

# College COURIER

March 2010

## Strategic Board of Examiners

The hardworking Board of Examiners, engine room of the College, met for a strategic planning meeting. Read the details page 11.



Back Row L-R Dr Norman, Dr Stanley, Dr Owen, Dr Krockenberger, Dr Burgemeister, Dr Racklyeft.  
Front Row L-R Mrs Lowe (College Manager), Dr Parker (College CEO), Dr Barrs and Dr Burrows.

### COLLEGE SCIENCE WEEK CONFERENCE

1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2010

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

Join key members of the profession from Australia, New Zealand and beyond, for this popular integrated multi-stream programme which presents material from the CUTTING EDGE and scientific and clinical updates from Australian, New Zealand and overseas experts. See Chapter Reports for specific information.

This meeting is **NOT RESTRICTED** to College Members. Details of the full Science Week programme and registration packets are available from the College Manager, Mrs. Elaine Lowe in the College Office.

### Examiner Training During College Science Week

Associate Professor Glen Coleman from The University of Queensland will present two examiner training sessions on 1<sup>st</sup> July at Science Week about the roles and rewards of examining for the college. The first is a Plenary Lecture 'How do I know what you know?' The second is a follow on interactive workshop entitled 'Getting the Most out of Examining for the College'. Both sessions will be offered **free of charge** to anyone interested. Current, past and future examiners and Chapter Examination Committees are especially invited to attend.

*Examiner Education: an initiative of the  
Board of Examiners*

## Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Newsletter

Contents: *Inside Cover - Your College Contacts, President's Page, CEO's Report, College Corner, Fellowship News, Chapter Reports, Board of Examiners Wrap Up, Continuing Education Options, Council Election, Calendar of Events.*

# College Contacts

## Australian College of Veterinary Scientists



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Garden City Office Park  
2404 Logan Road  
EIGHT MILE PLAINS  
QLD 4113

**Telephone:** 07 3423  
2016

**Fax:** 07 3423 2977

**Email:** [acvs@gil.com.au](mailto:acvs@gil.com.au)

**Website:** [www.acvs.org.au](http://www.acvs.org.au)



### College Apparel

**Navy Blue College Shirt**  
\$25

**NEW Navy Blue Rugby**  
**Jersey with White Collar**  
\$50

**College Vest \$40**

Contact the College  
Office to place your  
order: 07 3423 2016.



## New Zealand Contact:

Dr. Stuart Burrough,  
The Vet Centre,  
Blenheim, New Zealand.  
Telephone: (03) 5779822  
Email: [stuart@tvcm.co.nz](mailto:stuart@tvcm.co.nz)

## COUNCIL

**President:** Dr. Robert Labuc  
**Honorary Treasurer:** Dr. Liz Dill-Macky  
**Honorary Secretary:** Dr. Ruth Sutcliffe  
**Chief Examiner:** Dr. Robin Stanley  
**Awards Committee Convenor:**  
Dr. John Bolton  
**Councillor:** Dr. Stuart Burrough  
**Councillor:** Dr. Philip Moses

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS

**Chief Examiner:** Dr. Robin Stanley  
**Asst Chief Ex(Fel):** Dr. Mandy Burrows  
**Asst Chief Ex(Mem):** Dr. Liz Norman  
**Asst Chief Ex(NZ):** Dr. Mark Owen  
Dr. Bob Doneley  
Dr. Mark Burgemeister  
Dr. Mark Krockenberger  
Dr. Debbie Racklyeft  
Dr. Vanessa Barrs  
Dr. Robert Labuc (President – *ex officio*)

## Science Week Programme

**Co-ordinator:**  
Dr. Terry King

**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Dr. Megan Parker

**College Manager:** Mrs. Elaine Lowe

**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Sharon  
Tinsley

**Hon. Historian:** Dr. Bryan Woolcock

**Hon. Courier Collator:** Dr. Fran Musca



### President's Page

*Robert Labuc*

*This year sees the College entering its 40th year of existence. Is this worth celebrating?*

*It certainly is!*

From humble beginnings, the College has grown to a membership of 1959, including members, fellows and associates. Beginning with purely volunteer help and outsourcing of administrative duties, we now have three employees in **Dr Megan Parker** (CEO), **Mrs. Elaine Lowe** (College Manager) and **Ms Sharon Tinsley** (Administrative Assistant) who deal with the machinations of assisting these members, as well as coordinate examinations and College Science Week. This year, we are looking at a record number of over 200 candidates to sit their membership examination.

