Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Veterinary Public Health Management Newsletter! It sure has been a busy year, and since the last VPHMgt newsletter lots has happened. One of the highlights was the Project Management Residential, held in July. It was unusually pleasant weather, and course facilitator Juergen Oschadleus kept everyone thinking, planning and scheming ... this year, the group is organising a major international animal health conference! Details and pictures are in this edition of the newsletter.

I'd like to thank all of our wonderful course facilitators. I got my first taste of being a facilitator this year (VETS 7004 Veterinary Epidemiology I), so I appreciate all the hard work our facilitators put into making our courses a success. Thank you! I'd also like to especially mention Richard Shephard, who took on Animal Health Economics, by himself, for the first time. Well done Richard! (If you haven't met Richard, there's a photo of him on page 6).

Another notable event was the 12th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics. This is the premier event for veterinary epidemiologists, and is held every 3 years. This time it was held in Durban, South Africa. Several of our course facilitators attended. What was really exciting for me was to see two of our MVPHmgt students, Elizabeth Parker and Sarah-Jane Wilson, present their projects in this international forum and do a great job! Equally exciting was trying to facilitate VETS7004 whilst traveling overseas well done Navneet and Sarah-Jane. Make plans to attend the next ISVEE, to be held in Maastricht and Ghent in 2012 (http://isvee13.org/).

In June, Jenny-Ann and I hosted a group of Indonesian veterinarians for training in spatial analysis and surveillance. This training was funded by AusAID (Australian Leadership/Fellowship program). The group was keen to learn, and their only negative comment seemed to be that they needed even more training!

In October, I was lucky enough to
Q: Katherine how does your work as Surveillance Manager in MAF Biosecurity New Zealand compare with your previous role as a Veterinary Officer in Primary Industries and Resources South Australia?

A: The two roles are very different. Working for Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA) in South Australia was a fantastic step into government work from private practice and I am still very thankful for the support that PIRSA provided to enable me to complete the course and it’s not easy balancing work and study commitments. As I progressed through the course I also had opportunities to apply what I had learnt through working in new areas and gaining greater responsibilities. My work for PIRSA, as a veterinary officer, included managing implementation of livestock surveillance programmes, working with rural veterinarians to improve passive surveillance and undertaking disease investigations and assisting with the implementation of regulatory programmes such as Johne’s disease. I did have responsibility for programmes and projects however I was only responsible for managing myself. I was working both in the field and in the head office and was involved very much at a state level - however by sitting on national committees I gained a better understanding of the broader context and how things worked at a national level.

In 2006 I moved to New Zealand to take up a position with Biosecurity New Zealand, a part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and I am now responsible for the team that implements surveillance activities. My main role is managing my teams, our budgets and building effective relationships with other groups and organisations that we work with. I love working with such highly motivated, professional people and I find my job very satisfying. This position has also given me the opportunity to work at both an international level, for instance being part of the NZ delegation that attends meetings setting international standards for trade and also at a national level - for instance developing a strategy for the future direction of surveillance in New Zealand.

Q: How have you applied what you learnt from the Masters to your current role?

A: It has been a big challenge stepping up to my current role. The course gave me a great grounding in a number of areas and it is tailor made for people working in government. For example project management was a completely new area to me during the Masters and being able to deliver work to time, cost and quality, is a crucial skill no matter where you work. The leadership units were also incredibly valuable and I still pull my notes out even today to refresh my memory on some of the concepts. I want to be both a good leader and manager. Leadership is critical and leaders can make a difference at any level of an organisation.
My team is comprised of support staff and technical specialists from a number of areas, not only veterinarians, but also marine biologists, ecologists and plant scientists. Working with people from different sectors has also shown me that the knowledge and skills I learnt in the Masters is very widely applicable and just as relevant to my previous technical role as my current managerial role.

Q: What do you see as the main benefits of completing the Masters degree?

