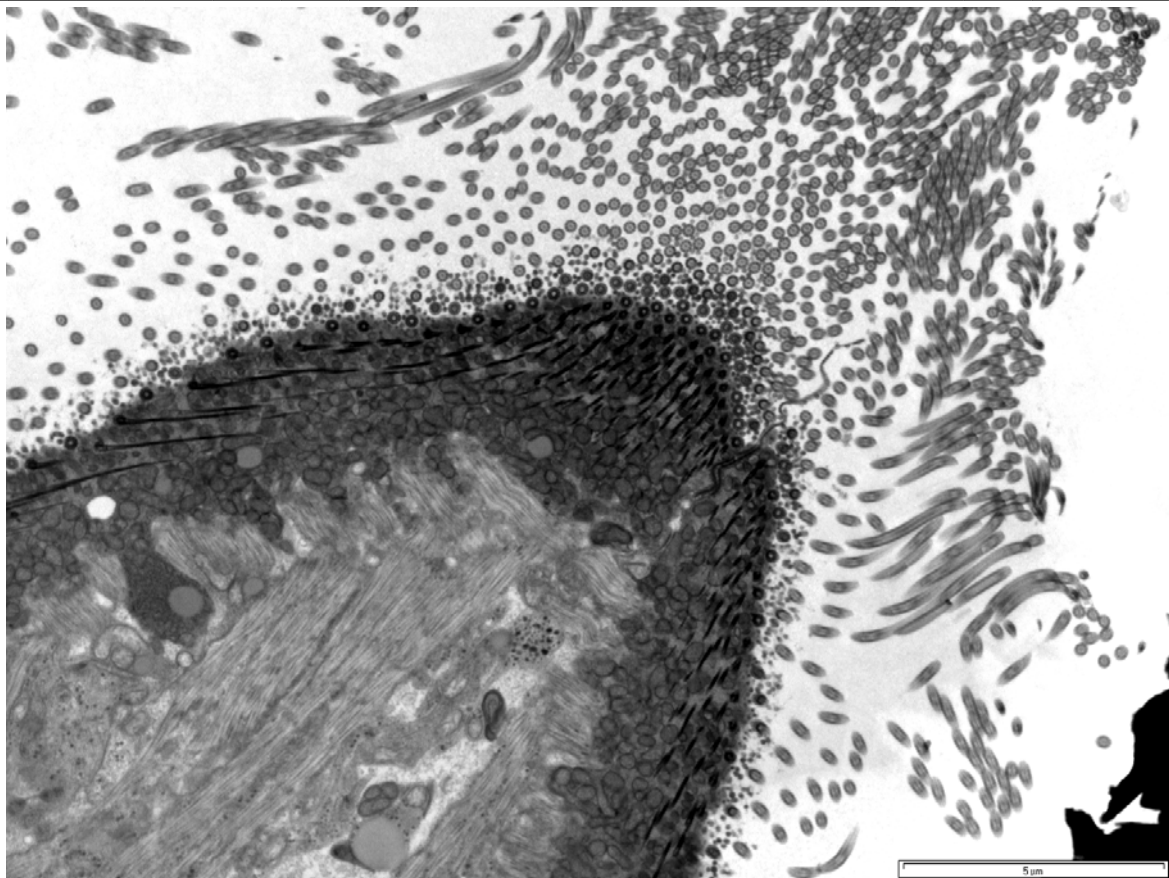


the  
australian  
society for  
parasitology  
inc.

ABN 65 979 686 445

# NEWSLETTER

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



*Schistosoma mansoni*, miracidium

volume 14 issue 3

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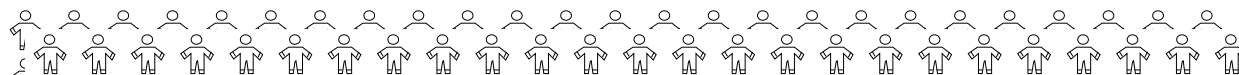
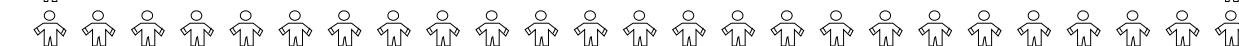
December 2003



australian society for parasitology inc.

NEWSLETTER page 1

# THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC.

	
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# From the President's Desk



The bid for the ARC Network for Parasitology is proceeding, despite some delays by the ARC in processing the seed funding applications because of the sheer volume of the applications. The deadline for the main application were not extended so things are now very tight. A great vote of thanks should go to Nick Smith who is shouldering the bulk of the administrative burden. The stage we are at at the moment is that an application has been submitted for seed funding to fund the main bid. The result of this seed funding application will be known in the first week of December. We are pushing ahead with preparations for the main bid and a workshop will be held in Sydney in mid December to determine the directions and areas to concentrate on in the main bid. I will keep the membership informed of progress/developments through the newsletter.

It was a great disappointment to hear that the travelling parasitology road show "Intimate Aliens", that was being prepared by the Queensland Museum, to be launched early

next year, has been "put on ice". I was so sorry to hear of this decision because so many people in the ASP and at the museum had contributed so much to this exciting venture. A venture, that in my opinion, the public would have loved. The most disappointing part of the whole issue is that it was a politically based decision. The proposal is now to run "Intimate Aliens" in 2006, but I will not be holding my breath! The ASP put \$10,000 into the project and currently moves are under way to retrieve our money, with a view to making it available later should the event proceed in 2006.

## SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT

The 2003 Science meets Parliament took place on 14/15 October. I was the only representative of the ASP to attend this year but it was more successful in terms of participant numbers and parliamentarians making time for meetings than any of the there previous SmP I have attended. Two hundred and sixty scientists attended and 152 Parliamentarians agreed to meet and talk science. The hottest topics, as far as the Parliamentarians were concerned, were water, salinity and frontier technologies.

The event as usual took place over two days, the first classified as a "Briefing Day" and the second "Science meets Parliament Day". The events of day one occurred at the National Press Club and started with Toss Gascoigne of FASTS clarifying why we were there and the aims of the event. There followed a series of briefing talks indicating how scientists could get the best out of their meetings with politicians scheduled for the following day. The way some of the briefing talks went it was as if we were to meet an alien species that communicated on a totally different level! After lunch there was a lively discussion on science policy with Minister for Science Peter Mc Gauran and shadow Minister for Science,



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Kim Carr that was followed by the official welcome from Professor Chris Fell, President of FASTS. The "Issues of the Day" were reviewed by Dr Ken Baldwin, Chair of the FASTS Policy Committee and Dr David Denham, Vice-President, FASTS and the main events for the day wound up with an absorbing discussion on "Science, policy and the media" using the Wentworth Group as a case study. Immediately after this, Chris Fell wound up the day and we all tottered up to Parliament House for a few drinks and nibbles and an opportunity for informal discussions with Parliamentarians. Day two began with breakfast in Old Parliament House at 7.30 am and first appointments for some unfortunate souls beginning at 8.00 am, the rest of us converged on Parliament House about 8.30 am. Meetings with Parliamentarians continued all day and the day finished with a "Science and Industry" dinner. I was unable to attend but I understand it was a very useful opportunity to network with invited industry notables, politicians and fellow scientists.

I find SmP an interesting two days.

However, if asked to identify a definite outcome I would find it difficult. The meetings with Parliamentarians gives Science the opportunity to stare Parliamentarians in the face and to talk about such things as the inequalities of HECS and the effects of the uncertainties of our current science funding system on real people. On a more positive note, it is also an excellent opportunity to tell Parliamentarians about science and enthuse them about the exciting and important outcomes of science. You never know, but sometime further down the line, if a junior member of parliament becomes a minister for science, a previous experience of meeting an enthusiastic scientist may influence a science policy decision.

That is about all I have to say this time, therefore it only leaves me to take the opportunity to wish everyone in the ASP very best wishes for Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Dave Jenkins**

Season's  
Greetings





They say that over time, married couples look more and more alike and that pets come to resemble their owners. What have we here? Could it be that parasitologists, too, come to resemble the organisms they study? Or if that's not a polyopisthocotylean monogenean emerging from Ian Whittington's (SA Museum and University of Adelaide) mouth, then what could it be? Photo snapped at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Fish Parasites in Bloemfontein, South Africa. In the background, Leslie Chisholm and Tomas Scholz (Czech Republic).  
 Photographer: ?????



# A plea for consistent nomenclature

*This letter was forwarded to all parasitology societies by Dr. Rasul Khan, President of the World Federation of Parasitologists, concerning the issue of nomenclature of parasitic diseases. The letter on the next page was written in response.*

In 1990 at the ICOPA VII in Paris the Council of the World Federation of Parasitologists endorsed the principles of the Standardised Nomenclature of Parasitic Diseases (SNOPAD), and strongly recommended their adoption for all parasitic infections.