Initially created 'To advance the study of veterinary science and to bring together members of the veterinary profession for their common benefit', the College now includes in its functions continuing professional development, via Chapter initiated meetings through to the College Science Week, and offering advanced assessment for the qualifications of Membership and Fellowship. Fellowship has now progressed to be the only recognized indigenous qualification for specialist registration by our Veterinary Boards in Australia and New Zealand.

The net result of this activity is that the veterinary communities of Australia and New Zealand are now well serviced by a large number of professionals with advanced training (both Membership and Fellowship)

providing a better veterinary service to the public and industry. Almost one in five veterinarians in Australia and New Zealand are within our membership (based on estimates some 10,000 employed veterinarians). One could thus argue that veterinary professional standards in general have been lifted as a direct consequence of the influence on the veterinary profession by so many Members or Fellows of the College.

The College has also been vigorously involved in the wider community. Examples include the various providers of Continuing Veterinary Education (discussed elsewhere in this Courier), veterinary wholesalers and providers (with sponsorships and displays at meetings), and interactions with professional bodies such as the AVA and NZVA. Many members of the College have had a large impact in an academic sense. This includes presentations at Science Week and other conferences, publication of journal articles (some of which are required as part of Fellowship training), and participation in various focus and specialist groups to provide appropriate professional advice.

Looking to the future, many College members are involving themselves in a project to increase international recognition of our College qualifications. At the same time we have been asked to assist in the setting up of assessment systems for a currently underserved veterinary interest area in Europe. This surely demonstrates that the College already has a strong international standing and it can only strengthen with the robust systems and protocols that are already in place, and constantly undergoing review and improvement.

So, to pose the question again, is it worth celebrating 40 years of existence – I believe the answer is a resounding **YES!** Over the coming year, I hope to highlight this milestone for the College. In order to do this well, the College certainly welcomes your ideas and suggestions on this matter.





**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

*Dr Megan Parker*

## Council Elections

As a member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, you are encouraged to vote in the 2010 Council election. Council, as the **Board of Directors** of the College shapes the future of the College and therefore significantly influences the future of the veterinary profession in Australia and New Zealand.

Two places on council are up for election this year for which nominations are currently being called. Please consider nominating someone for Council who you know has an interest in the future and objectives of the College and a desire to make a significant contribution to the veterinary profession. Councillors are offered directorship training and extensive support from the College office and find the experience of serving on Council to be a most rewarding and enjoyable one.

**Dr John Bolton** will retire from Council this year after serving his term as Councillor. We have been greatly appreciative of John's experience, leadership, integrity, dedication and hard work. We thank him for his valuable contribution to the College, and wish him all the best. **Dr Liz Dill-Macky's** first three-year term on Council has expired and Liz has decided to stand again for election back to Council this year. Liz plays a vital role on Council, especially through her valuable contribution as **Honorary Treasurer**.

## Membership and Examination candidate data 2010

The College currently has a Membership of 1959, 1516 of which are **Members**, 193 **Fellows**, 20 **Honorary Fellows**, 22 **Associate Members**, and 208 **Life members** or **Life Fellows**. 1514 reside in Australia, 274 in New Zealand and 171 in other countries.

Currently we have 61 Fellowship candidates in training and 5 Fellowship candidates that have finished training. There are 208 Membership candidates for 2010.

Of 22 Fellowship candidates credentialed and at this stage 20 are confirmed to sit the 2010 Fellowship examinations.

## Science Week 2010 and Examiner training Session

Plans are well underway for Science Week 2010, with an extended three-day scientific program being offered. Chapters contributing to streams include: **Small Animal Medicine, Feline, Equine, Surgery, Animal Welfare, Epidemiology, Vet Anaesthesia, Emergency and Critical Care, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Behaviour, Zoo and Wildlife, Dermatology, Cattle and Avian Health**.

The **Board of Examiners** have introduced two **examiner training** sessions at Science Week 2010. **Associate Professor Glen Coleman** from The University of Queensland will present the sessions about the roles and rewards of examining for the college. The first is a Plenary Lecture '**How do I know what you know?**' The second is a follow on interactive workshop entitled '**Getting the Most out of Examining for the College**'. Both sessions will be offered **free of charge** to anyone interested. Current, past and future examiners and Chapter Examination Committees are especially invited to attend. The lecture will be held across all streams at **8am** on **Thursday 1 July** in the **Hamilton Room**.

# CEO REPORT

The workshop will follow on from **9 am till 12.30pm** also in the **Hamilton Room**. Morning tea will be provided for workshop participants.

