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DIARY DATES
FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2014
ANIMAL ETHICS - “IRMA” TRAINING SESSION SYDNEY
Where: Evelyn Williams Seminar Room
Time: 1 - 2.00pm

MONDAY 17TH MARCH
GOOD FOOD, GOOD HEALTH: DELIVERING THE BENEFITS OF FOOD SECURITY IN AUSTRALIAN AND BEYOND.
Where: MacLaurin Hall, Level 2, The Quadrangle
Time: 8.30am - 4.45pm,

MONDAY 24TH MARCH
THE 4TH ANNUAL DR ROBERT DIXON ANIMAL WELFARE MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM
Where:- VSCC, Webster Lecture Theatre
Time: 3.30 - 5.00pm

WELCOME
Our first research showcase was held on February 12th. Thank you to everybody who participated – especially our presenters: David Raubenheimer, Alex Chaves, Rachael Gray, Michael Ward, Kate Bosward, Mariano Makara, Imke Tammen, Gabriel Machovsky-Capuska, Natasha Hamilton, Karren Plain, Beata Ujvari, Kate Sawford, Robyn Alders. A special thanks to Siobhan Mor – who saved the day twice over! Warmest thanks also go to Marie and Kim who put in an amazing effort to organise the day in such a short timeframe. The planning and the catering were spectacular!

I have had very positive feedback about the day – especially from our colleagues at the Research Office and in the Faculty of Science and look forward to hosting another Showcase in the near future. I am delighted to have heard of at least one new project that arose because of conversations that happened on the day! If you are interested in presenting in the next showcase – please send an email to vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au.

In other news, you would recently have seen two circulated spreadsheets with lists of journals and conferences. These lists are used to assess our outputs – and I know the conference list in particular is patchy. If the conferences you regularly present at aren’t on the list please let Marie and Kim know asap or upload yourself through the ARC website. It is important. As part of the ERA process – we will be recruiting some FoR champions. Please let me know if you are interested in representing your field (I will start tapping people on the shoulder soon).

I have been informed that the human ethics committee has received an exceedingly large number of applications over the break. A decision has been made to cap each meeting at 35 applications. Priority will be given to honours students and applications which require ethics to release funding for a new grant.

Just finally, a reminder to please email vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au if you or your team publish new papers, win prizes or grants or have exciting research news that you would like to share with your colleagues!

PROFESSOR KATHERINE BELOV
ASSOCIATE DEAN RESEARCH
WHO HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS..

America and Australia in partnership to save the Tassie devil
An American zoo is partnering with an Australian university to save the Tasmanian devil in the wild. San Diego Zoo Global and the University of Sydney are collaborating to assist the endangered marsupial, through the reintroduction and management of a disease-free population. For more information, please visit: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=13044 to read the full story.

Dr Peter Higgins from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was interviewed on ABC Gold Coast Mornings about calls for a national database recording each dog attack.

Tough life key to croc immunity
The immune systems of crocodiles and alligators have remained relatively unchanged for centuries despite their worldwide distribution, as revealed for the first time by University of Sydney researchers. Information, please visit: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=12983 to read the full story.

Robotic Milking in Tasmania
A/Prof Kendra Kerrisk was interviewed by ABC Rural online page: abc.net.au/news/2014-01-15/robotic-milking-in-tasmania/5201216

Scientific excellence recognised with awards
Prof Kathy Belov has been awarded the Fenner Medal for research in biology (excluding the biomedical sciences). science.org.au/awards/awardees/2014awards.html

The early-career achievements of three University of Sydney academics, conducting research in veterinary science, geoscience and chemistry, have been recognised with prestigious awards from the Australian Academy of Science, please visit: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=12910 to read the full story.

“Science Without Borders” program - Special Visiting Researcher
Alex Chaves has been successful in a scholarship program in Brazil (“Science Without Borders” program - Special Visiting Researcher).

The scholarship program for “Special Visiting Researcher” aims to attract a senior foreign researchers recognized internationally as leadership in priority areas of Science Without Borders program, to conduct projects with Brazilian research groups and visit Brazil for up to three months each year over three years.

