John Barnett Student Awards

It is over 3 years since the Victorian bush fires which claimed the lives of our friend and colleague John Barnett and his wife Jenny. To commemorate their memory and John’s contribution to animal welfare science, student awards were initiated at the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney.

The John and Jenny Barnett Memorial Prize has been established by family and friends of John and Jenny Barnett and is awarded annually to a student undertaking a project in animal welfare at the University of Melbourne.

This year’s winner was Wathsala Samindee Hemachandra who received her prize from John’s mother Sylvia Phillips at the recent Dean’s Honours and Awards Presentation.

Samindee’s project will investigate the relationships between temperament, behaviour, stress and productivity in caged-housed laying hens.

Greg Cronin, from the University of Sydney, and Associate AWSC Scientist, was instrumental in establishing the John Barnett Memorial Prize for the best animal welfare science essay. The prize is presented annually to a third year student in the Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience Degree, Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney.

This year’s winner, Eloise (Elle) Foggarty was in the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Science Unit of Study in Semester 1 and wrote a thorough essay on the welfare implications associated with mulesing and an evaluation of alternative practices.

Congratulations to both Samindee and Elle!

STOP PRESS

Ph.D. opportunity - Welfare of free-range laying hens

A PhD opportunity in Animal Welfare is available at the Animal Welfare Science Centre, a partnership of The University of Melbourne, The Ohio State University and Department of Primary Industries Victoria, Australia.

This Ph.D. project will focus on the welfare of laying hens in free-range systems and will be based at The University of Melbourne’s Parkville Campus.

The candidate is expected to have a strong background in the field of animal behaviour and/or stress physiology and demonstrated independence in conducting research. A Master’s degree in animal behaviour, physiology, or related area is preferred.

Expected start date is from October 2012.

For more information or to apply, please send a cover letter and current curriculum vitae to Jean-Loup Rault at raultj@unimelb.edu.au

For more information regarding the Animal Welfare Science Centre, visit us at www.animalwelfare.net.au
Paul Thompson

The AWSC was pleased to host Prof. Paul B. Thompson, W. K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics, Michigan State University, USA in June 2012.

Paul spoke about the evolution of welfare standards in the N. American egg industry and the perspective brought to the process by philosophy and ethics.

Of particular note was the integration of an ethical viewpoint directly into the committee process of developing standards rather than sitting outside.

You can find a link to Paul's presentation by going to our Seminar page: http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/article/scientific-seminars
and listen to Paul's presentation by visiting our Vimeo page: http://vimeo.com/awsc

Neil Chesterton

The Animal Welfare Science Centre was delighted to be able to present a seminar from Neil Chesterton, VET Services, Inglewood, NZ which focused on lameness in the dairy cow.

Neil visited several farms and presented four seminars around the State including an AWSC Seminar at Dookie Campus.

Audiences were most interested in the link that Neil has observed between stockperson behavior and cow lameness and that the AWSC has designed a training program, ProHand, which aims to modify stockperson behavior by targeting their attitudes towards dairy cows.

You can download Neil's presentation by visiting our seminar page: http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/article/scientific-seminars
and listen to his presentation by visiting our Vimeo page: http://vimeo.com/awsc

Discussing track maintenance
Donovan's Dairy, S.A.
A selection of student research project updates

**Sally Haynes, Melbourne:** Sally has been examining the relationship between human attitudes and behaviour and dog behaviour and welfare at Victorian animal shelters. Observational data have been collected and analysis indicates significant correlations between human behaviour and dog behaviour. These results will be presented at ISAE 2012 in Vienna. Sally will then travel to Ohio State University in a collaborative study to examine the effects of human behaviour on dog behaviour and provide opportunities to apply this knowledge to improve dog behaviour and welfare. Sally gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy with her project.

**Megan McCarthy, Monash:** Megan is investigating the meaning of owning cats and dogs, and the roles that these animals play in people’s lives in Bangkok, Thailand. She is currently undertaking fieldwork in Bangkok, including interviews and observations, with the aim to enhance our understanding of the cultural and social factors that influence human interactions with cats and dogs, including how people define responsibility and care towards these animals. Her study will gain further insight into attitudes and behaviours towards animals in developing countries and will inform culturally appropriate animal welfare and ownership interventions, and assist to alleviate breakdowns in the human-pet relationship.

AWSC research at ISAE Conference - Vienna

Several scientists and students from the AWSC made the trip to Vienna to take part in the 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology which was held in Vienna between July 31st and August 4th. Paul Hemsworth and Jean-Loup Rault chaired the morning and afternoon sessions on intra and interspecies relationships.

**Papers presented:**

- **Jean-Loup Rault** - “A positive mindset in the face of stress” - Muns Vila, Farish, Rault, Hemsworth.
- **Sally Haynes** - “The relationship between human and dog behavior in animal shelters” - Haynes, Coleman, Hemsworth.
- **Catherine Webb** - “Effects of citronella and odourless cold airspray on aversion in dogs” - Webb, Hemsworth.

**Poster presentations:**

- **Ellen Jongman** - “Early adaption of lambs to a feedlot system” - Jongman, Butler, Rice, Hemsworth.
- **Paul Hemsworth** - “Time budget of dairy cows in feeding systems based on total mixed ration fed in conjunction with reduced grazed pasture” - Hetti Arachchige, Jongman, Wales, Fisher, Auldist.

Stray cats in Bangkok
Recent publications in refereed journals


Recent refereed conference publications
