



The Australian Society for Parasitology Inc

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Inside This Issue: The Adventures of Butters the Tapeworm



(Photo: Novartis toys, photo courtesy of Mick Smout)

Also inside: Wrap-up of the WAAVP, reports from Council, State News.



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From the President's Desk



Well this is my first update as President of the ASP and so I'd better behave and keep it civil. Firstly, I feel my job for this year is to continue to communicate and coordinate views, concerns and ways to improve our society to the council so we can be proactive and implement changes. This is where you lot out there, as ASP members, come into it – feel free to ring and harass me with good and bad views and suggestions. I love chatting and all correspondence will remain confidential. We are one of the strongest societies with 400 members now and to grow and continue to improve we require your valuable input. I'd like to thank Simon Reid and his executive board (Ryan O'Handley and Rob Dobson) for all their efforts last year and for making the transition as

smooth as possible. I'd like to welcome the new incoming council members, Carley Bagley, Katharine Trenholme, Nathan Bott and Mark Sandeman. Mark will be revamping the website and giving Russ Hobbs a well earned rest after many years of hard work and dedication – we owe Russ a lot of gratitude and we look forward to Mark's input. My hard working executive board for this year are Treasurer Vern Bowles and Secretary Jodie Zawadzki – all those alcohol beverages to convince you both to sign on the dotted line were worth every cent. The joint WAAVP/ASP meeting in Christchurch was a fantastic event and a great number of our members attended (>150) – so there were plenty of Australian twangs to drown out those NZ accents. I hope all had an enjoyable time; it was certainly great to see so many of our national and international colleagues. Congratulations to ASP student members, Tamsin Barnes and Shokoofeh Shamsi who were awarded best oral and poster presentation, respectively.

A special thanks to Nick Sangster, current Editor in Chief of the IJP, for promoting the journal so well. Nick will be stepping down from the job to have some time to concentrate on the rest of his life! The ASP owes a great deal of thanks to Nick who has continued to maintain the high standards of the journal following Alan Johnson's many years of great input. On this note it gives me great pleasure to officially announce that Professor Brendan Crabb has accepted the post of Editor in Chief of the IJP and will take up this post in the early part of next year. I feel the journal will be in great hands.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting was held at WAAVP with a good deal of members turning up which was appreci-

ated! (of course I'm sure it had nothing to do with the free grog and nibbles....). At the AGM the triennial JFA Sprent Prize for the best recently submitted PhD thesis was awarded to Rebecca Traub and her oration was outstanding – well done Rebecca- there was some very stiff competition.

Mal Jones (now our president-elect) has agreed to determine if the accommodation, spa and food at the Legends Hotel in QLD (for the upcoming ASP annual conference to be held jointly with the ARC/NHMRC network for parasitology mid year 2006) will be adequate. Thank you Mal. Your ability to suffer in the name of parasitology is most endearing. Hopefully we can all 'suffer' together with you in these primitive settings at the conference next July.

The ASP will put in a bid to host ICOPA 2010 in Melbourne: this is currently a work in progress. I have been liaising with the Melbourne Visitors Bureau and getting bits of very useful information from Ian Beveridge as he was involved in the last bid Australia put in. We have even convinced Graham Mitchell to do a sing and dance routine on video to exclaim how wonderful Australia is - if need be. We are currently deciding on a critical path as the bid needs to be placed in before the next ICOPA meeting in August 2006.

Well, Christmas is fast approaching and everyone is panicking and wondering where the year has disappeared. I hope you all have a fantastic break and come back ever more keen to delve into (metaphorically & literally for some!) those parasites. Have a good break and take care.

David Piedrafito
ASP President

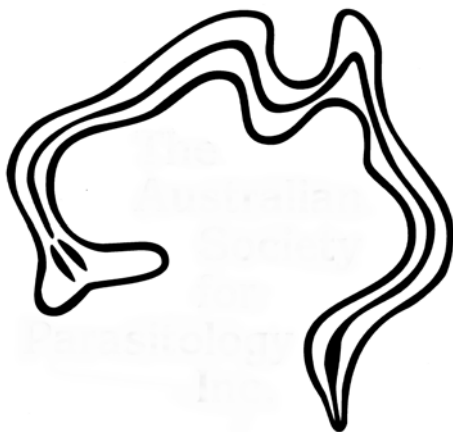


Closing Dates for Nominations for ASP Awards

Bancroft-Mackerras Award - December 31st 2005 (for award in 2006).
Invited Lectureships Travel Grants - December 31st 2005.
JFA Sprent Prize – Next round to be announced Issue 2, 2007.
JD Smyth Travel Awards - December 31st 2005.
ASP Fellowships - before next mid term Council meeting (March/April 2006)

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





Minutes of 2005 End-of-term Council Meeting of the Australian Society for Parasitology, Inc.

**Sunday 16 October 2005
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Christchurch, NZ**

Meeting opened 9:10 am

Present and Apologies

Present: Simon Reid (SR), David Piedrafita (DP), Mal Jones (MJ), Glenn Anderson (GA), Nick Sangster (NS), Allan Mooney (AM – Proxy for Ian Whittington), Charles Gauci (CG), Dave Jenkins (DJ), Rebecca Traub (RT), Carol Behm (CB), Julie-Anne Fritz (JF), Michelle Power (MP), Rob Dobson (RD), Ryan O'Handley (RO), Geoff Grossel (GG).

Apologies: Shelly Walton, Ian Whittington, Nick Smith

Minutes of Previous Meeting

No changes to minutes of previous meeting.

Motion: *The minutes of previous meeting be accepted (SR/DJ) Unanimous*

Business Arising from 2005 mid-term Council Meeting

a) Roberts Tick Collection

Update included in previous newsletter

b) International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature

SR reported that funding of \$5000 has been sent from ASP to the International Trust for Nomenclature.

c) Constitutional changes (webmaster and Article XII)

Council was satisfied with the constitutional changes which will be voted on at AGM

d) Intimate Aliens (IA) (sub-committee)
MJ attended meeting with Rob Adlard and the heads of QLD Museum regarding Intimate Aliens. It was reported that

there appears to be no unequivocal support from the Qld Museum for IA. There was extensive discussion regarding IA and Council remains supportive of the concept. MJ suggested if the display comes together it could be coordinated with an ASP conference. There was some concern regarding the lack of a QM budgetary commitment to get IA running.

Motion: *That President of ASP organize a face to face discussion with the QLD Museum regarding Intimate Aliens (RD/RO). Unanimous*

Motion: *\$50,000 be earmarked for development of IA (NS/SR) Unanimous*

Other Business

SR reported that it appeared a joint conference of the ASP and the Australian Society for Microbiology was not viable.

Council discussed problems with keeping the ASP Membership list current and problems with contacting members of ASP.

Motion: *Next executive contact RGSQ to discuss the ASP membership list and improving contact with ASP members (NS/RO). Unanimous.*

Business Arising from 2004 AGM

DJ presented advertisement for ASEAN Congress for Tropical Medicine and Parasitology at Bandung, Indonesia. Discussion occurred regarding continued student exchange with Malaysia. The issue was raised that ASP already offered the JD Smyth Prize and now the ARC Network assisted with student travel. There was concern that ASP was not receiving exchange in return from Malaysia and there was concern regarding recent travel advisories that restrict student travel to Asia.

Motion: *Suspend student exchange with Malaysian Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DP/DJ). Unanimous*

Reports

President's report

A written report was provided to Council (see report on following pages of newsletter).

SR Thanked Nick Sangster for his great work as Editor-in-chief of IJP. The relationship between ASP and the ARC/NHMRC Network was discussed. Council felt that the ASP conference should be inclusive and it was felt that this might be achieved by maximising opportunities for as many people as possible (especially students) to present.

Treasurer's report

A written Report was provided to Council (report on following pages).

Motion: *To accept Treasurer's report (CB/DJ). Unanimous*

Secretariat/Incorporation Secretary report

A written report was presented to Council (on following pages).

The society is in a strong position with many new members and a total of 409 members. It noted that two long-term members of the society (Rob Sutherst and Margaret McCowan) had resigned. Letters of thanks and invitations to become life members would be offered to the members.

Motion: *To accept Secretariat report (SR/GA). Unanimous*

International Journal for Parasitology Editor's report

A written report was provided to Council (see report on following pages).

Although NS tenure as Editor-in-Chief expires in 2006, he stated he was happy to carry on for 3-4 months until the new EiC commences work. 2005 was the busiest year for the Journal and profits topped \$180,000 for 2004. The impact factor increased for the 12th consecutive year and now stands at 3.092. NS suggested Council consider setting up a Board of Council for the IJP and stated that Elsevier has agreed to \$10,000 in removal costs and \$8,000 for termination pay to relocate the Journal. Council applauded the efforts of NS as Editor-in-Chief

Motion: *To accept the IJP Editor's report (RO/SR). Unanimous*

Newsletter Editor's report

A written report was provided to council. State reps were thanked by MJ for their contributions and stressed need for these submissions. The constitution needs to be updated and re-printed and approximately 600 copies will be required. An audited copy of the Newsletter budget will be provided when it becomes available.

Motion: *To accept Newsletter Editor's Report (RO/DP). Unanimous*

Archivist's report

An oral report was presented to council. DP enquired about having photographs from the archives scanned to preserve this material.

Motion: *To accept Archivist's report (RT/DP). Unanimous*



Webmaster's report and Webmaster council position

No formal report given.

New webmaster to take over pending approval of the position being made part of Council at AGM.

ARC Network report (Dave Jenkins)

DJ presented written report on behalf of Nick Smith.

Conference Reports

2005 ASP/NZSP/WAAVP New Zealand

A written report was provided by NS.

680 were registered including 159 Australian delegates.

There were more than double the applications for the number of slots for oral presentations.

2006 Queensland (Parasitology Benchmark)

MJ reported the conference is to be held at Legends Hotel with dinner at the Q1 Building. MJ reported that there is a potential to have a great deal of funding for the conference.

2007 Conference

A letter from Ian Whittington was presented to council and a joint ASM/ASP meeting in Adelaide is no longer an option. A site for the 2007 meeting was not decided.

It was resolved to approach Ian Whittington regarding the possibility of the ASP 2007 conference in Adelaide.

Awards

Bancroft Mackerras Medal

No Medal to be awarded

CB Requested advice from Council regarding evaluation of nominees for the BMM. A letter from members of the BMM in support of a change to the wording to limit the award to someone with no more than 15 years post-doctoral experience was presented to council as well as a letter in support of the *status quo*.

Motion: To consider drafting a constitutional change regarding the evaluation of the BMM for discussion at the next mid-term council meeting (NS/DP). Unanimous

Fellowships

2 Nominations for Fellowships were received and will be considered at the mid-term council meeting in 2006.

Invited Lectureship Travel Grant

Nothing to report

JD Smyth Travel Award

RO reported that 2 awards given from

June competition. One award from the December 2004 competition was altered due to a travel advisory, and the recipient has submitted a report.

Student travel to New Zealand and other student travel assistance

There were 45 ASP students at the WAAVP/ASP meeting who were to request funding

Concern was raised regarding that with the increase in students, ASP maintains enough travel funding to cover costs of students.

Special student travel awards to MAM

Motion: To discontinue the MAM (SR/RO). Unanimous

JFA Sprent Prize

RO Reported that Rebecca Traub was the winner of the 2005 JFA Sprent Prize. There was discussion regarding ensuring enough capital in the Sprent Prize account to allow for sufficient prize to be awarded. It was also discussed that the amount of the cash award be increased to \$4000, from \$2000 set in 1987.

Motion: To increase amount in Sprent Prize Account to \$50,000 (NS/SR). Unanimous

Motion: To increase payment of Sprent Prize cash award to \$4000 (NS/CB). Unanimous

As there were 7 candidates for the 2005 Sprent Prize, RO was to arrange gifts for member of the prize committee in appreciation of their difficult task.

Correspondence

Nothing was discussed.

Other Business

Recruitment of Editor in Chief for IJP

Candidates for the Editor-in-Chief were discussed by council.

Council selected a committee to interview both candidates. This committee consisted of: David Piedrafita (Chair), Simon Reid, Charles Gauci, and Carol Behm.

Motion: To approve interview committee (RD/RO). Unanimous

Host city for ASP bid for ICOPA

Council discussed ASP supporting a bid for hosting ICOPA in 2010.

Motion: That ASP support a bid for ICOPA 2010 (DP/RO). Unanimous

Documents were provided to council from the Melbourne Convention Bureau

and the Perth Convention Bureau as both cities were interested in hosting ICOPA in 2010. Following discussion regarding which city would be supported by ASP to host ICOPA, a ballot was held. The vote was 10-2 in favour of Melbourne.

Melbourne was selected as host city for ASP's bid for ICOPA 2010.

Financial Assistance to SA Museum in Collections Management for Parasitology

A letter from Ian Whittington was presented to Council requesting provision of funds in the amount of \$12,948 for initiatives for the Australian Helminthological Collection at the South Australian Museum.

Motion: To grant funding of \$13,000 to the AHC at the South Australian Museum (SR/DP). Unanimous

History of Parasitology in Australia

A letter was presented to council detailing progress. There are 19 completed chapters and 5 outstanding chapters.

Science Meets Parliament

Following council discussion it was suggested that 3 ASP members attend Science Meets Parliament and should include one member of the Executive, either Dave Jenkins or Carol Behm, and one other member from the ASP.

Coinfection Biology

Funding was requested to support a web-based virtual centre for co-infection. This was discussed by council, but it was resolved that Council was unable to support the request.

Expectations of each Council position and support for Council.

SR, RD, AND RO agreed to write up descriptions of their duties on the Executive to be passed along to the new members of the Executive.

Other business

Next Council meeting to be held in March 2006.

Meeting closed at 4:53





Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

Wednesday 19 October 2005
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Christchurch NZ

Meeting Opened at 7:40 PM

Present and Apologies

Simon Reid (President), Rob Dobson (Treasurer), Ryan O'Handley (Executive Secretary): 73 members present.

