally invigorating and will also be focusing on engaging the next generation of members in initiating a Final Year Honours Project prize session to close the meeting. The CEC is also currently organizing membership examiners and exams for at least 8 candidates across *Animal Nutrition (Ruminant)*, *Medicine of Beef Cattle* and *Medicine of Dairy Cattle*. This level of candidature is one of the healthiest I have seen in my time on the committee and I would ask that all members seriously consider the roles they could play as mentors in the future. We have updated the study guidelines and are currently working on Learning Programs for the three membership subjects. These will be evolving documents and drafts will be sent to the membership for comment and development in the near future. After some teething problems, the login for the Cattle Chapter Forum should finally be working. Go to our home page, www.cattle.acvsc.org.au and then to the forum page. Login using your College login and password (if you've forgotten these, give us an e-mail at cattlechapter@gmail.com). While

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you are checking out the forum why don't you take the time to look at the new RDST Fellowship pathways – Dairy Cattle Management and Diseases and Ruminant Nutrition – under the Fellowship tab on the website? Wishing you all the best for the Festive Season and New Year.

Chris Petzel on behalf of the Cattle Chapter Committee

for diagnostic investigations.

As well as our overseas speakers, the dermatology chapter meeting will have additional talks by our much loved home grown dermatologists from around Australia. Challenging topics such as cyclic flank alopecia and follicular dysplasias will be on the agenda. As usual, there will be the open forum sessions, in which hot topics can be openly discussed (and argued!) by members of the panel and the audience. There is sure to be much debate about how to make hair regrow, including what works and what doesn't!

The meeting will take place on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd July and will be of interest to all vets who are passionate about skin disease. We suggest you register for these days with the Australian College now if you don't wish to miss out! Please email Peter Hill for further information dermatology program.

p.hill@adelaide.edu.au

Dermatology

The Dermatology Chapter has another exciting **two day program** planned for Science Week 2011, with the major theme being **alopecia and hair follicle disorders**. Once again we will have an excellent combination of medical and veterinary specialist speakers. Our two international speakers are **Professor Des Tobin** and **Professor Linda Frank**.

Professor Tobin works at the University of Bradford in the UK. He is an internationally renowned expert on the biology and pathology of hair follicles, with major interests in cycling, pigmentation and stem cells. His presentations will cover the basic biology of hair follicles including how the growth cycle is regulated. These talks are sure to be of great value to anyone who is interested in hair loss disorders in dogs. Des will also talk about hair follicle pathologies in man, including alopecia areata, one of his major areas of research.

Professor Frank works at the University of Tennessee in the USA. She is a world authority on the role of sex hormones in canine alopecic skin conditions. Linda will begin by talking about the general role of hormones in initiating alopecic disorders in dogs. She will then focus on the enigmatic condition referred to as Alopecia X, as well as other alopecic dermatoses that are known, or thought to involve, sex hormones. The endocrine laboratory at the University of Tennessee provides a full range of assays for a whole range of sex hormones and it will be very interesting to hear how Linda uses these tests

Epidemiology

Examination guidelines updated

Membership and Fellowship Guidelines for the Epidemiology Chapter have been updated extensively in the past 3 months. Some of the examinable topics were changed (with both additions and removals), but most of the changes involved specifying learning outcomes for all topics. These new learning outcomes will ensure that candidates are quite clear on what they may be asked to do during either examination process. The learning outcomes will also clearly indicate to examiners what they may ask candidates to do. All membership learning outcomes were written as 'action' statements. For example, the candidate will be able to "undertake a structured investigation of a disease outbreak scenario." Fellowship learning outcomes detail required knowledge and expertise requirements.

Draft Guidelines were circulated for comment by Chapter members and others. Excellent comments were received and incorporated into the Guidelines. These updated Guidelines were



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completed in October, and will apply for the 2011 examinations. There will be opportunity for further updating after the 2011 examinations. For a copy of the updated Guidelines go to www.acvs.org.au or contact the Head Examiner (Membership) **John Morton** john.morton@optusnet.com.au

Science Week

We're putting together an informative and interesting week....