The program also provides scholarships for Brazilian students to doctoral and postdoctoral keep projects in Brazil and abroad. The benefits of this fellowship include support for living expenses when the researcher is in Brazil as well funding for the local laboratory.

**Project title:** Dairy cattle adaptation to climate change and technological advances for measurement of enteric methane

Farmers to benefit from robotic dairy appointment
Australia’s milk producers are set to benefit from the appointment of dairy expert, Dr Nicolas Lyons, to a newly created robotic dairy position based at the Department of Primary Industries’ (DPI) Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute in Camden.

The new national position is funded by the DPI and will work closely with the University of Sydney, Dairy Australia and the Future Dairy project.

Previous to this role, Dr Nicolas Lyons was based at the University of Sydney researching pasture-based automatic milking systems.

"Nicolas is ideally qualified for the position with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and a PhD in Veterinary Science," Mr Burfitt said.

If you have any media items please send to vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au
PUBLICATIONS
AS LISTED ON IRMA JANUARY 2014

Young, J, O’Reilly, R A, Ashley, L C, Suon, S, Leoung, I, Windsor, P A, Bush, R D. Impacts on Rural Livelihoods in Cambodia Following Adoption of Best Practice Health and Husbandry Interventions by Smallholder Cattle Farmers. and Emerging Diseases, 61(Suppl. 1), 1-14


Griffiths, W, Clark, C E F, Clark, D, Waghorn, G. Supplementing lactating dairy cows fed high-quality pasture with black wattle (Acacia mearnsii) tannin. Animal, 7(11), 1789-1795.


Rast, L, Toribio (Lee), J-A L M L, Dhand, N K, Khounsy, S, Windsor, P A. Why are simple control options for Toxocara vitulorum not being implemented by cattle and buffalo smallholder farmers in South-East Asia? Preventive Veterinary Medicine, 113, 211-218.


Paul-Pont, I, Evans, O, Dhand, N K, Rubio, A, Coad, P, Whittington, R. Descriptive epidemiology of mass mortality due to Ostreid herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1) in commercially farmed Pacific oysters (Crassostrea gigas) in Hawkesbury River estuary, Australia. Aquaculture, 422-423, 146-159.


Exploring host-pathogen relationships amongst Aspergillus – what virulence factors enable them to cause disease in immunocompetent hosts? How widespread are they in nature? Why are certain breeds of cats are prone to this devastating invasive fungal infection – is it due to a defect in innate immunity or a conformational abnormality of the upper respiratory tract?

With two PhD students on the case, Dr Joanna Whitney and Dr Jessica Talbot, there will be exciting updates to share on this.

30 SECONDS WITH... A/PROF VANESSA BARRS

WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?
Researching infectious diseases in dogs and cats – finding out more about the agents of disease, their ecological niches, how they cause disease, how to diagnose them most effectively and how to treat them! I am involved in research in bacterial, protozoal, viral and fungal pathogens. Of these, my greatest area of expertise is in the study of pathogenic fungi.

MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE?
Discovery of a new species of Aspergillus last year that I named A. felis after the host in which it was first found, the domestic cat, characterization of the clinical syndrome it causes and development of an effective serological test for non-invasive diagnosis.

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
Exploring host-pathogen relationships amongst Aspergillus – what virulence factors enable them to cause disease in immunocompetent hosts? How widespread are they in nature? Why are certain breeds of cats are prone to this devastating invasive fungal infection – is it due to a defect in innate immunity or a conformational abnormality of the upper respiratory tract?

With two PhD students on the case, Dr Joanna Whitney and Dr Jessica Talbot, there will be exciting updates to share on this.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
I love travelling, especially bushwalking in Australia and New Zealand and have had fun walking the Overland Track, Queen Charlotte track, Milford track and the Inca Trail. This year I am looking forward to the Maria Island walk in Tassie.
NEW GRANTS
The Faculty would like to congratulate the following academics and celebrate the award of the following grants.