Apologies: Andrew Thompson, Joanne Lello, David Blair

Approval of Agenda for 2005 AGM- *Moved: Mark Sandeman, Seconded David Piedrafita. Carried.*

Acceptance of Minutes from 2004 AGM- *Moved Michelle Power, Seconded Rebecca Traub. Carried.*

Business Arising from 2004 AGM-No Matters arising

Reports

President's Report—A written report was provided to membership (see following page)

ARC Network—David Jenkins presented a report on behalf of Nick Smith.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Dobson provided written report to membership including audited accounts and projected budget for 2005-2006. ARC Network has yet to invoice ASP for the 2004-2005 year, therefore a \$100,000 expense has been projected in the 2005-2006 budget to account for ASP's contribution to the Network for 2 years. The expected slight operating loss did not occur due to increased royalties from IJP which were \$179,611. ASP assets stand at \$701,805. *Motion: That Treasurer's report be accepted. Moved David Jenkins, Seconded Marshall Lightowlers. Carried.*

IJP Editor's Report

A written report was provided by Nick Sangster. Nick Sangster recognized the work of John Ellis and Maria Meuleman for their work with the Journal. *Motion: To accept IJP Editor's Report. Moved Una Ryan, Seconded Mark Sandeman. Carried.* The society thanked Nick for his excellent work with the journal.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Mal Jones reported the newsletter has changed from A5 to A4 size. He thanked council and the membership for submissions and Tracy Laing of QIMR for assistance with the newsletter. He reported that costs of the newsletter were increasing due to the increased circulation.

Motion: To accept Newsletter Editor's report. Moved Rebecca Traub, Seconded Una Ryan. Carried

Conference Reports

Nick Sangster reported 159 Australian delegates at the WAAVP/ASP meeting.

Mal Jones presented a video detailing the location for the 2006 conference, to be held at Legends Hotel in Qld. Additional information will be provided in the Newsletter and on the ASP and Network Websites and a call for papers will be in Jan/Feb 2006.

Prizes and Awards -

Bancroft-Mackerras Medal -No award given

ASP Fellowships- No fellowship awarded

Invited Lectureship Travel grant- None awarded for WAAVP

JD Smyth Travel Award -There were 4 awards granted and next round closes Dec 31, 2005.

JFA Sprent Prize- Rebecca Traub was the Recipient of the JFA Sprent Prize for 2005.

Prizes for Best Presentations at WAAVP -Tamsin Barnes was awarded best oral presentation, Shokoofeh Shamsi was awarded best poster presentation.

Other Business

Constitutional Amendment

Article IV Administration

Motion: To amend article IV of the constitution from:

Section 1

The Society shall be governed by a Council consisting of the following officers of the Society, namely: the President, President – Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Editor(s), Convenor of the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal Committee, Archivist (non-voting), Newsletter Editor (non-voting), and not less than 6 other elected members of which there shall be not more than one representative from each of the States and mainland Territories of the commonwealth of Australia. A state Representative may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

Section 2

The Editor(s) and Newsletter Editor shall be elected for a period of three (3) years and then subject to re-election for further peri-



ods of three years with no limit to the number of years of continuous service.

To:

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Section 2

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.

Moved Mark Sandeman, Seconded Una Ryan. Carried

Constitutional Amendment Article XII Student Travel Grants

Motion to amend Article XII from:

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, receiving an after-tax salary in the preceding financial year not exceeding the stipend of the unsupplemented Australian Postgraduate Award (or equivalent) for the period of their studies and for an additional period of one year following completion of their fulltime studies. 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. 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.

To:

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.

Moved by Mark Sandeman, Seconded David Piedrafita. Carried

Council Nominations

A single nomination was made for each position so all nominees were declared elected. The nominations were:

(Position,	Nominee,	Proposer,	Seconder)
President - Elect,	Mal Jones,	D Piedrafita,	R O'Handley
Vice-President,	Simon Reid,	R O'Handley,	D Jenkins
Executive Secretary,	Jody Zawadzki,	D Jenkins,	R Dobson
Treasurer,	Vern Bowles,	D Piedrafita,	R O'Handley
Councillor ACT,	Julie-Anne Fritz,	D Jenkins,	C Behm
Councillor QLD,	Katherine Trenholme,	G Anderson,	D Piedrafita
Councillor NSW,	Michelle Power,	D Piedrafita,	U Ryan
Councillor VIC,	Charles Gauci,	R O'Handley,	D Piedrafita
Councillor WA,	Rebecca Traub,	S Reid,	U Ryan
Councillor TAS,	Carley Bagley,	G Grossel,	S Reid
Councillor NT,	Shelley Walton,	D Jenkins,	N Sangster
Councillor SA,	Nathan Bott,	L Chisholm,	I Whittington
Webmaster	Mark Sandeman	D Piedrafita,	R O'Handley

Mal Jones said that as President-Elect, he would stay on as Newsletter Editor until a replacement could be found.

Simon Reid handed over the Chair to incoming President David Piedrafita who thanked the outgoing executive and closed the meeting. (The presidential cravat could not be located).

Meeting closed at 9:25 pm



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
For the End of Term Council Meeting, Christchurch, 16 October 2005

ARC Parasitology Network

The Network is about to complete its first full year of operation. I think Nick Smith deserves our congratulations on the incredible job he has done on steering the Network into action and achieving some significant goals in 2005. The Network has begun distributing funds for researcher exchange. The Network Scientific meeting held at WEHI in July was a resounding success. The success of the event is due in no small part to the efforts of Emanuela Handman and Nick who took responsibility for organizing the event.

International Journal for Parasitology

We have two outstanding candidates for the position of Editor in Chief for the IJP to replace Nick Sangster whose 3 year term ends at the end of 2005. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick for his contribution to the Journal and more importantly to the Society for taking the Journal successfully through the transition period from the previous Editor Alan Johnson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick for his efforts in successfully running the journal.

Intimate Aliens Display

Mal Jones has re-opened the discussions with the QLD Museum to reinstate plans to develop the Intimate Aliens display. We need to maintain the momentum now to work with the museum to identify a role for the Society in development of the display.

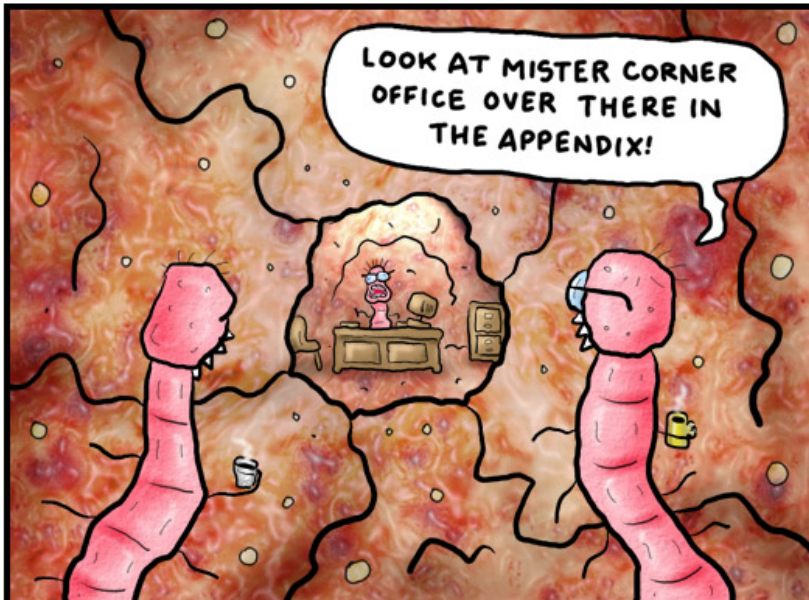
ASP Brisbane 2006

Concerns have been raised by some Council members about potential changes in the ambience of future ASP Annual Scientific meetings with an increased involvement of the Network. Brisbane (Gold Coast) 2006 is the first conference to be run with involvement from the Network, so it is timely for Council to consider how they want future ASP meetings run and what the objective of these meetings will be.

Simon Reid
ASP President 2004-5

DOCTOR FUN

22 Nov 99



Tapeworm office politics

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Treasurer's Financial Year Report to the Society 2004/2005

WAAVP Christchurch October 2005

Robert Dobson

Income for the financial year 2004-5 was Society membership subscriptions (\$15,486) and investment interest (\$9,910). The market value of the iPAC investment has increased by \$29,548 and has returned income of \$10,144. The change in market value is unrealised until the investment is converted to cash. The iPAC investment is by nature a long-term investment and returns are reinvested.

IJP royalty from Elsevier was \$179,611 and represents approximately 75% of the Society's annual income.

Major expenses for the 2004-5 financial year were Council expenses (\$17,111), IJP costs (\$15,400), the ASP University Student prizes (\$4,040), Travel Awards (\$9,406), invited speaker & student expenses from the 2004 Fremantle Conference (\$39,902), Society Newsletter costs (\$4,774), insurance, tax, secretarial and bookkeeping costs. The ASP granted \$10,000 to the University of South Australia for rescue and restoration of the FHS Roberts Tick collection.

The ASP has committed to contribute \$50,000/year for 5 years to the Parasitology ARC research network; however, no invoice was received in the 2004-5 financial year so I expect that \$100,000 will be provided to the Parasitology ARC research network in 2005-6.

Overall the expected slight operating LOSS did not occur because of increased royalties from IJP and the strong growth in the market value of the iPAC investment.

[The Society has registered for GST from 1 January 2003. GST will apply to membership subscriptions and some other income. GST input tax credits will be refunded to the Society on most purchases.](#)

We applied to the Australian Taxation Office for endorsement as an Income Tax Exempt Charity in 2003. This application was successful, the Society will not be required to lodge income tax returns or pay income tax on earnings. The application has been submitted under the 'Science' endorsement category, as the Society's primary purpose is the advancement of science and the Tax Office considers this a charitable purpose.

NOTE

1. Spent Account Term Deposit - reinvestment on 1/5/2005 to 1/2/2006 at 5.50%.
2. On 13/7/2005 \$150,000 was moved from the working account to the iPAC investment.
3. On 13/7/2005 \$50,000 was moved to a Term deposit till 13/11/2005 at 5.55%.
4. ARC parasitology network – no invoice has been received.
5. The teaching relief for the current IJP editor is paid up till the end of 2005.

Robert Dobson
Hon Treasurer



ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs BUDGET 2004-2005 as of 1 July 2005

	2004-5 Budget/Projected	2004-5 Actual	Comment
Income			
Members Subscriptions - RGSQ	17,105	15,486	
IJP Journal Royalty	127,500	179,611	
Sponsorship Income	0	0	
Interest from Working Account	6,511	9,035	
ASP Conference Account Refund			
Total Income	151,116	204,132	
Expenses			
<i>General Expenses</i>			
Accounting & Audit Fees	3,286	1,947	
Insurance	1,236	932	
ASP - Newsletter	7,600	4,774	includes postage
Tax BAS (not GST)	4,000	2,423	
Publicity	0	0	
Bank Fees + State Tax	687	729	
IJP Journal Costs	15,400	15,400	Teaching relief for editor
Postage	300	263	
Council Meeting	16,000	17,111	
Secretarial Fees - RGSQ	3,234	1,740	
Other Expenses	1,000	35	
<i>Total General Expenses</i>	<i>52,743</i>	<i>45,354</i>	
<i>Prizes and Awards</i>			
JD Smyth Travel Awards	8,000	7,226	
MAMs Travel Awards	2,180	2,180	
University Student Prizes	5,200	4,040	
Sprent Prize	3,500	0	
Medals & Trophies	100	0	
<i>Total Prizes and Awards</i>	<i>18,980</i>	<i>13,446</i>	
<i>Conference Expenses</i>			
ASP Conference Student Travel	24,320	23,712	
ASP Conf. Invited Speakers	16,000	15,690	
ASP Conference Prize Winners	500	500	
WAAVP 2005			
Other Conferences			
<i>Total Conference Expenses</i>	<i>40,820</i>	<i>39,902</i>	
<i>Subscriptions</i>			
Subscriptions - FASTS	1,573	1,573	
Subscriptions - ASMR	403	403	
Subscriptions - WFOP	35		
<i>Total Subscriptions</i>	<i>2,011</i>	<i>1,976</i>	
<i>Research</i>			
Tick collection restoration Uni SA	10,000	10,000	
ARC research network	50,000	0	yet to be invoiced
<i>Total Research</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	
Total Expenses	174,554	110,678	
Operating Profit / (Loss)	(23,438)	93,454	
Other (Investment) Income			
Sprent Account Interest	997	875	
iPAC Income	12,000	10,144	
iPAC change in Mkt Value	35,000	29,548	
Total Other Income	47,997	40,567	
Net Profit / (Loss)	24,559	134,021	



iPAC INVESTMENT

Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance as at last Audit 30 June 2004			242,694.00
Change in Market Value to 1 Jan 2005	19,749.00		
Income paid and reinvested to 1 Jan 2005	5,072.00		
Balance at 1 January 2005			267,515.00

Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance at 1 January 2005			267,515.00
Change in Market Value to 1 July 2005	9,799.00		
Income paid and reinvested to 1 July 2005	5,072.00		
Balance at 1 July 2005			282,386.00

On 13/7/2005 \$150,000 was moved from the working account to the iPAC investment account to give a balance of **\$430,736 after paying a 1% application fee + GST.**

SPRENT TERM DEPOSIT

Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance as at last Audit 30 June 2004			35,834.30
Interest paid for year ending 30/6/05	875.11		
Balance on 30/6/05			36,709.41
Current Interest 5.50%pa To Mature on 1/2/2006			

CASH MANAGEMENT (WORKING) ACCOUNT - CBA PREMIUM BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance as at last Audit 30 June 2005			290,572.95
Total credit interest to 7 July 2005	9,035.14		
Total credits excl. interest to 7 July 2005	195,097.03		
Debits tax		134.30	
Bank and Merchant fees		594.38	
Totals debits (excl fees & taxes) to 7 July 2005		109,616.10	
Balance at 7 July 2005			384,360.34

On 13/7/2005 \$50,000 was moved from the working account to a 4 month term deposit account.