The 3 day workshop, **Veterinary Statistics Using R** will be an opportunity to receive in-depth, hands-on training in statistical methods using R, under the tuition of **Nigel Perkins, Evan Sergeant and Mark Stevenson**. See the enclosed flyer for more information. The workshop places are limited to maintain the quality of instruction, so book your place now! Planning for the scientific session is underway, and will probably include a combined session with the **Aquatic Animal Health Chapter**. Aquaculture is a rapidly expanding industry in Australasia. The sessions should provide a fascinating insight into their discipline, as well as the role of epidemiologists in aquatic animal health. Please contact **Viki Brookes** viki.brookes@bigpond.com if you are interested in presenting on aquatic epidemiology, so that the length of the combined session can be estimated.

We would also like to **invite submissions for presentation** in all areas of current epidemiologic research, and also reports of interest from "in the field" epidemiology.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gold Coast in 2011!

Equine Diseases

The Equine Diseases Chapter had a very successful 2010 meeting with reproduction as the theme. The proceedings have been finalized and should be available on the chapter website shortly for free download. It is full steam ahead for the 2011 meeting with **The Equine Head** being the focus for the meeting. Collaborations with other chapters will include subjects such as

diagnostic imaging, ophthalmology, dentistry, behaviour, surgery and neurology. The preliminary program should be finalized by the New Year and circulated. We are hoping to present a range of local and international experts in this sometimes baffling area.

The equine chapter has continued to support and promote the recognition of ACVS qualifications on the international stage and have continued to maintain communication with the relevant US and European Colleges. This effort is being streamlined by communication with other chapters through the central task force responsible for international recognition.

Ophthalmology

The Ophthalmology Chapter's keynote speaker for the forth coming Science Week Program is **Professor Paul McMenamin**, Professor of Anatomy and Director of Centre for Human Anatomy Education at Monash University in Melbourne.

Professor McMenamin has worked for over 27 years on the anatomy, pathology and immunology of the eye. He has more than 110 publications, is on the editorial board of Ocular Immunology and Inflammation and a referee for British Journal of Ophthalmology, Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science and Experimental Eye Research. Professor McMenamin has also won many awards for his excellence in teaching, so we are delighted that he will be presenting to the Ophthalmology Chapter in 2011.

Ophthalmology is also planning to share a half day session with both the Feline Chapter and Equine Diseases Chapter at the Science Week meeting, which will give us another great opportunity to spend time with other College colleagues and share information on a variety of ocular conditions.

The next interim meeting for the Ophthalmology Chapter will be held at Ayers Rock Resort in March 2011. This will be the 3rd interim meeting and another great opportunity to discuss conditions of the eye in an informal environment. The meeting is open to anyone interested in Ophthalmology, so please contact the Chapter if you are interested in attending.

Radiology Chapter/AAVDI Advanced CT Workshop, 2011

The Radiology Chapter and the Australasian Association of Diagnostic Imaging (AAVDI) will be holding an advanced CT workshop prior to the start of Science Week, 2011.

This workshop is for specialists who have CT in their practices or access off site, residents and members with an interest in CT. All aspects of small animal CT will be covered, including neurological studies, respiratory and abdominal work, and musculoskeletal cases.

The workshop will focus on teaching how to get the most out of your studies by showing practical tips for using CT, and is heavily case oriented. Participants will be provided with CT workstations, so they can work through the case material at their own pace. Special sessions on advanced CT manipulation (multiplanar reconstructions, volume rendering, vascular studies) will be included. **Dr Ian Robertson** DACVR is the keynote speaker; Ian resides in North Carolina, USA and has a wealth of experience in this field. Ian will be backed up by local radiologists with extensive CT and teaching experience.

This workshop would benefit those in surgical, medical, neurological or radiological practice. The Radiology Chapter is pleased to present this seminar, the likes of which has not been available in Australia previously.

The Radiology CT Workshop will run on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th June at the Gold Coast International Hotel. Numbers for this workshop are strictly limited. Register your interest by emailing **Dr Zoe Lenard** zlenard@perthvetspecialists.com.au and you will be first to receive further details in the New Year.

