

# Animal Welfare Science Centre Newsletter

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[www.animalwelfare.net.au](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au)



ANIMAL WELFARE  
SCIENCE CENTRE



Anoma Hetti  
Arachchige



Joanne Coombe

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Sandoe seminar  
- March 1st

## Prizes for AWSC PhD students working in dairy industry

Australian Dairy Conference Ltd and their event major sponsor, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, have announced that **Anoma Hetti Arachchige** has been chosen as a finalist in the 2012 DAFF Dairy Science Communications Award to be judged at the 2012 Australian Dairy Conference at Lardner Park, Gippsland in February 2012.

Anoma is a student within the School of Veterinary Science at The University of Melbourne and is working on defining dairy cow behaviour and welfare in feeding systems based on total mixed ration fed in conjunction with grazed pasture. The quality of her work was also recognised within the School with her award of the V.W. Officer

Prize in Veterinary Science for 2011.

Also within the School of Veterinary Science, **Joanne Coombe** has won the Dairy Farmers of Victoria Postgraduate Scholarship Prize and the John Nevill Research Scholarship Prize. Jo is studying the effects of flexible feeding systems on the health and welfare of dairy cows.

Congratulations to Anoma, Jo and their supervisors.

## ProHand Dairy Training in WA and NZ

As part of Dairy Australia's Large Herds Program, the AWSC has provided ProHand Dairy training in WA.

Paul Hemsforth, Grahame Coleman and Jeremy Skuse trained 10 stockpeople and mangers at DAFWA's facilities in October and December and Grahame Coleman will conduct further training in March 2012.

2 dairy veterinary consultants have been trained to deliver ProHand training on a continuing basis and

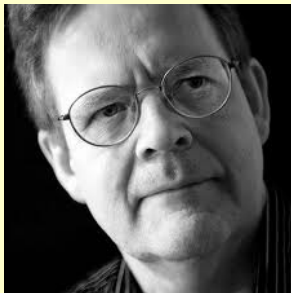
ProHand will also be piloted in South Australia in February 2012.

The AWSC has been working with **Neil Chesterton**, a NZ veterinary consultant based near New Plymouth. Neil is trialling the ProHand Dairy program as a valuable addition to his existing training programs which aim to reduce the incidence of cow lameness.

**ProHand**   
Maximise your Positives, Minimise your Negatives



*“Animal welfare and ethics - where does science end and ethics begin?”*



Peter Sandøe



## Ohio Students to Visit Australia

The OSU College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences study abroad program in Australia allows students to experience an export-based agricultural economy in an environment that is distinctive. Activities are included that allow students to study the historical and social development of Australia, observe the development of

sustainable agriculture in Australia, and explore animal welfare issues.

The AWSC will be hosting the students for 2 weeks in January and will provide teaching in animal welfare, behaviour and ethics along with a field trip to DPI Facilities at Werribee so students can get firsthand experience of our work with pigs, poultry and lambs.

## AWSC / RSPCA Seminar - March 2012

The Animal Welfare Science Centre is pleased to present this seminar in conjunction with RSPCA Australia.

Professor Peter Sandøe from the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark will challenge your thinking on the ethical treatment of animals.

- Is there a clear distinction between animal welfare science and the ethical discussions about what is right and wrong in our dealings with animals?
- Does it matter how animal welfare is defined?
- What are the ethical assumptions affecting the study of animal welfare?
- Why do these assumptions vary depending on whether we're talking about farm animals or

companion animals?

- How can researchers present results in a way that makes their ethical assumptions transparent?

Thursday March 1st

6pm - 7pm

Lower Lecture Theatre,  
Melbourne School of Land and Environment,  
Cnr Royal Parade & Tin Alley,  
Parkville, Melbourne.

To assist with catering, please **RSVP to the RSPCA** before February 24th at

[rspca@rspca.org.au](mailto:rspca@rspca.org.au)

Please click for [Map](#)

## Building consumer trust seminar

On 22nd November at Attwood, The Animal Welfare Science Centre presented this seminar which focussed on the way in which agriculture, (particularly the livestock industries), needs to understand how their customers make purchasing decisions so that communication on farming practices serve to build the level of trust that consumers have in the food that they purchase.

Over 80 people from a wide range of sectors attended the seminar which was chaired by Prof. Grahame

Coleman (AWSC, Monash Univ) and featured presentations from Siobhan O'Sullivan, Research Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne and Charlie Arnot, CEO of the Center for Food Integrity.

Presentations can be accessed at our Vimeo webpage -

<http://vimeo.com/awsc>



Charlie Arnot and Grahame Coleman

The Animal Welfare Science Centre would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.  
If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please send an email to:  
[awsc-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:awsc-info@unimelb.edu.au)

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