This leaves a **BALANCE of \$184,360.34** in the Working account (after \$150,000 was moved to the iPAC account)

ASP TERM DEPOSIT # 6144 50058281 commenced 13/7/2005

Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
Deposit 13/7/2005	50,000.00		
Interest paid for term deposit	-		
Balance on 13/7/2005			50,000.00
Current Interest 5.55%pa To Mature on 13/11/2005			



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR PARASITOLOGY

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Editor-in-Chief: Associate Professor Nicholas Sangster

E-mail: IJP@vetp.usyd.edu.au

Report to ASP AGM October 2005

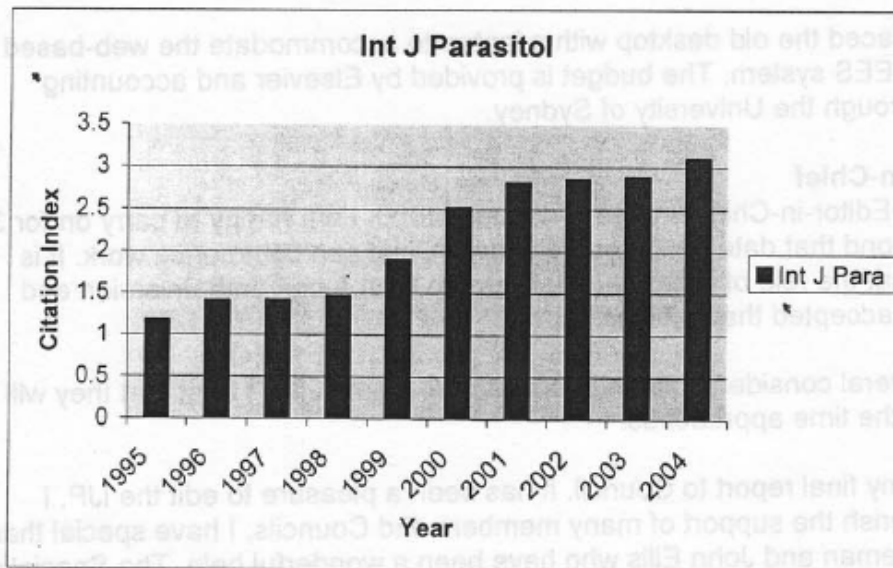
2005 so far...

We have been steadily breaking records in 2005. We have had the busiest year on record and the most submissions ever for a July and a September.

The profits continue to rise, topping \$180,000 for 2004.

Impact factor

Following our 12th annual consecutive rise the IJP impact factor took a jump to 3.092 which places it above every other journal publishing primary research in the ISI "Parasitology" rankings. Only *Advances in Parasitology* and *Trends in Parasitology* head us and they are both review only journals. This moves the IJP clearly into the realm of front line journals and opens the way for further improvement.



Society Service

The Society Service was successfully launched last year and we have a steady stream of requests for logon details. Instructions are available on the web.



Web submission

Web submission (EES) started on 1st May 2005. The time we spent with Elsevier getting the system right for us was worthwhile. As it stands, the system works tolerably well although we occasionally meet with problems which are time consuming to rectify. Nevertheless it gives us flexibility to work off-site. We have been able to speed up processing time to the extent that the limiting factor is doing editorial work on manuscripts. We have also brought the refereeing of Thematics back to the office in order to streamline the work.

Profile of submissions

The new system has changed the way we collect statistics, so figures are a hybrid of old and new. In order, our major sources of submissions for 2005 are: Western Europe, South America, Asia, USA, UK and Australasia. Topic areas are now self selected by authors and so have changed compared with historical records. However, the distribution remains largely unchanged. There is a wide spread of subject material.

Thematic Issues

"Application of Bioinformatics to Parasitology" (John Ellis and David Morrison) was published earlier in the year. Andy Thompson and Darwin Murrell edited the Zoonoses issue which is close to publication and will be publicised at this conference. Two are in the pipeline for 2006: Nick Hunt and Georges Grau are editing a thematic on Parasite/CNS Interactions. Rick Maizels and Murray Selkirk are editing Molecular and Cellular Biology of Helminth Parasites.

Office

We have replaced the old desktop with a laptop to accommodate the web-based nature of the EES system. The budget is provided by Elsevier and accounting processed through the University of Sydney.

New Editor-in-Chief

My tenure as Editor-in-Chief expires in January 2006. I am happy to carry on for 3 or 4 months beyond that date until a new Editor-in-Chief can commence work. It is clear to me that the role of Editor-in-chief is more than a part time diversion and Council have accepted that position.

There are several considerations in relocating the journal, but I trust that they will fall into place as the time approaches.

This may be my final report to Council. It has been a pleasure to edit the IJP. I especially cherish the support of many members and Councils. I have special thanks to Maria Meuleman and John Ellis who have been a wonderful help. The Specialist Editors have been central to the success of the Journal too. The journal is a very valuable asset for the ASP both in terms of funds and prestige and I am pleased to have been able to contribute to its growth. I wish the new Editor-in-Chief well.

Nick Sangster
Editor-in-Chief
12/10/05

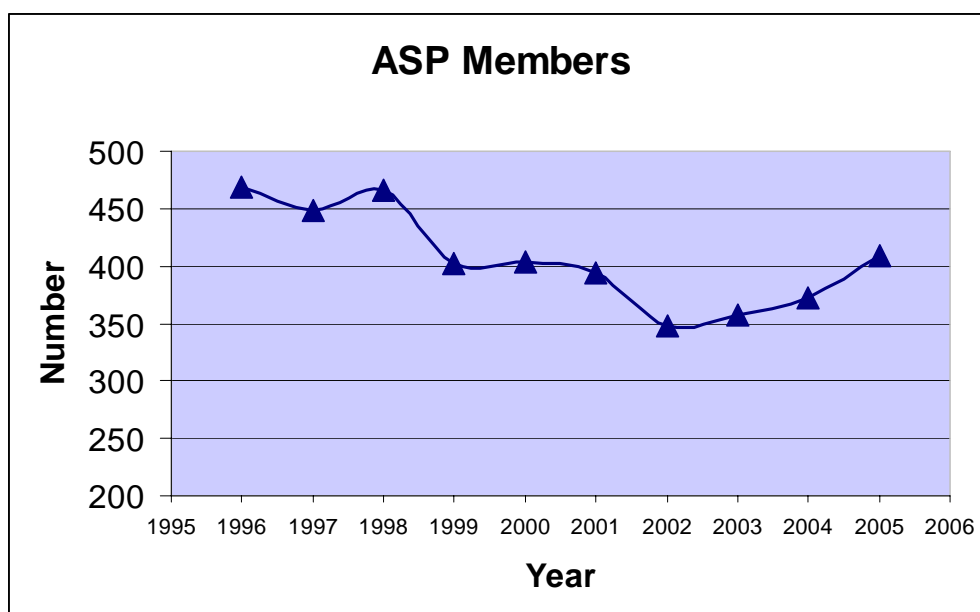


**Australian Society for Parasitology
Secretariat/ Incorporations Report for End-Term Council Meeting**

The Society is in a strong position with many new members. The actual current membership, including ordinary and student members, fellows and life members stands at 292. At the time of preparation of the report, a total of 117 people had not renewed their membership for the 2005-6 financial year, and with these taken into account, the membership could potentially stand at slightly over 400. Details of the ASP membership are shown in the accompanying graph. A full list of new members is attached. Two ASP members passed away during the previous months and two other members have resigned from the society.

A single payment for services was made to the Secretariat in 2005. Kath Berg informs me that she will invoice the society shortly for recent activity on their behalf.

Malcolm Jones
Incorporations Secretary
October 2005



ASP Newsletter Editors Report

Three editions of the newsletter have been published since my last report to the End-Term Council meeting and AGM in Fremantle 2004. Copies of each edition were sent to all financial members and electronic versions are still available on the ASP website (<http://www.parasite.org.au>).

This year we saw the change in newsletter presentation, from an A5 to the larger A4 style. I decided to test the larger page size after a few (younger) ASP members asked if I would ever consider moving the newsletter to a fully digital format. Although I am not tempted to propose that we migrate to the electronic format, I felt it worthwhile to make the newsletter more “friendly” for the website. There has been a minimal increase in production costs associated with the larger format, but most increases in production costs can be attributed to a growing circulation.

Tracey Laing of QIMR has continued to package and post the newsletters for me. I am grateful to Tracey for all of her help.

Costs involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter to July 2005 include printing and posting of three editions of the newsletter. The cost of printing Issue 3 of 2004 was \$788.06 and Issue 1 of 2005 was \$804.82. The distribution of the August 2005 edition was 437, indicating an approximate average cost of \$2.75 per issue.

The next ASP conference is scheduled for July 2006, and there will be accordingly only two issues published before the next End Term Meeting. It will also be necessary to print and supply all members of the ASP with copies of the constitution in the coming year. On the basis of this, and allowing for increases charges, the sum of \$3,500 is requested for newsletter charges for the 2005-2006 financial year.

Submitted to ASP Council for 2005 by:
Malcolm Jones
Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Herston Q 4006

Internal Journal for Parasitology

Council is pleased to announce that the new Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal for Parasitology* is Professor Brendan Crabb of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne. Brendan replaces the current Editor-in-Chief, Associate Professor Nick Sangster, who steps down early in 2006.



Vic News

University of Melbourne Veterinary Science, Werribee

Firstly, staff and students from Werribee would like to convey sincere thanks to the organizers of the WAAVP/ASP Conference in Christchurch for a very well organized scientific and social program. Well Done! The general (unbiased?) consensus, by most of us from Werribee who work on tapeworms and attended the conference, is that one of the biggest highlights of the social program of the conference was the tapeworm sculpture made from butter, which confirmed that despite having rather disgusting life-cycles, tapeworms can be quite beautiful creatures (Ed-Hear, hear!!).

Congratulations to Marshall Lightowlers who was recently awarded a NHMRC Fellowship as well as an ARC linkage Grant, together with Dave Jenkins and Dr LA Hinds, on "Evaluation of the EG95 vaccine against hydatid infection in macropodid marsupials" (2006–2009). Other grant successes include Robin Gasser and Alex Loukas (QIMR) for their ARC Discovery Grant (2006 – 2008) on "Discovery of early developmental events in the transition to parasitism in the hookworm *Ancylostoma caninum* using genomic technologies". Robin and Alex, together with Ian Beveridge and Professor S Ranganathan also obtained an ARC Linkage Grant (2006 – 2008) for their project "Targeted mining for new drugs against parasitic nematodes of animals a synergy of integrated, frontier technologies and a committed partnership with industry". Congratulations also to Mark Pellegrino who was awarded the Dr Sue Newton Traveling Scholarship which will enable him to travel to Switzerland to continue part of his PhD studies as well as attend ICOPA. Youssef Abs EL-Osta has moved to a new position as R&D Scientist with BioProperties, working on vaccine development and validation located at RMIT University. Best Wishes Youssef.

La Trobe University Malaria Labs

La Trobe University researchers involved in \$9m ARC Centre of Excellence

Prof. Leann Tilley is an investigator on an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coherent X-ray Science that has recently received funding for the next 5 years. The ARC has contributed \$9m over 5 years and along with

\$1.8M funds from the State Government and additional funds for Melbourne, La Trobe, Monash and Swinburne Universities. Researchers from Biochemistry and Physics aim to develop fundamentally new approaches to probing biological structures and processes. The Centre will combine world-class expertise in imaging, structural biology, laser science and molecular theory to develop novel high-resolution imaging and probing using the Australian Synchrotron and, ultimately, x-ray lasers. An overarching scientific aim will be to determine the structure of membrane proteins without the need to form large 3D crystals. The grant is headed by Federation Fellow Prof Keith Nugent (Melbourne University). Professor Leann Tilley is Deputy Director of the centre.

Membrane Protein Interaction Facility

Leann Tilley is also part of a successful ARC LIEF grant with Frances Separovic (Melb Uni) and Mibel Aguilar (Monash). The La Trobe component (~\$650K, including ARC and La Trobe University and Ludwig Institute contributions) will be used to purchase a Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy Microscope to measure the dynamics of cellular proteins.

Presentations at conferences

Mick Foley, Department Biochemistry, gave a plenary presentation and Dr Chris Adda a contributed oral presentation at the First Conference of The ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology, WEHI, July 7-8. Prof Leann Tilley spoke at the Australian Society for Microbiology, and the Australian Biophysics Society meetings in Canberra, in September. Ross Weston won a best student poster prize at the 4th Melbourne Protein Group Symposium (20 July 2005) at the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute.

Recognition for work on drug combination as a treatment of chloroquine-resistant malaria

Leann Tilley's recently published work in this area was presented at the Australian Society for Microbiology. It was picked up by Emma Young, New Scientist, and featured in the October 1 issue (Shot in Arm for Tired Malaria Drug). The item was then picked up by Agence France-Presse, BBC News, Channel NewsAsia, Jakarta Post and Yahoo News. Leanne was interviewed by Fran Kelly, Radio National, September 27, 2005

Winston Churchill Fellowship

Jesse Schloegel, a PhD student in Mick

Foley's lab was awarded the Dr Dorothea Sandars-sponsored Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship. He received the award from the Governor John Landy at the Victorian Government House on the 29th of July, and plans to use the fellowship to visit Papua New Guinea for 2 months to continue his studies into *Plasmodium* biology.

La Trobe University Department of Agricultural Sciences, Parasite Control Laboratory

From Mark Sandeman: Conference after conference, this year seems to have been rich in these pleasant and often useful but always time consuming convocations. The Parasite Control Laboratory has participated in quite a few recently. No sooner have we finished the abstracts, posters and drinking from one conference, than we are preparing for the next. As a result, even the PhD students have been heard wondering how they are going to get any work done! I wouldn't complain if all the conference presentations led to papers but that is difficult when you are always preparing for conferences. However, we had a great time at Christchurch and even renewed several useful contacts. Now we just have to find time to use them.

Apart from conferences, training days and OH&S inspections, the lab personal have been flat out looking very carefully at lots of parasite extracts and poo. In a first for this lab we have had two honours students, Hayley and Amanda, looking at a huge variety of poo at Singapore Zoo. They have spent the last 3 months carrying out egg counts and larval identification on the whole zoo population, excluding only the keepers. This has led to some interesting discoveries and an excellent parasitological education for the students. Back home, the sheep CRC crew, Peyman, Steve and Jacquie continued to investigate the smells of infected sheep poo (Ed– some people have all the fun!), its unique protein signature and new ways of getting it to migrate up filter paper. Jacquie is particularly excited as she has the smelling job, while the last job, though apparently the simplest, promises to be the most challenging. Meanwhile with the melting of the snow the outliers of the lab, Tegan and Nicole, have begun their sojourns to the Alps to investigate the current ecological status of the threatened Mountain Pygmy Possum. However, Tegan is keeping up the lab profile by carefully dissecting possum poo to determine the diet and per-



haps find a parasite or two.