The major suggestion of the SNOPAD was: when disease names are formed from the name of a parasite taxon, the sole use of suffix, -osis (plural; oses) is recommended, and the use of other suffixes, i.e. ; iasis, -asis, -iosis, needs be discontinued. That proposal was largely based on traditional and existing nomenclatural usage. It is also recognised that the use of a group of disease names coined with the suffix; iasis; mostly denoting human parasitic infections; are so widely distributed that in these cases both the; iasis and ; osis forms can be used.

Although the move for a standard disease nomenclature was eminently sensible and received acceptance in part of the parasitological communities, the inconsistent usage of heterogeneous names for denoting a single disease entity continues to exist. Besides the warm welcome that SNOPAD received in general, there was also marked opposition in certain circles.

Perhaps the major obstacle on the way towards more consistent terminological usage is that the Executive Boards of national and international parasitological societies, the majority of editors of mainstream journals concerned in parasitology do not consider, or being indifferent, do not encourage usage of the SNOPAD-conform terminology. The same is reflected in the WHO publications, as well as in the descriptor compartment of

some databases.

The problem of database searches due to the heterogeneous disease nomenclature addressed by the SNOPAD guideline remains serious. Obviously, there is a need to stimulate further the move towards consistency in terminological usage on the basis of the SNOPAD principles. An increasing number of textbooks and abundant teaching experience provide good examples of the benefits of adoption of the uniform and standard disease nomenclature

Though it is recognised that the language is a living formation being constantly modulated by greatly subconscious and unintentional human usage, it must also be stressed that disease terminology as an artificial language needs nurturing for maintaining its suitability as a tool of clear and effective scientific communication. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of the World Federation of Parasitologists I am offering the issue of nomenclatural homogeneity to your continuous attention. It is hoped that this topic will soon be discussed by the leading body of your society and/or editorial board, and you will adopt and maintain a policy favouring distribution of a more disciplined, uniform and consistent nomenclatural usage in our field of science.

Your support, reflections and proposals would be greatly appreciated. Further, for those interested in sound and more detailed rationale for SNOPAD, a reference may be included to the original paper: Kassai, T. et al.: "Standardized Nomenclature of Animal Parasitic Diseases (SNOAPAD). 1988. Vet. Parasitol. 29. 299-326. and to Kassai, T., Burt, M. D. B.: A plea for consistency. 1994. Parasitol. Today, 10. 127-128."

**Dr. Tibor Kassai**





# And a response...

Dear Colleagues,

I was delighted to receive a copy of Professor Kassai's plea to the WFP concerning a standardised and uniform nomenclature of parasitic diseases.

May I please draw your attention, as one of the dissenters 'in certain quarters', to my article in *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*, Ashford, R.W. (2001). Current usage in the nomenclature of parasitic diseases, with special reference to those involving arthropods. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology* 15: 121-125.

This gives some arguments against uniformity, while agreeing with the need for standardisation. In your deliberations on this matter, may I plead with you:

1. To involve your membership in a transparent way, and
2. Whatever your conclusions, they should be applicable in all languages, not only English.

Many thanks for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. Ashford

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

## Closing Dates for Nominations for ASP awards

**Bancroft-Mackerras Award - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 (for award in 2004).**

**Invited Lectureships Travel Grants - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003.**

**JFA Sprent Award – next award 2005; announcements in ASP Newsletter in 2004.**

**Student International Travel Awards - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003.**

**ASP Fellowships - before next mid term Council meeting (April/May 2004).**

**See announcements in this Newsletter or visit the ASP website for more information : [www.parasite.org.au](http://www.parasite.org.au)**



# SA STATE NEWS

The State membership of the ASP welcomes 2 more scientists from up north who are contributing to SA's growing parasitologist burden! Dr Di Barton has migrated from FNQ, having left James Cook University to relocate in Adelaide with her partner. Currently working for the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre, Di has recently been awarded Honorary Associate status at The South Australian Museum. She has submitted an application to the Australian Biological Resources Study to investigate pentastomes from the nation's amphibians and snakes. While she awaits the outcome, Di continues to settle into Adelaide's environs (when not jetting around following the World Cup Rugby!), is attempting to clear a backlog of papers and most of her parasite collection is still packed in her garage until she gets the chance to visit the SA Museum and work up new material.

In January, another new arrival from Queensland will be Dr Craig Hayward (formerly of the Dept. of Microbiology & Parasitology, UQ) to take up a postdoctoral position in tuna health at Port Lincoln in conjunction with Dr Barbara Nowak (University of Tasmania-Launceston) and Dr Marty Deveney (Project Officer, Fish Health, PIRSA). In addition to further developing his parasitological skills, Craig will, no doubt, also be honing his financial skills (learned during his period as ASP Treasurer) as he prepares to live in the millionaire centre of Australia!

## IMVS- Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Andrew Butcher recently attended the national ASM meeting in Auckland (Sept 28-Oct 3). At its national council meeting, it was expressed that ASM remains interested in closer ties with the ASP. This could be in the form of joint memberships to both societies and concurrent national conferences with each society sharing speakers and ven-

ues. Andrew recommends further contact between the two councils is required. At the local level, Andrew has been organizing ASM meetings for next year and it is planned to schedule at least 1 (possibly 2) joint ASM/ASP SA State meetings in 2004 to follow from this year's successful gathering in July.

Andrew received his PhD results with both examiners providing favourable replies. Final copies of his thesis are currently at the printers, the final version will be submitted soon and his graduation will be in December. He is relieved to be finished.

## SA Museum/University of Adelaide

Honours students Ben Divett (supervised by Ingo Ernst and Ian Whittington) and Vanessa Glennon (supervised by Leslie Chisholm and Ian Whittington) were each awarded First Class Honours in Environmental Biology at The University of Adelaide. Both are to be congratulated for their hard work during 2003 in the Marine Parasitology Laboratory. Vanessa was awarded the Michael Smyth Memorial Prize for top Honours performance in Zoology. Ben's reward for his hard work is a visit to Japan to experience intense sea-cage finfish farming first hand when he accompanies Ingo Ernst to Kyushu in December. Leslie and Ian have been busy writing up papers to tie up loose ends on a number of projects including their current ARC grant. The rest of their time has been spent bemoaning the fate of Marine Parasitology in Australia after the recent ARC announcements and coming up with ways to revamp their own unsuccessful submission for the next round.

Ingo, Ian, Leslie and Clinton Chambers attended the 6<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on Fish Parasites* (6ISFP) in Bloemfontein, South Africa from Sept 22-25<sup>th</sup>. This was an





excellent conference and all who attended enjoyed the presentations, social functions, camaraderie and new links made during the symposium. For a student's perspective on the conference, see the report by Nathan Bott elsewhere in this issue.

Within 1 month of Micko managing to cajole Ian Whittington into inheriting him as a PhD student (due to the retirement of Marg Davies and the departure of Ross Andrews to the Uni of SA; Micko assures Ian that neither of these events were a result of Micko!), a draft of Micko's thesis appeared on Ian's desk. This made Ian wonder why the PhD students in the Marine Parasitology Laboratory (Kate Hutson, Allan Mooney, Rissa Williams cosupervised with Ingo; David Schmarr cosupervised by Tim Ward at SARDI) hadn't completed their thesis drafts since enrolling in the first quarter of 2003!

Alain de Chambrier from the Natural History Museum, Geneva visited the SA Museum during November to work on cestode material from freshly collected amphibians and reptiles. It was a brief visit, but long enough for Alain to display his culinary talents when he prepared a smorgasbord of different fish (thankfully, no reptiles!), sauces and bread all sliced and carved using a Swiss army knife! On the day Alain left Adelaide (en route to Melbourne to collect more cestodes with Ian Beveridge), Ian Whittington gave a public lecture about parasites in which he grossed out many in the audience by eating tagliatelle and spaghetti carefully disguised as tapeworms and nematodes.

### SARDI

The Christmas party posters have started to appear around the building and so we can conclude that another year is coming to an end. There is inkling that there will be some changes for the parasitology group in the forthcoming year. A fair amount of time has been invested in plotting and planning and there has been some positive feedback. Ultimately, we do not expect to be operating in the same fashion in 2004.

Ian Carmichael recently attended the Southern Australian Beef Research Council meeting in Launceston, Tasmania. Richard Martin spent some time teaching faecal egg counts (FECs) to a couple of women who will be attempting to conduct them 'on farm' as part of a producer initiated research and development program in south-east SA. Meanwhile the routine pasture larval counts and FECs continue to be collected for the worm management program. Micko has been looking at feral cats from Kangaroo Island attempting to collect data in relation to *Toxoplasma*, *Sarcocystis* and *Taenia* prevalence and preparing posters for the anti-feral cat lobby on the island. The study has been interesting and he has updated his knowledge on some parasite identifications, particularly spirurids and immature *Toxocara cati*.

