



ABN 65 979 686 445

Volume 18 Issue 1

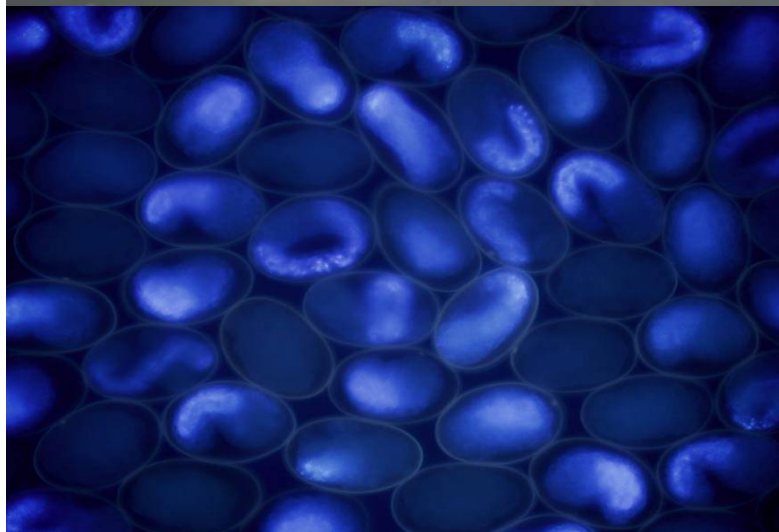
Print Post Approved PP 255003/08218

April 2007

<http://www.parasite.org.au/>

PARASITES ON PARADE

at the 2nd Annual Conference of the ASP and ARC/NHMRC
Research Network for Parasitology



Images: *Eimeria trichosuris* (N. Hill), *Cryptosporidium parvum* (B. Ferrari), *Haemonchus contortus* (M. Power) *Amblyomma limbatum* (I. Vilcins)



COUNCIL OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC.

Executive

President: Malcolm JONES
Molecular Parasitology Laboratory
QIMR
Herston QLD 4006
Tel: 07 3362 0406
Fax: 07 3362 0104
Email: malcolmJ@qimr.edu.au

Executive Secretary: Danielle SMYTH
Division of Infectious Diseases & Immunology
Queensland Institute of Medical Research
300 Herston Rd., Brisbane, QLD 4006
Tel (07) 3845 3726
Fax: (07) 3845 3507
Email: Danielle.Smyth@qimr.edu.au

Treasurer: Deborah STENZEL
Analytical Electron Microscope Facility
Queensland University of Technology
GPO Box 2434 Brisbane, QLD 4001
Tel (07) 3138 5036
Fax: (07) 3138 5100
Email: d.stenzel@qut.edu.au

Vice-President:
David PIEDRAFITA
Physiology Department,
Monash University Wellington Rd
Clayton VIC 3800
Tel : (03) 9905 2593
Fax: (03) 9905 2547
Email:
David.Piedrafita@monash.edu.au

President-elect
Shelley WALTON
Infectious Diseases Division
Menzies School of Health Research
PO Box 41096 Casuarina
Darwin NT 0811
Tel: (08) 8922 8928
Fax: (08) 8927 5187
Email: Shelley.Walton@menzies.edu.au

Other Members

IJP Editor: Brendan CRABB
The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of
Medical Research
1G Royal Parade
Parkville Victoria 3050
Tel: (03) 9345 2469
Fax: (03) 9347 0852
Email: crabb@wehi.edu.au

Archivist: Carolyn BEHM
School of Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: 02 6125 2203
Fax: 02 6125 0313
Email: carolyn.behm@anu.edu.au

Newsletter Editor: Michelle POWER
Biological Sciences
Macquarie University
North Ryde, NSW 2109
Tel (02) 9850 6974
Fax (02) 9850 8245
mpower@els.mq.edu.au

Webmaster: Mark SANDEMAN
Department of Agricultural Sciences
La Trobe University
Bundoora, Victoria, 3086
Tel (03) 9479 2164
Fax: (03) 9471 0224
Email: M.Sandeman@latrobe.edu.au

**Bancroft-Mackerras Medal
Convenor:** Andrew THOMPSON
School of Veterinary and Biomedical
Sciences
Murdoch University
Murdoch WA 6150
Tel (08) 9360 7423
Fax: (08) 9310 4144
Email: a.thompson@murdoch.edu.au

Incorporation Secretary:
Danielle Smyth (address above)

State Councillors

ACT: Julie-Anne FRITZ
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: 02 6125 4941
Fax: 02 6125 0313
Email: julie-anne.fritz@anu.edu.au

NSW: Kate MILLER
Institute for the Biotechnology of Infec-
tious Diseases
University of Technology, Sydney
PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW, 2007
Tel: (02) 9514 4127
FAX: (02) 9514 4201
Email: catherine.miller@uts.edu.au

NT: Deborah HOLT
Infectious Diseases Division
Menzies School of Tropical Health
PO Box 41096 Casuarina, DARWIN 0811
Tel: (08) 8922 8599
Fax: (08) 8927 5187
Email: Deborah.Holt@menzies.edu.au

Qld: Katherine TRENHOME
Queensland Institute of Medical Research
300 Herston Road, Herston, Qld 4006
Tel: (07) 3362 0432
Fax: (07) 3362 0104
Email: Katharine.Trenholme@imr.edu.au

SA: Nathan BOTT
Molecular Diagnostics
South Australian Research and Develop-
ment Institute
GPO Box 397, Adelaide, SA 5001
Tel (08) 8303 9387
Fax: (08) 8303 9393
Email: bott.nathan@saugov.sa.gov.au

Tas: Carly BAGLEY
School of Aquaculture
University of Tasmania
Launceston TAS
Tel: 03 63 245465
Fax: 03 6324 3658
Email: cbagely@utas.edu.au

Vic: Jody ZAWADZKI
Primary Industries Research Victoria
475 Mickleham Road
Attwood, 3049 Victoria
Tel (03) 9217 4380
Fax: (03) 9217 4299
Email: Jody.Zawadzki@dpi.vic.gov.au

WA: Caroline JACOBSEN
School of Veterinary and Biomedical
Sciences
Murdoch University
Murdoch WA 6150
Tel 08 9360 6397
Fax 08 9310 2235
Email: c.bath@murdoch.edu.au



FROM THE PRESIDENTS BUNKER



This report comes to you from downtown Kyoto where I am attending the 2007 International BioIron Conference. It is early April and the weather is pretty darned cold over here, but the conference is good, the sights excellent and the food delicious. As I sit in the conference among biologists and medical people who are primarily NOT interested in parasites, I have been reflecting on how us parasitologists can continue to compete in this modern world. Of course, we will, so long as organisms like the malaria parasites, or *Haemonchus* or *Boophilus* exist, and so long as there are new species of monogeneans and coccidia and many other taxa to discover (and there are!) and observe. How well we survive depends largely on us.

Yesterday, I took part in a “traditional” tea ceremony, obviously designed for tourists and shortened. In the fast moving technocracy of Japan, it is good to see that the people hold on to important aspects of their culture and history. Maybe there are lessons for us parasitologists in this.

This issue of the newsletter comes with some sadness as we remember the passing of two parasitologists, Des Hennessy and Dave Kemp. Their loss will be felt keenly in the parasitology and veterinary fields, as both gave so much to these fields. We extend our sympathies to the families of Des and Dave at this difficult time.

At the mid-term meeting of ASP Council, we considered how we should turn the successful ICOPA bid into a most successful conference. Our first step was to appoint a Chairperson of the ICOPA XII organizing committee. This was not an easy decision to make, because the ASP is blessed with many able senior scientists who could fill the role. ASP Council was adamant, however, that it should decide on the Chairperson, because the success of ICOPA XII ultimately falls on the ASP. I am pleased to announce that the Chairperson of the ICOPA XII organizing committee is Alan Cowman of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. Alan is an outstanding scientist and a leader in research on malaria. We have confidence that Alan can build a team that will deliver the best-ever ICOPA.

I am also pleased to report that Intimate Aliens is back on the agenda. Those of you who have followed recent ASP history will know that the idea for this interactive museum-based display of parasites was first mooted some years ago, but was lost because our partners decided to not proceed with the concept. Thanks to the work of Lisa Jones of the Network and Questacon, some progress is being made. Lisa has shown some design concepts. It would be great if Intimate Aliens could be released to coincide with ICOPA XII.

The Australian Veterinary Parasitology text book is progressing, and I am told that some chapters have been prepared already. We are looking forward to seeing the first trial edition to be released in the next year or so. The ASP and the Parasitology Network have jointly funded an initiative of Peter O'Donoghue to prepare a

Web-based educational resource in parasitology. This work is designed to commit to media much of the accumulated knowledge of our current parasitologists on parasite biology, pathogenesis and life cycles. POD's vision is that this resource should be copyrighted by the ASP and available for all members for use in lectures and seminars as required.

A request has come from the ASP membership that we reconsider the terms of ASP executive. The executive currently sits for one year and is replaced annually at the Annual General Meeting. It has been suggested that we consider adopting a 2-year term for the executive. ASP council is considering this proposal, but we also feel that all members should be given the opportunity to express their view. We will spend a short time at the AGM to discuss the issue. If we decide to proceed with this constitutional change, a vote would be held at a subsequent AGM.

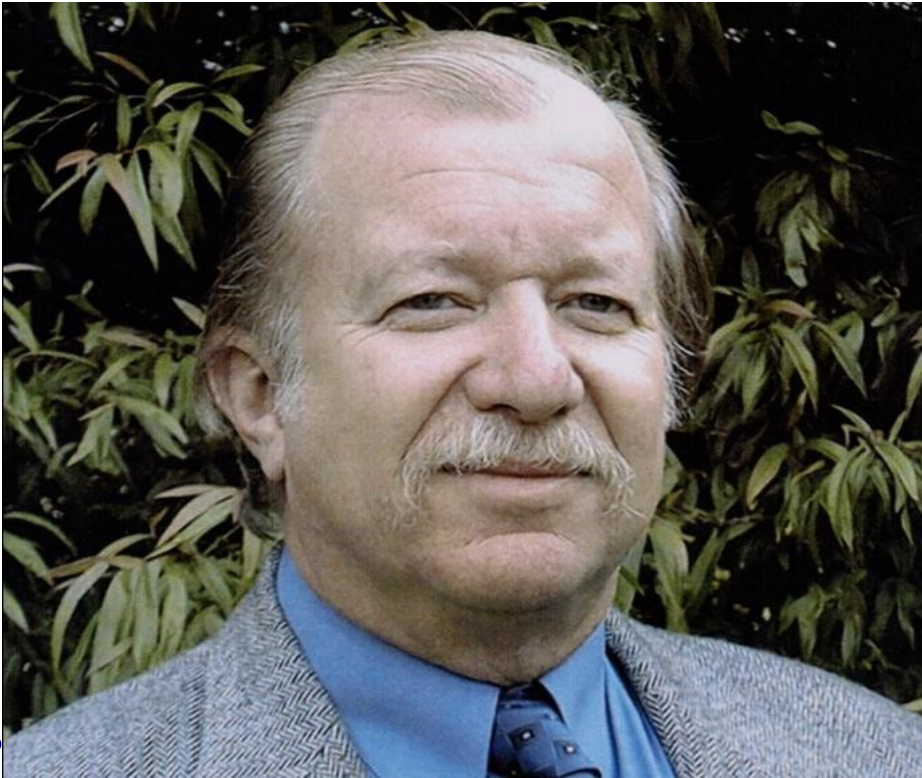
I look forward to seeing many of you at the ASP meeting in Canberra in July. Carol, Nick and the team have put together what looks to be an excellent conference. We extend our gratitude to the Conference Committee for their hard work so far.

This will be my last report from the President's desk (in this case hotel room), as I will be passing the baton to Shelley Walton in July. I would like to thank all of you for your support over the year. I am especially indebted to our ASP council, and particularly the other members of the executive, Danielle Smyth and Deb Stenzel, for their extraordinary work in keeping the ASP running and me sane. Well done all!