Finally, my own role of support, thinking, writing and staying out of the way has been pursued with my normal dedication. The only breakdown in this system has been a recent attempt to rekindle my skills with an ancient HPLC to provide yet another means of poo analysis. However, I will have to leave the report of the success or otherwise of this venture to the next instalment as I have another abstract to prepare!

University of Melbourne

Centre for Animal Biotechnology

The Centre for Animal Biotechnology at Melbourne University will look vastly different next year. Dr Els Meeusen will be leaving CAB in December 2005, to take up a professorship of Animal Biotechnology at the Department of Physiology, Monash University. David Piedrafita, Mike de Veer and Joanna Kemp will also take their staff and projects to Monash with Els. We look forward to telling you how we've settled in next year.

The combined ASP-WAAVP conference in Christchurch was attended by Els Meeusen, Vern Bowles, David Piedrafita, Michael de Veer, Nicholas Kennedy, Jill Pleasance and Rebecca Smith. David, Mike, Nick, Jill and Rebecca presented their work on helminth vaccines and immunology, and David and Vern were sworn in as the ASP President and Treasurer for the coming year. Dave took some convincing that the hallowed ASP presidential gavel was for ceremonial use only, and not to be used as a laboratory disciplinary tool. (Am I allowed to say that?) Nick Kennedy has submitted his PhD thesis on the immunogenicity of DNA vaccines in ruminants and just had his paper entitled "DNA vaccines in sheep: CTLA-4 mediated targeting and CpG motifs enhance immunogenicity in a DNA prime/protein boost strategy" published in *Vaccine*. Simone Beckham has also received news that her thesis on the characterization of cathepsin B from *Fasciola hepatica* has been passed. She will graduate from Monash University on the 2nd of December. Well done both of you.

We are also somewhat concerned about what may be in the drinking water at CAB. In recent months, Nick Robinson and his wife, Sally, have welcomed their new daughter, Sophie Grace, into the world, and David and his wife Marina, have welcomed new son, Bailey. Congratulations and best wishes to the Rob-

inson and Piedrafita families.

Department of Primary Industries Attwood

Staff on the Nematode Vaccine Program are continuing to deliver excellent science outcomes. We have successfully completed a six monthly project review for the Novartis Vaccine project (November), as well as milestone reviews for the GINTIP projects – to all well done.

Some of the team's achievements were show cased at the recent WAAVP meeting in New Zealand, where Jody Zawadzki presented the work on RNA interference, and how the team is gearing up to undertake this work in the parasitic stages. In addition, congratulations to Jody on her appointment as Secretary for ASP – go easy on her. Debbie Donald presented progress towards *H. contortus* target selection using Signal Sequence Trapping and Proteomics; while Paul Presidente packed the rafters with his presentation on the *in vitro* culture of *H. contortus* – well done Paul. Jennifer Sexton presented work on H11. While enjoying the high calibre scientific presentations, Jody, Paul, Debbie and Jenny also took the opportunity to take in the sights as well as doing some serious networking to the wee hours of the morning. Jody and Paul fulfilled their ambition of seeing a glacier "up close & personal" and while they didn't have time to get to the famous Franz Josef Glacier, they hired a car and drove to Arthurs' Pass where a local informed them there was a small glacier below Mt Rolleston. Jody had to 'tramp' 3-4 km up the Otira Valley track to get there, but she got to it and in record time!

On the student front, Sia Nikolaou, co-supervised with Robin Gasser at the University of Melbourne, submitted her fourth publication from her studies, and will submit her PhD thesis by the end of 2005. Sia will continue to work with us as she adds the final touches to her PhD and organises her PostDoc overseas.

Other news, Lawrie Fulton retired in September. Lawrie was given a royal send off in recognition of his significant contributions to the Parasite Culture Unit and in appreciation on his friendship over the years. He will be greatly missed by us, but I am sure Sandy and the family are very happy to have him home and keen to get him working on the long "to-do" list around the house. We welcome Shaifalee Sinah, who joins Carolyn Walker and Paul Presidente in the Parasite Culture Unit.

Kind regards to all our colleagues from all of us in the Nematode Vaccine Program, Molecular Biology, DPI Attwood.

For any queries contact Dadna Hartman, Molecular Biology, DPI-Attwood, (0 3) 9 2 1 7 4 2 8 6 , Dadna.Hartman@dpi.vic.gov.au

SA News

SA Museum/University of Adelaide

Members of the Marine Parasitology Lab have traveled far and wide in the last 3-4 months. Leslie Chisholm, Vanessa Glennon, Allan Mooney, Lizzie Perkins and Ian Whittington attended the 5th *International Symposium on Monogenea* (ISM5) in Guangzhou, China, held at Sun Yat-Sen University in August. Between them, 9 presentations were given. It was a great symposium with approximately 100 delegates and no concurrent sessions meaning that everyone could attend everyone else's talks, which can't be said for all conferences! Presentations by all of the students made both of the 'oldies', Ian and Leslie, very proud. Vanessa won the Best Student Oral Presentation prize, which was a copy of the recently published *Marine Parasitology* text, edited by Klaus Rohde and published by CSIRO. Allan Mooney's account of ISM5, using his J.D. Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award from the ASP, appears elsewhere in this issue.

Kate Hutson travelled to Brisbane, with support from the ARC & NH&MRC Research Network for Parasitology, to visit Rob Adlard at the Queensland Museum to identify myxozoans, and Matt Nolan and Tom Cribb at UQ to identify trematodes from her collections of *Seriola* species. She had a successful time in the sunshine state and has since been busy putting fingers to keyboard, interspersed with an occasional foray to Spencer Gulf for final fish collections, to begin writing up her thesis. Lab and office mate David Schmarr (Uni of Adelaide and SARDI Aquatic Sciences) is putting together a manuscript on the use of parasites plus host otoliths and molecular genetics to discriminate stocks of blue mackerel.

Allan Mooney headed overseas again, this time with Julia Lackenby, who completed Honours on the kingfish project in June, to wave the banner for the Marine Parasitology Lab at the recent WAAVP/ASP meeting in Christchurch. Julia, awaiting the outcome of scholar-



ship applications to join Marshall Lightowers' lab in Melbourne, was apparently turned to the 'dark side' of immunology in New Zealand and, once a publication from her fish parasite Honours thesis is completed, may well never darken her mind with *Monogenea* again! Meanwhile, Lizzie Perkins has just handed in her Honours thesis on 'Multigene phylogenetic analyses of the Capsalidae (*Monogenea*)' having successfully endured the rigours of supervision by Ian, Leslie and Steve Donnellan, a molecular geneticist from the SA Museum. Despite their best efforts, Lizzie has remained enthused (well, relatively!) about *Monogenea* and hopes to continue her studies in a PhD once her bridesmaid duty is completed early in the New Year.

Rissa Williams, another recipient of a J.D. Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award (report elsewhere in this newsletter), visited Colombo (that's the city in Sri Lanka, not the detective with the dirty raincoat!) in October to attend the 6th *Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture*, which was another successful conference where Rissa made some useful future contacts about drugs (that's the kind to control fluke numbers on fishes in aquaculture)!

Brad Smith returned to the Marine Parasitology Lab (he can't keep away since he had a monogenean named in his honour earlier this year) during October to tag large (up to 36 kg) wild kingfish in northern Spencer Gulf. He had a successful month tagging and releasing large kingies, ably aided and abetted by local Port Augusta legend Reggie Godfrey and his son, Darren Godfrey, who have years of netting experience.

Di Barton has commenced work at The University of Adelaide ... as Academic Programs Officer in the School of Agriculture & Wine. Her parasitological research is now confined to weekends and holidays, but she still putters along. She is working on a collaborative project with Dr Cemal Oguz on parasites of various frog and toad species from Turkey, involving identification of worms and writing various manuscripts. Her research on parasites of bearded dragons in Australia is on-going, with the hope of a fresh load of road-kills this spring to try and find the elusive pentastome, *Raillietiella amphibolouri*.

News broke locally very recently that another parasitologist will return to Ade-

laide in February 2006. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) position at The University of Adelaide will be filled by none other than parasitological powerhouse, Professor Alan Johnson, when his 3-year secondment to the ARC as Executive Director, Biological Sciences & Biotechnology, ends. Alan is known to all in the ASP for his studies on phylogeny and immunology of Apicomplexa in Adelaide, then UTS, and, of course, his period as Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal for Parasitology* from 1997 to 2003.

University of Tasmania-Port Lincoln

The Tuna Health Project (University of Tasmania, based in Port Lincoln) is now into the third year of funding. To gain a fuller picture of annual variation in parasite burdens in Southern Bluefin tuna, a six-month extension of the project has been applied for, to allow collection of a full third season of sampling tuna gills and viscera. Hamish Aiken, PhD student investigating the epidemiology of heart fluke in tuna, had another very busy year in Port Lincoln, and has now completed most of his field sampling. He recently presented some of his results to the *Aquafin CRC conference* in Hobart, and the *European Association of Fish Pathologists's Conference on Fish And Shellfish Diseases* in Copenhagen; he then returned to Spain for further collaborative research on parasites of Northern Bluefin tuna with the University of Valencia. He is currently visiting the lab of his principle supervisor, Barbara Nowak, at the School of Aquaculture in Launceston, where he is analysing blood samples he collected from tuna. Barbara convened a workshop on tuna health at the Copenhagen conference, and presented results on the epidemiology of gill parasites of tuna. Craig Hayward has been collecting more data on the epidemiology of gill and skin parasites of tuna, and presented results at the second *FRDC Aquatic Animal Health Conference* in Cairns in July. He then visited Launceston in September to present lectures to third-year aquaculture students (on monogeneans in aquaculture), and also a departmental seminar on the Tuna Health Project. Craig has just heard that he will be funded to attend an international symposium on aquatic animal health next year in San Francisco; he will then hop south of the border to undertake sampling of farmed Pacific Bluefin tuna off northwestern Mexico. Marty Deveney (PIRSA Aquaculture) presented a

talk on monogeneans of Southern Bluefin tuna at the 5th *International Symposium on Monogenea*, held at Guangzhou, China. Close collaboration of UTas' Tuna Health Project continues with Nathan Bott of SARDI.

SARDI - Waite Campus

A great many things have happened over the past 6 months, Nathan Bott has ventured as far as Cairns, Copenhagen and London to extol the virtues of his project concerning the development of PCR probes to detect southern bluefin tuna pathogens from environmental samples. Nathan presented his work at the *FRDC Aquatic Animal Health sub-program meeting* at Cairns in July. As a diehard Queenslander experiencing his first southern winter, the idyllic north Queensland winter days was indeed something to behold! His trip to Queensland also included harassing his old lab mates at UQ and dragging some of them to Brisbane's famous Regatta Hotel for a reunion of sorts. On returning to Adelaide the next month was spent actually attempting to get some work completed before heading to Copenhagen in September for the *European Association of Fish Pathologist's Conference on Fish And Shellfish Diseases* to present his work at the Tuna Health workshop. A quick visit to the Parasitic worms section of the Natural History Museum in London followed, the timing of which was particularly bad; Australia had only days before relinquished the Ashes and it is now widely known that Tom Cribb had asked NHM's curator Eileen Harris to show no mercy. Fortunately Eileen has too much class for such frivolous activities (or perhaps she'd rather save her best for Tom?)!

After all this travel, Nathan has over the past 2 months been able to settle back into a normal work rhythm. The on-going collaboration with UTAS on the geographic distribution of tuna parasites around the world is unveiling some intriguing results.

Nathan has also begun work on another PCR probe project, not parasite related but concerned with biosecurity and marine exotic pests. This project, funded by the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage, will involve the development of real time PCR assays to detect exotic pests larvae from ballast water samples.

If anyone was wondering, that wily Canadian, Aaron Jex, who did his PhD in



Tom Cribb's UQ lab, has jetted into Adelaide for at least the next few months. He is currently doing casual work at SARDI (working on bacteria and fungi that live in plant roots!) while he is waiting for funding for next year and the chance to conquer the world. Another UQ parasitology graduate or academic that has found their way to SA, though Aaron doesn't expect to hang around here too long!

SARDI - Livestock

Ian Carmichael was the only parasitology member from SARDI to attend the WAAVP/ASP conference in NZ. His conference abstracts and literature have been perused by the other staff and Ian's stories indicate that he enjoyed the conference and connecting with colleagues. Almost immediately on return, Ian had helpers preparing another presentation for the animal health veterinarians and field staff on "what's new in sheep and cattle nematode control" with emphasis on the SA story. Feedback suggests that there was some open discussion and his information was well received by the state's animal health staff.

Trials involving ewes and lambs have dominated the workload into the second year of our prime lamb productivity study. Most studies have begun at lamb marking or weaning which has occurred in the last couple of months and required substantial on-farm input. Nematodes have been detected on a few farms with a loss of animals even though the break in SA occurred very late this year. On one farm, we recovered 265,000 adult intestinal worms and 44,000 immatures in a dead ewe, post lambing. The FEC in this animal was 5825 Trich/Ost epg and the flock FEC varied from 25 to 2750 (mean 1150) Trich/Ost epg.

Although the workload on field trips can be exhausting (especially for the SARDI old boys), they give Micko an opportunity to cast the rod and reel around the south-east beaches late in the day, albeit without any recent success. While he sits on jetties and beaches, Richard Martin has been walking conservation parks with his digital camera snapping birds and wildlife and dodging snakes. Last week he was delighted to record a shot of a 'Beautiful firetail', a small, threatened species he had not seen before, distributed only in the southeast of the country.

Ian Beveridge dropped into the lab for delivery of some specimens and a quick chat when recently returning to Melbourne. As always, his specimens have proven most interesting and his conversation was most enjoyable.

Queensland News

Queensland Museum

The long-running *Marteilia sydneyi*/Sydney rock oyster projects have come to an end (at least for this financial year) which means Steve Wesche has ended his stint at the QM. Steve is happily spending quality time with his new son Joseph and also indulging his passion for fishing. Rob Adlard is back in the US of A presenting lectures in veterinary parasitology to post-graduate students at Oregon State University in collaboration with Prof. Mike Kent. In their absence Mal Bryant continues his Collection Manager duties but occasionally finds time to dissect a fish in search of new myxozoan parasites.

Anton Breinl Centre for Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University.