Peter James has been following the dispersal of flies from intensive livestock facilities using pink fluorescent paint and traps. Visualisation of fluorescent marks with UV light triggered some old disco memories for Peter. Noel Campbell (Vic.), Brian Horton (Tas.) and Di Evans (WA) visited Peter recently to discuss the development of biosecurity programs for the exclusion of sheep lice and a decision support system for the application of louse control treatments.

**Compiled by Ian Whittington**



# VIC STATE NEWS

## University of Melbourne Veterinary Science, Werribee

Ninoska Donaires has recently arrived from Lima, Peru to undertake research toward a PhD with Marshall Lightowlers and co. Last year Ninoska graduated from the Peruvian Cayetano Heredia University as a physician where she undertook field research work on infectious diseases. Ninoska's PhD will involve research into the biology/immunology/diagnosis of *Taenia solium* cysticercosis in collaboration with the Cysticercosis Working Group in Peru.

Gulay Biyikoglu, Head of Parasitology Department in Pendik Veterinary Research Institute, Istanbul, Turkey has joined us for 6 months to investigate molecular aspects of *Echinococcus granulosus* and the EG95 hydatid vaccine. Gulay has a veterinary background and has worked on/managed vaccine production for Theileriosis.

Marshall is attending the Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting and The 4<sup>th</sup> Seminar on Food and Water-borne Parasitic Zoonoses in Bangkok in December, giving two papers on vaccination against hydatidosis and cysticercosis. He will manage to make it back just in time to help many others slice through the beef (looking for cysticerci) from 40 heifers as part of a vaccine trial against *Taenia saginata*.

Congratulations to Andrew and Michelle Read on the birth of their first child, Emily Lucinda, born 21st October, 3.1 KG.

It appears that the Australian-Canadian exchange program is still active in Werribee. Following the departures of several members of our parasitology group for Canada, we welcomed Mark Pellegrino (previously from M<sup>c</sup> Gill University, Montreal and Queens University, Ontario) to Robin Gasser's group. Mark brings with him expertise in the molecular neurobiology of *C. elegans* as well as experience in cardiovascular disease research using human cell cultures. Luckily, Mark has seen the light and ac-

knowledgeed that nematodes are better to research than humans and has commenced a *C. elegans* based PhD with Robin (co-supervised by Keith Blackwell, Harvard University, Boston). Mark will be looking to use *C. elegans* as a model for studying gender-specific genes of parasitic nematodes.

In mid December, we bid farewell to Alasdair Nisbet who is returning home (with partner and baby triplet daughters in-tow) to Glasgow following a two-year stint at the "institute formerly known as VIAS" and The University of Melbourne. After working solidly on identifying gender-specific genes from *Trichostrongylus vitrinus* and investigating gender-specific gene expression through microarray analyses, Al is going to take things easy by "opening a deep fried hotdog stall in St Georges square". Best wishes from everyone Al.

Oops! It was incorrectly stated in the previous issue of the ASP newsletter that Shokoofeh Shamsi (who has commenced a PhD project with Ian Beveridge and Robin Gasser) was previously from the Veterinary Department, Islamic Azad University, Tehran. We would like to clarify that she previously worked at the Iranian Fisheries Research Institute after graduating from Tehran University. Who says our reporting isn't accurate?

## University of Melbourne Centre for Animal Biotechnology

Our illustrious leader, David Piedrafita, dragged poor PhD student Jill Pleasance back to Bogor, Indonesia with the threat of selling her to the locals if Jill's immunological trial wasn't an outstanding success. Jill is looking at how the immune responses of Indonesian Thin Tail sheep are able to effectively kill *Fasciola gigantica* but not *F. hepatica*. Everything went smoothly - after the aerial disappearance of an ice-box containing all their reagents - and David was so impressed with Jill and the 10 person strong team up there he left early! However, Jill



was not so impressed when she arrived back in Melbourne with multiple samples from her seventy sheep! Analysis via real-time PCR and enzyme assays should be challenging to say the least. We wait with bated breath....

Rebecca Smith is developing a passion for applied agriculture and wants to learn the most practical ways to help developing countries struggling with debilitating parasite problems. To this end, Rebecca recently attended a one-day conference hosted by the Crawford Fund on the subject of "The Livestock Revolution: a pathway from poverty?" Economists, scientists and politicians representing universities, research organizations such as ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) and ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural research), the World Trade Organisation and the Australian government discussed why the livestock revolution is occurring, what the threats to its success might be - particular emphasis was placed on infectious disease - and how people of developing nations can take advantage of the phenomenon to improve living standards and increase wealth. In the lab, she continues to slave away on cloning homologous genes from *F. hepatica* and *F. gigantica* in order to determine whether the two parasites have evolved proteins with different primary sequence and activity relating to their relative pathogenicity. Rebecca has been getting some very exciting results lately and hopes to have full length sequences of selected clones to trial in vaccination studies. David is committed to converting Rebecca from a hot-shot molecular guru to an all-seeing and -dancing immunologist! Naturally, Rebecca has seen the effects of this transformation in her supervisor and will resist as best she can. Nick Kennedy is also hard at work and close to beginning a second sheep trial that should round out his PhD thesis. Nick loves his DNA and has decided to add extra spice to his DNA vaccines by incorporating CpG motifs to really kick-start the immune response in his sheep. Together with Terry Spithill, Peter Smooker and Adam Rainczuk, Nick has recently been a co-author on

a paper reviewing DNA vaccine technology. Stay tuned for that exciting publication!

We recently invited Peter Smooker (Department of Biotechnology and Environmental Biology at RMIT) to CAB who gave us a seminar on the evolution and function of cathepsin L and B proteases from *Fasciola gigantica* and *Fasciola hepatica*. With the attendance of Simone Beckham in the audience, who is continuing her work on cathepsin B and is close to a paper on her findings, it was almost like old times as former members of the Monash University Parasitology lab. got together over lunch after Peter's lecture. As usual the normal level of merriment, friendly banter and generous doses of insults were shared!

In the next bulletin, Els Meesuen, our director, and Vern Bowles will share their news. Until then!

### **La Trobe Malaria Labs**

The second half of the year at La Trobe has seen lots of activity. This year's honours students, Kath Jackson, Erica Logan and Solie Abdunour, have all finished their respective projects and passed their exams with flying colours. Hopefully we'll see some of them back next year as graduate students.

This year's round of ARC and NH&MRC was successful with Nick Klonis gaining a 5-year ARC fellowship.

Several members of the group have given presentations recently including Leann at COMBIO2004.

The CRC for Vaccine Technology and GroPep Ltd have successfully completed milestone 1 of the MVI/PATH funded MSP2 malaria vaccine development. GroPep have been funded A\$ 3.8 million to complete milestone 2 which involves the cGMP production of MSP2 for a phase 1 clinical trial.

Away from the bench congratulations go to Karen Humberstone who married Clint Harris and will now be known as Karen Harris and to Jo Casey & Andy Coley who had a son, Joshua.

**Compiled by Charles Gauci**



# QLD STATE NEWS

## Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Alex Loukas, Michael Smout and Tegan Don returned from the U.S. to establish the Helminth Biology laboratory at QIMR. The main interests of the lab are the secretory and surface proteins of hookworms and schistosomes, and the utility of these proteins as recombinant vaccines. Alex retains a part-time appointment at George Washington University in Washington DC and spends 9 weeks a year there working with the Bill Gates-funded Hookworm Vaccine Initiative. The initiative has now identified numerous candidate antigens that afford protection in animal models of human hookworm infection, and phase I clinical trials with at least one recombinant protein will likely begin next year. Alex was fortunate enough to obtain an RD Wright Career Development award from the NHMRC as well as project grant for schistosomiasis research. The lab will expand next year to accommodate new students, Clea Perkins & Cindy Chang (Hons) and Bennet Datu (PhD - awarded a scholarship from IPRS/UQGSS), and a postdoc to be hired.

Don McManus and Li Yuesheng attended the 4th Meeting of the Regional Network for Asian Schistosomiasis (RNAS) in Vientiane, Lao P.D.R from 25-27 November. Both Li and Don presented papers and Don chaired one of the sessions.

After the meeting Don undertook field work in Khong District (Khong Island), a highly endemic area for *Schistosoma mekongi*.

After the field work, Don participated as an invited speaker at the 4th Seminar on Food- and Water-Borne Parasitic Zoonoses and the Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2003 (JITMM) at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

The 'L Floor' crowd at QIMR are thrilled that all of our students achieved first class Honours through the Department of Microbiology and Parasitology. Amber Glanfield

(student of Mal Jones) received her award for her thesis on artemether efficacy in experimental schistosome infections, Anna Topping (Michelle Wykes) for a thesis on immune memory in malaria infections, and Louise Randall (Chris Engwerda) for research into cerebral malaria. Louise has the added distinction of being the first QIMR person to extract RNA successfully from sections using the laser capture microdissection microscope at QIMR. Keep up the good work Louise, and best wishes to all our students in their new endeavours.