MALCOLM JONES



Vale Des Hennessey



On 27th December 2006 Des Hennessey was tragically killed in a gliding accident in Gulgong, in country NSW, Australia. At 59 years old his death was premature, but he did die doing what he loved. Des had many great qualities, was a significant contributor to veterinary parasitology and cherished his family.

Des began his career in CSIRO in 1965 as a fresh-faced school leaver. Des thrived during the halcyon days of the McMaster Animal Health Laboratory in Sydney and learnt the sciences of animal physiology and parasitology. Des worked with a number of prominent scientists at that time, but especially with Roger Prichard from 1970 to 1984. Over this time and since, Des studied means of improving parasite control through better understanding the behaviour of antiparasitic drugs. He was particularly active in elucidating the pharmacokinetic properties of anthelmintic drugs and published more than 50 papers on this and related topics.

The early work involved heroic and elaborate experiments with animals. Des was a wizard with equipment and devised wonderful Heath Robinson-like devices. This was pioneering work and Des had to invent as he went. One device was built from half a squash ball, 2 syringes and a bag of electronics all held onto the sheep by an elastic stocking and carefully connected into the sheep's organs. But it worked, and was fundamental in collecting samples and data generated from early HPLC machines describing the pharmacokinetics of a number of anthelmintics, including partitioning into bile. Des planned experiments including around the clock sampling. The whole laboratory was drawn into this exercise. On the midnight shift we would be greeted by Des's perfectly arranged set of tubes, syringes, needles and appropriately prepared sheep. On another occasion Roger Prichard, John Steel and Des were engaged in a pharmacokinetics study in cattle. One animal defied

sedation and in the ensuing rodeo Des finally wrestled it to the ground holding it by the horns long enough for the needle to go in, collect blood, and out. Des was the sort of guy to take the bull by the horns!

Des went on to establish GLP accredited laboratories in CSIRO and the private sector for undertaking analysis of drug levels in tissues. He had a special ability to relate high quality research to practical outcomes and to be able to effectively communicate the relevance of his research to producers, practitioners and parasitology colleagues.

Des left CSIRO in 2001 to join Veterinary Health Research where he ran the Analytical Laboratory. This was a new direction for Des after 35 years in CSIRO. He took on this challenge with renewed enthusiasm and thrived on it. In his role he worked with all the major pharmaceutical companies and his skills were tapped to teach pharmacokinetics and drug residue analysis for the APVMA. He was a Partner in the business and a wise head in VHR.

As his reputation spread Des began to travel and make international connections and collaborations and, so, became a major player in Veterinary Parasitology around the world. His reputation in this field brought accolades from the Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, UK, USA. Des's research was highly regarded. He obtained his PhD from Macquarie University. In 1987 he was awarded the Australian Society for Parasitology Sprent Prize for his PhD thesis and the ASP Bancroft Mackerras Medal for research in 1996. Des is the only person to have won both awards. To top off his collection he was awarded the WAAVP/Pfizer Award for Excellence in Veterinary Parasitology by



the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology in 1999.

Des served the science of parasitology at the highest levels. He was Treasurer (1988) and then President of the ASP in 1995 and sat on the Editorial Board of the International Journal for Parasitology for several years. He was voted on to the Executive Board of the WAAVP for what was to be a 10 year term. When he died Des was Vice President of the WAAVP and an Editor-in-Chief of the journal 'Veterinary Parasitology'. These were jobs that Des performed with his typical energy and enthusiasm. Through them he tirelessly promoted parasitology internationally and supported young scientists in developing their careers. He took a

leading role in organizing many conferences and was always willing to volunteer his time.

The overriding memory of Des is as an enthusiast and a lover of life. He was a person who made things happen and he made strong friendships based on his commitment to people and causes. Des had many dimensions. He played important community roles in APEX as well as local sporting groups and was a hockey player himself in younger days. He enjoyed traveling and went with Wendy to remote and interesting places. He participated in an impressive list of hobbies including, scuba diving, golf, yachting, canoeing, handyman, camping, four-wheel driving and building. He built and flew intricate model planes. In fact, he loved everything that flew. In a letter to Roger Prichard in 1985 Des wrote :

'All my life I have wanted to fly so at last I have got my glider pilot's licence and now I spend as much time as I can in sheer bliss, floating around over Camden and Razor-back mountains, etc.'

On 8th January 2007 Des was farewelled, by his family along with hundreds of his friends and colleagues at a memorial service in Sydney. Many tributes were sent from other colleagues in Australia and overseas. He will certainly be missed. Family was vitally important to Des and he would tell anyone who would listen about his children and grandchild's latest exploits. Des's wife Wendy and their three children Cherie, Alicia and Brent will especially miss him.

Nick Sangster and Roger Prichard



Closing Dates for Nominations for ASP Awards

Bancroft-Mackerras Award - December 31st 2007 (for award in 2008).

Invited Lectureships Travel Grants - December 31st 2007.

JFA Sprent Prize – Next round to be announced Issue 2, 2007.

JD Smyth Travel Awards - December 31st 2007

ASP Fellowships - before next mid term Council meeting (February 2008)

See announcements in this Newsletter or visit the ASP website for more information : www.parasite.org.au



Vale David Kemp

13 July 1940- 26 January 2007

Mother Ellen Willison, artist
Father Charles Kemp, writer

Dave was educated at Melrose School (boarder age 7-13); then at the Edinburgh Academy, 13-18. He was a strong, healthy child, and never particularly biddable. Because his mother was a single parent, he spent much of his boyhood on his uncle's farm at Acharn, near Killin, in Perthshire. These times with his Uncle Douglas were important in forming his character, and his interests in life, as were his many trips, hill walking and climbing, with friends in the north of Scotland.

He began a degree in agricultural science at Edinburgh University. The first year was farm practice in Aberdeen and Cambridge, then classes at Edinburgh University. Came first in Zoology in that year, and switched to pure science. He met his future wife, Anne, at university and they were married in 1963.

Dave began a PhD in 1964, on tick ecology, with James Allan Campbell, a noted authority on tick taxonomy and biology. His degree was completed early in 1968, and he accepted a job with CSIRO in Brisbane. Dave and Anne moved to Australia with their two sons, Duncan and Miles. Their daughter, Ellen, was born shortly after they arrived in Australia.

He settled happily in Australia, and loved the life and the culture from the moment he arrived. His work involved immunological approaches to the control of the cattle tick, *Boophilus microplus*, an introduced pest in Queensland. His characteristics as a scientist were immediately apparent: broad and eclectic knowledge across many areas of biological science, a

meticulous approach to experimentation, a mind always full of interesting ideas and willingness, even eagerness, to collaborate with other people. He began his work on ticks with typical thoroughness, by examining every aspect of the cattle tick's biology. In his spare time, he began a project, still incomplete at the time of his death, to revise the taxonomy of the ticks of Australia.

Initial work on the cattle tick involved feeding and behaviour on the host, and later the mechanisms of naturally acquired resistance mediated via the salivary glands, an effect too weak to be of any value as a vaccination against cattle ticks. Dave, with his colleague Joanne Gough, observed changes in ticks feeding on Brahman cattle with genetic immunity. They noted that the blood meal taken by the tick was leaking into the body fluids of the tick, and making the translucent legs of the tick red. This indicated that gut cells inside the tick were being damaged, and suggested that vaccination was possible, if based on antigens that destroyed the cells of the tick's gut. This was later developed by CSIRO into the first ever successful commercial vaccination against an ectoparasite, known as "Tickguard". Dave was an integral member of the development team from the start.

In the 1990's, Dave became leader of a group, known as Actest that tested the efficacy of new acaricides. Under David's leadership, this service expanded strongly, interacted with several of the largest international animal health companies and contributed both financially and intellectually to research programs within CSIRO. He continued his own research work in diverse areas, though always with a focus on the control of parasitic disease.

He became a key member of a number of national and international advisory groups who sought his expertise in chemical control and resistance management. Actest brought Dave into contact with many scientists from around the world, particularly in the USA and in South America. Already widely respected in Australia for his science, his hard work and his abilities, he became well known to the wider scientific community, and kept in contact with them long after his nominal retirement in 2003.

Dave was always on the side of the underdog, and often placed himself at a disadvantage as a result. Never a great believer in authority, he stood up for the numerous good scientists who were made redundant in 1999 after one of the many rearrangements in CSIRO management. His retirement in 2003 was dictated, not by his increasing ill health, but by his desire to save the jobs of a number of junior scientists who were threatened with redundancy. Retirement of a senior scientist relieved some of the pressure on Division's tight budget. Few had his courage, or his ability to make a difference with a well chosen word or action.

Dave gave much of his time and energies to students, especially the ones who were abandoned or being ignored by their supervisors. Some students have commented that they would have given up, but for Dave. Although he worked in an institute that did not have many postgraduate students, he influenced many younger scientists, and was widely respected.

David contributed much to Australian parasitology. He was invited to speak at the ASP meetings on a number of occasions. His invitation to the Nelson Bay conference is memorable.



Dave's plane from Brisbane to Sydney had been delayed and he missed the conference bus from Sydney airport to the venue. Not daunted, he organised his own way there, no mean feat, and arrived in plenty of time travel. David enjoyed the fact that his work gave him the opportunity to travel to some of the interesting parts of the globe and his personality was such that he formed friendships everywhere he went. He had a great talent for friendship and a strong sense of fun, and those who worked with him have a wealth of stories of Dave in some of his more outrageous moments. David died on Friday 26th January after a long illness which, typically, he managed to hide from all but his closest friends. We will all miss his intellect, his care and his concern for others.



Anne Kemp and Peter Willadsen

The Australian Society for Parasitology Extraordinary business meeting 8th December 2006 Queensland Institute of medical Research Brisbane, Queensland

Meeting opened 4pm

1. Present and Apologies

Malcolm Jones (President),

Deb Stenzel (Treasurer),

Danielle Smyth (Secretary)-

33 ASP members present.

Apologies: Roger Pritchard, David Jenkins.

2. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements.

An oral presentation was provided to the meeting by Malcolm Jones. He outlined the requirements under the Queensland Fair trading Act, which requires Incorporated Societies to present audited statements to an Annual Meeting.

Since the accounts received by the AGM in 2006 were not audited accounts, it was necessary to hold an Extraordinary Business Meeting.

Motion: That the audited financial statements of the ASP for 2005-2006 financial year be accepted, *moved Katherine Trenholme, seconded by Rob Adlard.* Carried

Meeting closed at 4.15 pm

Roberts Tick collection

The Roberts tick collection was entrusted to parasitologists at the University of South Australia by the Australian National Insect collection (ANIC). The tick collection had deteriorated from a lack of past funding. To salvage the collection the ASP provided funding to assist with rebottling and the creation of a computer database which included scanning of the original data cards. Progress of this has been reported by Ross Andrews; The rebottling of the collection is completed, and the samples and data cards are now safely stored in a fireproof cabinet. All parties involved with the salvage operation would like to thank the ASP for contributing to this important preservation project. Plans are now underway to photograph the collection, though this may be a slow process.



NETWORK NEWS

Network Annual Report

The Network Annual Report - which documents Australian Parasitology research achievements for 2006 - is now available at <http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/reports/index.html>

Network Travel Award Winners

Congratulations to the most recent Network Researcher Exchange, Training and Travel Award winners:

- * Prof. John Dalton, Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases, University of Technology Sydney, for a Researcher Exchange to bring Wains International Fellow Dr. Mark Robinson to visit for 12 months in 2007.

- * Prof. Alan Cowman, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, for a Researcher Exchange to bring Dr Gordon Langsley, Lab Head at the Institut Cochin, Paris, France to visit for a 2 week period in December 2006

- * Dr Nathan Bott, Senior Research Officer at SARDI, attended the Fish Histopathology course recently at The University of Tasmania.