This coming year will be a busy one for the Small Animal Medicine chapter.

The CEC will be assessing ways to improve the examination process to encourage retention of examiners, particularly at fellowship level and create a bank of questions. We continue to look overseas for our examiners, and encourage membership level members to be examiners themselves.

We are also setting up a **Travel Prize** open to anybody in the Chapter who has provided service (in any capacity) over the past 5 years.

The College Science Week organising committee is busy creating an exciting and innovative programme. The mandate of the group is to provide cutting-edge scientific updates with highly regarded international key speakers. This will make the CSW programme a highly relevant one for our members and fellows. The involvement of international speakers and the social programme we will offer has only been made possible by the generous sponsorship of Pfizer Animal Health and Hill's Pet Nutrition, great supporters of our chapter. Our keynote international speaker will be **Andrew Mackin**, speaking on a range of haematology-based diseases, in particular IMHA.

We will also be collaborating with the Feline chapter on management of infectious diseases, and the diagnostic imaging chapter as well.

Put a note in your diaries that abstract submission will be due by May 16, 2011.

The Chapter is inviting nominations for the Chapter Award for meritorious service, an award given this year to **Dr Darren Merrett**.

This award is for someone who has shown a long commitment to the small animal medicine chapter and has been responsible for developing or promoting it. Please forward any nominations to cmans@unimelb.edu.au by **May 30, 2011**.



CHAPTER REPORTS

We look forward to seeing you at the Gold Coast in June/July 2011 and encourage you to become involved in your chapter. If you would like to become a mentor for examination candidates, or are interested in an organisational role within the chapter please contact me cmans@unimelb.edu.au

Finally I would like to acknowledge the hard-working executive- **Mike Coleman** (Vice-President), **Nick Russell** (Head, CEC), **Lisa Richards** (our amazing treasurer) as well as **Mary Thompson** and **Simon Craig** who are the 2011 Science Week conveners.

All the best for the festive season,

Caroline Mansfield

Zoo and Wildlife Medicine

New Members!

Firstly, congratulations to the newest members of our Chapter, who passed their Membership examinations in 2010:

Stephanie Shaw Zoo Medicine

Leesa Haynes Wildlife Medicine

Membership examinations in these disciplines will next take place in 2012.

Science Week

Our regular scientific session, held this year on Saturday afternoon, once again had a great program of high quality presentations and was very well attended. Thanks to **David Blyde** for his efforts in convening this session.

We also joined forces with the Epidemiology Chapter to convene a day long session (Friday) on the state of play of wildlife disease investigation in Australasia. The day

was a great success, featuring overview contextual presentations; a series of talks on well known wildlife diseases to highlight the difficulties (and offer potential solutions) in investigating disease in wildlife; discussion of the challenges in assessing wildlife health; and several perspectives from non-veterinary disciplines. We hope that this joint session will serve to enhance collaboration between our two Chapters to advance our understanding of wildlife diseases. Many thanks to the Epidemiology Chapter, especially **Brendan Cowled** and **Sam Hamilton**, for their efforts getting this session together

This was the first joint session our Chapter has been part of, and we are very much encouraged to pursue collaborative sessions with other Chapters in the future. If other Chapters are interested in the possibility of a joint session with the Chapter of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, please contact Chapter President **Andrea Reiss** Andrea.Reiss@perthzoo.wa.gov.au

Other Bits and Pieces

The Chapter is working hard to establish our Chapter website and to revise Membership study guidelines. If you are a Chapter member and would like to assist in these areas, please contact Andrea Reiss Andrea.Reiss@perthzoo.wa.gov.au or the head of our Chapter CEC **Tim Portas** tandsportas@bigpond.com. We are also working on establishing a well-developed mentor system and expanding the group of examiners in our field. Please contact Tim to express your interest in these areas. Membership of the Chapter is open to any College Members or Fellows with an interest in the field of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. Please consider joining us!