Rick Speare hobbled home from his latest adventure in Peru with a busted Achilles tendon. He says he was on holiday, but knowing Rick there just had to be some road kill examining, frog chasing or poo collecting somewhere in the trip. He and Wayne Melrose are also looking after some exotic pets after having themselves infected with hookworm as part of a study to examine the role of therapeutic infections of hookworm in Crohn's disease - makes for some interesting BBQ conversations. Sonia Harmen has just returned from a cruise among the sunspangled, palm studded islands of Tuvalu whilst carrying out a lymphatic filariasis survey- tough job but someone has to do it! She has become addicted to the lifestyle and is returning soon to do a intestinal parasite survey. Dave Reeve has completed his evaluation of a new rapid test for Brugian filariasis and will be presenting his findings at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene meeting in Washington DC in December. The filariasis group is gearing up for a busy 2006 with major projects in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

University of Queensland

Dr Renfu Shao, a former PhD student of the Department of Parasitology won an ARC APD to work in Steve Barker's lab on the evolution of the mitochondrial genomes of mites, ticks and lice [Only 16% of applicants were successful, so well done Renfu]. Dr Shao has been working on the mitochondrial genomes of ticks and mites, on a Fellowship of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for the past two years. Cath Covacin is approaching the 'final straight' of her PhD on the evolution of the mitochondrial genomes of lice. Michael Stein just finished his Bsc Honours project on the bacteria in *Pediculus humanus* (clothes or body lice) and *Pediculus capitis* (head lice). Steve Barker has been on study leave for most of 2005. What a joy! Head lice, and how to kill the little suckers, have taken over Steve's lab at present; and indeed his life.

QIMR

James McCarthy (QIMR) and Andrew Kotze (CSIRO Livestock Industries) are heading back to Papua New Guinea in late November 2005 to continue with their work on anthelmintic resistance in hookworm parasites of humans around the Madang area. They are hoping to test drug sensitivity in as many hookworm samples as possible as part of their WHO-funded efforts to develop assay systems suitable for monitoring drug resistance levels as the people in the area are exposed to benzimidazole drugs.

Congratulations to all in the Malaria Biology Laboratory on their recent successes. Katharine Trenholme and Don Gardiner have been awarded an ARC discovery grant in conjunction with Prof John Dalton (IBID Sydney) to look at aminopeptidases involved in regulating the amino acid pool in malaria parasites. Matthew Dixon (PhD student) was awarded an ANZ Trustees Scholarship for his studies on "Commitment to gametocytogenesis in *P. falciparum*" and also won 2nd prize for best oral presentation at the UQ School of Population Health Student Conference in Nov.

Thanks to a grant from the ARC/NHMRC Parasitology Network Paula Hawthorne spent a fruitful three-weeks with Leann Tilley and Nick Klonis in the Department of Biochemistry



at La Trobe University learning the finer points of FRAP and FRET analysis. Charlene Willis (PhD student, Malaria and Scabies Laboratory) and Paula Hawthorne were also awarded runner up prizes for their excellent oral presentations at the School of Population Health Student Conference.

Tina Skinner-Adams won the prize for the Best Oral Presentation in the category of Innovation from Basic Science at The Annual Health and Medical Research Conference of Queensland (Nov. 2005) for her work on the use of antiretroviral drugs as antimalarials and was also awarded a Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation Establishment Grant.

Congratulations also to the Helminth Biology lab at QIMR headed by Alex Loukas, they recently received a project grant from the NHMRC (Haemoglobin degrading proteases as anti-hookworm vaccines) and a discovery project grant from ARC with Robin Gasser (Discovery of early developmental events in the transition to parasitism in the hookworm *Ancylostoma caninum*).

In other news, Mark Pearson (supervised by Alex and Don McManus) was recently awarded his PhD and has decided to stay in Alex's lab for the next couple of years as a postdoc. Bennett Datu (PhD student) has just left John Hawdon's lab in Washington DC after learning how to silence hookworm mRNAs, and is now in Glasgow with Tony Page learning how to introduce genes into parasitic and free-living nematodes - Ben's trip was funded by the ARC/NHMRC Parasitology Research Network.

CSIRO Livestock Industries, Rockhampton

After being formed three years ago, the Parasitology group in CSIRO Livestock Industries at Rockhampton has ceased to be and Ian and Juliet Sutherland decided to return to NZ. Juliet is now working in nutrigenomics with Crop and Food in Auckland, and Ian will be setting up his own consultancy business. Ian and Juliet say that they have enjoyed their time in Rockhampton, would do it all again, and would like to say bye for now to all their great friends and colleagues in Australia.

ACT News

Two of Lesley Warner's PhD students from Central Queensland University at Rockhampton spent time in the lab with Dave Spratt recently. Eridani Mulder is studying parasites of water pythons,

Liasis fuscus, on the Adelaide River floodplain near Beatrice Hill in the Northern Territory. She has some rather puzzling findings, most significant being several adult nematode species with indirect life cycles which do not occur as larval infections in dusky rats, *Rattus colletti*. These rats constitute 95% of the prey items in water pythons. She has just described with Hugh Jones the first record of a species of *Dracunculus* from water pythons and we also examined specimens of what appears to be a species of *Eustrongylides*. Hayley Weaver is working on the occurrence and geographical distributions of ecto- and endo-parasites of rock rats, *Zyomys argurus*, and those of four species of *Pseudomys* from different habitats in north and central Queensland. We managed to squeeze in an hour in the Canberra Botanic Gardens, which is displaying spectacularly just what can happen native flower-wise when you get the first spring in four years.

Congratulations to Professor Ian Clark (ANU) and his collaborator, Professor CL Geczy, who have been awarded ARC Linkage Grants for 2006 - 2008 for their project "Identification of novel markers of inflammation".

David Jenkins had a hip replacement on 8 November. The new bionic version of his former self is up and about and by January 2007 anticipates he will be leaping buildings with one mighty bound! If not quite that, at least fully mobile and back at work.

NSW News

Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases

Congratulations to Nick Smith, Sabina Belli, John Dalton and Liz Harry for their successes in the recent round of ARC funding. Nick was awarded 2 grants - one to work with Sabina on "The biosynthesis of structural proteins in parasites" and the other to work with Professor Jim Wiley (Nepean Hospital/University of Sydney) on their project "Parasite virulence: the role of activation and suppression of P2X7 receptors". John, along with Don Gardiner and Katherine Trenholme and collaborator, Dr J Grembecka, won the grant for their project "Aminopeptidases involved in regulating the amino acid pool in malaria parasites". Liz was awarded the grant for her project "Establishing how bacterial cells position the division site"

We would also like to welcome those who have recently joined us at IBID. Lisa Jones has recently started work with Nick Smith as the ARC/NHMRC Network Communicator. Lisa is originally from South Australia but has spent the last 7 years living in London. Sydney has made her feel right at home with lots of rain to help her settle in! We also welcomed Jan Slapeta and Iveta Slapetova who arrived in October from the Czech Republic via stints in research labs in the US and France. Jan and Iveta will be working with Nick Smith, Sabina Belli and Nigel Beebe on the cell biology of gametocytes of Apicomplexan parasites. The Irish contingent continues to grow with the arrival of Aithne Cunningham and Jonathon Lowther from Dublin. Aithne won a DEST scholarship to do the final year of her PhD on proteases of *Plasmodium* while Jonathon is doing a post-doc with John Dalton on the kinetics of parasite proteases. Sadly we also farewelled "Chicken" Dave Witcombe. David did his PhD and a post-doc with Nick Smith on *Eimeria* followed by another post-doc with Mary Davey on *Haemonchus*. In keeping with his love of the Roosters (Sydney Rugby league team) Dave has accepted a position as Program manager R&D at the Australian Egg Corporation, Ltd and so has transformed into "Corporate" Dave.

We have continued to get out and about with Nick Smith attending the IXth International Coccidiosis Conference in Brazil in September and John Dalton, Mary Davey and Irene Sotirchos attending WAAVP in New Zealand in October. Our Director, Michael Wallach has also been jetting around the world combining work trips to Israel, Sweden and the US with a glorious 3 weeks in Tuscany.

Congratulations also to Lyndal Thompson and Sabina Belli who both took the plunge with Lyndal marrying Michael Wheeler in August and Sabina marrying David Pierce in October.

Macquarie University

The Environmental Biotech CRC group has appointed two new PhD students, both will be working on detection methods for parasites and bacteria from industrial wastewaters. Anitha Alagappan will be concentrating on genotyping and the development of multi-colour detection methods for *Cryptosporidium* while Jamal Al Tebrineth will concentrate on using Quantum Dots as an alternative



for fluorescence detection of protozoa. Belinda Ferrari and Kate Stoner completed work on the detection of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* from industrial wastewaters, this work was presented at a AWA specialty conference on 'Contaminants in Water' and at the Australian Society for Microbiology national conference. Quach Truong (PhD student) has advanced well with his research and has developed a superior method for the isolation of high quality *Cryptosporidium* oocysts for proteomic applications. During this process he identified a need for qualitative and quantitative analysis methods for parasites isolated from faecal samples and gone ahead and developed a rapid, sensitive flow cytometric analysis method which he has submitted for publication. Quach also presented his research at WAAVP in Christchurch.

The Marsupial Immunology group continues its quest for parasites in marsupials. Nichola Hill has been involved in the parasite screening of a captive colony of spinifex-hopping mice to provide clues as to the unusually high mortality rate of the mice. As a consequence of the screening, Nichola stumbled across new host records for a Rodentolepid cestode and a *Myocoptes* mite that had colonised the mice in high numbers. 2005 has been a productive year for Inger Vilcins, who has continued to collect and identify ecto-parasites from a range of native fauna.

St Vincents Hospital

The Australian Society for Microbiology Parasitology special interest group (SIG) held a very successful parasitology meeting on the 21st of September at St Vincent's Hospital. Over 40 people attended a rather informative evening, which commenced with a lecture by Rashmi Fotesar from UTS. Rashmi's presentation was on the prevalence and molecular typing of *Entamoeba histolytica* in inner city Sydney. To some people's surprise, yes we do find *E. histolytica* in urban areas of Sydney!

The next presentation was on molecular techniques for diagnosis of *Dientamoeba fragilis* by Damien Stark. Damien talked about a new real-time PCR assay developed by the team at St. Vincent's in conjunction with UTS.

Prof John Goldsmid, who came all the way from Tasmania, delivered the final presentation on "Infections from Home and away". His talk was extremely informative as he discussed his parasitological experiences in both Rhodesia and Australia.

He happily shared his extensive knowledge on all things parasitic, and touched on the rare and unusual parasites that he has encountered throughout his working career as a medical parasitologist. Overall the night was very rewarding and informative, and enjoyed by all those who attended.

In February 2006, St.Vincent's will be holding another ASM SIG parasitology meeting. I would like to invite all Australian Society of Parasitology members to attend this event. Drinks and food will be provided along with some stimulating talks from Prof Karrie Rose on "Leishmaniasis – an Australian perspective" and discussing the newly discovered *Leishmania* in red kangaroos. Prof John Ellis will be talking about one of his favourite subjects, a few clinical cases will be presented by Assoc Prof Debbie Marriott and Damien Stark will be talking about laboratory diagnosis of leishmaniasis. Stay tuned for dates and time. I hope to see many NSW ASP members there!

Sydney University (Vet Science)

The IJP editorial office staff were at the WAAVP conference, mingling with authors and referees. It was a good opportunity to put faces to names, especially for Maria who doesn't get out of the office much. Lots of positive feedback was received about the journal. It was also good to meet many of the students and knowing that the hard work at the IJP helps to support people starting out in the parasitology field is a great motivator to keep up the good work.

The lab was well represented at WAAVP with Tony Rowe, Michelle Power and Kate McMaster presenting their research in various forms. Abdullah Al'anazi made a whirlwind visit to attend the horse parasite session and Nick Sangster was present and accounted for in his many, many WAAVP roles. Tony and Nick wound down after WAAVP with a two week adventure around NZ. Kate McMaster also remained in Christchurch for some leisure days, and is soon to head overseas for the holiday period. Celebrations in the lab included Nick reaching half a century (and that was not in a cricket game!).

Some of you may recall Michelle Wooster, the previous NSW Council Rep. Although not at Sydney Uni recent news from Michelle includes the arrival

of Luke Samuel Wooster, (9lb 7oz (4.29kg), 54.5cm long) born on the 6th November.

WA News

Congratulations to Andy Thompson of Murdoch University, who just heard that his group and Epichem [Wayne Best and Colette Sims] have received a large grant from The Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi), Geneva. The funding, \$240, 000 in the first year, is specifically for their research on developing new drugs for sleeping sickness. Most importantly, it will allow the team to take the research to the next step, which will be concerned with optimising their lead compounds. As such the funds will allow them to establish a strong collaborative link with the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation (CDCO) at Monash University, headed by Professor Bill Charman.

NT News

Menzies School of Health Research

Life in the scabies lab has had an international flavor over the last few months and has included saying goodbye to Linda Viberg, an MSc intern from Sweden. After sunset drinks on the shores of the Arafura Sea she headed back to the cooler climes to submit and defend her thesis. Plans are Linda will return in 2006 to continue her studies as a PhD student.

We also said bon voyage to Kate Mounsey who headed off to Canada to work in Roger Pritchard's lab at McGill University for three months, and by all accounts, is very much enjoying the Canadian experience - especially the festivities of Halloween and Thanksgiving! Kate will join Deb Holt in December in Washington DC, where both are presenting at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Conference.

We also welcome back Annette Dougall to the lab who has returned to us after 2 years traveling in Europe. Visitors have included Cielo Passay from QIMR collaborating on the scabies resistance project, Neeru Varese from Monash University collaborating on the cysteine protease project, and Flavia Huygens from the QUT collaborating on a *Staphylococcus* genotyping project.



WAAVP WRAPUP

The 2005 WAAVP conference was hosted in Christchurch, NZ during late October. This year the annual ASP conference was held in conjunction with WAAVP. The combined conference attracted over 150 Australian delegates. From an ASP aspect, the standout included combining the AGM with food and beverages making for an exceedingly jovial meeting. Overall the conference was a huge success and everyone

(interactions) on Tuesday, the same day that I was presenting my poster. It was great to see quite a number of people working on parasites in China, as it helped to put my work into perspective.

Early mornings, late nights and free coffee all day long made an interesting environment for the 650ish people to interact socially and academically, whilst an inspiring talk by Sir Edmund Hillary at the Antarctica Centre on the Monday evening surely motivated even the laziest of scientists. Socially, the

Jenkins]

"A great opportunity to network with the commercial people". [David Jenkins]

"I had a great time" [David Jenkins, again!]