The Awards dinner this year promises to be a cultural experience and we are aiming to secure a string quartet and a vocal ensemble to entertain you. In addition, a broad spectrum of awards of merit and testamurs will be issued and **Dr Vic Menrath** will be honoured by an Oration delivered by **Dr Marcus Gunew**. Also, we will be celebrating **Mrs Elaine Lowe's 25 years of service** to the College.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gold Coast in July.

## **Pan Pacific Veterinary Conference**

Following on from the success of the College stand at the AVA National Conferences in Melbourne in 2007, Perth in 2008, Darwin in 2009, this year the College will be represented by a stand at the **AVA National Conference** in **Brisbane** in May.

We are joining forces with the **Centre for Veterinary Education** and **Murdoch University's Office of Continuing Education**, **AVA Continuing Veterinary Education** and **NZVA Vet Learn** and **VIN** to present the stand and share costs. The stand will provide an opportunity for members and prospective candidates to approach the College directly to enquire about the College and its activities or discuss College options available to them with regards their ongoing professional development. The conference also presents an excellent opportunity for the President and/or I to network with other professional veterinary organisations. If you are at the conference, please drop in and introduce yourself to **Mrs Elaine Lowe** and me at the stand.

## **Web Site Photo Competition**

Our new web site needs colourful veterinary photos to enhance its appearance and feel. There are a number of members of the college who possess remarkable photography expertise and skill. We invite them to submit their veterinary photos to us for consideration for inclusion on the new upgraded college web site.

## **Please Update Your Contact Details**

I implore you to update your contact details, especially your email address, so that we can keep you up to date. We are using electronic modes of communication more and more so up to date email addresses are very important. You can update your contact details easily yourself through the College web site, or phone Mrs Elaine Lowe at the College Office.

## **Use of CABI**

We will shortly be sending out a survey to College members via email to enable us to gauge the level of use of CABI Vet med Resource and e-books, and to receive any suggestions about the products. Please take the opportunity to comment on this valuable new benefit for members of the College.

## **New Office**

The College office has recently spread to include the space next door to the original College Office at Qld AVA House. In the new section, I have my own personal office and there will soon be a formal meeting area with an honour wall that will feature photographs of all past College Presidents. The new space also allows plenty of room for much needed storage and College archives.



## Council Corner: March 2009

### International Recognition Task Force (IRTF)

The following terms of reference have been adopted for the IRTF. Members with interest in joining the task force are welcome to apply to the President via the CEO. The next meeting of this important group will be held in person over dinner on July 1 at College Science Week.

#### Composition of the IRTF

The IRTF is composed of up to ten (10) members

- Five (5) members will be College Officers: The President, CEO and College Manager will be members of the IRTF along with up to two (2) other Councillors.
- In addition there will be up to five (5) general members/fellows. Council will appoint each general member/fellow to the IRTF for a term of three (3) years at the July Council meeting.
- Membership of the IRTF will include a breadth of expertise and no subject area will be over represented.
- In the event of a casual vacancy in general members/fellows of the IRTF, Council will fill from the position within the membership.
- IRTF members may be existing Chapter office holders.
- Members of the IRTF will be involved on behalf of the whole College and not be representing a particular Chapter.

#### Functions of the IRTF

- To position and promote College qualifications as desirable, internationally recognised post-graduate qualifications.
- To drive and coordinate the College's overall pursuit of international recognition of College qualifications.
- To stimulate and support individual chapters' activities associated with initiating and developing contact with overseas Colleges for the pursuit of international recognition of subjects under their management.
- To sustainably manage a budget for expenses associated with activities conducted by College members and chapters to pursue international recognition.

#### Meetings

The IRTF will meet in person each Science Week and at least once during the year via teleconference

#### Reporting

The IRTF reports to each Council meeting through the CEO. Members are kept informed of IRTF developments through the College Courier.

#### Use of funds for the pursuit of international recognition

The International Recognition Task Force (IRTF) will sustainably manage a budget for expenses associated with activities conducted by College members and chapters to pursue international recognition.

The IRTF will assess on a case-by-case basis, written proposals from Chapters or members for central college funds support

for activities associated with the international recognition of College qualifications.

Proposals will be assessed according to overall need, and the likelihood that the activity will make a significant contribution to the current pursuit for international recognition of Fellowship, based on the background, experience and involvement with overseas college(s).

Members engaging in activity will be expected to meet with College executives during Science Week to be briefed on the situation with regard to international recognition.

The College will pay from central examination funds, 50% of expenses including economy airfares and reasonable associated travel expenses, such as accommodation and meals immediately before and after each activity. It is expected that Chapters will provide the other 50% of costs.

The final arbiter of the assessment of each proposal will be the **Honorary Treasurer**.