- * Ms Catherine James, PhD candidate from the Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases at the University of Technology, Sydney for a Researcher Exchange to visit the laboratory of Professor Roger Prichard at McGill University, Institute for Parasitology, Quebec, Canada for 4 months from February/March 2007 through to June/July 2007;

- * Miss Annette Dougall, a Doctor of Philosophy candidate from Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University for a Researcher Exchange for 4 weeks of research and training at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK and 2 weeks field training and laboratory teaching Teresina,

Brazil in June and July 2007;

- * Miss Melanie Andrews, PHD Candidate from the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, University of Tasmania for a six week Researcher Exchange at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, National Veterinary Institute in Oslo, Norway from 5 August - 15 September 2007.

- * Darren Krause, from the Australian Army Malaria Institute, for a Researcher Exchange to work in Prof. Leann Tilley's lab to do live cell staining from Monday 5 - 9 March 2007;

- * Dr Rogan Lee, Senior Scientist, Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital for a Researcher Exchange and Visiting International Lectureship to bring Dr Colin Sutherland from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK to Australia from 1 June - 31 August 2007;

- * Dr. Michelle Power, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Macquarie University for a one-month Researcher Exchange to visit the Laboratories of Dr Donald Duszynski at the SouthWest Museum of Biology and Prof. Rob Miller at the University of New Mexico, both in Albuquerque, USA to learn methodology for describing new *Eimeria* species, obtain samples of *Eimeria* from North and South American marsupials, to isolate and extract DNA from these samples and ship back to Australia and to establish a collaboration to investigate co-evolution of *Eimeria* and marsupials;

- * Jennifer Covello, PhD Candidate at School of Aquaculture, University of Tasmania for a Researcher Exchange to visit the Scottish Fish Immunology Research Centre in Aberdeen, Scotland to investigate molecular aspects of the striped trumpeter immune response as it relates to

host-parasite interactions under the direction of Prof. Chris Secombes from May-June 2007.

Network Travel Award application dates for 2007/08

For planning purposes we have set the following dates for submission of your Network Travel Award application. Following each of the sedates the applications will be assessed by the Network Management Committee and applicants will be advised of the outcome where possible within three weeks.

2007/08 dates for submission of Network Travel Award applications

- * **Friday 1 June 2007**

- * **Friday 31 August 2007**

- * **Friday 30 November 2007**

- * **Friday 29 February 2008**

Public Events

The Network was proud to host "Travel Bugs", a public presentation on parasites, travellers' health and tropical diseases, on Tuesday 27th March at 7pm at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Speakers - drawn mainly from ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology members based at QIMR (Nick Smith, Michael Good, Mal Jones, Alex Loukas, Charlene Willis and Jacqui Upcroft) - addressed about 50 people in a free public forum preceded and followed by some drinks and food. The event was a lot of a fun and, importantly, an informative night for all in attendance.

Public lectures are a great way to raise the profile of parasitology, so, if you have a good idea for an event, please contact
Lisa Jones (lisa.jones@uts.edu.au)
Or Carly Johnson (carly.johnson@qimr.edu.au).

NICK SMITH



Minutes of the 2007 Mid-term Council Meeting of the Australian Society for Parasitology Friday 9th February 2007 The Mecure Hotel, Brisbane, Queensland



Meeting opened 8.20 am

Time of reflection on the lives of Des Hennessy and David Kemp.

Present and Apologies.

Present: Caroline Bath-Jacobsen (CB-J), Carolyn Behm (CB), Nathan Bott (NB), Brendan Crabb (BC), Julie-Anne Fritz (JF), Deborah Holt (DH), Lisa Jones (LJ), Malcolm Jones (MJ), Catherine Miller (CM), Barbara Nowak (BN), David Piedrafita (DP), Michelle Power (MP), Mark Sandeman (MS), Nick Smith (NS), Danielle Smyth (DSm), Deb Stenzel (DSt), Andrew Thompson (AT), Katherine Trenholme (KT), Jody Zawadzki (JZ).

Apologies: Shelley Walton (SW)

Minutes of Previous Meetings.

No changes to the Minutes of the 2006 End-of Term Council Meeting (ETM), 2006 Annual General Meeting (AGM), 2006 Special Meeting (SM).

Motion: The Minutes of the last meeting be accepted (NB/DP).

Unanimous

Business Arising from meeting

A) 2006 ETM

To discuss other awards (JD Smyth type award for early career researcher): will be addressed during the meeting if time permits.

Undergraduate student prizes: will be discussed if time permits.

IJP income: BC to follow up on the decrease in IJP income due to an increase in direct production costs and editorial fees by ~12% (no agreement had been arranged). (Complete, will be followed up by an email –BC).

To find alternative financial options to Macquarie Uni as they charge a 10% infrastructure fee. (Complete MP; Will be addressed during report by Newsletter Editor).

To approach professional designers regarding an alternative ASP logo. (ongoing SR, DP). CB-J was sent information by Rebecca Traub who has a friend that could do it for \$2000, a company (?) was also contacted and they quoted double that amount. The matter had not been taken any further.

NS suggested obtaining a quote from the designer that did the Network logo (could be as low as \$600-\$800 for a choice of four designs). BC suggested Drew Barrymore is designing the new IJP cover and logo and could also be commissioned to design a new ASP logo. CB also noted that a new logo would be good before ICOPA.

Motion: To obtain a number of options to present in the Newsletter and at the AGM (AT/MP)
Unanimous

Action: NS to obtain costs and designs. MP, CM, and NS to meet and discuss options.

To obtain information on ASP's charity free status and the society being able to set up a mechanism to accept donations (fundraising account): MJ and DSt approached a solicitor (Alison Chappell at Corrs Chambers Westgarth Lawyers) and the ASP can legally act as a trust.

To draft a set of guidelines/selection criteria for nomination for BMM. No action has been taken.

To discuss membership application with incoming executive and meet with RGSQ. (Completed JZ).

Intimate Aliens: Lisa Jones will present an update later in the meeting.

B) 2006 AGM

No business arising.

C) 2006 SM

Audited accounts: The ASP was in technical breach of the QLD Fair Trading Act by not presenting an audited account to the 2006 AGM. A Special Meeting was called in December to rectify. Quorum was reached (>20).

However we need to put measures in place to ensure we don't repeat this breach in coming years. As the conference (AGM) in scheduled for July again, if the books are closed in June it leaves very little time to get them audited. For the audit to be completed in time, we would need to close the books 4-6 weeks prior to AGM.

Motion: To close the books on April 30th, 2007 in order to have audited accounts to present to the AGM in July, 2007. (KM/DP)

Unanimous.

4. Reports

A) President's report

Written report provided (MJ)

2006 Conference at the Gold Coast was a great success and was the first joint conference with the Network. Thanks given to NS and the Network for their sponsorship, secretariat work and their major role in making the conference a success.

Congratulations to the ICOPA bid team for their sterling effort in winning to host ICOPA XII in Melbourne 2010.



Intimate Aliens parasitology display is back on the agenda and Lisa Jones from the Network has been working with Questacon to develop new ideas (see separate agenda item).

After attending the successful workshop for the Veterinary Parasitology textbook, for which council agreed to provide seed funding, a preliminary outline of the book has been drafted. It is anticipated that a 'beta' version would be released in 2008 with final publication in 2009 (in time for ICOPA XII). The text might represent a minor source of income for the ASP in coming years.

The ANNP (Network) is currently halfway through its current term and has been successful in raising the profile of Parasitology in Australia.

The ASP was in technical breach of the QLD Fair Trading Act by not presenting an audited account to the 2006 AGM. A Special Meeting was called in December to rectify, however we need to put measures in place to ensure we don't repeat this breach in coming years (to discuss later).

There have been suggestions again regarding extending the terms of Executive Council members from 1 year to 2. There are pros and cons for extending and the issue should be brought to the society for discussion. CB cautioned that the issue had been debated about 10 years ago without clear resolution. MJ suggested that it be brought up for society discussion and not decided on and forced by council. MP suggested a couple of models could be brought forward for contemplation. BC thinks more continuity and corporate memory is important, creating continuity with not just the in-coming president, but the executive council getting a year's experience prior to taking on the appointment. MS suggested having acting treasurer/secretary in order to have a year of learning the job. CB reminded that a change in term length would require a constitutional change.

Motion: That a change of the Executive Council term from 1 year to 2 years will be brought to the society

for discussion at the AGM (NS/BC). *Unanimous*

Action: BC/MS/NS/AT/JZ will discuss possible models and ways to create corporate memory and continuity in the Executive Council positions. To be presented at the AGM. MJ will mention this in the President's report in the next newsletter.

Motion: The President's report be accepted (PD/KT). *Unanimous*

B) Treasurer's report

Written/oral report provided (DSt)

DSt gave a summary of accounts currently held by the ASP and the income received for the period July 2006/Feb 2007.

Major outgoings for the Society for 2006/2007 were the council meeting and student support for the 2006 Gold Coast conference, ARC Research Network support and seed funding for the Vet Textbook workshop held in Sydney. Upcoming expenses include the Council Mid-term meeting, JD Smyth Travel awards and IJP production costs.

The current Profit/loss statement indicates an operating loss, however this does not take into account income from interest bearing accounts (which are doing very well) and IJP royalties from Elsevier.

Motion: The Treasurer's report be accepted (NB/DH). *Unanimous*

C) Secretariat/Incorporation Secretary report

Oral report provided by DSm.

Current membership is at 386 financial members. This includes 27 Fellows, 21 life members, 109 student members, and 221 ordinary members, 6 gratis and 2 sustaining. There have been 13 new members since 1st July 2006. Emails being sent by RGSQ from overseas enquiries are sent details clearly stating two member signatures are required for successful application to the society. DP brought up that there are still issues regarding current contact details of members

and financial member status.

Changes of details forms go to RGSQ, however information is not passed on to Executive Secretary (who can then pass on to state reps). AT suggested changing the secretariat. CB suggested having a dedicated membership secretary on council, possibly a paid position. DP pointed out that if the person was on council, they would be more diligent in keeping details up to date. KT made council aware that the British Society of Parasitology (BSP) sends out a letter/email to members annually to update details to put into a membership booklet. MP suggested it's up to state reps to keep up to date with their members. Problem being honour's students which are in and out within a 1 year period are kept on the database for the two year grace period.

Action: Have Kath Berg (RGSQ) send DSm a list of current members (need to convert to Excel file) to purge and clean up the database and send state reps and Newsletter editor the updated lists.

D) International Journal for Parasitology Editor's report (BC)

Written/oral report provided.

After a successful first year in the Editor-in-Chief position, BC reports a strong relationship with Elsevier is being maintained.

2006 broke records in terms of numbers of submissions (well over 500); January 2007 started well with 56 submissions. At this rate the rejection rate will have to be >80% , as the number of pages in the journal stays constant (page budget). The impact factor will be similar to 3.346 (2005).

Internationalisation: New cover design being commissioned, new editorial board, new Deputy Editor for Reviews (Dr D. Soldati); Elsevier is doing a lot to promote IJP (eg. Flyers in other journals).

Open access: still on 12 month trial. Author pay system means it costs ~\$3000 to enable open access. Some funding bodies (eg. Wellcome Trust) pays for the people they fund to have open access publications.



NS asked whether having 'open access' would drive the journal's impact factor higher? BC said that there was one study done (PNAS) where they quoted a doubling of citations. The idea is that if you can get access to the full paper, you will use it and cite it.

Motion: The IJP Editor's report be accepted (MS/JF). *Unanimous*

E) Newsletter Editor's report (MP)

Written/oral report provided (MP)

The transition between Newsletter editor's appears to have run smoothly; Two editions have been printed and distributed to financial society members since July 2006, with the December issue seeing a change in presentation and an experimental colour cover.

Streamlining of production and cost reduction strategies are being implemented. A print post account has been re-established so that postal charges are invoiced directly to the Society; similarly printing costs incurred through Macquarie University Lighthouse Press are also directed to the Society.

Further streamlining can be done by printing address labels directly onto envelopes in conjunction with printing postage and society details.