"My favorite moment was the result of interstate rivalry: "The Queenslanders want to steal the tapeworm, but they're not going to.....We are." (Non-Queenslander colleague). Spurred on by other members of the Society [ASP], we took the butter statue from the stage (pausing momentarily to explain the rudiments of tapeworm physiology to the lady at reception) and then embarked on a tour of Christchurch- to the Captain Cook monument, to the Cathedral, and then to Burger King for a bite to eat. Needless to say it excited a bit of comment from the locals. We returned it unharmed to the Conference Centre; well, almost unharmed, the tapeworm had acquired two Australian flags sticking out of the base. I like to think of it as doing our bit to promote the Society's bid for ICOPA 2010. They'll see the flags, they'll say: "Australians, who else", and that thought will stay with them come the ballot". [Anonymous]

"The conference was better than I expected, not being a worm person myself" [Simon Reid]

"Sir Edmund Hillary.....what an inspiration" [Luke Moertel]

"So many interesting people" [Maria Meuleman]

"upsizing of the Novartis coffee machine" [Michelle Power]

The finger food laden social functions were a bit of a drag.....but oh was the dancing good! [Simon Reid]

"An outstanding conference - scientifically and socially" [Brown Besier]

"I found the meeting stimulating and molecularly focused, and a socially brilliant meeting too!" [Terry Spithill]

"Finishing my talk - so glad it was on the first day" [Tamsin Barnes]

"With a thought provoking scientific program and extensive social activities (plenty of dancing and drinking), we returned with many new ideas; but at the same time quite exhausted" [Jody Zawadzki]

"Fantastic conference, great organization and sessions. An excellent time was had by all who attended. New Zealand weather was particularly kind" [Craig Hall]

"That was a great conference. Stand-out? social events and the dancing" [Una Ryan]



appeared to have a great time. Aspects of the conference have been captured through comments from attending ASP members, starting with a postgraduate student's perspective from Julie Balen from QIMR:

"It was my first time in New Zealand and my first time presenting a poster at a 'real' scientific conference, and I returned to Brisbane with very positive impressions of both. Despite the overwhelming number of vets and veterinary-based presentations (!) and the clear lack of schistosomiasis (and scabies, Charlene) focus, the sessions were, in general, both intriguing and informative. At times it was a tough decision between several concurrent sessions, which ranged from A (e.g. anthelmintic resistance) all the way to W (e.g. Wildlife). There were some stimulating discussions in Monday afternoon's session E7 (parasite nutrition), however I particularly enjoyed sessions M2 (modeling), N7 (zoonoses) and O2

highlight was certainly the gala dinner on the last evening. I'm sure that nearly everyone in the room danced at some point in the evening. Sadly, the Melbourne group escaped with the 1000 NZD butter-tapeworms before we could tackle them (we saw you!) but I am not sure whether they actually managed to bring them through customs... ... Lastly, a chance to say a BIG thanks to the ASP for funding poor students like myself. See you all at the Gold Coast next year!" [Julie Balen]

"Excellent meeting, saw more of the Australian Parasitology community in one place in Christchurch than I have seen for ages" [David Jenkins]

"Good quality plenaries, very good contributed papers" [David Jenkins]

"Overwhelming social activities" [David Jenkins]

"Good organization both for the social activities and especially the scientific program. Nick Sangster et al did a great job organising all the sessions" [David



"I really, really enjoyed WAAVP and I am so glad about ASP decision to combine the Annual ASP meeting and WAAVP. It was a great opportunity to meet big scientists both from Australia and overseas, that impressed me most.....and of course a big thanks to ASP for the support of students to travel and attend such conferences. I am sure it has provided a good opportunity for all pgrads to discuss their works with other experts" [Shokoofeh Shamsi]

"Standout moment... during WAAVP awards session when a stunned ASP president Simon Reid realized that the next chairperson (WAAVP President) was not present" [Robert Dobson]

"Novartis Toys" [Jennifer Sexton] "My favourite thing was the butter sculptures of the *Taenia* worms, and my favourite moment (apart from receiving the Sprent prize!) was sliding down the ice in the Antarctic simulation room! Yip-pee!" [Rebecca Traub]

"Good showcase of industry research and interests" [Julie-Anne Fritz]

"The Presidente formula.....I was surprised to see my name 'in lights' during Dave Leathwick's talk on the first morning. Over the years, I've had some feedback on that paper, some positive, some negative. I had to catch up with Dave to find out whether his reference was as a good, or bad, thing. To my pleasant surprise, he indicated that the formula included in the paper is used widely in NZ to correct for changes in the control group between pre- and post-treatment samples when doing 'Faecal' Egg Count Reduction Tests. They refer to it as the 'Presidente formula', rather amusing,



methinks!" [Paul Presidente]

"The Dancing was awesome" [Jennifer Sexton]

"WAAVP/ASP was a great experience! I now know I don't have to just watch out for microbial parasites in cowcrap, but that I also need to keep an eye out for worms and practically everything else that breathes" [Quach Truong]

Cow Moments.....[Paul Lloyd]

Person1: Hey X, they're giving away free cows

Person2: free cows??? <thinking only a farmer would want a free cow>

Person3: yeh, I'm going back to collect mine later.

Person1: I took mine back to the hotel during the break

Person2: <look of disbelief>

Person1: I'm going back again later to try and get another one.

Person2: 2 cows! what are you going to do with 1 cow, let alone 2!!!

Person3: well If you don't want a cow, you can just get a chocolate . or espresso coffee...

Person1: can you get a cow and give it to me if you don't want it?

"Or maybe a better highlight would have been [hrrmm, no names] swag bag going through the xray machine at customs...5 small cows, 3 small dogs, 1 large cow, 3 small sheep, 4 squeeze cows and a flea diagnoser. Did she have penguins too?" [Paul Lloyd]

"I'd also like to mention that Peter Jeschke's talk about the derivation of cyclooctadepsipeptides from 2-hydroxy-(R)-carboxylic acids and N-methyl-(S)-amino acids using amide and ester linkages was definitely a WAAVP highlight. It was a special moment".....[Paul Lloyd]

Thanks to Michelle Power, who provided this report.



The adventures of Butters the tapeworm (and friend)

A highlight of the WAAVP dinner was the exquisite pair of tapeworms, crafted from butter. Butters and his friend proved to be quite the party-animal and stepped out in style. Our roving reporters managed to catch Butters at his (her?-their???) wicked best.



Butters with friends at the conference dinner



Butters steps out for a night on the town.



Butters goes to church.



Butters enjoys some fast food.



Butters make new friends



More from WAAVP



Your hardworking ASP Council

Parasitologists on tour



Tamsin Barnes– winner of best ASP student oral presentation at WAAVP



Rebecca Traub, recipient of the JFA Sprent Prize is congratulated by ASP President Simon Reid



19/10/2005



JD Smyth Awards

The ASP awarded two students funds to attend JD Smyth Awards to attend international conferences and workshops in parasitology. Here, Rissa Williams from University of Adelaide, reports on her travels to Sri Lanka to attend the Sixth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture, held from 24th-28th October 2005. On the following pages, Allan Mooney, from the same University, writes about his experiences at the International Symposium on the Monogenea in China.

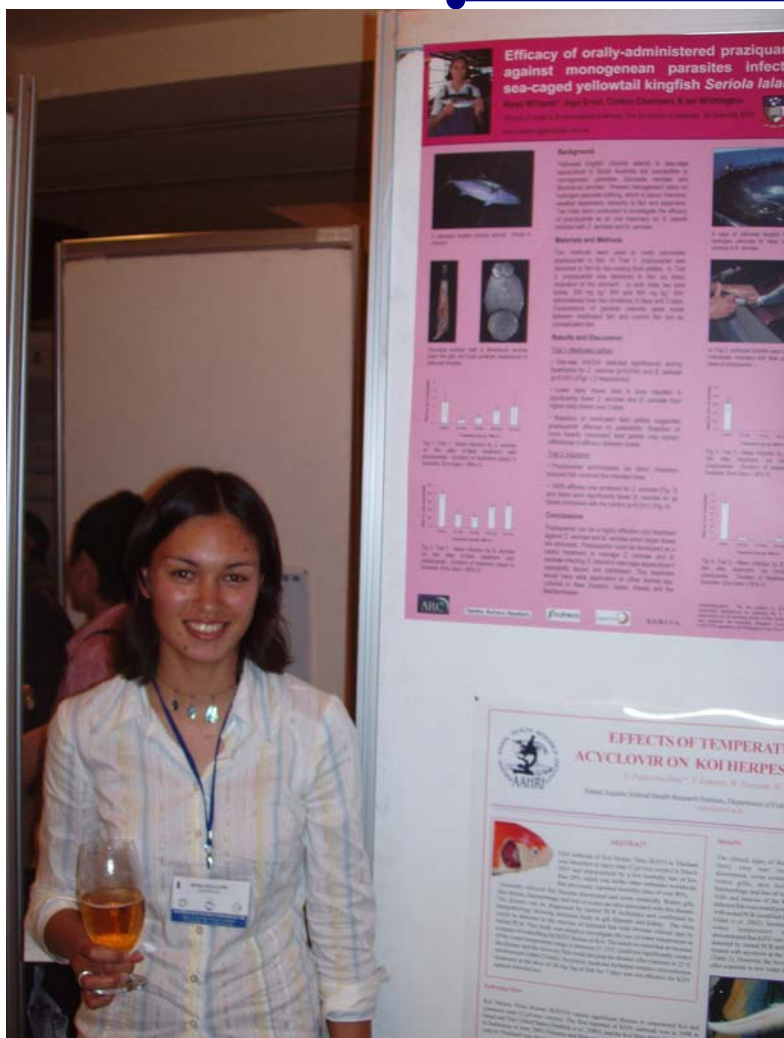
The Fish Health Section (FHS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) holds a triennial “Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture”, a meeting of members and aquatic animal health professionals, to discuss broad issues and specific topics related to aquatic animal health. This year the Sixth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA6) was hosted in Colombo, capital of the beautiful island of Sri Lanka.



This year's symposium attracted 160+ delegates representing 35 countries, and was themed: “Aquatic Animal Health: Facing new challenges”. The conference venue was Colombo Plaza Hotel, a 5-star complex located on 10 acres of landscaped gardens including a well-stocked Koi carp pond that garnered interest from many delegates! The catering and service provided by the hotel was superb. The conference started with an icebreaker across the road at the Galle Face Hotel, a magnificent heritage building right on the Indian Ocean. This was followed by four days of oral presentations, together with twelve keynote speakers, addressing several topics including biosecurity in aquatic health, regional/international cooperation, health management in shrimp (prawn) farming and molluscs and the local Sri Lankan perspective on aquatic health.

One of the issues that surfaced in a number of discussions was the divergence between veterinarians and “non-veterinarians” working in aquatic animal health. There are many aquatic health professionals out there who are very knowledgeable, some with years of experience but who cannot officially “diagnose” a disease or prescribe medication, without being registered as a veterinarian. Conversely, many veterinarians receive inadequate training in aquatic animal health. It is important that fish farmers, governments, monitoring bodies and others seeking advice in aquatic animal health, are getting the right information from properly qualified people and that diagnoses and prescriptions are obtained without delay. A base certification that encompasses both people in the field of aquatic health as well as those veterinarians wishing to practise in aquatic health, or better training of veterinarians in aquatic health, are two options that were





raised. It will be interesting to see what avenues of education and certification will be open to, if not required for, those involved in aquatic animal health in the future.

I presented a poster entitled: “Efficacy of orally-administered praziquantel against monogenean parasites infecting sea-caged yellowtail kingfish *Seriola lalandi*”. I was encouraged by the number of people who approached me with questions and feedback, not only during the evening allocated for poster viewing, but also throughout the conference. It was great to interact with so many people of differing backgrounds, and I look forward to keeping contact with many of these people in the future. I also attended the Seventh Triennial Meeting of the FHS, held as a satellite meeting to the conference. It was interesting to see a little “behind-the-scenes” of how the Society is run and the enormous effort required in organising an international conference. The jury was still out on which country would host the next DAA, but nominations were received from India, Vietnam and Iran. I thank the AFS in assisting myself and 18 other students in attending DAA6 by providing funds for registration and accommodation.

Sri Lanka has a rich and colourful history and its people and culture has endured three colonial powers (the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British) over the past 500 years before reclaiming their independence and becoming a self-governing dominion of the Commonwealth of Nations in 1948. The name *Ceylon* was changed to *Sri Lanka* (“resplendent island”) in 1972. Today its population is approaching 20 million people, which is astonishing given its area (64 740 km²) is comparable to the size of Tassie (64 519 km²)!! In addition to attending the conference, I joined a memorable shopping tour of Colombo, where myself and 3 other delegates/shopaholics were embarrassingly left behind by the bus at a particularly bargain-filled store! Needless to say, the shopping in Sri Lanka is worth a look! I also took 2 days after the conference to travel up to world heritage-listed Anuradhapura, the largest and oldest of Sri Lanka’s ancient cities. Although only 205 km north of Colombo, by road this takes over 5 hours, dodging *tuk-tuk* (motorised tricycles), potholes, pedestrians and cattle (which, being a sacred animal in Hinduism, have right of way). Anuradhapura was once the capital of Sri Lanka and was the birthplace of Buddhism in the country. The region is strewn with the ruins of sophisticated civilizations, which toppled and vanished centuries ago, and many were rediscovered only in the 19th century. Huge rock-cut Buddha images, dagobas and cave temples testify to a very ancient Buddhist tradition, and worshippers make pilgrimages from all over Asia to visit this sacred city. I spent Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning visiting many ruins, dagobas and Buddhist shrines, including the Sri Maha Bodhi, an ancient (2000 year old!) *Ficus religiosa* tree said to be grown from a cutting of the very tree under which Buddha attained *nirvana*. I then boarded an overcrowded and noisy train (minus doors, windows and the occasional light bulb!!!) back to Colombo for my flight home.

I sincerely thank the ASP whose sponsorship made my travel to DAA6 possible. It was a valuable and rewarding experience and one that I hope will remain open to other student members in the future.

Rissa Williams



JD Smyth Awards

I wish to thank the ASP for awarding me the JD Smyth Travel Scholarship. I used this scholarship to attend my first conference during my PhD candidature: the 5th International Symposium on Monogenea, held this year in Guangzhou, China on the 8-12th August. I was fortunate enough to give a 30-minute talk on 'Generation time of *Zeuxapta seriolae* (Monogenea: Heteraxinidae), a gill parasite of yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*), at different water temperatures'.