### Fellowship Candidate News

#### Increased scrutiny of Fellowship six monthly reports

*In order to better assist Fellowship candidates*, you will have noticed that the **Fellowship Training and Credentials Committee (FTCC)** has tightened up fellowship training reporting. Each fellowship candidate is required to report through their **Supervisor Report** (as usual) every six months (at the end of January and at the end of July each year) but now they must do so *for as long as any*

*aspect of the training program remains outstanding*. It is compulsory that reporting deadlines are met and the ACE(F) reserves the right to suspend those who fail to comply with reporting deadlines.

The format of the Supervisor Report has been improved to better demonstrate the activities of the candidates, especially with respect to supplementary training (externships and training in related disciplines) and publications.

There is a REAL and TANGIBLE benefit to the candidate by giving the FTCC much greater opportunity to monitor training programs and foresee problems with credentials at a more timely point in the training program. This gives ample opportunity for timely resolution of problems, rather than a candidate potentially being denied access to the Fellowship examination due to problems at credentials time.

Each supervisor report is cross checked thoroughly with the candidate's file to ensure that candidates have done what they reported they would do in their training program document. A check is also made to ensure that candidates comply with all college rules on activities they have done or propose to do. Candidates can expect to receive a constructive and valuable response from the FTCC on each Supervisor Report.

We hope that candidates are appreciative of this increased assistance from the FTCC, but stress that *it does remain the fellowship candidate's ultimate responsibility to comply with all rules and requirements of their training program and relevant subject guidelines*.



# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Small Animal Medicine

This coming year and CSW conference will be an exciting time for the Small Animal Medicine chapter, and we look forward to your participation.

**Please ensure you come to our AGM to be held Friday afternoon, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by a cocktail party, generously supported by Pfizer Animal Health and Hill's Pet Nutrition Australia.**

### AGM

There are many topics that will be discussed at this meeting that could be important to you and would benefit from your input:

- Election of new office bearers, including Vice-President (a position held for 2 years prior to becoming President) of the chapter, membership on the Science Week convening committee and other important roles. If you are interested in any of these roles please contact **Caroline Mansfield** for details or to register your interest [C.Mansfield@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:C.Mansfield@murdoch.edu.au)
- Discussion of ways to improve the examination process to encourage retention of examiners, particularly at fellowship level.
- Reciprocal recognition by overseas bodies. The President of the College, **Rob Labuc**, has been working hard behind the scenes on this issue. Again, any interested parties that wish to participate in this process please put forward your names.

### CSW programme

The College Science Week organising committee has created an exciting and innovative programme. We have collaborative sessions with a number of other College chapters this year: **Ophthalmology**, **Equine** (on theriogenology) and **Feline Medicine**. This year our guest speaker will be **Dr Carmel Mooney**, from University College, Dublin

who will be discussing a range of endocrinological diseases. 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.

### Abstract submission

The Small Animal Medicine and Feline Medicine Chapters invite postgraduate students, residents, interns, clinicians, and researchers to submit abstracts of practical and scientific topics related to canine and feline medicine. Abstracts can be focused on applied or clinical research. Case series describing unusual or difficult cases are also encouraged. Outstanding single case reports will also be considered.

### Submission deadline

**11:59pm AEST 12 April 2010.**

Abstracts must be submitted electronically to **Nick Cave** at [N.J.Cave@massey.ac.nz](mailto:N.J.Cave@massey.ac.nz). They will be reviewed by a board of specialists and/or researchers and selected on merit. Authors will be notified via email of acceptance on or before 30 April. Successful authors must be able to submit their Power Point presentation to convenors via email by 5pm AEST on June 30 and attend the abstract session in its entirety on the afternoon of July 1 (1:30-5:30pm). Prizewinners will be awarded a ticket and will be expected to attend the College Awards Dinner on July 2 at 7:30pm, at which they will receive their prize. Additionally, the winning abstract must be presented again in the small animal medicine program on Friday July 2.

All abstracts presented by postgraduate students, residents (including those whom have completed a residency within the last 6 months but have not yet completed certifying examinations), and interns will be eligible for prizes. Abstracts that have been presented at other conferences are welcome but this must be disclosed and these abstracts will not be eligible for prizes. No

## CHAPTER REPORTS

abstract should be entered that will have been submitted as a full-length publication before the abstract submission deadline. Please state your eligibility for a prize and your ability to attend the awards dinner with your submission. First prize: \$1500, second prize: \$900, third prize: \$600.

Full details will be circulated in an e-mail and are also available on the College web site.