Action: MP to determine what file formats can be provided by RGSQ. Cost effective ways to improve the presentation of the Newsletter include the option of different paper types however member feedback will be valuable for directing potential changes to the Newsletter's presentation.

A printer/scanner unit was purchased in August 2006.

Motion: The Newsletter Editor's report be accepted (CM/CB-J). *Unanimous*

F) Archivist's report

Written/oral report provided (CB).

Works in progress include the scanning of all abstract booklets, which one of CB's students has been doing in their spare time.

Ian Beverage is finalising the 'History of Parasitology in Australia' which is to include all awards lists. A list of JD Smyth Travel Award recipients has been started by DP/JZ but only from 2002.

Action: CB to look through past newsletters to obtain missing years. This will also be eventually posted on the webpage. There has been liaison with National Film and Sound Archive for curation/copying of JD Smyth's *Echinococcus* culture films.

Motion: The Archivist's report be accepted (CM/CB-J). *Unanimous*

G) Webmaster's report

Written/oral report provided (MS)

New web pages are up on the ASP site and most seems to be working as planned. Some pages are still having issues (eg. Parasites' page and the Search page).

Provision of a dedicated log-in site for ASP members has not eventuated and may not be a primary consideration given the Network site has such facilities and is hosted on the ASP page.

Any increase in functionality of the site (eg. https pages) would be best done through a casual programmer to ensure that work is carried out promptly and at a suitable standard.

Provision of news and other topical items on the site at the moment are from two primary sources: the ASP Newsletter and the Network newsletter. Request to be added to conference organiser's email list (to be kept up to date) and to be remembered by people distributing information so that it can be added to website.

Sought council's guidance on releasing news of the death of ASP members on the site.

Lack of Council photos and correct contact details need to be addressed.

Action: MS had brought digital camera to capture photos of Council members who had not provided

pictures for the website.

Motion: The Webmaster's report be accepted (JF/NB). *Unanimous*

H) BMM Convenor's report

Oral report provided (AT)

One nomination has been received. Should AT continue to look at the wording of the award and have the award similar to those offered in the UK and US for early-mid career scientists?

The question was also raised as to whether the committee should be actively searching for nominees?

Motion: The BMM Convenor's report be accepted (DSm/DSt).

Unanimous

5. Conference Reports

A) 2006 Queensland

(Parasitology Benchmark): final report and financial statement. Oral report provided (MJ)

The conference was a great success although it did run at a small loss (less \$4221); however the registration was kept deliberately very low and a large number of people ended up attending.

B) 2007 Canberra

Oral/written report provided (CB)

Conference will be held at the newly named Marquee Hotel on Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City and online registration is now open. Most Plenary and Symposium speakers have been confirmed. ASP Invited Lecturers are Prof Sanjeev Krishna (University of London), Prof Richard Grensis (University of Manchester) and Dr Peter Daszak (Consortium for Conservation Medicine, New York).

Student support is to be set based on the previous year's amount (just under \$30,000).

Motion: Student support for the 2007 annual conference will be set at \$30,000 (NB/JT). *Unanimous*

Call to change the Constitution to shorten the amount of time (from six months to three months) a student is required to be an ASP member prior to the annual conference



date. Due to the conference being held in July for the past few years and the next few years, some students miss out on being able to attend due to beginning studies in February. Therefore, if changed to three months, the proposed cut off date for student's to become a member for the 2007 conference will be March 31, 2007.

Motion: To propose a change of Article XIII of the Constitution to read:

Eligibility for Scientific Travel Grants is further limited to individuals who have been financial members for at least three (3) months prior to the General Business Meeting. (KT/JA) Unanimous.

Action: To include in next Newsletter for discussion by the Society.

MJ mentioned that the Fellow's Lunch at the 2006 conference was a success and called for a similar event to be held at the 2007 conference.

Motion: That all current Fellows will be invited to attend a Fellow's Lunch at the 2007 annual conference. (DP/AT) Unanimous.

C) 2008 Adelaide

Oral/written report provided (NB)

NB gave an update on progress for the 2008 conference, which has been scheduled to run from Sunday July 6 to Wednesday July 9.

It was noted that the 5th International Congress of Nematology is being held in Brisbane from 13-18th July, therefore there is an opportunity to poach speakers (eg. Plant Parasitic Nematodes being one intended theme). Also the possibility of a joint meeting with NZSP will be explored due to sessions of interest (asp. Livestock).

Venue chosen is the Stamford Grand at Glenelg (beachside suburb), and holds 200-250 delegates.

Themes for scientific program have been suggested and ideas for how the poster sessions will run are also being explored (ideas to get more discussion happening at poster display time).

D) 2009 location

Sydney has been nominated for the 2009 conference.

E) 2010 ICOPA XII

DP organised for 2 Professional Conference Organisers (PCO) to give short presentations to Council regarding their services and expertise in being able to handle an international conference the size of ICOPA.

ICE Australia (Kerry Richardson/Emma Wyse-both with company for a couple of years) was very 'corporate' and a specialist in 'not for profit' organisations which means they are very aware of not spending money unnecessarily and are experienced in cost cutting. Head office is based in Sydney, however they do have a Melbourne office. Their web services looked very professional and the basic rate was \$60 per delegate which is for managing the registration/abstract submission/accommodation booking only. A deposit would be required. Conference insurance (for Public Liability) would be required to be taken out.

ASN (Mike Pickford) has a lot of experience in scientific conferences (Lorne Protein conferences from 2003; ASMR annual conferences, research weeks and congress). Company based in Melbourne, Mike Pickford is the Executive Director and would be Project manager for the entire life of the project. An environmentally friendly conference is promised. Rate was \$56 per delegate + \$16 per abstract. No upfront deposit is required. Have conferences of similar size to ICOPA in the years leading up to 2010.

F) Selection of PCO

It was discussed amongst Council that the experience in large scientific conferences and general 'feeling' gained from ASN would be the preference.

Motion: That Council recommends ASN as the PCO for ICOPA XII. (DP/KT) Unanimous.

Action: DP will let the PCOs know the decision to recommend ASN and signoff will be pending final approval of a chairperson (as the chairperson will have the final decision).

G) Nominations for a Chairperson

Need to appoint a chairperson and Council was asked to think of potential nominees and email them to MJ, MJ will contact nominees to gauge

6) ARC/NHMRC Network Presentation

Oral/written report provided (NS)

The new Network website went active January 2007. Four newsletters were sent out from October 2006, and one so far for 2007.

Conference website and registration is now active. The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene are co-funding (\$25,000) a plenary session and a symposium session at the conference as part of their Centenary Celebrations.

15 applications for researcher exchanges have been awarded funding since July 2006.

Action: NS will send out an email to Council to ask 'what the network means to you, where is it going in

- i) the next three years and
- ii) in the future?



7. Intimate Aliens

Lisa Jones gave a presentation to Council on the ideas being generated for the intimate Aliens POD designs. The entire exhibition would be made up of 10 PODs (3 sided, interactive boards) which can be showcased at conferences and used as an education tool. The example of the very well received and successful Earthquest PODs was given: travelling for 8 years around Australia and is managed by Questacon. LJ presented many excellent ideas of what the interactive boards would contain. Questacon also has a very good reputation internationally so the PODs could be packed up and travelled overseas.

To make a single 3 sided full interactive POD, it would cost \$60,000. This could then be used as a 'proof of concept' to generate sponsorship from other organisations/companies to finance the other PODs to complete the collection.

Motion: To draw money (\$60,000) to support IA to get the initial POD made. (CB/JZ). *Unanimous.*

Action: LJ will seek Questacon's advice on which POD to make first and report back to council.

Awards

A) Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

One nomination has been received. A committee has been formed to consider a nomination.

B) ASP Fellows

2 nominations for Fellowships were received. Both nominees were elected to Fellowship of the Australian Society for Parasitology

Action: MJ will notify and congratulate the two Fellows and they will be invited to attend the next conference. CB will forward DSm the certificates to send out and DSm will alert RGSQ of the changes as they will be 'gratis' members.

C) JD Smyth Travel Award

Received 3 award applications, 2 were awarded. Congratulations to Catherine James (UTS) and Amber Glanfield (QIMR).

Action: DSm will notify all applicants of the outcome.

D) Sprent Prize

It was noted that the next Sprent prize is to be awarded at the 2008 conference in Adelaide. Calls for nominations will be made in the August (2007) newsletter.

E) ASP undergraduate prizes in universities

Due to time restraints this item will be discussed at the ETM.

9. Correspondence

Online Parasite Register. Due to time restraints this item will be discussed at the ETM.

10. Other Business

A) POD- internet based Parasitology

MJ showed Council examples of the webpages for parasites. All agreed that the concept was a good one and should be supported.

Motion: To fund POD a sum of \$15000 to employ a graphics designer (part time for 1 year) to design original lifecycles/illustrations (DSm/DSt) *Unanimous.*

C) Science Meets Parliament

SMP will be held March 27/28, 2007. Dave Jenkins is unable to attend as he is on a field trip. POD has agreed to attend and a younger scientist is needed to accompany.

Action: Any members of Council wanting to attend (or who can nominate early-mid career scientist interested in attending) should email MJ.

D) Other business

DP raised issue from 2006 AGM, whereby the Archivist position had a second nominee. The Constitution states that the position of Archivist is an annual position however, it seems clear that it should be a council appointed position, to roll over a number of years due to the need for continuity.

Motion: To propose a change in Article IV section 2, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Constitution to read:

All officers of the Society, with the exception of the Editor(s), Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Archivist, for the ensuing term shall be elected by each General Business Meeting at which postal and proxy votes will be accepted.

The Editor(s), Newsletter Editor, Archivist and Webmaster shall be elected for a period of three (3) years and then subject to re-election for further periods of three years with no limit to the number of years of continuous service. (DP/CM). Unanimous.

Action: To include in next Newsletter for discussion by the Society.

Dr Bridget Ogilvie has been recognised with a Companion of the Order of Australia for her services to science in the field of biomedical research. As a research scientist in the 1960s and 1970s, Ogilvie studied the immune response to parasites in animals and humans, and helped discover the role of a class of antibodies known as IgE. It was mentioned that the Society could use Dr Ogilvie's award to enhance our profile.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm



JD Smyth travel award reports

Haggis, Bratwurst

and Pasta.

Matt Dixon

I have recently returned from a three month sabbatical in the UK and Europe. During my time away I attended the 11th International Congress of Parasitology in Glasgow where I gave a poster presentation titled "Commitment to Gametocytogenesis in *Plasmodium falciparum*". During the conference I was able to meet many of the worlds leading researchers and made many good contacts including several new collaborations for our laboratory.

After the conference I headed to Edinburgh where I spent 6 weeks at the Institute of Immunology and Infection Research at the University of Edinburgh in Dr Joanne Thompson's laboratory. The purpose of my visit to the institute was to learn and conduct transfections of the rodent malaria *Plasmodium berghei*. During my time there I managed to obtain 2 successful knockouts of potential surface signalling molecules. I'm now in the process of setting up the *P.berghei* transfection system at QIMR. As a pure coincidence I managed to time my stay to coincide with the Edinburgh festival's so I got to see a few shows in my spare time. As well as entertainment I got to drink lots of warm beer and I managed to even sample the Scottish delicacy of haggis, which wasn't too bad if you can get past the fact that you are eating third string offal. While in Edinburgh I got to visit all the major attractions while migrating

through the 1000's of people that had invaded for the festival and to my amazement got only half a dozen days of rain the whole time I was there with quite hot weather. My time in Edinburgh flew past with great success I met lots of nice people and made some good contacts for the future. At the end of my stay in Edinburgh my fiancée Sybil joined me before leaving sunny Scotland for the south.