## University of Queensland

Craig Hayward, post-doctoral fellow with Bob Lester, has accepted a fellowship with the University of Tasmania to work on tuna health in Port Lincoln, South Australia from January, 2004. Rob Adlard of the Queensland Museum will be helping to teach marine parasitology on a 20% appointment at UQ next year. Bob meanwhile has been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor from Jan 1st following his retirement. Congratulations on your retirement, Bob! Congratulations to Trudy Wright who gave birth to a little girl, Ella, in November. Trudy worked for many years with Tom Cribb and oversaw the logistics for many of Tom's field trips to Heron Island.

## CSIRO Livestock Industries Long Pocket

Described as 'one of the most fun things in the laboratory', David Kemp has retired from CSIRO Livestock Industries in Brisbane after 35 years of service. However, the CSIRO hierarchy should not breathe a sigh of relief too soon, as David is returning as a Post-Retirement Fellow. My personal recollections of David, who I have known for all of 12 months, include a question he asked me during my telephone interview for my present position; expecting something probing and scientific, I was instead asked



why anyone who worked in Edinburgh would dream of moving to Aberdeen. The question was probably a lot harder to answer. Congratulations on your retirement David.

### Queensland Museum

The oyster disease world of fun continues at the Museum with another 4,000 or so individuals tested from 25 estuaries on the Queensland and NSW coasts using the newly ratified PCR 'standard diagnostic protocol' developed during a 12 month FRDC grant at the Museum. Rob Adlard grabbed the limelight on the ABC's *Catalyst* program which ran a piece on the research, while Steve Wesche (who did the actual testing) remained dribbling and twitching in a back room (he is now recovering well). The project runs for another 18 months or so with the major remaining challenge to provide a rational management plan in collaboration with fisheries management and industry partners.

This research has led to a collaborative study between Rob Adlard and David Raftos (immunologist at Macquarie Uni) funded for 2004-06 through the ARC linkage program, to determine correlation between indicators of immuno-competence and susceptibility of oysters to QX disease. Funding is largely to support a PhD student scholarship which has just been advertised, if anyone is interested please contact Rob and he will pass on the details.

The parasite display, *Intimate Aliens*, being developed at the Museum has unfortunately

been put on hold for 2 years and is now scheduled to be constructed and opened in 2006. The reason for the delay is a conflict of priority which has arisen as a flow-on from the recent reorganisation of the Museum. Major projects including the redevelopment of the Science Centre and development of an aboriginal cultural centre have taken priority and our full design and construction capacity is now directed towards these. Rob Adlard and Mal Bryant would like to thank all ASP members who have contributed content and ideas to the exhibition and we assure them that we are committed to seeing it touring Australian venues soon as possible.

### Central Queensland University

This year has been a productive one, relatively speaking, for CQU. Lesley Warner was successful in getting an ABRIS grant which has enabled her to start a new PhD student on the fascinating topic of endemic rats and their parasites. Haylee Weaver has taken up the challenge having relocated from Victoria. Melbourne's loss is Rockhampton's gain. Eridani Mulder continues to chase water pythons, their prey and parasites. She is forced to spend time in Darwin to do the field surveys but manages to enjoy the tropical ambience in spite of the hardships!

Compiled by Ian Sutherland

# TASMANIA STATE NEWS

## CSIRO

Matt Cook writes on his research, a project entitled: "Control of Amoebic Gill Disease (AGD) in Atlantic salmon culture in Tasmania":

Farming of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) is a major industry in Tasmania but increasingly it has been faced with stock losses and high costs

due to a gill parasite, *Neoparamoeba pemaquidensis*. *N. pemaquidensis* is a parasomal amoeba belonging to the family Vexilliferidae, which is normally free living but has been implicated in gill disease of a number of cultured marine fish including salmonids (*S. salar*, *Onchorynchus mykiss*) and turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*). Current control measures are centred on fresh-





water bathing of the fish. However, this is a laborious and expensive process. Within the Aquafin CRC there are a number of projects aimed at understanding the host-pathogen relationship and developing methodologies for control of AGD.

The AGD DNA-vaccine project began last year and is based at the CSIRO marine laboratories in Hobart. The initial phase of the AGD vaccine project is focusing on exploiting the observation that amoebae sourced from the gill of infected fish are capable of establishing infections in naive fish, while amoebae propagated in the laboratory are not. This would suggest that during an active infection the amoeba expresses a set of virulence factors that are not produced during replication in the lab. This is a common phenomenon in pathogens and such *in vivo* expressed virulence factors have proven to be important vaccine antigens in other veterinary pathogens. To enable the project team to identify this subset of genes we have isolated RNA from amoebae, either grown in the lab or sourced from the gills of infected fish. We have used subtractive hybridization to isolate and amplify genes that are only expressed by infective strains. Currently we are using limited DNA sequencing to identify and characterise which of these differentially-expressed genes may be virulence factors. These would then be used as potential vaccine candidates.

In June this year Rob Gurney attended the annual Crustacean Society meeting held in Historic Williamsburg in Virginia USA. Rob writes: "Many of the presentations dealt with the blue crab fishery in the nearby Chesapeake Bay, but there was a half day session devoted to the Rhizocephala, an interesting parasitic barnacle which exclusively parasitises other crustaceans.

"The session was chaired by Jens Hoeg, a world authority on rhizocephala. Jens has described numerous species of rhizo's and their life-cycles. In his opening remarks he described the recent advances in knowledge of their biology and morphology, but lamented the current state of systematics which relies heavily on crude morphologi-

cal characters. But I digress.

At the end of the session, Jens held up a paper back which he had read on the flight to the conference and thoroughly recommended it to his small audience of marine parasitologists.

The book was entitled 'Parasite Rex' by Carl Zimmer. I bought and read the book and enjoyed it very much. I recommend it to ASP members.

Zimmer aims his book at a popular science audience. His clear conversational style is filled with the disgusting anecdotes; the type parasitologists love to read about and tell over dinner. And yet, despite this being an 'easy read', Zimmer manages to convey a wealth of information, ranging from the quirky historical development of parasitology to the modern realisation of the potentially huge ecological impact of parasites on ecosystems.

In this book, Zimmer reminds his audience of the evolutionary power of parasites and their mastery in conquering every conceivable niche a host has to offer.

His parasite lifecycle descriptions are 'up close and personal' and are far more memorable than the schematic lifecycle diagrams of textbooks. You are sure to find one of your favourite parasites somewhere on the pages of this book – I found mine, *Sacculina carcini*."

### **Tasmanian Aquaculture & Fisheries Institute (TAFI)**

Geoff Grossel is continuing work on part of his PhD attempting to resolve the life cycle of the marine myxozoan parasite *Pentacapsula neurophila*. The parasite infects the central nervous system of striped trumpeter, which are being researched as a potential aquaculture candidate for rearing in sea cages in a similar fashion to salmon. The disease caused by this parasite is restricting culture assessment, although recent advances in environmental control look like they have eliminated the parasite from the hatchery system. Geoff has his work cut out for him as no one has yet elucidated a ma-





rine myxozoan parasite life cycle before. It is likely that an alternate host, usually an invertebrate such as a polychaete worm is releasing an infectious stage of the disease into the water nearby the hatchery sea water intake. Geoff is screening invertebrates from in and around the hatchery in the hope he can link the parasite from the alternate stage

with the parasite from the definitive fish host using a PCR test specifically developed to detect the parasite.

Compiled by Robert Gurney )

# WA STATE NEWS

The Murdoch group has been successful in receiving another ARC Linkage grant for a project on zoonotic parasites of dogs and cats in Thailand. The players include Andy Thompson, Rebecca Traub, Peter Irwin and Ian Robertson. Darwin Murrell will be one of the overseas collaborators along with Yao Sukthana and Mathirut Mungthin in Bangkok. Bayer, represented by Norbert Menke will be the industry partner. It is intended that the Thailand project will extend a similar Bayer-supported project in Australia, and link up with other projects that are now underway in Vietnam coordinated by Darwin Murrell.

Rebecca Traub had a mad rush to submit her PhD and has taken up a position at Cornell University in Veterinary Epidemiology with Hussni Mohammed. Her project there will be on zoonotic protozoans, funded by NIH. She still intends to keep in touch with the Murdoch Group, particularly regarding the new linkage project.

Andy Thompson and Simon Reid have headed off to London and Geneva for meetings with GSK and WHO. They hope that recent 'headline' results from the groups drug discovery project related to new compounds with activity against *Trypanosoma* spp and *Leishmania* will result in continued funding.