### Chapter Award for Meritorious Service

The Chapter is inviting nominations for the Chapter Award for meritorious service. 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. Our winner in 2009 was **Professor Boyd Jones**. If you would like to nominate somebody for this award please follow the links and instructions on our web site by **April 20**. [http://samedicine.acvsc.org.au/samedicine/awards\\_prizes/chapter\\_service\\_award/default.asp](http://samedicine.acvsc.org.au/samedicine/awards_prizes/chapter_service_award/default.asp)

*We look forward to seeing you at the Gold Coast in July and encourage you to become involved in your chapter.*

### Dermatology

The **Dermatology Chapter** has another exciting **two day program** planned for Science Week 2010, with the **major theme of immune-mediated skin disease** extending over both days. Once again we have an exciting combination of medical and veterinary specialist speakers. Diseases covered in depth will include the pemphigus complex, basement membrane diseases such as bullous pemphigoid, and the erythema multiforme complex. There will be a major focus on immune-mediated disease therapy, with invaluable practical advice from medical and veterinary dermatologists, and veterinary internists, and two open-forum discussion sessions where the experts will compare and contrast treatment protocols.

Although our program remains solely a Dermatology Stream this year, it has applications to managing immune-mediated diseases in organs other than skin, and should appeal to any veterinary practitioner with an interest in practical and useful take home information about the diagnosis and management of immune-mediated skin diseases, as well as dermatologists and medical specialists in veterinary referral practice, and dermatology or small animal medicine residents in training.

On the first day the focus is **pemphigus and basement membrane diseases**. We are very lucky to have veterinary dermatologist Toshi Iwasaki as guest speaker from Japan, who is one of the world leaders in research on pathogenesis of these diseases, who will share with us his teams' research updates. We are also privileged to have veterinary dermatologist Peter Hill, a world class researcher, lecturer and dermatology clinician now working in Australia, who will discuss the clinical signs and diagnosis of pemphigus in dogs and cats. Comparison will then be made to these diseases in humans, before moving onto the afternoon sessions on therapeutics. The use of glucocorticoids and azathioprine will be discussed in detail, covering pharmacology and indications, and comparing and contrasting views from popular internal medicine specialist Graham Swinney and a team of veterinary dermatologists.

This is sure to be a wonderfully stimulating day, bringing together an array of experts from different fields to expand our knowledge and stimulate new ideas.

The second day continues on the same immune-mediated disease theme, moving onto the **erythema multiforme complex** of diseases, with a major focus once again on therapeutics. Again Toshi and Peter will cover pathogenesis and clinical disease respectively, supported by veterinary and medical dermatology speakers who will cover disease presentations in animals and people. **Alternative treatment options to glucocorticoids and azathioprine** will be discussed at length, once again with input



## CHAPTER REPORTS

from the medical field, and with another open-forum discussion group. These sessions shouldn't be missed, with in-depth discussions on a range of drugs less frequently used to manage immune-mediated diseases in animals promising lots of new and exciting information. The day will finish with a session on current research projects and case reports, to end what is sure to be another stimulating day.

This two day focus on immune-mediated disease on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July brings together a breadth of expertise from both human and veterinary specialist practice. The conference program is designed for everyone with a role or interest in managing immune-mediated skin disease including educators, researchers, clinical specialists and veterinarians in general practice. It is without doubt that some aspect of the program will extend your knowledge and stimulate new thoughts and ideas. We suggest you register for these days with the Australian College now if you don't want to miss out! Please email Mandy Burrows, Secretary of the Dermatology Chapter for further information on the dermatology program: a.burrows@murdoch.edu.au

### Feline Medicine

The Feline Chapter is pleased to announce a great day of continuing education at Science Week this year on **Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>**. The day has been organised jointly with the **Small Animal Chapter**.

The Feline Chapter is in great need of members willing to actively participate in the running of our Chapter. Office bearers and committee members are always needed. Please do your best to attend the AGM this year, which will take place at the end of the sessions on July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot attend but wish to contribute or send your comments please email Chapter secretary **Dr Amy Lingard** at amylingard@gmail.com

### Zoo and Wildlife Medicine

The Chapter of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine is very much looking forward to Science Week. This year we are joining with the **Epidemiology Chapter** for a full day session on the epidemiology of wildlife diseases, to be held on Friday July 2. This is an exciting initiative that will examine how epidemiology is applied to wildlife diseases in Australasia; what the challenges confronting the epidemiology of wildlife diseases are and how might these be addressed; the decision making process for prioritising the investigation of wildlife diseases; and tools and issues associated with managing wildlife disease. The credentials of the speakers assembled thus far are impressive and all are at forefront of this developing area. We encourage anyone with an interest in the health and diseases of wildlife, with the associated impacts on biodiversity and/or domestic animal and human health, to attend this session. For more information contact **David McLelland** dmcllelland@zoossa.com.au or **Brendan Cowled** Brendan.Cowled@daff.gov.au.