Our first stop was London where I visited the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as a guest of Dr David Baker and Dr Colin Sutherland and presented some of the work from my PhD. From London we travelled to Dartmouth where we spent some time with family, which included sailing on the English Channel and eating Devonshire tea. From the UK we travelled to Germany to visit expat QIMRer Tobi Spielmann who is now a member of Dr Tim Gilberger's lab at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg. From our whirlwind visit to Germany our travels took us to Switzerland and a tour of the Alps before descending through northern Italy to Rome. In Rome I gave a seminar and visited Dr Pietro Alano at the Istituto Superiore de Sanita. After recovering from our pasta induced coma we sadly had to leave Europe and return back home to Queensland. My time away was rewarding both on a personal and research level with great experiences and good contacts for the future. Finally special thanks to the Australian society of Parasitology and the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology for funding of my research exchange.

Darren Gray

**School of Population
Health,
The University of
Queensland**

In August 2006 a contingent of staff and students from the University of Queensland and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research attended the 11th International Congress of Parasitology in Glasgow Scotland. The conference was a big success with around 2000 people from 88 countries in attendance.

I received The JD Smyth Traveling Award from the Australian Society of Parasitology to attend this conference and to also travel to London after the conference to attend meetings with colleagues at the Imperial College London (St Mary's Hospital) and The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in order to set up future research collaborations and/or Post-Doctoral positions.

The conference showcased the current research in parasitology from molecular biology to epidemiology and made particular reference to the need to support more research into the Neglected Tropical Diseases of which 1 billion people are infected Worldwide and, as a group, are ranked 6th by the WHO in the World's top 10 Major diseases in terms of DALYs. The Neglected Tropical Diseases consist of Buruli ulcer, cholera, cysticercosis, dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), food borne trematode infections, hydatidosis, leishmaniasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, trachoma and trypanosomiasis.



The Schistosomiasis research group I belong to, led by Prof. Don McManus, Prof. Gail Williams and Prof. Li Yuesheng used this conference to showcase our current research under the umbrella of our International Collaborative Research Grants Scheme award, funded by the NHMRC and Wellcome Trust. I gave an Oral Presentation entitled “A Cluster Randomised Design Bovine Intervention Trial Against *S. japonicum* in The People Republic of China”, which summarised the design my PhD Project. I was also a Co-Author on 2 other Oral Presentations and a Poster Presentation.

The Poster Presentation I was involved in was a bit left field for a parasitology conference as, in collaboration with Simon Forsyth and Robert Li from The University of Queensland, I have developed a new type of Database and we used this conference as an opportunity showcase this to an international audience. The Poster was entitled “A Bi-Lingual Self-Validating Database, with Instant Statistical Analysis for Epidemiological Field Trial When Working in an Environment with Limited Technical Resources”. This Database is specifically designed for countries with limited technical resources and although it is designed for a schistosomiasis intervention trial, this concept has wider applications to other epidemiological trials and control programs.

Overall I thought the conference was really well organised and the presentations were of high quality. I was a bit disappointed in some of the presentations of those who I was really looking forward to hearing speak. However on the other hand some presentations particularly stood out for me, notably Peter Hotez, Alex Loukas and of course those who presented from our group. I am looking forward to the next International Congress of Parasitology, which is to be held in Melbourne in 2010.

After the conference I battled the beefed up security and flight cancellations and headed to London. Whilst in London I went to the Imperial College London (St Mary's Hospital) and The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in order to set up future research collaborations and/or Post-Doctoral positions.

At the Imperial College I met with Prof. Alan Fenwick who is the Head of the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI), which aims to control morbidity in Africa. We discussed our research and then turned our attentions to prospective post-doctoral opportunities for myself. I also met with Prof. Joanne Webster at the Imperial College who is also involved with the SCI as well as Schistosomiasis research in China. We also discussed post-doctoral opportunities as well as prospective future collaborations. I also went to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where I met with Dr Simon Brooker to discuss prospective post-doctoral opportunities.

Unfortunately I was not able to meet with some of the people I wanted to meet with at the school due to the fact that they were on holidays; however I have had discussions with them via email and have set up a phone conference with them in the near future.

I have gained a lot from my trip to Glasgow and London. I am now more familiar with the current international research on Schistosomiasis and the other parasitic diseases. Additionally I am more aware of the need to continue such research in lieu of the need to support the Neglected Tropical Diseases. I have also met many people in the field and have made some contacts for future research and have set up some promising post-doctoral opportunities for myself.

I would sincerely like to thank the Australian Society of Parasitology for their support.

Darren Gray



Above: Don McManus looks on as Darren's presentation at ICOPA.



STATE NEWS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITOL TERRORY

The First Australian *C. elegans* Meeting

It was a historical event when Australia's *C. elegans* researchers came together for the first time for what was the First Australian *C. elegans* Meeting. This event was organised and hosted by the Behm lab at the ANUs Kioloa Coastal Campus on the 26th – 28th March. A number of labs throughout Australia were represented. These included members from Dr Stephen Trowell's group at CSIRO Entomology, Associate Professor Carolyn Behm's group at The Australian National University, Dr Paul Eberts group at The University of Queensland, Dr Peter Hunt at CSIRO Livestock Industries, Dr Hannah Nicholas' group at the University of Sydney and Dr Warwick Grant's group now at The University of Melbourne. A range of topics were discussed, ranging from olfaction and various developmental processes in *C. elegans*, to how *C. elegans* research can contribute to the parasitic nematode community. All presentations were of a high standard. The meeting also provided PhD and honours students with an informal setting in which to present their projects. We look forward to the Second Australian *C. elegans* Meeting to be held in March next year.

For copies of presented abstracts, please contact Julie
Anne.Fritz@anu.edu.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious diseases, UTS

First and foremost, congratulations to Professor John Dalton on his appointment as the new Director of IBID! John will take over in early April.

Our previous Director, Professor Michael Wallach, has decided to return to research and will continue his long-term collaboration with Nick Smith here at IBID. We would like to thank Michael for all his efforts on our behalf over the last 4 years and welcome him back to the *Eimeria* group.

In other news we have had a busy start to the year with the arrival of the Honours students. Rowan Ikin and Alana Zakrewski are working with Nick Smith and Kate Miller on the role of the P2X₇ receptor in the immune response to intracellular parasites, David Alquezar and Sarah Fordyce are working with Nigel Beebe on malaria vectors in Papua New Guinea and Dan Lu is working with Kevin Broady on a bioinformatics investigation of *Ixodes holocyclus*. We hope they all have a successful year! Selma Maric from Sweden is currently visiting Prof. J. P. Dalton's lab. She is enrolled as a Masters student in Biotechnology at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm and will work on the zinc-dependent protease leucine aminopeptidase from *P. falciparum*. Her project in enzymology will investigate the effect on substrate catalysis and inhibitor binding when a zinc ion at the enzyme active site is substituted for other divalent metal ions.

Sadly we have recently farewelled Nicky Boulter, Margarita Villavedra and Scott Minns. All have made the move to industry with Nicky joining Genetic Signatures, Margarita moving to PacMab and Scott to Microbial Screening. We wish the well in their new jobs. On a cheerier note we would like to congratulate Colin Stack on his recent marriage and Sabina Belli and Iveta Slapeta who have both given birth to baby boys!

Nick Smith and Kate Miller caught up with Joe Boray (pictured below). Joe is a Fellow and Past ASP President and his achievements in Parasitology can be read about in upcoming the 'History of Parasitology in Australia'. Joe retired in 1999 but he continues to maintain few strains of *Lymnaea tomentosa* in his laboratory in his Sydney home. Joe's recent milestone was turning 80 last October.

Veterinary Science University of Sydney

As detailed in the previous news, Prof Nick Sangster left Sydney University for CSU in September after 20 years of excellent Parasitological research and teaching- ostensibly for a "dust-change" in the current drought. As Nick cogently summed up those years "I think that I have taught Parasitology to more than half of the Vet School alumni!!" Little remains static and Dr Jan Slapeta has been appointed to the USyd



Parasitology team in Feb 2007 from his current postdoctoral position at UTS (profile next letter). He brings the youth, energy and drive required to make headway against his speciality, protozoal parasites and pathogens. A project on *Neospora* transmission is underway.

The protozoal project work is timely, as the University Wildlife Centre has been completed and will be opened at the Camden Campus next month.

On the teaching front, Semester 2 saw the first parasitology course formulated and delivered to 48 second year students in the new Animal and Veterinary Biosciences as an internal elective within Entomology. For myself, with an unabashed insect interest, this series was a real delight, and all passed. Delivered concurrently with the Parasitology commitments in our Vet 3 Animal Disease modules, Sally Pope and Renee Rawson provided the reliable and capable support in the logistical nightmare. Once again, the legendary performance from David Jenkins on hydatids was eagerly anticipated by the students and they were not disappointed. One of the student presentations, a song publicizing the public health aspects of *Echinococcus*, has found its way onto "You-tube".

In research, the parasitology team at Camden (Herman Raadsma, Ken Beh and Anne Lenhart) and Sydney (Tony Rowe) have continued genomic and genetic research into markers and measures for gastrointestinal nematode resistance through 2 AWI-MLA funded projects within sheep genomics.

Two BSc(Vet) students, Nathan Quigley and Kwan Yun, have commenced Honours projects on *Haemonchus* in 2007 and they were joined by 2 SheepGenomics vacation scholars, Verity Ambler and Kristy Mann for 4 weeks in January.

On 16-17 November, an intensive workshop chaired by Nick Sangster and sponsored by the ARC/NH&MRC Network and ASP occurred at USyd. The purpose was to move into top gear, the production of a definitive Australian Parasitology

textbook linked to a comprehensive website- substantial progress was made and the commitments made on those heady days will come home to roost shortly!!

In SheepGenomics, the parasite phenotyping has been completed for 2006 at the Falkiner Field Station, Deniliquin, with 5 batches of 2800 FECs sent to occupy staff at EMAI (yours Gareth!). Substantial progress has been made in the research areas this year culminating in exciting presentations at the Annual conference in early December. The work at Sydney Uni interfaces closely with complementary research with other ASP members at CSIRO Livestock Industries (Ross Windon, Peter Hunt), UNE (Julius and Karen), and Monash (David Piedrafita and Joanna Kemp). Sheep CRC funding was re-newed in Dec 06, so the SheepGenomics will interface closely with the CRC's "Information nucleus" flocks.

School of Agricultural and Veterinary Science Charles Sturt University

We are building momentum in parasitology at Charles Sturt. Professor Terry Spithill will be joining Nick Sangster and Tiggy Grillo in October. Terry is currently Director

of the Institute of Parasitology at McGill University in Canada. His position in Wagga is a Research Chair, one of ten CSU is appointing in areas of research strength. .

The new research lab is due to be completed for Terry's arrival and we are busily tooling up. (Ore-clinical building pictured below). We are all willing to collaborate especially in the area of farm animal parasitology. We have research grants in and hope we can kick off some serious work in 2007.

Abdullah Alanazi has brought his horse parasite PhD work to Wagga and it is good to know there are plenty of worms around here despite the drought. He is concentrating on larval cyathostomins, but collecting a range of parasites. Once he is over knee surgery (football injury) he'll be back next to the post mortem table.

The research activities will link with our diagnostic capacity which we hope to kick off with a parasitology service before the ASP Conference. Joe Farish has been appointed to start up the lab and diagnostic activities.

The curriculum development work goes on as we build several new parasitology cases. Innovation is always hard work, but we believe that the problem-based approach will pay off.



STATE NEWS

NORTHERN TERRITORY

TOP END NEWS MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Congratulations are in order for PhD student Kate Mounsey who recently submitted her thesis entitled "*Molecular mechanisms of emerging ivermectin resistance in scabies mites from Northern Australia*". We are very pleased that Kate will be staying on in the lab for the next six months to continue with the excellent work she began during her studies.

We have recently welcomed to the lab Bo Yang Baker who joins us after three years working at UCSF. Bo Yang's background in protein expression, characterisation and homology modelling, will greatly aid our studies of scabies mite proteins.