John Horton, a clinical consultant in drug development and tropical diseases with the WHO, passed through Perth in September and presented a seminar about converting drug research into control programs.

Merle Olson, and family, will be in Perth for 6 weeks from early December. This will allow the Olsons to sample more of the wonders of WA as well as for Merle to continue collaborative research on *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* with the Murdoch group. Brenda Ralston from Alberta Agriculture will be joining the group to commence a PhD on *C. andersoni* early next year.

Paul Monis, SA Water, and Peter Cox, Sydney Water, visited Murdoch last month for discussions on the group's Crypto Linkage project. Needless to say, Nawal Hjjawi's tremendous advances in the cultivation of *Cryptosporidium* was the major talking point – watch this space!

We are eagerly awaiting news from ACIAR on the fate of Simon Reid's project on *Trypanosoma evansi*, which was reviewed by Denis Hoffmann in October. If all goes well we will get an 18 month extension to extend results of the project onto more farms in the Philippines and to complete work on chemotherapy at Balitvet.

Katie Simcock, who has just completed an Honours project at Murdoch University on molecular genetics of *Ctenocephalides* spp., has found new meaning to the following piece of poetry.

The arithmetic flea  
Adds to your misery  
Subtracts your pleasure  
Divides your attention  
And multiplies like the devil.

-Anonymous

Compiled by Russ Hobbs



# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY NEWS

## David Jenkins

In August, David Jenkins attended the WAAVP meeting in New Orleans and can thoroughly recommend New Orleans as a place to go for an excellent time. Following the meeting David stayed on in the US as guest of Prof Dwight Bowman from the vet school at Cornell University, New York State. Those of you who attended the Hobart ASP meeting may remember Prof Bowman was a guest speaker and gave a colourful presentation on the effects of sewage treatment on the viability of helminth eggs. Whilst at Cornell, David lectured to the third-year vet students, the Faculty and the staff of the Baker Institute. The Baker Institute is part of the Cornell University but it is a specialist research institute focusing on genetic diseases of dogs. Since returning from the US David has settled into the Presidency, focusing largely on the bid to set up the ARC Network for Parasitology. In December, David together with several Australian colleagues will travel to Bangkok, to speak at a workshop on cysticercosis/hydatidosis as part of the Fourth International Seminar on Food-borne and Water-borne Parasitic Zoonoses.

## Carol Behm, Division of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, ANU

The Behm lab have settled into their work on the new MLA/AWI grant 'Drug discovery in sheep nematodes by functional genomics in *Caenorhabditis elegans*', a collaboration with Andy Mounsey at Murdoch University. Suzannah Hetherington will join the group as Research Assistant on the project in January 2004 and a PhD scholarship is currently being advertised. We have recently had installed a Bio-Rad PDS-1000 Biolistic transformation apparatus for genetically transforming worms and PhD stu-

dents Nick Johnson, Stuart Archer and Julie-Anne Fritz are putting it to good use. Carol Behm was invited to organise and chair a WHO/TDR Scientific Working Group meeting on 'RNAi in *C. elegans* as a means of identifying drug targets for filariasis' which was held at Glion near Montreux, Switzerland, in October. The discussion was very lively and the group prepared a recommended strategy for future research in the area. A report based on the meeting will be published in 2004.

## Dave Spratt

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems has a new, 36-yr-old Chief, Andrew Johnson, based at the St. Lucia labs in Brisbane. Dave hopes to be able to renew his Post-retirement Fellowship contract with Andrew next month and to continue his taxonomic and long-term community ecology studies - fingers crossed! His ANU Master's student, Dagmar Lorch, has completed her six months field work and returned to the Friedrich Schiller Universitat, Jena, to complete course work and write up her thesis on the community ecology of ectoparasites (ticks, fleas, mites and lice) of *Antechinus stuartii* and *Rattus fuscipes* at Kioloa, NSW. With marked populations of animals and the use of nest boxes Dagmar was able to examine the exchange of ectoparasites between individual host animals and the degree to which different ectoparasite types utilise the host nest habitat as a means of dispersal. A fascinating finding from her study was that the flea, *Acanthopsylla rothschildi rothschildi*, appears to lay eggs at a highly advanced stage of development and larvae are present in the nest habitat within 12-24 hours of adult females being introduced. Dave's University of Sydney PhD student, Vicki Stokes, is looking at competitive interactions between the bush rat, *Rattus fuscipes*, and the black rat, *Rattus rattus*, at Jervis



Bay, on the south coast. Two components of this study are assessment of the haemoparasites present in these populations and aspects of the epidemiology of infection with the lungworms *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* and *A. mackerrasae*. Lungworm larvae have been recovered from the faeces of both species of rat and adult *A. mackerrasae* have been recovered from several *R. fuscipes* which have been found moribund or dead in the study areas. At this stage, we do not know which lungworm species is occurring in *R. rattus* but my former labmate, Dr. Manoon Bhaibulaya's classical studies of these two lungworm species in Brisbane revealed *A. mackerrasae* infection in *R. fuscipes*, *A. cantonensis* infection in *R. rattus* and mixed infections in *R. norvegicus*. Vicki's work to date plugs a massive distributional gap because *A. mackerrasae* was not known to occur between Brisbane and Tasmania, where it occurs in *R. lutreolus*. However, John Walker remembers finding lungworms in *R. fuscipes* around Sydney when he was the new boy in Bruce MacMillan's lab and which Bruce forwarded to Mrs. Mackerras, but their identity remains unknown. Just to muddy the waters, there is a third lungworm species, *Gallegostrongylus australis*, which

occurs in *R. fuscipes*, *R. lutreolus* and *Mus domesticus* on the far south coast of New South Wales, south of Eden. Neither Dagmar nor Vicki have had any courses in Parasitology, but both have accepted the challenge of a pretty steep learning curve and many hours of tutoring in the lab.

**From Chris Bryant, Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, ANU.**

Chris Bryant discovers, rather to his surprise, that next year marks his tenth since his early retirement to concentrate, part time, on the development of the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. The decade has not been without its interesting moments, not least of which was a rather painful excision from the ANU Faculty of Science to the more welcoming ANU Division of Marketing and Communication. He has found the habit of publishing too hard to break and maintains a respectable rate, but mainly on science communication.

**Compiled by Chris Bryant**

# NSW STATE NEWS

## University of Sydney

Nick Sangster has been preoccupied with IJP matters but finds time to contribute to the lab. Gabrielle Maitland and Kate McMaster have started research degrees, Gabrielle in neuropeptide pharmacology in worms and Kate in host parasite relationships on a MLA/AWI funded project. More staff are due to join the group in the next weeks to months as various sheep worm projects crank up. It is a pleasure to welcome Janina Demeler from Hannover who will be working on the pharmacology of ivermectin resistance.

Jeff Song has just to respond to a few of the examiners queries before his PhD is finalised. He performed some pioneering work on *Haemonchus* neuropeptides for his thesis and has moved into a business venture involved in trade with China where his animal health and production skills will be useful.

**Compiled by Michelle Wooster**





# Northern Territory News

## **Menzies School of Health Research (MSHR)**

Congratulations to Nick Anstey heading the MSHR International Health program who, in collaboration with researchers in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia, has been awarded over \$3.1 million to undertake research to help prevent and treat the most severe forms of malaria, a disease which kills many thousands of people each year throughout Indonesia and PNG. The study will run for 5 years and will introduce and evaluate the impact of new combination therapies for malaria, evaluate new treatments for severe malaria, and improve the understanding of the deadliest complications of severe malaria.

The grant, funded by a newly formed international research collaboration involving Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), New Zealand's Health Research Council and the UK-based Wellcome Trust, is aimed at improving the health of people throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Shelley Walton and her team in the scabies lab at MSHR, in collaboration with James McCarthy at QIMR, have been awarded an NHMRC project grant to look at why scabies mites are becoming increasingly resistant to drugs used in their treatment. They welcome Kate Mounsey into the lab who will be undertaking a PhD focusing on the molecular mechanisms of ivermectin resistance in scabies mites. We also say goodbye and thank you to Annette Dougall for all her efforts over the last three years on scabies mite research. She is heading off on a years holiday overseas.

## **Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories**

Lois, now recovered from her organizational bonanza at the ASP conference, has headed off on a well deserved holiday. However she did manage to find the following article in the local newspaper which indicates parasitology is still very much on the agenda of our politicians and investors.

Compiled by Shelley Walton

## **Wrong end of the tick**



**Mr Corrigan**

The head of one of two freight handling firms operating at Darwin's East Arm Port said the chances of the Adelaide to Darwin rail link making a return for investors was "smaller than a tick's testicles".

Patrick Stevedores boss Chris Corrigan's scathing view of the \$600 million taxpayer investment in the project was published in transport magazine *ATN*.