In addition we will be convening a half-day session of open papers, as we have held in recent years, on **Sat July 3**. This is always a very interesting session that exhibits the diversity of activities of our Chapter Members and others involved in zoo and wildlife medicine. Anyone interested in presenting in this session should contact **David Blyde** at David.Blyde@wvtp.com.au.

*David McLelland*

### Ophthalmology Chapter

The Ophthalmology Chapter has an exciting program planned for Science Week this year. We will be sharing a half day with the Anaesthesia, Emergency and Critical Care Chapter and a half day with the Small Animal Medicine Chapter in addition to our Ophthalmology case reports and invited speaker session.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

In the shared sessions we will be covering topics that are seen in After Hours Centres, Specialist Centres and General Practice with the aim of giving attendees a greater understanding of eye conditions and how best to treat them. There will be plenty of colour photos to illustrate the wide range of conditions!

The Chapter Examination Committee has also been hard at work this year updating the Fellowship guidelines which are almost completed. The aim of the new guidelines is to bring our Chapter in line with European and American residency programs.

Lastly, the Chapter would like to encourage anyone with an interest in ophthalmology to visit us in the North Stradbroke room during Science Week in July and remember any Member of the College is welcome to join the Ophthalmology Chapter - you do not need to be a Fellow!

### Epidemiology

For 2010 the Epidemiology Chapter has another exciting Science Week program planned including a day focused on the animal-human interface on Thursday July 2, a combined session with the **Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Chapter** on Friday July 3, and a general epidemiology day on Saturday. There are a couple of spaces left if you would like to present your research. **Chris Morley** our coordinator can be contacted at [chris.morley@maf.govt.nz](mailto:chris.morley@maf.govt.nz)

This year Epidemiology Chapter has also invited **Professor Mark Elwood**, an exceptional international speaker, to lead a three day pre-conference workshop titled, **Making Sense of Science: A Short Course on Critical Appraisal and Evidence Synthesis**. The aim is to highlight the fundamental principles of critical appraisal using a clear, concise and simplified approach. No prior knowledge will be assumed, and you'll be guided from basic ideas to advanced concepts using diagrams, case scenarios and hands-on workshop sessions. This course will be of considerable

value to members of other chapters, who need to read, understand and critically appraise research and literature. Mark Elwood is an epidemiologist and public health medicine specialist based in Canada. Full details are available on the web site <http://epicentre.massey.ac.nz/acvsc/index.html>

### Chapter Awards

The Epidemiology Chapter awards prizes to a student in each of the Australian and New Zealand Veterinary Schools to raise the profile of epidemiology. The winning student is chosen by the relevant lecturer based upon high marks in an epidemiologically associated course or essay. The prizes for **2009** were awarded to:

- **Clinton Yudelman**  
*University of Melbourne*
- **Devon O'Roarke-Wieneke**  
*University of Sydney*
- **Anhui Lin** *Murdoch University*
- **Clare Ferris** *Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga)* - this is the inaugural prize at this school

The prizes for *Massey* and *University of Qld* are to be announced soon.

The prize for the student from Murdoch University has been renamed the **Diana Pinch Memorial Award for Epidemiology** in memory of the late Chapter Member, Diana Pinch, who was an alumnus of that university.

The **Chris Baldock Prize** is awarded for outstanding performance in the College Membership Examination in Epidemiology. The Prize for 2009 was awarded to **Jonathan Happold**. This prize is in memory the late Chapter Fellow Chris Baldock who made a significant contribution to the Chapter as one of the initial Fellows, Examiner, Chief Examiner and Mentor to many candidates.



## Board of Examiner Wrap Up

### New Member of the Board of Examiners (BoE)

The Board of Examiners recently farewelled **Dr Roger Cook** of Examiners after a tremendous **fourteen years** of service. We honour and thank Roger for his attention to detail, support for candidates, staff and officers, pursuit of excellence and hard work.

We are very pleased to announce that **Dr Vanessa Barrs** has accepted the vacancy on the Board of Examiners. We welcome Vanessa to the Board of Examiners and are confident that she will make a great contribution to the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists examination system.