SCIENCE WEEK INVITATION

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists



Proudly Celebrates 40 Years in
World Veterinary Year 2011

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS

COLLEGE SCIENCE WEEK CONFERENCE
30 JUNE to 2ND JULY 2011

**at the GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, Surfers
Paradise, Queensland, Australia**

A great opportunity exists for you to be part of this popular integrated multi-stream programme, with ample time to interact socially and scientifically with key members of the profession from Australia, New Zealand and beyond, in the following disciplines:

Small Animal Medicine

Equine

Cattle

Ophthalmology

Vet. Anaes. And Emergency Medicine

Feline

Avian Health

Small Animal Surgery

Dermatology

Epidemiology

Dentistry

Radiology

Animal Behaviour

Pharmacology

College Science Week presents material from the CUTTING EDGE and scientific and clinical updates from Australian, New Zealand and overseas experts.

This meeting is **NOT RESTRICTED** to College Members.

Details of the full programme and registration packets will be available from March 2011 from Mrs. Elaine Lowe telephone (07) 3423 2016 fax (07) 3423 2977 or email admin@acvsc.org.au



Australian College of Veterinary Scientists – ACVSc – December 2010

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MEET MICHAEL PATON



Meet Councillor Michael Paton

In this issue of the College Courier we take time to meet new Councillor Michael Paton: his aspirations for his time on Council and the path that brought him here.

For some, life unfolds as a well-ordered plan, architecturally designed, with engineered precision. While for others a more circuitous route is followed, a series of incidents leading to opportunities: windows are opened where doors may have been closed. Michael Paton's path to the Council of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists seems to have taken this more serpentine, riverine path, yet is full of intent, purpose and opportunities grasped.

For Michael, the first offshoot from an intended path was in fact how he came to find himself doing a veterinary degree. Interested in a zoology degree, it was Michael's father, a commerce man, who advised Michael that he would not be able to make any money with a zoology degree, so why didn't he become a veterinarian instead? Michael adds wryly that his friend, who *did* become a zoologist, earns more than Michael could ever hope to as a veterinarian!

Graduating from UQ in 1977, Michael's interests lay primarily in wildlife, with dreams of working in Africa. Yet in that same year, Kenya had its first graduating year of veterinarians, thus closing the door to Australian vets in East Africa. Instead, Michael went to Rockhampton, Qld, for a

year in mixed practice. This was followed by 18 months in the UK, working in London and staying comfortably with his sister in Hampstead. Perhaps the stay was not as comfortable for Michael's sister and her husband, as she actually managed to arrange a job for Michael in Northern Ireland! The eternal optimist, Michael enjoyed the change of scenery.

Michael's time in the UK did allow for holidays on the continent. It was here that Michael met his future wife- a Perth girl- in Andorra! Eventually wanting to come back to Australia and a life together, Michael found himself in Perth working initially in private practice. In 1984 Michael joined the Department of Agriculture Western Australia, and the next opportunity for his life's work opened up.

Michael's work at the Dept of Ag was in research into Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA), or 'cheesy gland' disease in sheep and goats. He became the world authority on the disease. Marrying veterinary interests with an inquisitive mind, Michael found he was well suited to research. He saw his work would be complemented with training and knowledge in epidemiology. It was through the epidemiology chapter that the door to the ACVSc was opened to Michael. He attained Membership in Epidemiology in 1989.

Michael credits his College involvement as giving him contacts with mentors, and illustrious people in his field such as fondly remembered Chris Baldoock, whom he felt he could call on at any time with his queries because of their College ties. The College in general and the epidemiology chapter in particular afforded Michael opportunity to exposure to different ways of solving problems- of benefit in his role as a researcher. Michael attests to this 'collegiality' as being one of the major benefits and



MEET MICHAEL PATON

functions of the ACVSc.

Over time Michael's role at the WA Dept of Ag was to change. In the mid 1990s Michael's job became more managerial. Along with other restructuring of government departments, Michael became involved in animal welfare and exotic disease. He found animal welfare suited his evolving interests in science and ethics, and thus began his involvement again with the College, this time with the Animal Welfare chapter. This influenced the decisions of welfare groups with which he was involved to coincide one of their twice a year meetings with the annual College Science Week gathering. Michael was also in a position to arrange combined Epidemiology and Animal Welfare meetings at the College's annual conference.