"... \$600 million of taxpayers' money has been committed ... essentially to a tiny market of 100,000 people in Darwin," Mr Corrigan was quoted as saying.

An NT Government spokesman, dismissing the views, said: "Some people seem determined to talk down the railway."

Reprinted from the Northern Territory Times



# NEWS FROM THE IJP

The IJP Office is humming. As I write this (3/12/03) we are 2 papers short of the annual record submissions (474) and hope to break the 500 mark before the end of the year. If you stop and think it is a huge job to deal with that many manuscripts plus the 30-odd thematic papers. We continue to receive some outstanding papers and because of the high submission rate can maintain good quality. We have recently appointed a new set of 30 Specialist Editors who commence duties in 2004. This has been a complex task to assemble the panel as it required balancing the disciplines, hosts, parasites, geography and personalities. Many Australians who have gone off the list will complete several years of sterling service for the Journal. I am particularly grateful for their help and guidance. The new list contains a healthy number of local replacements.

Look out for the *Toxoplasma* Thematic issue in the New Year and one on Malaria late in 2004. We are also introducing 'Current Opinions' and will invite writers in the near future. I will include a visit to the publishers and production facilities early in 2004 during a trip to the UK. By working closely with them we hope to maintain our speed of publication and thus our appeal to authors.

It has been a pleasure working with Maria and John and I thank all of the membership who give their time to refereeing papers. Couldn't do it without you. Adriaan Klinkenberg who has been an excellent manager at Elsevier is moving on to bigger things in the company next year. Adriaan has been a strong supporter of the IJP during his time in charge and contributed to our success. Our new manager will be based in London and I plan to see them in February.

Nick Sangster

## PHD SCHOLARSHIP

### **DRUG TARGET DISCOVERY IN SHEEP NEMATODES BY FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS OF *CAENORHABDITIS ELEGANS*.**

**School of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Australian National University**

A scholarship, funded by a research grant from Meat & Livestock Australia, is available for a postgraduate student to undertake a research project using functional genomics of the model nematode *C. elegans* to identify new drug targets for sheep parasitic nematodes. The project will include comparative bioinformatic analyses, analysis of gene expression and function by RNA interference, transformation of nematodes with reporter genes, and other appropriate methods, and phenotypic rescue with heterologous nematode genes.

=A stipend of \$25,000p.a. will be provided.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and must have, or expect to receive, a First Class Honours degree in molecular biology.

Further details are available (after 15 December 2003) from Dr Carolyn Behm ([Carolyn.Behm@anu.edu.au](mailto:Carolyn.Behm@anu.edu.au)).



# ASP Student Travel Award

*Council awarded Nathan Bott of the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences at Queensland University an ASP Student Travel Award to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Fish Parasites in Bloemfontein, RSA. Nathan reports on the conference and the big game in Kruger National Park:*

In September I traveled to the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Fish Parasites (6ISFP). The International Symposium on Fish Parasites is held every 4 years. I think I speak for most delegates when I say that the symposium was a huge success! The organizing committee from the University of the Free State did a magnificent job and it seemed that nothing was too much trouble. This is particularly outstanding considering that last year Stirling, Scotland, the original home for 6ISFP had to withdraw from running the meeting. The University of the Free State quickly stepped in to fill the breach and in a relatively short time period produced an excellent meeting. They had an enthusiastic band of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make sure the week ran smoothly. Bird watching walks and game drives were offered to delegates and accompanying persons and proved to be extremely popular. The organizers strived for and succeeded in making it more than just a scientific meeting.

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the meeting was making my presentation, "Coral Trout (*Plectropomus leopardus*) and their bucephalid trematodes from the Great Barrier Reef, Australia" without serious cause for embarrassment - something to which all PhD students aspire to! There were an interesting and diverse range of presentations which I'm pleased to say I learnt a lot from. Topics covered aspects of systematics and ecology of a wide range of fish parasites from protists through to helminths and parasitic Crustacea. Parasitic disease in aquaculture also featured with the challenges of controlling parasitic diseases of salmonid aquaculture in Europe and North America and the problems facing the yellow tail aquaculture in Japan and Australia featuring strongly. I also had the pleasure of meeting many people for the first time all of which enabled me to appreciate the different approaches that ichthyoparasitological research-

ers are taking with their work and the challenges that they are faced with. Of course, it wasn't all about presentations and posters about fish parasites, the organisers made sure that we sampled a wide range of South African beers and local wines, which not surprisingly the Australian delegates seemed to enjoy immensely and I can thoroughly recommend!

When one is given the opportunity to attend an international conference held in Africa, one would be foolish not to also take the opportunity to shoot the Big 5 (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino and Buffalo). So armed with my trusty Nikon I ventured to the mystic continent full of expectations, hopes and dreams. I arrived in South Africa a week prior to the commencement of the 6ISFP to seek out the big game of Africa. Attending Kruger National Park in South Africa's north-east was a truly wonderful and life changing experience, to see so many magnificent creatures often closer than 100m away is something that I will never forget.

I would like to thank the ASP for giving me the opportunity to attend 6ISFP, it was a highly enjoyable and informative experience. I would also like to encourage all student members of the ASP to take advantage of the postgraduate conference travel scholarship, I had a most rewarding time and I'm sure you would too.





# Parasite Culture 1

## THE FLEA.

John Donne (1572-1631)

Mark but this flea, and mark in this,  
How little that which thou deniest me is;  
It suck'd me first, and now sucks thee,  
And in this flea our two bloods mingled be.  
Thou know'st that this cannot be said  
A sin, nor shame, nor loss of maidenhead;  
Yet this enjoys before it woo,  
And pamper'd swells with one blood made of  
two;  
And this, alas ! is more than we would do.

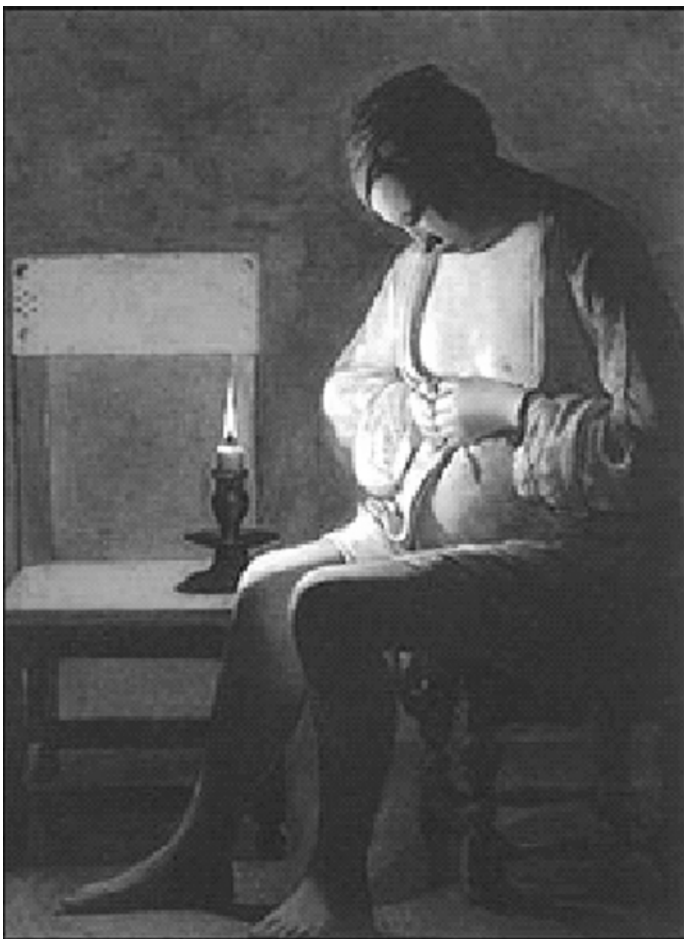
O stay, three lives in one flea spare,  
Where we almost, yea, more than married are.  
This flea is you and I, and this  
Our marriage bed, and marriage temple is.

Though parents grudge, and you, we're met,  
And cloister'd in these living walls of jet.  
Though use make you apt to kill me,  
Let not to that self-murder added be,  
And sacrilege, three sins in killing three.

Cruel and sudden, hast thou since  
Purpled thy nail in blood of innocence?  
Wherein could this flea guilty be,  
Except in that drop which it suck'd from thee?  
Yet thou triumph'st, and say'st that thou  
Find'st not thyself nor me the weaker now.  
'Tis true; then learn how false fears be;  
Just so much honour, when thou yield'st to me,  
Will waste, as this flea's death took life from  
thee.

Donne, John. *Poems of John Donne*, vol I.

E. K. Chambers, ed. London: Lawrence & Bullen, 1896. 1-2.



It's time for a little culture! I've set myself a challenge to see for how long we can keep going a column devoted to references to parasites in popular literature and arts. Parasites have been associated with humans forever, but what is their impact on human thought and culture?