A: I learnt so much through completing the Masters degree but I think more importantly it gave me the confidence and courage to seek out new and challenging opportunities which ultimately led to the job I now have. Shortly after I moved to NZ the position of managing the team I worked in became vacant. I didn’t have previous management experience but through my learning on the course I was able to confidently demonstrate that I had a sound understanding and exposure to the right areas. One of the most valuable aspects of the Masters was what we learnt, not only from facilitators or the course materials, but also from each other. Working with people from all different backgrounds, careers and experiences was a vital component of the learning experience and a really solid foundation for building relationships that I still value today.  

• Katherine Clift, 2004 VPHMgt Graduate

Interview continued from page 2
The VPHMgt Program was well represented at the 12th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE), held in Durban, South Africa, 1-14 August with several facilitators/program supporters and students/graduates from Australia, Netherlands, UK and USA in attendance among the total 592 conference delegates.

It was a great time for facilitators and students/graduates to meet up and hear about there respective work. Dr Ashley Hill of Colorado State University(also one of our VPHMgt facilitators) was particularly excited to meet some students for the first time in person!

Prof Michael Ward was the Coordinator for the Epidemiologic Tools theme of the conference. Dr Marion Wooldridge – external reviewer for our Risk Analysis elective – was the first keynote speaker setting the stage for ISVEE 12 with her talk on “Surveillance and disease control – what’s over the horizon?”

We are particularly proud of our students who presented their VPHMgt research projects at ISVEE!

- Elizabeth Parker - Risk Assessment: Animal Diseases as They Relate to Food Safety
- Sarah-Jane Wilson - Calculating the prevalence of Mycoplasma iowae in a turkey breeding flock

Our Faculty Dean Rosanne Taylor and Professor Michael Ward attended this OIE meeting of more than 300 veterinary deans and public health officials from around the world.

Discussions focused on approaches to improving global standards of veterinary public health education. The OIE is seeking agreement among veterinary schools on minimum standards for training in food safety, animal health, zoonotic disease, epidemiology, animal welfare and related fields.

The aim? To ensure veterinarians are prepared to take a stronger leadership role in global public health.

The 24 draft recommendations from the conference reflect the following:

- OIE intent to recommend a ‘core curriculum’ for veterinary training to ensure that the profession is prepared to meet societal expectations at the global level.
- Specific fields listed for attention in initial and continuing veterinary education include zoonoses, food safety, food security, production and trade, animal welfare and biodiversity, basic sciences, wildlife, aquatic, OIE codes.
- OIE intent to create a tool that it will use on a voluntary basis to assess veterinary education in Member Countries
- OIE interest in:
  - Use of new IT technologies for distance learning
  - Twinning program – pairing of veterinary schools in developed and developing countries to support enhancement of training – but no financial support offered to aid this program
  - Harmonization at the regional level that will aid veterinarian mobility – aiming to permit registration of a graduate from one country in multiple countries across a region.

For more information about the OIE Conference, please click here: [http://www.oie.int/eng/A_DEANS2009/DEANS-PRESENTATION.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/A_DEANS2009/DEANS-PRESENTATION.htm)

- Michael Ward
During June, the Veterinary Science Faculty hosted 14 veterinarians from Indonesia for a 1-week short course in spatial epidemiology (delivered by Prof Michael Ward) and surveillance (delivered by Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio).

The group were in Australia for a 3-week training tour under the Australian Aid Agency (AusAid) Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships (ALAF) program. The program organised by Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio aimed to equip Indonesian veterinary epidemiologists with important skills to improve surveillance, detection and monitoring of animal borne diseases. All participants were members of the Indonesian Veterinary Epidemiology Association (IVEA) established in 2008 to promote upskilling and networking among veterinary epidemiologists in Indonesia.

After time spent at the USyd Camden Campus the group went to Canberra to visit the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry. They then travelled to the Gold Coast for the Science Week conference of the Epidemiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and finally to Orange where the NSW Department of Primary Industries hosted training in risk management for animal health.