China! Home to 1.3 billion people. The number is inconceivable. Then you take a 45-minute taxi ride from Guangzhou airport to the city. Along the way you pass a continuous stretch of high-rise apartment buildings that house some of the suggested 10-20 million people of Guangzhou. In the city, cars merge from 6 lanes down to 2 without any indication as to who is going where. Even crossing the road can be an unnerving experience. Initially it appears to be chaotic but after a while you see some logic to the madness.

It was a welcome oasis from the hustle and bustle of Guangzhou and the flight from Adelaide, to arrive at Zhongshan (Sun Yat-Sen) University where the conference was held. The University, spread over a 1 km², had been planted with a mixture of *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* trees that provided a strange sense of home.

This conference had only one session at a time allowing the small delegation (~ 100) to listen to all talks and view all posters on display. The sessions at this years ISM were titled: Gyrodactylids, Immunity, Dactylogyridean Evolution and Phylogeny, Faunistics and Biology, Systematics, Aquaculture, Biology, Systematics and Phylogeny and finished with Techniques and Facilities. The Chinese plan their days around meal times - they believe negotiations are better conducted over a meal. This made for a relaxing atmosphere and created many opportunities to talk and mingle with other people between listening to some very interesting presentations. I was able to discuss the peculiarities of *Z. seriolae* with Francisco Montero who works on *Z. seriolae* of *S. dumerili* in the Mediterranean.

A day trip to Foshan was organised on the conference break. We visited the Foshan Ancestral Temple and the Five Ram statue. This statue is the symbol of Guangzhou. Legend tells of Guangzhou being founded by five immortals riding five rams, each ram planting stalks of rice grain, which symbolizes abundance of harvest and prosperity. The day finished with a dinner cruise on the Pearl River.

The conference dinner was held at the Regal Aivirra Hotel, Guang Zhou. A traditional dance, a magic show and a circus act provided light entertainment over dinner. The night finished with a disco, and with some hesitation I made my way to the dance floor. Within seconds I had been blood-binned, a wayward wedding ring left a nasty little gash on the side of my nose.

All in all though, it was a stimulating conference mixed with some magnificent social events. I would once again like to thank the Australian Society for Parasitology for awarding me the JD Smyth Travel Award, providing me with the chance to attend this international conference. It was an unforgettable experience.

Allan Mooney





Leslie Chisholm, Vanessa Glennon, Allan Mooney, Lizzie Perkins and Ian Whittington (aka Phil O'Phthalmus) at the Foshan Ancestral Temple

Letter to the Editor

29th November 2005

The Editor
ASP Newsletter

Sir,

I read the front page of the August 2005 issue (allegedly Vol. 16, issue 1, but see below) of the Australian Society for Parasitology (ASP) Inc.'s Newsletter with considerable interest. I regret, however, to inform you that the editorial quality and care of your publication leaves much to be desired. Not only is the alleged volume and issue number a duplication of the *previous* edition (also Vol. 16, issue 1, April 2005; front cover bears a mug shot of an inanely smiling previous president of your society!), but also the date had been unceremoniously whited-out and the correct month added in almost illegible handwriting! I could overlook these minor annoyances, but there was much worse to come. The rather nice image on the front cover of a monogenetic trematode (excuse my ancient terminology - I am old school) was accompanied by a brief article 'My Favourite Parasite' (MFP) about *Cap-sala martinieri*. The photo reproduced, reportedly supplied by a specialist on

the group, is, however, most certainly NOT *C. martinieri*. If my worm identifying abilities have not escaped me entirely, I judge the image to be a species of *Benedeniella*, probably *postero-colpa* (judging by the hint of a posterior vaginal duct on the right hand side of the photo). The host of this species is not *Mola mola* but *Rhinoptera bonasus*, a ray common off the US Atlantic coast and extending into the Gulf of Mexico.

I trust you will publish this letter as a Corrigendum in the next issue (for your information, this will be Vol. 16, issue 3 for December 2005).

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Phil. O'Phthalmus
Emeritus Professor (Wormology)
Federation of Ligula Urotrematidae
Kronborgia & Echinostoma of Syl-vatics (FLUKES)
Dangly Dogs
Middle Earth (aka New Zealand)

Dear Prof O'Phthalmus,

Thank you for pointing out the editorial errors in the previous issue of the newsletter. Yes, the first page of that

issue did have certain problems. I would point out that the person who provided the photo is an...nay...THE expert on Monogeneans in Australia and if anyone should have been able to identify one of these critters- it would be him. Still, that expert did provide the photo while he was on one of his many overseas junkets- this time he was in China, I believe- and I can only assume he was influenced by one of the local varieties of rice wine when he penned his contribution.

*You will note that the MFP Column has not resurfaced in this issue (I couldn't stand the horror of seeing another parasite mis-identified in a parasitology newsletter!) The column will only appear when someone sends in a nice easy-to-recognize parasite like *Sarcop-tes* or *Plasmodium*.*

So to you, Prof. NO'Phallus, and to all avid readers of the newsletter, apologies from Ian Whittington and me for the errors on page 1 of the last newsletter.

*Yours
Malcolm Jones
Editor*





2006 ASP & ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Annual Conference

**July 2-5 2006
Legends Hotel,
Surfers Paradise**



This conference will be an opportunity for parasitologists from Australia, and around the world, to discuss the latest research and state-of-the-art technologies in parasitology. The meeting will follow two major themes: The International Symposium on Therapies for Parasitic Diseases; and Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution, the latter with an emphasis on marine parasitology. Other symposia will include: New Technologies for Parasitology; Vector Biology, and the meeting will open with the session Ten Things You Didn't Know About Parasites. There will also be plenty of opportunities for contributed talks and posters on any and every topic parasitological. The conference will run over four days, starting with a reception on the evening of Sunday July 2 and the scientific programme beginning Monday morning (July 3) and concluding with a Keynote Address just prior to the Conference Banquet on the evening of July 5.

We have already secured some superb speakers including:

Keynote Address:

Professor Bob Sinden (Imperial College London)

The International Symposium on Therapies for Parasitic Diseases:

Professor Simon Croft (Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative), **Professor Fred Oppendoes** (President of COST ACTION B22 - Drug Development for Parasitic Disease), **Professor Sornchai Looareesuwan** (Secretary General, SEAMEO TROPED Network), **Professor Peter Hotez** (George Washington University), **Dr Michelle Wykes** (QIMR), **Dr Stuart Ralph** (WEHI), **Professor Georg von Samson** (Hannover)

State-of-the-Art Technologies

A/Professor Malcolm McConville (University of Melbourne), **Professor Brendan Crabb** (WEHI), **Professor Paul Brindley** (Tulane University)

Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution:

Dr Barbara Nowak (University of Tasmania), **Dr John Hooper** (Queensland Museum).

Vector Biology:

Professor Scott O'Neill (University of QLD), **Professor Elena Levashina** (University of Strasbourg)



Mt Warning

Ten Things You Didn't Know About Parasites

Registration fees have not been finalised for this conference but will be very low - around \$100-\$150 for ASP Student Members and around \$150-\$200 for regular ASP Members (ie, much lower than fees for the last several years). Registration will include morning and afternoon teas, lunches, poster session drinks and dinners at the conference.

We are making a deliberate attempt to encourage as many Network Participants as possible to join the ASP, as this will help ensure the extension of Network activities beyond the lifetime of ARC and NHMRC funding for the Network. **Thus, there will be a surcharge of around \$100 for registration for non-ASP delegates (versus an annual fee for ASP Membership of \$20 for students and \$80 for regular members).** You can download a membership application form from <http://www.parasite.org.au/member.htm>. It should also be remembered that student members are eligible for generous financial assistance to attend the conference from the ASP provided they have been members for a minimum period of about 6 months before the conference. So, sign up now!

More details about the conference will be available in January through the ASP Newsletter and the ASP and Network websites. Registration and Abstract Submission are expected to open in mid-late January (abstract submission will close towards the end of March, 2006, with exact dates to be advised).

For all information, including registration deadlines and forms, please visit the conference websites on the Network pages:

www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/

PS: Make sure you book for the Inaugural ASP Presidential Bushwalk, to be held on the day after the conference dinner. We plan to scale Mt Warning, about 1 hr drive from the Gold Coast. The walk is rather steep and is a bit of a scramble towards the end, but the view at the end is worth it!



Parasite Culture

This may be the last Culture for a while, because, with my stint as President of the Society looming, I will have to step down from the role of Newsletter Editor. This column thus serves as a call to anyone interested in filling this important position in the society to contact ASP President David Piedrafita for more information.

The lot of the Newsletter Editor is actually a lot of fun. The position only requires bursts of intense creative activity every four months or so, thereby giving the editor plenty of time to get on with other things of life—such as generating those bursts of creative activity to write papers and prepare grant proposals.....

I have enjoyed collecting and collating the news of the society, editing these items to ensure that nothing libellous is printed and working with printers and the post-office to get the newsletter out on time. The “rag” is a major focus and meeting point of the society. I am astounded at how easy it has been to get articles from ASP members. Most newsletters fail because of a lack of contributions from members, but not so with the ASP paper. The collegial interactions of the society run strong and I hope will continue. It has been an honour to serve the society in this role for the last three years.

The item for Parasite Culture this issue comes from the pen of the noted Scottish poet, Robert Burns. This is a great piece, albeit totally incomprehensible to any but a true Scotsman. The poem, however has many useful life-lessons for us all, and particular relevance for those involved in parasite therapeutics. Note, for example, the reference to anti-louse treatments, such as the “rank, mercurial rozet”. Wouldn’t all who

work in human parasitology like to find a way to “dress the droddum’s” of their parasitic foes?

At any rate, I hope you enjoy “To a Louse”. I am sure that the expatriate Scots in the society will lend a hand in sorting out the more obscure colloquialisms, if you ask them, and offer them a “wee dram”.

Malcolm Jones

To a Louse On Seeing One on a Lady's Bonnet at Church

Robert Burns

Ha! whare ye gaun' ye crowlin ferlie?
Your impudence protects you sairly;
I canna say but ye strunt rarely
Owre gauze and lace,
Tho faith! I fear ye dine but sparely
On sic a place.

Ye ugly, creepin, blastit wonner,
Detested, shunn'd by saunt an sinner,
How daur ye set your fit upon her---
Sae fine a lady!
Gae somewhere else and seek your dinner
On some poor body.

Swith! in some beggar's hauffet
squattle;
There ye may creep, and sprawl, and
sprattle;
Wi' ither kindred, jumping cattle;
In shoals and nations;
Whare horn nor bane ne'er daur un-
settle
Your thick plantations.

Now haud you there! ye're out o'
sight,
Below the fatt'rils, snug an tight,
Na, faith ye yet! ye'll no be right,
Till ye've got on it---

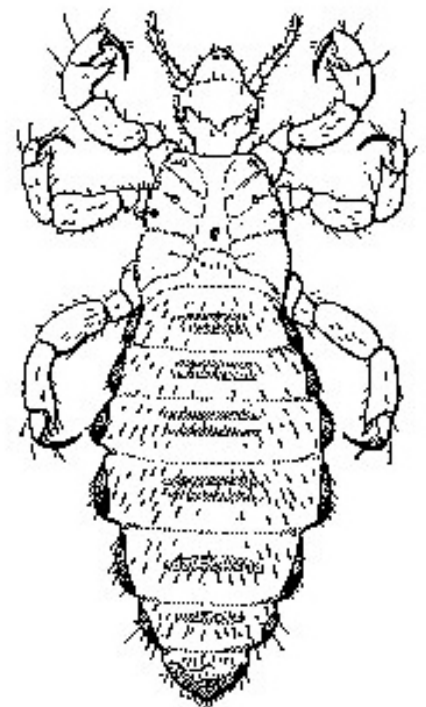
The vera tapmost, tow'rin height
O' Miss's bonnet.

My sooth! right bauld ye set your
nose out,
As plump an grey as onie grozet:
O for some rank, mercurial rozet,
Or fell, red smeddum,
I'd gie you sic a hearty dose o't,
Wad dress your droddum!

I wad na been surpris'd to spy
You on an auld wife's flainen toy
Or aiblins some bit duddie boy,
On's wyliecoat;
But Miss's fine Lunardi! fye!
How daur ye do't?

O Jeany, dinna toss your head,
An set your beauties a' abroad!
Ye little ken what cursed speed
The blastie's makin!
Thae winks an finger-ends, I dread,
Are notice takin!

O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us
An foolish notion:
What airs in dress an gait wad lea'es
us,
An ev'n devotion!



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 on December 31st.

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.

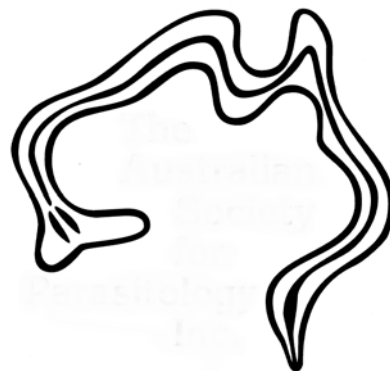
JD Smyth Travel Awards

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]**



ARC/NHMRC Network for Parasitology News

Welcome to the Network Communications Coordinator, Lisa Jones

The Network is delighted to welcome Lisa Jones as its Communications Coordinator. Lisa has a science background, with post-graduate qualifications in Scientific Communication and Public Health. Most recently, she has been living and working in the UK in science communication roles, in community development, and as a researcher in health and social care. Lisa is already working hard on the coordination of the 2006 conference and updating and upgrading the Network website. She would love to receive your feedback to help develop the Network's website <http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet> and also the Network's newsletter so please send an email to Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au or contact her by telephone 02 9514 4006 with your ideas.

Parasitologist new DVC at The University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide has appointed Professor Alan Johnson as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Alan (who is well-known to many ASP and Network members) is currently Executive Director, Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Australian Research Council (ARC) and will take up this new position in February 2006. He has played a significant role in strategic planning for national scientific research, particularly in Biological Sciences and Biotechnology.

Alan is a recipient of the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal for Excellence. He also earned the status "Fellow of the Australian Society for Parasitology" for his contributions to the ASP and to parasitology generally, most especially for his services as Editor-in-chief of the International Journal for Parasitology, the highest ranked journal in its discipline for the publication of primary research. Alan has the rare distinction of being elected "Ehrenmitglied" by the board of the German Society for Parasitology. We wish Alan all the best in his new role.