In this issue, I'll start with a poem I found in a John Donne anthology that was lying around at home. To save retyping, I searched the web for the poem, found this version (which is not the original), and was rewarded with a digital copy of the painting (left) from the Historical Museum in Nancy, France (see <http://www.ac-nancy-metz.fr/>), given the English title: "A woman chasing fleas".

I hope you enjoy this little piece, and if, over the holiday season, you uncover any "parasite culture", please let me know.

Malcolm Jones

La femme à la Puce c.1630.  
Georges de la Tour.  
Musée Historique, Nancy



# ASP Announcements

## 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:

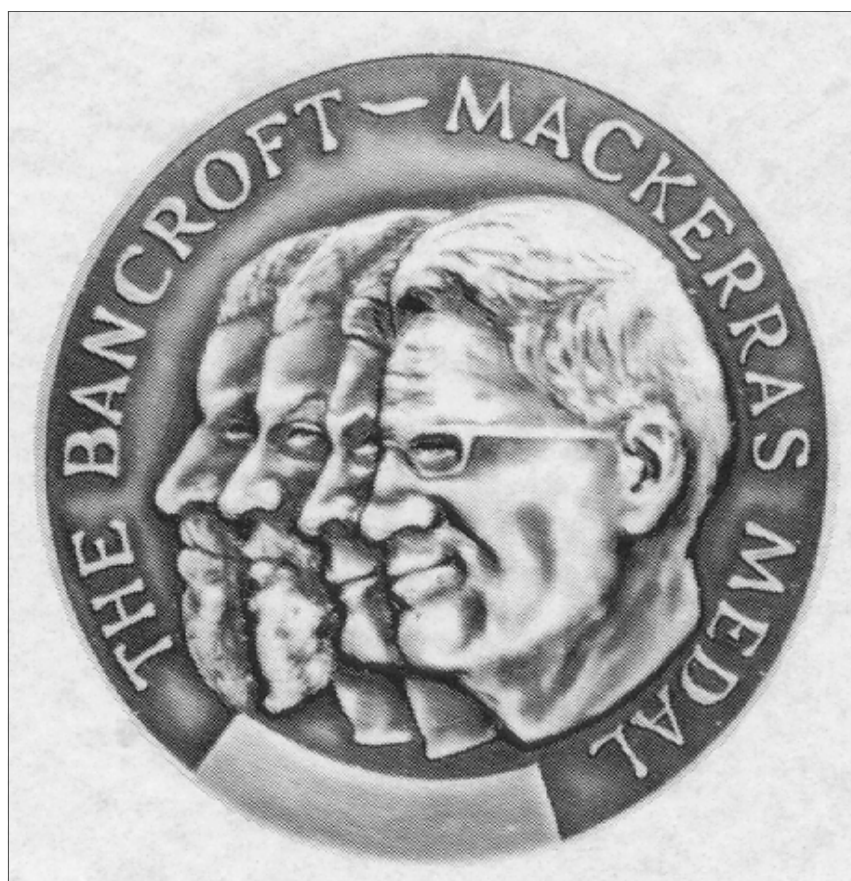
- A detailed statement of nomination describing the nature of the "outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology" for which he/she has been responsible. The statement should be

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.



# Postgraduate Travel

## ASP Postgraduate Travel Awards

These awards are specifically designed to assist postgraduate students attend and 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. 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 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

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## APPLICATION FOR AN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC STUDENT 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: .....

### Conference Details

Conference Title: .....  
.....  
Venue: .....  
.....  
Dates of the Conference: .....  
Conference Address: .....  
.....  
.....

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

.....  
.....  
Author(s) .....  
Oral or Poster session. ....

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

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



# ASP EXPERT DATABASE

The expert database is an initiative of the ASP Council and has been in existence for over 2 years. The aim of the database is to encapsulate all of the parasitological expertise available in Australia on one CD Rom.

This database can be utilised to quickly find appropriate people to comment on current issues or as a source of information for members looking for expertise in certain areas.

To ensure the privacy of these records is protected, they are not placed on the web site and information is only distributed to bona fide requests after permission is sought.

If you have not registered on this database, please complete the following and email to the current database custodian, Lois Small, at [lois.small@nt.gov.au](mailto:lois.small@nt.gov.au).

Title	Last name	First name	
Position			
Institution and Address			
City	State	Post code	Country
Phone number	Fax number	Mobile phone	
Email address			
Speciality area			
Parasite group			
Host group			



# TRAVEL REPORT – WAAVP 2003

*Council awarded Stuart Barber of The University of Melbourne an ASP Student Travel Award to attend the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology Conference in USA. Stuart reports on his experiences at the conference and in the wilds of southern USA:*

Arriving at Melbourne Airport to begin my voyage to New Orleans for WAAVP, 2003, I patiently waited in line to check my bags. After five minutes, I was joined by Craig Kyngdon from Werribee who was traveling to Mexico! Amazing the parasitologists you will meet when traveling! After this we also ran into Marion and Wayne from Murdoch who were making the long journey from Perth to Melbourne and then to WAAVP.

After a very long plane journey to LAX, I had the pleasure of going through USA customs (I thought the travel agent was joking when she said you would need at least three hours to get through LAX – four would have been better!). Anyway, after interminable lines, queues and generally waiting around to pass through metal detectors I was on my way to Dallas Fort Worth that was a required stopover between LAX and New Orleans. After getting on the plane I happened to be next to everyone from CLI, Queensland that made for a more pleasant journey to New Orleans. The time at DFW passed very quickly as I soon learnt that one hour for a change between planes is not very long when you need to go between terminals via a train. Nonetheless we all got on the plane.

Arriving at New Orleans Airport, we all patiently waited for our luggage to come onto the luggage ramp but to no avail. All the Australian luggage remained at DFW (probably due to the short time between planes). We were faithfully promised our luggage would arrive on a plane later that night so off to the hotel. Not wishing to pay

\$150US per night at the Sheraton, I stayed at the Astor on the corner of Bourbon and Canal St. (For those wishing to stay in New Orleans my suggestion would be to stay off Bourbon St). My room was directly above the famous Bourbon Street, which seemed pretty good – although I must admit the brass band playing outside my window to 4 in the morning each morning did start to get the better of me towards the end of the week.

Waking up on Saturday morning I was surprised my baggage had not arrived. Seven phone calls and 8 hours later it arrived! Meanwhile I had taken a trip down the Mississippi on a paddle steamer and enjoyed some typical southern deep fried chicken (kind of like KFC really). After a monumental effort in staying awake all day I crashed into bed at about 11pm. Unfortunately my body kicked into Australian time at 3am in the morning (as it continued to do for the rest of the week) resulting in a very early start to Sunday. Sunday was another warm and humid day in New Orleans and I took a brief tour in the Garden District via the tram (felt just like being in Melbourne but with American houses). Sunday afternoon brought the conference registration and welcome reception with over 400 veterinary parasitologists in the one room!!

The conference proper was from Monday to Thursday with about a zillion papers and posters being offered and about five streams going at any one time. This made it quite challenging to attempt to time your entry and exit to different rooms to hear different presentations. Nonetheless it all ran smoothly although it was difficult to attend all the sessions that you would like given the number of sessions at any one time. Monday night was the first of the organized dinners for the conference. All conference delegates marched down the main street





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(Canal St) in New Orleans behind a jazz band and very entertaining band conductor – complete with our own police escort and the whole road blocked off for us! We then had dinner at the New Orleans aquarium that was very impressive and well worth a visit.

The poster sessions began bright and early at 7.30am on Tuesday and Wednesday (which didn't really present a problem as my jet lag had me waking up at 4.30-5am each morning). The 120 posters presented allowed everyone plenty of posters to read while munching a continental breakfast before heading to the plenary at 9am where Marshall Lightowers gave an excellent plenary lecture on anthelmintic vaccines. My poster described the pharmacokinetics and weight gain following transdermal and subcutaneous delivery of macrocyclic lactones in young cattle. Tuesday evening there was another dinner at the Sheraton sponsored by Merial with the chance to mingle. Wednesday afternoon was free time and allowed us time to visit a "Plantation farm" and also the Bayous to hold onto a baby alligator (less scary than the 5 metre crocs in Kakadu!), followed by sampling the local cuisine.

It would take too long to even begin to describe the number of presentations at the conference as there were over 79 separate sessions (with multiple presentations in each session) during the conference. These ranged from symposiums evaluating the parasites of donkeys through to vaccines, zoonoses, chemotherapy etc.etc.. My presentation was on the Thursday ("Comparative persistence of macrocyclic lactones in weaned cattle") amongst other therapeutics papers. Presenting my PhD data in front of experts in the field was a really valuable experience as was the chance to meet other people in this area. The final dinner on Thursday night was a great way to say goodbye to everybody and farewell New Orleans.