*Dr Vanessa Barrs brings a progressive edge to the Board of Examiners.*

### In Person Meeting

The Board of Examiners held its first in person strategic planning meeting in Melbourne on the weekend of Feb 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a great success. The Meeting was attended by 8 of the 9 Board members, the College CEO and the College Manager. A facilitator ran the meeting and we used a scribe, so that the College Manager could actively and valuably participate in discussions.

We are fortunate to have a very able body of dedicated volunteers, and College employees

who possess a wide range of abilities, expertise and experience. The weekend enabled the Board to bond, and there will be benefits for many years to come from this meeting.

### The Board of Examiners Strategy Resolutions

The first part of the meeting was to plan the vision and mission statement for the BoE. Once developed we worked on the Board of Examiners' values, aims, priorities, and also the results it would like to achieve on behalf of the College.

### The BoE's Vision Statement

*To promote and certify excellence in veterinary science*

### The BoE's Mission Statement

*To plan, develop and implement advanced veterinary professional certification of an international standard, for veterinarians striving for excellence in their chosen endeavour*

### The BoE's values:

- Professionalism
- Fairness
- Excellence
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Collegiality
- Clarity

### The BoE aims to be:

- Science-based
- Progressive
- Supportive
- Responsive
- Aware
- Communicative

### The BoE's Priorities

- To maintain a progressive, high standard examination system

# BOARD OF EXAMINERS

- To promote certification of advanced education through the College
- To support, mentor, advise and provide information and clarity to all stakeholders: i.e. candidates, examiners, CECs, BoE, Council, membership, alliance partners, wider profession, public etc
- To engage with chapters; communicating, supporting and educating examiners and chapter examination committees
- To manage the examination system sustainably by succession planning for BoE, examiners, CECs; considering costs, budgets and resourcing,
- To develop a system for recertification of specialists
- To work towards international recognition of College qualifications
- To facilitate the relationship between the College and the Advisory Committee on the Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS).

**The Board of Examiners will strive for the following results for the College:**

**Acceptance** internationally as a credible, congruent authority

**Integrity** of the examination process

**Esteem** of the College, its members, fellows and examiners within the community and amongst peers, both locally and internationally

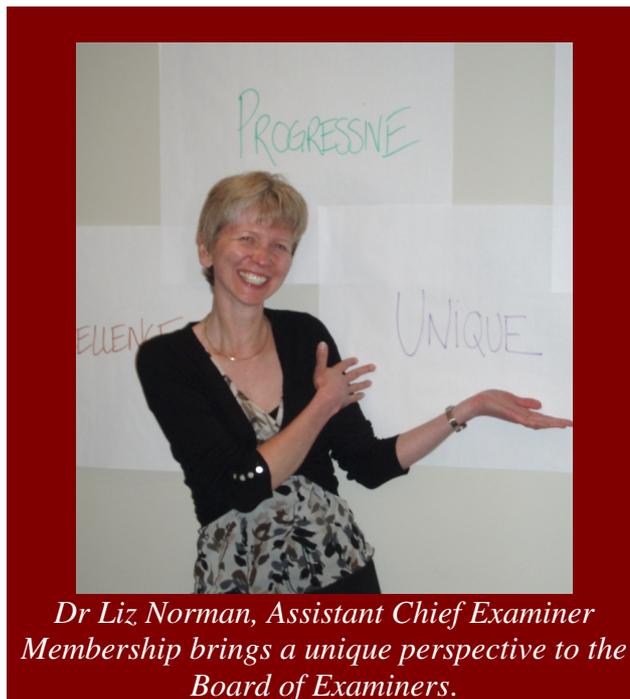
**Excellence** in perception and standards

**Progress** through sensitive response to feedback and continual striving for improvement

**Uniqueness** of structure, services and activities such as Membership examinations, College Science Week etc

**Collegiality** through working together as friendly approachable people

**Ethics** through transparency and accountability



**Relevance** to professional development requirements of our region and profession

**Approachability** of members of the BoE, staff and office bearers

**Pride** in all aspects of the College

**Value** of College qualifications and College members' participation in the College

**Reciprocal arrangement:** Members value their membership and provide value to the College



## CONTINUING EDUCATION OPTIONS

In this article, we are showcasing Continuing Veterinary Education options within our region which may be of interest to our members and examination candidates. Further information on Continuing Education options can be found on the College web site under **Continuing Education**.

### Continuing veterinary education disclosure

1. At this point in *'The Courier'* The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (The College) will provide information about continuing veterinary education activities conducted by organisations within its region that share its objectives, provided there are clear benefits through doing so for the College, its members or College examination candidates.
2. Participation in continuing veterinary education activities referred to here shall not be a prerequisite for sitting College examinations and shall not be taken as assuming success at College examinations.
3. Cooperation between The College and CVE organisations who share its objectives shall not be exclusive.
4. The College and its Chapters shall remain autonomous at all times.
5. The College and its Chapters shall not endorse or promote a company or its products.
6. College activities and College standards shall not be influenced by commercial issues or commercial considerations.