Research Grants

Congratulations to the following Network Participants who have been awarded ARC Discovery Grants for 2006 - 2008:

Professor Mike Bull (Flinders Univer-

sity) and colleagues for their project "Ecological dynamics of parasite infections in reptiles".

Associate Professor Robin Gasser (The University of Melbourne) and **Dr Alex Loukas** (QIMR) for their project "Discovery of early developmental events in the transition to parasitism in the hookworm *Ancylostoma caninum* using genomic technologies".

Professor Geoff McFadden (The University of Melbourne) and colleague, Dr RF Waller, for their project "Infrakingdom Alveolata: searching for a defining structural feature".

Professor Ray Norton (WEHI/The University of Melbourne) for his project "Malarial parasite surface proteins: structure and interactions of key merozoite antigens".

Dr Sabina Belli and Associate Professor Nick Smith (Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases, University of Technology, Sydney) for their project "The biosynthesis of structural proteins in parasites".

Professor John Dalton (IBID, UTS) **Dr Dan Gardiner** (QIMR) and **Dr Katherine Trenholme** (QIMR) and collaborator, Dr J Grembecka, for their project "Aminopeptidases involved in regulating the amino acid pool in malaria parasites".

Associate Professor Nick Smith (IBID, UTS) and **Professor Jim Wiley** (Nepean Hospital/University of Sydney) for their project "Parasite virulence: the role of activation and suppression of P2X7 receptors".

Congratulations to the following Network Participants who have been awarded **ARC Linkage Grants** for 2006 - 2008.

Associate Professor Robin Gasser and Dr Ian Beveridge (The University of Melbourne) and **Dr Alex Loukas** (QIMR) and their collaborator, Professor S Ranganathan, for their project "Targeted mining for new drugs against parasitic nematodes of animals a synergy of integrated, frontier technologies and a committed partnership with industry".

Associate Professor Marshall Lightowlers (The University of Melbourne) and **Dr Dave Jenkins** (Australian Hydatid Control Campaign and the ANU) and their collaborator, Dr LA Hinds, for their project "Evaluation of the EG95 vaccine against hydatid in-

fection in macropodid marsupials". (This grant covers the period 2006 - 2009.) **Professor Ian Clark** (ANU) and his collaborator, Professor CL Geczy, for their project "Identification of novel markers of inflammation".

Congratulations to Dr Renfu Shao who has been awarded an ARC Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship to work on "Recombination of mitochondrial genomes: what can we learn from chigger mites?" in Steve Barker's lab at The University of Queensland.

Network Participants have once again been successful in the recent **NHMRC** grant round. Included in the latest results are six Fellowships, one Program Grant and nine Project Grants. The total value of these grants is over \$22 million.

Fellowship recipients include:

Ian Clark (ANU - Senior Principal Research Fellow);

Shelley Walton (Menzies School of Health Research - Biomedical Career Development Award);

Marshall Lightowlers (The University of Melbourne - Principal Research Fellow);

Louis Schofield (WEHI - Principal Research Fellow);

Emanuela Handman (WEHI - Principal Research Fellow); and

Alan Cowman (WEHI - Senior Principal Research Fellow).

Program Grant - Host Parasite Interactions: Disease, Pathogenesis and Control

Alan Cowman (WEHI), **Graham Brown** (The University of Melbourne), **Brendan Crabb** (WEHI), **Emanuela Handman** (WEHI), **Malcolm McConville** (The University of Melbourne), **Geoff McFadden** (The University of Melbourne), **Louis Schofield** (WEHI) and **Terry Speed** (WEHI).

Research Project Grant Recipients include:

Nick Hunt (University of Sydney, in collaboration with Roland Stocker) for "Tryptophan metabolism and vascular tone;

Nick Hunt and **Helen Ball** (University of Sydney) and **Nick Anstey** (Menzies School of Health Research), in collaboration with Georges Grau for "Lung dis-



ease in malaria";

Alex Loukas (QIMR, in collaboration with Peter Hotez) for "Hookworm digestive proteases";

Chris Engwerda (QIMR, in collaboration with Paul Kaye and Manabu Ato) for "Defining the roles of TNF, LT and LIGHT in experimental visceral leishmaniasis";

Malcolm McConville (University of Melbourne, in collaboration with Spencer Williams) for "New drug target in *Leishmania* parasites";

Stephen Rogerson (University of Melbourne, in collaboration with Anthony Jaworowski) for "HIV and immunity to malaria";

Ludasz Kedzierski (WEHI) for "New drugs and vaccines to treat leishmaniasis";

James Beeson (WEHI) and **Stephen Rogerson** (University of Melbourne for "Immunity to placental malaria";

Terry Speed (WEHI, in collaboration with Gordon Smyth and Melanie Bahlo) for "Bioinformatic analysis and functional genomics".

An Update on Network IT Activities - Microarray Storage and Analysis Service

We are pleased to announce the availability of a microarray storage and analysis service to Network participants. Services include the capacity to:-

- * store microarray data securely and share the data with collaborators anywhere in the world;

- * analyse microarray data using a variety of open source and commercial software programs;

- * facilitate consultation with experts in microarray analysis for assistance with normalization of data, statistical analysis and identification of significantly under- or over-expressed genes.

This capacity is brought to you by a partnership with the Victorian Bioinformatics Consortium (VBC). The VBC microarray server runs an open-source software platform called **BASE**, for the storage and analysis of microarray data. The use of BASE allows microarray gene expression data to be stored in a **MIAMI** compliant manner, and exported using the **MAGE-ML** standard. A large number of experiments can be stored in a well structured manner making navigation and searching easy. BASE is accessed via a Web interface which allows for collaborations across the world. A detailed security model makes it possible to share only the information and data that one chooses.

BASE uses plugins for data analysis which allows many different types of data normalization, transformation, and analysis. The VBC has expertise in maintaining, customizing and extending BASE to meet the requirements of users. For example, the VBC has developed new analysis plugins for BASE to meet specific needs.

The VBC also has skills in statistical analysis of microarray expression data. This includes appropriate normalizations to remove noise from the data. Analysis is performed using either the BASE platform, commercial analysis software, or the open-source Bioconductor package. The outcome of the analyses may be a list of differentially expressed genes (using appropriate significance tests), various clusterings, or visualizations such as Principal Component Analysis, or Multi-Dimensional Scaling.

For further information consult <http://vbc.med.monash.edu.au/~powell/vbc-microarray/vbc-microarray-capabilities.html> or contact David Powell <powell@csse.monash.edu.au>

Professor John Barta receives an Endeavour Australian Research Fellowship from DEST

Congratulations to Professor John Barta, who has been awarded an Endeavour Australian Research Fellowship from DEST. Professor Barta will be a visiting scientist at Murdoch University, Western Australia. Professor Barta's lab in Guelph was the first to demonstrate a close link phylogenetically between *Cryptosporidium* and the *Gregarines*. During his four months at Murdoch University, Professor Barta plans to isolate relevant gregarines from polychaetes and lower chordates and subject these to comparative molecular and ultrastructural studies with *Cryptosporidium*.

Andy Thompson receives the 2005 WAAVP - Bayer Health Care Award for Excellence in Research

Congratulations to Professor RC Andrew Thompson who was selected to receive the 2005 WAAVP - *Bayer Health Care Award for Excellence in Research* by the Awards Committee for the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology for his distinguished record of achievements.

Min Hu receives the WAAVP Peter Nansen Young Scientist Award at the WAAVP05 Conference

Congratulations to Dr Min Hu who received the WAAVP Peter Nansen Young Scientist Award at the WAAVP05 Con-

ference in Christchurch, New Zealand for her outstanding accomplishments in mitochondrial genomics of nematodes, molecular systematics and population genetics investigations. Dr Hu was head of the Schistosomiasis Diagnostic Laboratory at Hubei Institute of Schistosomiasis Control until she left for Australia and received her PhD from The University of Melbourne in 2003. Today Dr Hu is a postdoctoral research scientist in the Parasitology Unit in the Department of Veterinary Science at The University of Melbourne.

Rebecca Traub receives the John Frederick Adrian Sprent Prize at the ASP 2005 AGM.

Congratulations also to Rebecca Traub who was awarded the John Frederick Adrian Sprent Prize for her PhD thesis "Dogs, humans and gastrointestinal Parasites: Unravelling epidemiological relationships in an endemic tea-growing community in Northeast India" at the ASP 2005 AGM. factor analysis for a variety of parasites of public health significance.

ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Travel Award

Congratulations to:

Kate Hutson of the University of Adelaide, who has successfully applied to the Network for assistance to travel to Tom Cribb's and Rob Adlard's labs at the University of QLD and the QLD Museum.

Julie-anne Fritz of the Australian National University, who has successfully applied to the Network for assistance to travel to the laboratory of Dr Marc Vidal's lab at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School in Boston, U.S.A..

Bennett Datu of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, who has successfully applied to the Network for assistance to visit the labs of Dr John Hawdon at George Washington University, and Dr Tony Page, at Glasgow University to study the regulation of the transition from free-living larvae to adult endoparasite in hookworms using unique RNAi and transgenic technologies.

Robert Walker (IBID, UTS), who has successfully applied to the Network for support to visit Mal Jones' lab at QIMR to collaborate on a project that aims to isolate the sexual stages of the apicomplexan parasite, *Eimeria maxima*, using laser catapulting technology and, ultimately, produce macrogamete and microgamete EST libraries.





2006 PhD Scholarship Opportunity Australian Biosecurity CRC for Emerging Infectious Diseases

Project title: Australian *Leishmania* Lifecycle Investigation

Locally acquired *Leishmania* species infections have recently been identified in red kangaroos (*Macropus rufus*) in Australia's Northern Territory¹. Until this investigation, Australia and the Antarctic were thought to be the only continents free of *Leishmania* parasites and suitable phlebotomine sandfly vectors.

Red kangaroos are not native to the Darwin area and they are not adapted to the tropical wet season. Red kangaroos are most likely incidental hosts for this *Leishmania* species. We are now seeking a PhD candidate to identify the lifecycle, ecology and pathogenicity of *Leishmania* in Australia.

This project will begin with the enhancement and critical evaluation of diagnostic tests for *Leishmania*, so that the best possible tests can be used in the surveillance phase of the study. A broad range of mammals and reptiles in the Northern Territory will be sampled and tested to attempt to determine the host range, geographic range, and pathogenicity of the parasite.

Although extensive studies have been conducted to identify *Culicoides* sandflies, due to their ability to transmit arboviruses, scant work has been undertaken to specifically trap phlebotomine sandflies in Australia. Trapping of sandflies will be conducted in the locality where several cases of leishmaniasis have been confirmed. These sandflies will be sorted by species and tested for the presence of *Leishmania* species. If infected sandflies are identified, they will be evaluated as potential vectors for other pathogenic species of *Leishmania*.

1. Rose et al. 2004. Cutaneous leishmaniasis in red kangaroos: isolation and characterization of the causative organisms. *Int J Parasitol* 34:05, 655–664.

For enquires contact:

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Australian Registry of Wildlife Health
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Email: krose@zoo.nsw.gov.au
Telephone: 02-9978-4749,



Conferences



**Symposium on Malaria
Protein Structure and
Function.
February 3, 2006**

A Symposium on Malaria Protein Structure and Function, will be held on Friday, February 3rd, 2006, in Melbourne. The venue will be the Level 7 Lecture Theatre at The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville, opposite The University of Melbourne.

This one-day Symposium will focus on the latest methods for probing the structure and function of *Plasmodium* proteins. Several applications of the results of such studies will also be presented. The Symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for parasitologists from a range of different disciplines to interact with structural biologists and protein chemists. It will operate as a satellite to the Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function, which will commence the following Sunday (February 5th). There will also be a session on malaria at the Lorne Conference.

A website for the Symposium has been established, at

<http://www.wehi.edu.au/news/events/MPSF2006/>

Confirmed international speakers are Dan Goldberg (USA), Tim Haystead (USA), Katja Becker (Germany) and Alan Thomas (The Netherlands). There will also be a number of leading national and local speakers.

Registration is now open, at <http://registration.wehi.edu.au/MPSF>

We recommend you register early, as registration will be limited to 140 participants.

Third International Congress on Phthiraptera

Buenos Aires, Argentina

16 - 21 October, 2006

<http://www.phthiraptera.org/>

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene will celebrate its Centenary in 2007 with a meeting in London which will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre from **13-15 September 2007**. We hope to see you there! For further details please visit

<http://www.rstmh.elsevier.com>



ICOPA XI



**6 -11 August 2006
SECC Glasgow
Scotland UK**

<http://www.icopa-xi.org>



ICOPA XI will be held next year in the “Armidillo” (Scottish Exhibition and Convention Centre) in Glasgow.

The organisers are pleased to announce that the following Parasitologists have accepted invitations to be plenary speakers:

Professor Keith Vickerman F.R.S., ICOPA X1 Honorary President

Professor Lord May of Oxford, President The Royal Society

Professor Monique Capron, Institut Pasteur de Lille, France

Professor George Cross F.R.S., The Rockefeller University, USA

Professor Robin B. Gasser, The University of Melbourne, Australia

Professor Kevin Marsh, KEMRI Wellcome Research Programme, Kenya

Professor Pat Nuttall, NERC Institute of Virology and Environmental Management, Oxford

Professor Robert Poulin, FRSNZ, University of Otago, New Zealand

In addition plenary speakers associated with the Genetics Society Symposium on The genetics of malaria in the host and vector will be:

Professor Fotis C. Kafatos, Imperial College, UK

Professor Sir David Weatherall, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, UK



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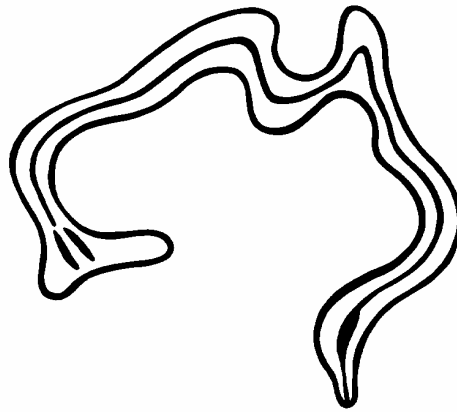
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