In other good news, Annette Dougall has been successful in securing money from the Network for Parasitology under the Researcher Exchange and Travel Program, to travel to Liverpool and Brazil. She has also received further financial support for her trip from the Australian Biosecurity CRC which funds her PhD project studying *Leishmania*. Annette will first travel to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine where she will work with Bruce Alexander to further characterise the Australian isolates of *Leishmania* and compare them with well characterised isolates from elsewhere in the world. She will then travel with Bruce to Teresina in Brazil to gain valuable field experience. She hopes to further hone her sand fly hunting and identification techniques, as well as undertake analysis of sand fly host preferences by bloodmeal identification using RT-PCR. Annette will be glad of the break from the near constant rains of the Top End wet season, which have proved a hindrance to field work, for humans and sand flies.

At the end of March, the CRC for Aboriginal Health held a roundtable discussion with researchers and key stakeholders involved in skin health projects in the Top End. It was a valuable opportunity for participants from a wide range of backgrounds to come together to enable research transfer and discussion of community skin health research priorities. It was also a chance for our collaborators James McCarthy and Angelica Rose from QIMR to visit us and update us on their work on resistance mechanisms in scabies mites.

QUEENSLAND

Central Queensland University

The group at CQU are living it up unsupervised (so to speak) after Em Prof Lesley Warner headed off to Adelaide at the end of last year, but they are all still working hard! (or so they say). Lesley now holds an honorary position in the Parasitology Section of the South Australian Museum.

Eridani Mulder has recently submitted her PhD thesis on the parasites of the predator, *Liasis fuscus*, and its prey, *Rattus colletti* on the Adelaide River floodplain, Northern Territory, Australia.

Haylee Weaver is in the final stages of writing up her thesis, and will be submitting it in May. She is also getting used to the idea of leaving the tropical climes of Rockhampton for the much more temperate Canberra, in pursuit of post doctoral positions.

Lee Barnett is still furiously trying to measure up and assign species to her stable of funky cercariae from nassariid snails, in between various other odd jobs. The high point of Lee's April will be a short visit to Tom Cribb's group at UQ to check out how things are done down there (as well as to catch up with old friends from QHSS for a meal or two!).

Queensland Museum

Rob Adlard and Matt Nolan are on the hunt for intermediate hosts of *Marteilia sydneyi* (the causative agent of QX disease in Sydney rock oysters) you may have seen them featured on 'Landline' and more recently on 'Catalyst'. Matt has been busy extracting DNA from a swag of polychaete specimens collected towards the end of last year and preliminary results look encouraging. Mal Bryant is coming to grips with a new Collections Database System (a Kiwi product called 'Vernon'). Fortunately the change-over hasn't proved to be too traumatic and it's business as usual in Collection Management.

Queensland Institute of Medical Research

It looks as though only the students at QIMR have been doing anything news worthy of late (maybe the senior staff have been too busy with their NHMRC grant applications). Tegan Don from the Helminth Biology Laboratory was awarded her PhD from the University of Queensland for her studies on haemolysis in blood-feeding helminths. Melissa Burke (Molecular Parasitology Lab, QIMR) recently attended the Keystone meeting "Molecular Mechanisms of Fibrosis" in Tahoe City, California, where she presented data on liver fibrosis during schistosome infections in a murine model. Hong You (Molecular Parasitology Lab, QIMR) has returned from China after maternity leave to continue her PhD studies on insulin receptors in *S. japonicum*.

Wendy Chung (Malaria Biology Laboratory) was recently awarded her PhD from UQ for her studies on Red Cell Polymorphisms and Malaria and Chris Peaty has returned to the Malaria Biology lab after his honours success to start his PhD on Commitment to Gametocytogenesis in *P. falciparum*.



Congratulations to Mai Tran (picture below) who has been awarded a Fullbright Scholarship. Mai is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Helminth Laboratory. Mai is working with Alex Loukas and colleagues in the US and Brazil, her goal is to develop a vaccine for schistosomiasis.

Mai has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship (Postdoctoral Award) to work in the laboratory of Professor Edward Pearce at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia to gain experience in gene silencing using RNA interference, a technique which she can also apply to other parasites studied at QIMR. In addition, Mai will also join the laboratory of Dr Fred Lewis and Dr Matty Knight at the Biomedical Research Institute in Maryland to conduct more vaccine trials in mouse model of schistosomiasis to determine the efficacy of *Sm-TSP-2* as a schistosomiasis vaccine candidate.



CSIRO Livestock Industries Brisbane

Gene Wijffels (CSIRO) and Mal Jones (QIMR) organised a one day workshop entitled “Genomic and proteomic analyses of secretions of parasitic Helminths” on March 27 at the University of Qld. Robin Gasser was the guest speaker; the organisers thank the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology for funding Robin’s visit. Various people spoke on their research interests in the use of genomic and proteomic techniques to examine host parasite relationships, with particular reference to ES products. Current research activities as well as ideas for future work were described. The meeting finished with useful discussions on some common areas of interest between the research groups, plans to continue

the communication between the groups through seminars, and identifying some potential sources for funding of work on parasite ES products. The meeting was considered to have been a successful start to improving the communication between parasitology groups at QIMR, CSIRO, UQ and QDPI&F.

Queensland DPI&F (Applied Animal Biotechnology and Biosecurity groups)

The Beef CRC team have been busy doing a large tick challenge trial coordinated by Louise Jackson, Nick Jonsson from UQ and our CRC post-doc John Goopy. Along with the team Megan Jones, Emily Piper and anyone else here at Animal Research Institute who showed any remote interest in holding cattle, bleeding and processing samples ! This has included Wayne Jorgensen, Catherine Minchin, Ryan O'Dell, and Sandy Jarret. Thanks to all for your help - weekly sampling continues until May. In February we farewelled Beck Byrnes who has gone onto bigger and better things at DPI&F Caboolture and she has been replaced by Bart Wlodek who we have been recycling through different positions in our labs. Bart is now working with Jess Morgan, Anthea Bruyeres and Sandy Jarrett; together they are making their way through a mountain of chicken poo in the eternal search for *Eimeria*. Early March, Jan-Maree (Murphy) and Glen Hewitson gave birth to Veronica May ! Congrats from all of us (both previously part of our research group and still based at DPI&F).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA Museum / University of Adelaide

In terms of field work and conference attendance, it’s been quiet in the Monogenean Research Laboratory of The South Australian Museum and the Marine Parasitology Laboratory



STATE NEWS

of The University of Adelaide. Certainly it's been industrious! PhD student Kate Hutson has been writing, writing, writing ...! She pulled together a final report for an FRDC project on the potential for parasite interactions between wild and farmed kingfish, discrimination of farmed from wild fish and an assessment of migratory behaviour based on tag and recapture studies. Finalising this project report was a useful prelude for Kate to finalise her PhD thesis. Indeed in recent weeks, five of her six data chapters have either been published, are in press or are accepted for publication. This is the first thesis submission as a collection of publications (rather than the 'traditional' thesis) from the Marine Parasitology group in Adelaide. Kate has been passing drafts between her supervisors Ingo Ernst in Canberra and Ian Whittington in Adelaide. The end is nearly in sight. In fact Kate hopes to submit by the end of March 2007 and plans to be thesis-free over the Easter period.

Other industrious events have included the submission of two lottery tickets to the ARC Discovery grant scheme by Ian and Leslie

Chisholm. Now this task is done, both intend to get stuck into writing some long overdue publications from the present two Discovery grants which 'expire' this year.

PhD student Vanessa Glennon, under the watchful eye of PhD student Lizzie Perkins, has been unleashed in the molecular laboratories of the South Australian Regional Facility for Molecular Evolution & Ecology. Lizzie, who has been making giant strides for monogenean phylogenetics and species boundary questions by getting to grips with the mitochondrial genomes of some capsalid Monogenea, has been keeping Vanessa on the straight and narrow with all things molecular. Vanessa's PhD thesis will be the next cab off the rank later this year. Ian and Leslie, her supervisors, will keep her to her September 2007 submission date. But there's no pressure, Vanessa!

PhD student Rissa Williams, presently working for Biosecurity New Zealand in Wellington, will return to Adelaide for 2 weeks over Easter to do some more sample processing towards her PhD studies seeking effective oral chemotherapeutants against Monogenea infecting farmed kingfish. Ingo and Ian hope that the sight of Kate Hutson's recently submitted PhD thesis will spur on Rissa to completing her own thesis over the next year.

PhD student David Schmarr has also taken employment. SARDI Aquatic Sciences are employing David to work on pelagic fish stock assessment which is not that far removed from his PhD study on stock discrimination of slimy mackerel using genetics, otoliths and parasites as tags. Ian and co-supervisor, Dr Tim Ward (SARDI), hope that David will keep momentum moving towards PhD submission later this year. Professor Lesley Warner's 'retirement' in Adelaide is now in full swing. The photograph (below) shows what Leslie's office/laboratory at the South Australian Museum looked like in early December. We're happy to report that all boxes are now unpacked! Lesley has been busy commenting on drafts of thesis chapters from her PhD students, Haylee Weaver and Eridani Mulder, at CQU in Rockhampton. Lesley has also been involved in some dolphin dissections to help identify trematodes and nematodes in cetacean carcasses washed ashore in South Australia. Retirement indeed!

TASMANIA

Congratulations to Melanie Leef, Carley Bagley and Robert Gurney who all graduated with their PhDs in 2006. Also congratulations to Rebecca van Gelderen whose PhD thesis has been approved.

PhD student Neil Young spent some time at Prof Ben Koop's laboratory at University of Victoria in Canada. He was working on gene expression in salmon in later stages of Amoebic Gill Disease (AGD). Professor Ben Koop leads the consortium for Genomics Research on All Salmon Project (cGRASP). This is a Genome Canada funded project which has established itself as a leader in salmonid genomics. One of the outcomes of this project is the development and construction of 16,000 gene cDNA microarray containing genes which are expressed under a variety of conditions in Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout. We had previously formed a good collaboration with Dr. Ben Koop's





laboratory and as part of this ongoing collaboration Neil spent a month in their laboratories comparing the gene expression in gill tissues of AGD-affected gill tissue to that of control fish. The technical aspects of performing microarray experiments are well established but can be technically challenging. Neil was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Glenn Cooper whose technical expertise and knowledge ensured the project proceeded smoothly and efficiently. Not only can it be challenging to obtain good quality data, interpretation of these large data sets is also a difficult component of these experiments. Neil used leading software packages made available in Professor Koop's laboratory to analyse his data. We showed differentiation of hundreds of genes in AGD-affected fish, of these the immune genes were well represented. Once Neil validates these results using real time PCR he will be better able to describe the immune response of AGD-affected salmon and its role in disease. Neil's travel was supported by ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology and Aquafin CRC.

Funding from ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology also supported Dr Iva Dyková's visit to Tasmania. Dr Dyková, Institute for Parasitology, Czech Academy of Science is a world expert on fish-associated amoebae and amoebic

diseases. During her stay Dr Dyková (above and below) organised a workshop on parasites and participated in our research on *Neoparamoeba* spp. taxonomy. The workshop "Technique for the study of fish-infecting eukaryotic microorganisms" was run in Hobart 6-7 February 2007. The workshop was attended by 12 participants, including 3 PhD students, 1 veterinarian, 2 salmon industry employees, 1 CSIRO researcher and 5 University of Tasmania employees. All participants received workshop materials - a set of notes prepared by Dr Lom and Dyková, and a CDROM with the most important publications of this area.



The workshop was a mixture of lectures and hands-on laboratory classes, individuals from seven fish species were investigated in detail.

PhD students Renee Florent and Matt Jones have been busy with lab trials. Renee is working on AGD treatment and Matt on the effect of gill diseases on metabolic rates. They presented their most recent results to salmon industry in March this year.

We finished all our field work for Aquafin CRC/FRDC funded project on tuna health in Port Lincoln in late 2006. This meant we had to say goodbye to Dr Craig Hayward, who was a postdoctoral research fellow on this project and was the only staff member based in Port Lincoln. We wish Craig all the best and will miss him. PhD student Hamish Aiken who was also based in Port Lincoln for the duration of his field work moved to Adelaide to write up his PhD.