### The Australian Veterinary Association

The AVA holds over 130 continuing education events annually, ranging from the AVA Annual Conference to local branch evening seminars. Also, many of the AVA's Divisions and some Special Interest Groups (SIGs) hold annual stand-alone 1-2 day conferences. Visit the continuing education section of the AVA's website- [www.ava.com.au](http://www.ava.com.au)

### The Centre for Veterinary Education (CVE)

The Centre for Veterinary Education provides professional development to the veterinary profession. Choose between face-to-face events, distance education, wet workshops or short online courses. Receive structured education featuring some of the best practitioners and

educators in the world bringing you the best in veterinary content. Join us and see how worthwhile your education can be. Visit: [www.cve.edu.au](http://www.cve.edu.au)

### Distance study for international veterinarians at Massey University

Join a supportive learning community led by internationally recognised experts as they guide you towards your goal, whether that's studying one of our wide variety of subjects or gaining a full Master of Veterinary Medicine (MVM) degree. To learn more visit <http://mvm.massey.ac.nz> or email [mvm@massey.ac.nz](mailto:mvm@massey.ac.nz)

### Murdoch University Office of Continuing Veterinary Education

Murdoch University School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences offers advanced external studies courses that allow you to study for a higher degree from your veterinary practice using a variety of up-to-date technologies and teaching methods. All courses are offered in external and online mode for convenient study at home or work. Visit [http://www.vetbiomed.murdoch.edu.au/](http://www.vetbiomed.murdoch.edu.au/Courses) Courses on offer

### Veterinary Education Australia: CPD for Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses

Veterinary Education Australia has a strong focus on the provision of online and distance-learning programs, in which specialists and top referral clinicians and researchers are invited to speak on clinical topics relevant to current veterinary practice. Visit the websites at [www.veteducation.com.au](http://www.veteducation.com.au) or [www.veteducation.co.nz](http://www.veteducation.co.nz), or email at [info@veteducation.com.au](mailto:info@veteducation.com.au) for more information.

## Calendar of Events

- Board of Examiners Meeting **23 March**
- Date of Mrs Elaine Lowe's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the College **3 May**
- Council Meeting **4 May**
- International Recognition Task Force **1 July (dinner meeting)**
- Fellowship Board of Examiners Meeting **28 June**
- Examiners Dinner **29 June**
- Board of Examiners Meeting **30 June**
- Council Meeting **2 July a.m.**
- Council Meeting **3 July a.m.**
- AGM **2 July**
- Awards Dinner **3 July**
- Chapter meeting **10 August**
- CEC meeting **14 September**
- Council meeting **26 October**
- Board of Examiners Meeting **16 November**



*Dr Stanley congratulates Dr Burrows who will take over as Chief Examiner from July 2010.*

## NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**Dr John Bolton** retires at the 2010 AGM and **Dr Elizabeth Dill Macky** will stand for re-election to Council. **Drs Robert Labuc, Stuart Burrough, Ruth Sutcliffe** and **Philip Moses** continue as Councillors. **Dr Amanda Burrows**, will take over as **Chief Examiner** from July 2010 and is also a member of Council.

Nominations are invited for election to Council for three years from the 2010 AGM. Elected Councillors should be prepared to offer themselves for office as President, Secretary or Treasurer.

**A nomination form is included with this issue of the Courier.**

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS

1. Councillors should hold copies of and be familiar with, the current Memorandum and Articles of Association, regulations made under the Articles and the College Information Brochure.
2. Councillors have an obligation to participate actively in College affairs and activities and to this end should familiarise themselves with the decisions of the Council and Board of Examiners by reading all Minutes, Memoranda and Reports distributed by the office secretariat. Councillors should respond to College issues raised in this matter.
3. Councillors should maintain an active interest in the affairs and activities of at least one College Chapter and if necessary provide an avenue of liaison and guidance.
4. Councillors have an obligation to attend in-person Council meetings and the Annual General Meeting where the College pays fares, accommodation and necessary meals.
5. Councillors should act as ambassadors for the College by promoting membership and where appropriate fellowship and be active participators in the continuing education activities of the College.
6. Councillors have the same legal responsibilities as the directors of any company of limited liability.

**Note:** All elected Councillors must be prepared to offer themselves for office.