Among the group were veterinarians from government, non-government (NGO) and research institutions across Indonesia. This mix of personnel from different agencies benefitted the participants. “It helps build a strong network of veterinary epidemiologists across Indonesia,” said Dr Agung Putra (Disease Investigation Centre, Denpasar, Bali) who was the Group Leader.

Jenny-Ann Toribio

Postgraduate Coursework Virtual Open Day

The Veterinary Science Postgraduate Coursework Office is hosting a “Virtual” Open Day Classroom (similar to when you visit an Open Day at your child’s school!) which we run as part of our preparation for the new year and potential students. This is a “mock” on-line classroom which contains information about all our courses, gives a sample study guide, a discussion area and talks about how assignments and quizzes work in this environment. It basically provides a way of testing and trying out the features of a distance learning program for those who may be interested in our programs or wondering about how distance learning can work for them.

This year, Open Day begins from 13th October 2009 to 30 January 2010. We would like to encourage you to come and visit – and bring your friends!

Click on below link and follow instructions from there:

If the above link does not work, simply type out the web address on your browser and click “Enter”, you should get to the site.

Feel free to take this opportunity to inspire those in your circle of influence to consider study and moving forward in their professional life!

Biostatistics Refresher Course: 27th January - 23rd February 2010

The Postgraduate Coursework Office will be running the Biostatistics Refresher Course in 2010 from 27th January to 23rd February 2010.

This course is an excellent opportunity for individuals keen to refresh their knowledge or learn new skills, namely: those just starting out in the VPHMgt/VPHJ/ABMgt/VetStud Programs next year who are wanting to polish up on statistics knowledge acquired during their undergraduate days; those building a career path which requires the frequent use of biostatistics as applied to the veterinary fields, or basically anyone who is interested in upskilling their knowledge.

This course is also extremely useful to PhD/Research or Honours students who need additional tools that will enhance their research skills and learning experience and is taught by 2 distinguished members of the Veterinary Science Faculty, A/Prof Peter Thomson, Associate Professor in Veterinary Biometry and Dr Navneet Dhand, Lecturer in Veterinary Biometry and Epidemiology.

For more information and registration, please contact Ms Emmeline Yeo at email: eyeo@usyd.edu.au; tel: (02) 9036 6364.
The Veterinary Public Health Management (VPHMgt) and the Veterinary Public Health programs (VPH) are being offered at three levels of award courses, with the possibility of non-award enrolment leading on to degree awards:

- Graduate Certificate (24 credit points)
- Graduate Diploma (36 credit points)
- Masters (48 credit points)

Students undertaking the VPHMgt Program can select among a broad combination of courses that provide technical training and managerial competence.

Students undertaking the VPH Program can substitute the management units by taking technical-related units of study.

Areas of Study:
- Leadership and Change Management
- Veterinary Epidemiology
- Food Safety
- Surveillance and Risk Analysis
- Policy Development
- Advanced Data Analysis

Entry requirements for both the Veterinary Public Health Management and Veterinary Public Health programs include:

A Bachelors Degree in Veterinary Science, Animal Science or equivalent (Conditional admission possible without relevant Degree based upon passing all requirements for Semester 1 in GradCert) OR
Minimum of 4 years work experience in a relevant discipline with approval of the Dean

Each unit comprises of 10 hours of study per week, lasts 7 weeks and is purely online. The exceptions are the Leadership and Project Management units in the VPHMgt program as they require more time, including attendance at residential which last 3-5 days.

Course fees for 2020:
- AUD$1,515 per 3 credit point unit of study (AUD$505 per credit point) for Australian citizens, permanent residents and New Zealand citizens
- AUD$1,665 per 3 credit point unit of study (AUD$555 per credit point) for international students.

Fees are payable by semester and international students.

Applications NOW OPEN for Semester 1, 2010!

Applications are now OPEN for 2010 intake. Feel free to invite your friends, colleagues and/or networks to write to us. For more information & details, please contact the below. Hurry and apply NOW!

Contributors to the VPHMgt Program
Contributors are experts from a range of Australian and International Organisations

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