VICTORIA

Animal Biotechnology Research Laboratory Monash University

After a relaxing Christmas break, all ABRLites are back in the lab with their noses to the grindstone. We are now well settled here at Monash University and look forward to a productive 2007.

During the summer, we had two vacation students, Cecilia and Sarah. Cecilia, under the supervision of Joanna Kemp, was very busy cutting and staining sections of tissue from a trial completed last year. Thank you to the Australian Wool Innovation for supporting her work. Cecilia is now working with Joanna once a week while she studies for her Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences at Deakin. Sarah, a Science/Engineering student was awarded a departmental scholarship and supervised by Michael de Veer to look at novel nematode antigens. Michael Lees, a PhD student co-supervised by CLI in Brisbane and ABRL came down to sunny Melbourne to confirm his candidature and begin some quantitative RT-PCR.



STATE NEWS

Michael is working on the role of free radicals in nematode rejection and is supervised by an illustrious team consisting of Andrew Kotze, David Piedrafita, Aaron Ingham and Sue McClure. Nick Robinson has progressed to the dreaded part of all PhDs, the write up phase. Since the last newsletter, Nick has altered his course post-PhD and decided to pursue his Residency in Anatomic Veterinary Pathology at the University of Minnesota. During his three years of study, he will also get a chance to follow his research interests. Nick has set himself a tight schedule for writing up his thesis as he needs to leave for the States on June 14. Good luck Nick!!

We have been fortunate to have two visitors over the past few months. Jorge Gonzalez, from the University de las Palmas, Canary Islands, and Terry Spithill from McGill University, Canada. Jorge is no stranger to the team, having visited with David Piedrafita and Els Meeusen a couple of years ago. He has used his time at ABRL to brush up on his skills in immunohistochemistry and write some papers. It has been a great pleasure to have Jorge with us and we look forward to continuing our collaboration. Terry of course is a familiar face at Monash University and spent two weeks of his sabbatical leave with us catching up on writing papers. A number of international visitors will be arriving at ABRL this year, making our lab a truly multicultural place.

David Piedrafita and Terry Spithill have just left to the Sudan to run a 3 week workshop entitled 'A National Training Course on the Diagnosis and Prevention of Fasciolosis in Cattle' organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency. We wish them both a very safe and successful trip.

Department of Primary Industries Victoria, Attwood Centre

The Novartis Vaccine Project held its final project review in March this year, with the target validation pipeline almost complete. It was a timely opportunity to reflect on this wonderful partnership between Novartis Animal Health and the Department of Primary Industries. Over the 10+ years of the collaboration, many staff and students have enjoyed a nurturing environment to explore, question, and push our understanding of *Haemonchus contortus*. During this time we were able to develop methodologies to study and have access to the various life cycle stages – something that could not have been achieved without the expertise of Paul Presidente (thank you Paul!). In addition, we were able to apply new capabilities in functional genomics to establish robust target selection and validation pipelines. Whilst this phase of our collaboration is all but over, Novartis and DPI recognise the uniqueness of this partnership and are working together to put in place avenues for future collaborations.

On other fronts, the later stages of the target discovery GINTIP project have seen a focus on the use of proteomics to look at membrane proteomes for *H. contortus*. The team is now finishing the bioinformatics analysis of these studies cross referencing with our in-house and Genbank sequences. On the RNAi front, the new project in collaboration with ANU and CSIRO is expected to commence any minute now, and will focus on the application of RNAi as a validation tool. The three-year project is expected to support undergraduate and postgraduate students – so if you are interested in pursuing postgraduate studies in this area please contact Jody Zawadzki or Dadna Hartman. To this end we welcome Joanne Hughes, who is doing her Honours project with us in this area and will be co-supervised by Mark Sandeman, La Trobe University.

Associate Professor Fabio Piano, at NYU, to work on early embryonic development in *C. elegans*.

We welcome back Nina Gatt from Maternity Leave, and wish Alison Bant and Doris Ram success in their pursue of books! – both are taking leave to complete their further studies.

Kind regards to all our colleagues from all of us in the Nematode Vaccine Program, Molecular Biology, DPI Attwood, and we look forward to seeing many of you at ASP in Canberra in the coming months.

For any queries contact Dadna Hartman, Molecular Biology, DPI-Attwood, (03) 92174 286, Dadna.Hartman@dpi.vic.gov.au

Faculty of Veterinary Science

University of Melbourne Werribee

Congratulations must first go to Andrew Read whose PhD thesis on Identification of Mimotopes on the EG95 Hydatid Vaccine was passed and accepted.

The Cestode Vaccine group also welcomes a new member to its team. Abdul Jabbar, a lecturer from the Department of Veterinary Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan has commenced a PhD project on characterization of the EG95 gene family from different strains of *Echinococcus granulosus*. Marshall Lightowlers and PhD student César Jayashi recently attended a Wellcome Trust Conference in the UK entitled Animal Health Research; Recent Developments and Future Directions.

Shokoofeh Shamsi must also be congratulated for recently submitting her PhD thesis on identification of Anasakid nematodes. After presenting her thesis completion oration, Shokoofeh is now looking for a post-doc position so if there is anyone out there who is interested in offering her one please contact her. Another student supervised by Ian Beveridge, Duncan Borland, has completed a Bachelor of Animal Science project investigating the role of parasites in



kangaroo mortalities at Serendip Sanctuary. Ian is very happy, given that he will no longer be finding rotting kangaroo heads being left in desk drawers. This is surprising, given that Ian is well known for being very efficient with the odd kangaroo carcass or two and one would expect that his senses are quite numb from all the practice he's had.

Best wishes to Genevieve Morris who recently accepted an appointment as Tutor in animal science, Faculty of Land and Food Resources, University of Melbourne. Cinzia Cantacessi, a veterinarian from Bari, Italy has joined Robin Gasser's group as a PhD student working on a project entitled "Developmentally regulated genes in *Haemonchus contortus*". Also new to the group is Aradhana Pangasa who is working on epidemiology of *Cryptosporidium* and Shane Riddell, from CSIRO Geelong, who is working on a PhD project entitled "Genetic, genomic and proteomic characterization of *Eimeria*".

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY Parasitology group

We welcomed Andy Smith as a new Research Fellow on an ARC Linkage project with colleagues from the Department of the Environment and Conservation that will investigate the nature, diversity and potential impact of infectious agents in Western Australian threatened mammals.

Andy Smith joined the Parasitology group as an ARC APDI Research Fellow in January 2007 working with Andy Thompson and Alan Lymbery. Prior to this he was engaged as an adjunct member of Murdoch staff since November 2005 and has been involved with CALM/DEC on a voluntary basis in conjunction with the woylie (*Bettongia penicillata*) disease reference council. For his PhD Andy investigated the dynamics of ectoparasites (fleas, ticks and mites)

and associated trypanosomes and their role in driving multi-annual population cycles in microtine rodents in Scotland. He is currently involved in a project that aims to investigate the diversity and abundance of ectoparasites and pathogens infesting a range of rare and endangered species throughout Western Australia. In his spare time Andrew enjoys beach fishing, fine wine and camping with his family..... and the odd bit of feral hunting in the bush near Geraldton.

Andrew Mikosza has commenced a dynamic new project in collaboration with and funded by Sydney Water developing a novel diagnostic for several waterborne infectious agents. We also welcome three new PhD students to the Parasitology group. Amanda Ash will investigate parasites of the painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*) looking at populations in several parts of Africa as well as captive populations in zoos in Australia. Jamie Conlan will spearhead a project in Laos looking at *Taenia solium*, *Trichinella* and other zoonoses in pigs; and Nguyen Phong Lan from the Division of Enteric Infections in Hanoi who will be working on the molecular epidemiology of enteric protozoan infections of humans and animals in Vietnam in collaboration with Professor Cam in Hanoi.

Joseph Ndung'u from the Geneva-based funding organization, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, visited the Parasitology group in January for project discussions with Andy T, Zablon Njiru, Tanya Armstrong and Andrew Mikosza. The project has been extremely successful and Zablon has now left to field-trial a newly developed diagnostic for human sleeping sickness in several African countries.

Andy Thompson and Wayne Best from Epichem recently participated in the Keystone Symposium in Lake Tahoe on 'Drugs and Protozoan Infections' and presented results of their DNDi-funded project. Subsequently, Rob Don from DNDi

in Geneva, and collaborators from the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation at Monash, Caroline Laverty, visited Murdoch for a project meeting.

Andy T is visiting Mahidol University in Bangkok in late March for a meeting on the Laos zoonoses project with Jamie Conlan and Stuart Blacksell from the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research unit (*and came across Brendan Crabb in the Siam City Hotel pool who is here running a transfection workshop with other colleagues from WEHI*), and then on to the Institute of Parasitology in Zurich, followed by the University of Ghent to examine a PhD

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Work towards the new Sheep CRC has dominated life for Brown Besier, as the existing one winds down to cease in June and the new one kicks off in July. Although the new CRC includes a smaller parasitology effort than in the present CRC, people in several institutes will be involved, with Brown as leader of the sub-program. The main activities will centre around further investigations into the strategy of "targeted treatment" for sheep worms (only drenching sheep which need it), new diagnostic tests for parasites, and genetic relationships of parasite related-traits with a wide variety of production ones. Rob Woodgate is still waiting on news regarding further funding by Australian Wool Innovation of the Integrated Parasite Management-Sheep project, especially for further investigation into hypobiosis in *Ostertagia* (sorry, *Teladorsagia*) circumcincta. Dieter Palmer has scaled up work on sheep worm egg detection by antibodies and lectin binding of fluorescent labels to identify nematode eggs to genus. All of us await the start of winter rains, which brings more parasite action, and with it, more diagnostic work - but while it stays dry, we have a bit more time for research. If it's like last year, we'll have a lot of the latter !



Notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

In accordance with Article IX of the Constitution of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc. notice is hereby given of a proposal to amend Articles VI and XIII of the Constitution at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in Canberra, Australia, 8th July 2007.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATION

Section 2

Paragraph 2) All officers of the Society, with the exception of the Editor(s) and Newsletter Editor, for the ensuing term shall be elected by each General Business Meeting at which postal and proxy votes will be accepted.

Paragraph 3) The Editor(s), Newsletter Editor and Webmaster shall be elected for a period of three (3) years and then subject to re-election for further periods of three years with no limit to the number of years of continuous service.

The following amendments are proposed

Section 2, Paragraph 2: Insert after “**and webmaster**” the words “**and archivist**”

Section 2, Paragraph 3: Insert after “**Newsletter Editor**” the word “**Archivist**”

The constitution states that the position of Archivist is an annual position but the Archivist roles require more than a year commitment. It is therefore proposed that the position of Archivist become Council elected.

ARTICLE XIII. STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

Eligibility for Scientific Meeting Travel Grants to assist members attending scientific meetings of the Society is limited to bona fide students who are enrolled at a recognized Australian University and for an additional period of one year following completion of their studies. Eligibility for Scientific Travel Grants is further limited to individuals who have been financial members for at least six months prior to the General Business Meeting. Applicants who have completed their postgraduate studies will additionally be required to present a paper at the scientific meeting for which the grant is awarded.

It is proposed that the article should read:

Eligibility for Scientific Meeting Travel Grants to assist members attending scientific meetings of the Society is limited to bona fide students who are enrolled at a recognized Australian University and for an additional period of one year following completion of their studies. Eligibility for Scientific Travel Grants is further limited to individuals who have been financial members for at least **three (3)** months prior to the General Business Meeting. Applicants who have completed their postgraduate studies will additionally be required to present a paper at the scientific meeting for which the grant is awarded.

This change is necessary, because the ASP meeting has been held in July for the past few years and the next few years. This early timing of the conference has made new student members of the ASP ineligible for the Student Travel Grants. It is felt by Council that by relaxing the conditions of prior membership, we will encourage more students to attend the ASP conferences.