On the home front, Michael has been involved with the AVA WA, in particular in their New Graduate Support Scheme. He sees this as a very important role, where experienced vets are assigned as mentors to fledgling veterinarians in their inaugural year in the profession. Michael has seen such benefit from this scheme that he feels it is one of his areas of interest that he can bring to the ACVS as he starts out on the College Council. The mentoring scheme within the College similarly aims to give guidance and assistance to candidates sitting membership exams. He can attest to this actually leading to longer term professional associations and indeed friendships that can be mutually beneficial above and beyond passing examinations. Michael aspires to lifting the role of mentors within the College and possibly giving more structure to the scheme across the chapters, as it presently operates on a chapter-by-chapter basis, if not a little randomly.

As for his view of the College, Michael feels the College is offering benefits to two broad streams of veterinarians. The first perhaps describes his own case- veterinarians who seek further knowledge within their field perhaps for professional and personal development, and see the college as a way of networking with like-minded people. That network is then a valuable source to tap when sorting problems, seeking new ideas and inspiration. The second group is the very driven veterinarian who sees the College as a means of gaining qualifications, as the College defines the steps taken for specialization qualifications in Australia, this being a very important function of the College. Michael endeavours to use his time on Council to come to terms with the challenges of keeping the College current and relevant to both these groups, possibly even melding the two in a symbiotic relationship.

Again calling on his experience with new graduates, Michael seeks to investigate the needs of newer members, who indeed are the future of the College.

Michael balances his work life with creative outlets in both musical and culinary pursuits. He has a band with a veterinary colleague, playing at local venues as well as busking for charity. His kitchen endeavours are said to be

'adventurous'. He celebrated the completion of his PhD by putting on a culinary extravaganza alluding to "Babette's Feast". Michael attests to his life's work



into Cheesy Gland disease as giving him amazing travel opportunities- including invitations to speak in such diverse places as Louisville Kentucky, Edinburgh, Scotland and Nairobi, Kenya. In a roundabout way, Michael did get to Africa in the end!



COLLEGE AWARDS

COLLEGE AWARDS 2011

Council depends to a large extent on members to nominate candidates for its two awards, which recognize exceptional younger talent within the Australasian profession.

The **College Prize** was inaugurated in 1975 and is awarded by the College Council to a veterinarian, generally who has graduated within the last 10 years, and who has made an outstanding practical contribution to veterinary science or practice in Australia or New Zealand, especially during the preceding 5 years, without the support of an academic environment, and to whom finance and facilities are very limited. The successful candidate will have worked mainly in practice as a clinician, in a regulatory role, or in an area of applied research, rather than as an academic or in basic research.

Inaugurated in 1979, the **Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Award** has high academic and/or research accomplishment as its primary requisite, and is to be awarded to a veterinarian making an outstanding contribution to veterinary science in Australia and New Zealand especially during the preceding five years.

Nominations for both close with the College office on the **28 February 2011**.

KESTEVEN MEDAL

Nominations are called for the 2011 Kesteven Medal. This prestigious award jointly supported by the AVA and the College recognizes the contribution by the late Dr. K. V. L. Kesteven OBE to international veterinary science with particular reference to developing countries. Nominations are to include a curriculum vitae and supporting statements and should reach the CEO, AVA, Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St. Leonards, NSW 2065 by 31 December 2010. The Award is restricted to Australian veterinarians who have contributed to veterinary science in developing countries.

FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH GRANT

A grant of \$1,000 is available to support a research project undertaken as part of a Fellowship training program. Applicants are advised to obtain a copy of the Guidelines and the application form from the College office. Nominations close on the **28 February 2011**.

FELLOWSHIP TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship provides support for candidates undertaking the supervised training required for the Fellowship examination. The award is open to all Australian and New Zealand veterinarians enrolled or pursuing enrolment for this examination. In 2011 the scholarship will be \$8,000.

*To One and All,
Christmas Wishes Great and Small*