I would like to sincerely thank the ASP for giving me the opportunity to attend the WAAVP conference, both to present my own data and to meet many of the experts in the field of veterinary parasitology whose papers I have been reading for the past four years. The conference was great, both from a scientific and social context and I look forward to attending the next WAAVP conference in New Zealand, 2005.



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**The Annual Scientific Meeting  
of the Australian Society  
for Parasitology Inc.  
26th to 30th September  
2004  
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle,  
Western Australia**



The organising committee takes pleasure in inviting members of the Australian Society for Parasitology to the next annual scientific meeting to be held in Fremantle, Western Australia.

Fremantle is a vibrant and historic city within the Perth metropolitan area, and it has become a favourite destination for domestic and international tourists.

The conference will be held in the Esplanade Hotel, close to the "Cappuccino Strip". This heritage listed 1897 building offers sweeping balconies overlooking the Esplanade parkland.

Fremantle has long been known as Perth's other capital. Along with maritime history and extensive architectural conservation, the Arts have become a central part of Fremantle life where visitors can discover the past and present. Many Arts organisations are housed in historic buildings providing a contemporary use for some of the most spectacular reminders of an earlier history.

Western Australia is famous for its wildflowers, and the best months to see them are September and October. Make sure you leave time before or after the conference to take a trip to the countryside.

**For more information see the conference website  
<http://parasite.org.au/freo04/index.html>**



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Six symposia and workshops are being organized.

- \* *The future of teaching in parasitology* - Peter O'Donoghue, University of Queensland
- \* *Vectors and Vector-borne diseases* - Andy Thompson, Murdoch University
- \* **Dr James Ndung'u**, Kenyan Trypanosomiasis Research Institute
- \* *Parasites and ecosystem health* - Alan Lymbery, Murdoch University
- \* **Dr David Marcogliese**, Environment Canada, Montreal. "Parasites of the superorganism: are they indicators of ecosystem health?"
- \* *Moving home: evolutionary, morphological and molecular aspects of parasite life cycles* - Malcolm Jones, Queensland Institute of Medical Research
- \* **Professor James McKerrow**, University of California, San Francisco
- \* *From the bench to the paddock - chemotherapy and drug resistance* - Brown Besier, Department of Agriculture WA and Sheep CRC  
**Professor Roger Pritchard**, McGill University, Montreal
- \* *New approaches to managing livestock parasites* - Brown Besier, Department of Agriculture WA and Sheep CRC  
**Dr Frank Jackson**, Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh

More details on speakers and titles, and also registration details will be posted on the website soon.

**Conference Organizing Committee**

- \* Brown Besier, Western Australian Department of Agriculture, Albany (bbesier@agric.wa.gov.au)
- \* Simon Reid, Murdoch University, Perth (s.reid@murdoch.edu.au)
- \* Russell Hobbs, Murdoch University (hobbs@murdoch.edu.au)

**For more information see the conference website**  
**<http://parasite.org.au/freo04/index.html>**





## A large, stylized eye graphic composed of various black and white photographs of people in different settings, including a tropical beach, a car race, and a group of people. The eye is set against a background of palm trees and a large sun or moon.

*Theme*

**“Tropical Diseases and Vectors :  
Management and Control”**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The Congress will include Plenary Sessions by guest speakers, symposia, and oral/poster presentations by participants.

The tentative scientific forum will be as follows;

**Sandosham Memorial Lecture** – Malaria the oldest emerging disease- contemporary and controversial aspect by **Prof. Robert Desowitz**, Past President of MSPTM and Current Honorary Member. Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina and/or Professor Emeritus of Tropical Medicine and Medical Microbiology, University of Hawaii

**Keynote Address** - **Dr. Goh Kee Tai**, Director, Department of Epidemiology, Ministry of Environment, Singapore.

**Plenary Speaker:** **Dr. Peter Weller**, National Veterinary Institute, Sweden. Management and Control of Nematode Parasites of small ruminants in the face of total anti helminthic failure.

**Plenary Speaker:** **Dr. Ratana Sithiprasasna**, Chief, Mosquito Biology Section, Department of Entomology, US Army Medical Component, Armed Forces Research Institute (AFRIMS), Thailand. Vectors of Importance in relation to tropical diseases - and Geography Information System (GIS).

**Plenary Speaker:** **Prof. Dato' Khairul Anuar**, UM Kuala Lumpur. Migrants and disease transmission - effects of globalisation.

### Symposia

- Symposium 1 - Drug Resistance of Malaria Parasites – Janet Cox-Singh (University of Sarawak Malaysia)
- Symposium 2 - Control of veterinary parasites – Chandrawathani P (Veterinary Research Institute)
- Symposium 3 - Dengue – Lee Han Lim (Institute for Medical Research) (IMR)
- Symposium 4 - Aquatic Parasitology – Susan Lim (University Malaya)
- Symposium 5 - Emerging and re emerging diseases – Suresh Kumar (University Malaya)
- Symposium 6 - Zoonosis – Rehana Mohd Sani (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
- Symposium 7 - Forensic Entomology – Baharuddin Omar (National Universiti Malaysia)
- Symposium 8 - Urban Pest Control – Lee Chow Yang (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
- Symposium 9 - Mekong Malaria – Marc Coosemans (Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp)/Indra Vythilingam (IMR)
- Symposium 10 - *BTI/BS* for biological control of vectors – Seleena Benjamin (IMR)
- Symposium 11 - Changing Environment and Disease Transmission – Stephen Ambu (IMR)
- Symposium 12 - Vector Biology and Control (other than *BTI/BS*) – Lee Leng Choy (Dow Agro Sciences Asia)
- Symposium 13 - Filariasis – Rahmah Nordin (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
- Symposium 14 - Chemotherapy of Malaria – Lokman Hakim (IMR)

The congress will not be confined to the above mentioned symposia only.

Open paper contributions to symposia and poster sessions will provide the opportunity for delegates to present and discuss their own research interests.

**For More Information:**

<http://www.imr.gov.my/Msptm/>







## Your opportunity to **contribute to the health** of Australian wildlife

A nationally integrated wildlife health system for Australia



### Did you know?

- ◆ Frogs are dying all over the world because of a disease called chytrid which is now here in Australia. It has already caused the extinction of one Australian frog species and many other frog populations are at risk.
- ◆ A type of cancer is killing thousands of wild Tasmanian Devils and we don't know how to control it.
- ◆ Four hundred thousand Leatherjacket fish were found dead along the entire east coast of Fraser Island in Queensland and nobody knows what killed them.

As a nation we need to address these and many other health issues in our wildlife. Help us find the answers by joining, or making a donation to the Australian Wildlife Health Network.

**Background** Following a national workshop in 1999 and an Australia-wide feasibility study in 2000, the establishment of a National Wildlife Health Network was considered vital to coordinate preparedness and response to wildlife and feral animal disease issues, surveillance and diagnostic information across Australia. The aim of the network is to promote and facilitate collaborative links in the investigation and management for wildlife health in support of human and animal health, biodiversity and trade. Its vision is for a nationally integrated wildlife health system for Australia. It is supported by a national coordinator, a dynamic and interactive website, and list server. To date, Network members have been involved in investigation of endangered Green Turtle deaths on the east coast of Australia, wildlife disease incursions in Northern Territory and South Australia, and in supporting investigation of a new disease affecting Tasmanian Devils in Tasmania.



For more information about the Australian Wildlife Health Network, contact Rupert Woods, PO Box 20 Mossman, NSW, 2088 ([rwoods@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rwoods@zoo.nsw.gov.au))





## Conferences



**From Science to Solutions**

# **20th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology**

**Christchurch,  
New Zealand  
16-20th October, 2005.**

*ASP 2005 will be held as part of this meeting.*

**For more information:**

**<http://www.waavp2005.org.nz>**



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Elsevier Science publishes the *International Journal for Parasitology* and handles all subscriptions, including membership subscriptions, on behalf of the society. Elsevier Science is pleased to announce a special exclusive society rate for members of the ASP and urges all members to take full advantage of their membership and subscribe today! The 2003 member-rate is listed below.

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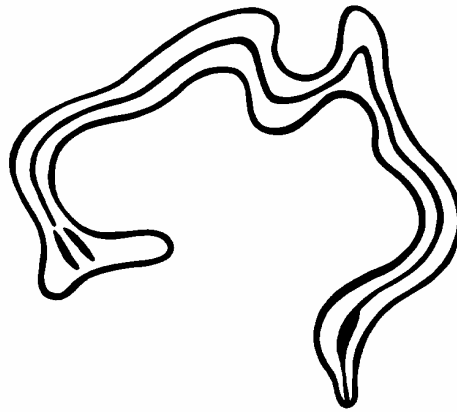
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**the australian society for parasitology inc.**



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