2007 ASP & ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Annual Conference Marque Hotel, Canberra July 8-11, 2007 Application for Student Travel Grant

The Australian Society for Parasitology provides support for full-time students enrolled in a higher degree at a recognized Australian University, and for recent graduates of less than 1 year's duration, to attend the ASP conference. The amount awarded is decided each year by Council and provides assistance towards travel and accommodation costs, and conference registration. To apply for the grant, please complete the form below and send to the current Executive Secretary of the ASP.

The conditions of the grant are:

1. The applicant must provide evidence (signature from head of department) that they are currently, or were recently, enrolled for a higher degree.
2. The student must have been a member of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc. for at least 3 months prior to the commencement of the conference (ie. **prior to 8th April, 2007**).
3. It is not essential for current students to present a paper at the conference to be eligible for the award. However, we do strongly ENCOURAGE students to present their work, even if they have obtained preliminary data.
4. Details of travel and accommodation costs must be provided with this application. Copies of receipts must be provided to the ASP Treasurer at the conference.
5. Travel Grants will be disbursed in person at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
6. **Closing date for Applications: 30 April 2007**

I certify that I am a post-graduate student enrolled at
..... and that I am enrolled as a full-time student.

I further certify that I have registered as a full student registrant at the conference. If presenting, my presentation/poster is entitled:

.....
.....

Name of Principal Supervisor

Name of Head of Department

Department/School

Institution

City/State/post code

Signature of Student Signature of Head of Dept.....

Send completed form to: Dr Danielle Smyth, Executive Secretary of the ASP,
PO Box 60, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Herston, QLD, 4029.



Positions available

PhD at Murdoch University



Are you interested in the discovery of new drugs to fight disease?

Applications are invited for a PhD scholarship funded by Environmental Biotechnology CRC (www.ebcrc.com.au) and tenable at Murdoch University. The overall goal of the project is to identify and characterise novel, naturally produced bioactive molecules that can be used for the control of microbial pathogens. Applicants should possess a first class or high second class Honours degree or a Masters Degree in the biological sciences, veterinary sciences, pharmacological sciences, or chemistry.

The scholarship will provide a stipend of \$A 25,000 per year, tax-free for 3 and a half years (fees are also included but only for New Zealand and Australian citizens and permanent residents, otherwise international fees apply). Additional funding includes laboratory expenses, local and overseas conference travel and assistance with thesis costs. The project is based in the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Murdoch University, Western Australia (www.murdoch.edu.au):

All candidates interested in this project, or for further information, please contact:

Dr Ryan O'Handley
School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Murdoch University
South Street, Murdoch
Western Australia 6150
Phone: (61-8) 9360 2457
Fax: (61-8) 9310 4144
Email: r.ohandley@murdoch.edu.au



CONFERENCES

The 8th Invertebrate

Biodiversity & Conservation Conference 2007

“Pacific Priorities”

Queensland Museum 3 – 7 December 2007

An invitation is extended to participate in the 8th Invertebrate Biodiversity & Conservation Conference 2007 “Pacific Priorities” being held in Brisbane at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from 3 – 7 December 2007.

For the first time this meeting will include a specific focus on parasites (PARASITE DIVERSITY) in a session to be chaired by Tom Cribb and Rob Adlard. The goal of the symposium (and we hope the contributed papers) will be to review the status of parasite biodiversity research in the tropical Indo-Pacific region, with emphasis on the mechanisms of diversity discovery, and its relevance in ecosystem ecology, commerce and human health.

Other Symposia will include

- MARINE MEGADIVERSITY
- INVASIVE SPECIES
- NEW CALEDONIA
- SURVIVAL IN SUBURBIA
- FIRE
- INVERTEBRATE SALVAGE

If you are interested in participating in the Conference:

Visit the WEB-site (<http://www.ibcc2007.org>)

or contact Dr R. Adlard (Robert.Adlard@qm.qld.gov.au) or Dr Tom Cribb (T.Cribb@uq.edu.au).

Registrations open May 1st 2007

Abstracts are due by August 6th. 2007



Nominations for Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

The Bancroft-Mackerras Medal may be awarded to a member of the Society who, in the opinion of the selection committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology, particularly in work published during the last five years.

Nominations should be made by a proposer and seconder, and should consist of:

- A detailed statement of nomination describing the nature of the "outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology" for which he/she has been responsible. The statement should be signed by the proposer and seconder, or each may submit a separate statement.
- A *curriculum vitae* including a list of all publications.

Note that the Medal is intended for members whose research program has been productive during the last five years. The permission of the nominee is not required and the nominee need not be aware of the nomination.

Nominations should be sent direct to the current ASP President. Detailed information on nomination and selection procedures is given in the By-Laws of the ASP Constitution. Nominations are due each year at the end of October.

Nominations for ASP Invited Lectureship Travel Grants

To complement the scientific presentations at the Scientific Meetings of the ASP, overseas researchers of international reputation in a field of parasitology may be invited to attend and present their work. The invited speaker's expertise must be common to a discipline or symposium conducted at the Scientific Meeting. The visitor must be nominated by a member of the Society.

The Society will provide a travel grant to assist in the finance of the trip. The support will be based on an economy class direct return airfare from the recipient's home city to Australia, the necessary interstate travel and reasonable living expenses based on actual costs. Registration at the Scientific Meeting will also be included.

The total value of the lectureship will be determined by Council but it is expected that the recipient, or his/her Australian sponsor, will also seek to provide additional or alternative financial support.

Applicants must include the following information:

Details of visiting specialist

An up-to-date *curriculum vitae* must be attached to the application. The following details should be supplied:

- Date and place of birth
- Present nationality (and former nationality, if applicable)
- Present position held
- Full address of employing institution, including phone, fax and Email numbers
- Detailed evidence of expertise in relevant discipline (list of publications, etc.).

Details of Australian nominator

- Name of member organizing the visit, including full address, phone, fax and Email numbers
- Details of all other applications which have been made for financial assistance towards travel/accommodation costs. Total value of other contributions must be included.

Details of program

The program should normally last a minimum of 2 working weeks and cover at least 2 States or Territories. Details should include:

- Date of visit
- Program being arranged, including institutions to be visited (with dates) and the purpose of each visit (lecture, seminar, workshop, research discussion, etc)
- Aims, rationale and likely benefits of visit
- Contribution to be made at Society's Scientific Meeting

Applications plus supporting documentation should be sent to the ASP President by the end of December in the year preceding the Conference. Applicants should check with the Conference Organisers for details of conference theme, symposia, workshops, etc. before submitting an application.

JD Smyth Travel Awards

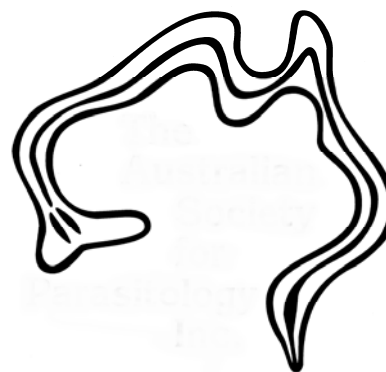
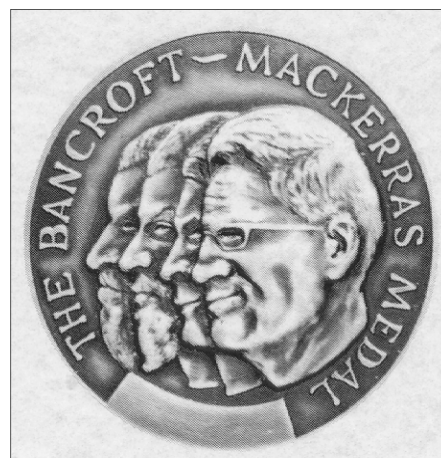
These awards are specifically designed to assist postgraduate students travel internationally to conduct research and/or to present their research at international conferences. Applicants must be members of the ASP Inc. of at least 6 months standing and enrolled in a postgraduate degree at an Australian university.

Four scholarships will be awarded each year and applications will be considered in two rounds with closing dates in June and

December of the preceding year. Each scholarship will be up to the value of, but not exceeding, \$A2000. For research-based proposals, applicants should nominate the international laboratory they intend to visit, the purpose of the visit and the time frame. A short, abstract-length (approximately 250 words) proposal of the techniques and skills to be gained should be attached.

For travel that primarily involves attendance at a conference, applicants must nominate the conference, supply an abstract and justify their attendance at a recognised international conference preferably though not exclusively held outside of the Australasian region.

The award will only be made once proof is received of acceptance of the abstract by the conference organisers. If the student does not attend the conference the ASP funds must be returned to the Society. On return from the Conference a short report must be written to the Council detailing the student's experiences. Applicants should apply to the current ASP Secretary giving details of the conference, their research and supervisor's support plus an abbreviated c.v. and conference abstract, as outlined on the accompanying application form. The application must not number more than 6 pages including the c.v. and abstract. Applications must be received by the next due dates of June 30th or December 31st each year.



Application form for JD SMYTH Travel Award

Name:

Address:

.....

Phone: Fax:

Email:

University:

Enrolled Degree:

Supervisor's Certification

I hereby affirm that the above-named person is a bona fide postgraduate student under my supervision.

Signed: Date:

Laboratory Details (for research applications)

Laboratory to be visited

Address

.....

Purpose of Visit

.....

.....

Conference Details (for applications to attend conferences)

Conference Title:

Venue:

Conference Address:

Title of Abstract (*Please attach a copy of the abstract*):

.....

.....

Author(s)

Awards will only be paid on receipt of proof that the abstract has been accepted.

**For all applications: Attach statement justifying attendance, budget (include all other support), brief curriculum vitae
[application not to exceed 6 pages]**



THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC

Secretariat: ASP Inc c/- RGSQ,
237 Milton Road, Milton QLD 4064
Fax: (07) 3367 1011 Email: rgsq@gil.com.au
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
Tax Invoice ABN: 65 979 686 445

Surname: **Given name(s):** **Title:**
Email:

Postal address:
.....
.....
.....

Telephone: **Fax:**

Signature: **Date:**

***Proposed by (Name):** **(Signature):**

***Seconded by (Name):** **(Signature):**

***The Society's Constitution requires that the Applicant be known personally to at least one of the sponsors for membership. Both the proposer and seconder must be members of the Society.**

This application must be accompanied by payment of one year's subscription in Australian dollars:
\$80 for full members (Inc GST), \$20 for student members (Inc GST)†, \$500 (Inc GST) for sustaining members.

I enclose a cheque or money order for A\$ payable to the "Australian Society for Parasitology Inc."

† Applicants for **student membership** must have the following statement signed.

Registered Higher Degree: Institution:
Signature of Head of Department:

OR please debit my (tick one)

Visa Bankcard Mastercard

Card number: — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

Expiry date: — — / — —

Cardholder name:

Cardholder signature:

Applications for membership are considered by a Committee of the ASP and applicants duly notified.

Amount received

Office use only

Date elected:

Elected by:





CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address, title or name; or if there is a mistake in your mailing label, please fill out the details below and send them to:

ASP Secretariat,
c/- RGSQ
237 Milton Road
Milton QLD 4064



Name as it appears on present mailing label:
(if possible, please enclose the old mailing label)



.....

Title, name and postal address for future mailing labels:



.....
.....
.....



Tel:
Fax:
Email:



Printed by: Lighthouse Press, Macquarie University.





2007 ASP & ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology

Annual Conference

8th to 11th July

Chifley on Northbourne Hotel, Canberra

Invited speaker theme topics:

- Functional Genomics
- Evolutionary Biology of Parasites
- Parasites in Wildlife and Conservation Biology
- Immunology, Immunomodulation and Vaccines
- Drug Targets, Drugs and Drug Resistance in Tropical Parasites (co-sponsored by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene as part of its Centenary Year Celebrations)

Registration closes 7th May

Information at www.parasite.org.au/arcnet