- **Richard Whittington**: MLA: Virulent footrot diagnosis
- **Sabrina Lomax**: Australian Pork Limited: Assessment and amelioration of pain for improved welfare during routine husbandry procedures in piglets.
- **Kathine Below**: ARC: From the pouch to the grave: age and sex related changes in immunity in the Tasmanian devil
- **David Emery**: MLA: Transmission of Theileria orientalis in cattle.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Academy of Science (AAS) EC Horizons 2020 Programme Call
AAS invites applications for funding from Australian consortia who are partners in an application under the European Commission (EC) Horizon 2020 programme (see below for more details). Two grants of $200,000 (AUD) each (excl. GST) are available. Australian applications will be assessed using a merit-based competitive process which is based on the collaborative value of the project to Australian research and industry following the successful assessment of the EC application. These grants will be offered as seed funding to encourage Australian consortia to participate in projects with European consortia under the first tranche of calls that close on or before 29 April 2014 of Horizon 2020, which are currently open for application.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is COB Tuesday 29 April 2014. Further information and guidelines are available at [science.org.au/internat/europe/eucollaboration.html](http://science.org.au/internat/europe/eucollaboration.html)

European Research Council
The European Research Council has also announced its first calls for proposals under Horizon 2020.


WORKSHOPS/COURSES

**Eureka Awards** Promoting excellence in Science further information:- [australianmuseum.net.au/About-Eureka-Prizes](http://australianmuseum.net.au/About-Eureka-Prizes)

Research Professional: [researchprofessional.com](http://researchprofessional.com) has many other opportunities listed every day.

**Animal Ethics IRMA Training Session.**
Having technical issues with your Animal Ethics application? A information session on the applications process using IRMA specifically for Vet Science will be held Friday 7th March. Jinny Oh the Animal Welfare Veterinarian will be in attendance for any questions you may have.

**Venue:** Seminar Room, Evelyn Williams B10
**When:** 1 - 2pm , Friday 7th March 2014
**What to Bring:** your notebook, and applications
**RSVP:** By 5th March 2014 [marie.wildridge@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marie.wildridge@sydney.edu.au)

**Talking strategies to promote your research : using social media, open access and altmetrics**

**Information Futures Series:** Please join us at the Library to hear lightning talks from four academics about how they promote their research. Bring questions and share your own experiences. Stay to connect with colleagues and chat over lunch.

**Venue:** Seminar Room, Level 2, Fisher North Fisher Library
**When:** 11.00am-1pm, Thursday 27 March 2014
**RSVP:** By 17 March 2014 [library.rsvp@sydney.edu.au](mailto:library.rsvp@sydney.edu.au)

Lunch and refreshments will be provided

**Good food, good health: Delivering the Benefits of food security in Australian and Beyond.**
Forum on global food security as part of the events around the launch of the multidisciplinary Charles Perkins Centre. The centre brings groups together from around the university and beyond to focus on nutrition (under and over-nutrition), health, and well being.

**Venue:** MacLaurin Hall, Level 2, The Quadrangle
**When:** 8.30am - 4.45pm, Monday, 17 March 2014
**RSVP:** By 10 March 2014 Further Information: Christine Aitken mbi@sydney.edu.au

FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
E vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au
F facebook.com/VeterinaryScienceSydney?ref=hl
sydney.edu.au/vetsci/research
Farmers to benefit from robotic dairy appointment

Australia’s milk producers are set to benefit from the appointment of dairy expert, Dr Nicolas Lyons, to a newly created robotic dairy position based at the Department of Primary Industries’ (DPI) Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute in Camden.

The new national position is funded by the DPI and will work closely with the University of Sydney, Dairy Australia and the Future Dairy project.

DPI Manager Dairy & Intensive Livestock Industries, Tim Burfitt, said the new robotic dairy role will help the dairy industry tap into new technologies and improve the efficiency of their business.

“Automatic milking systems represent a major opportunity for Australian producers to improve productivity, cut input costs and improve lifestyle and working conditions,” Mr Burfitt said.

“Dr Lyons’ appointment will help drive the uptake of robotic dairy technologies across the Australian dairy industry.

“The new role will also build industry networks and information systems that will assist producers weigh up the pros and cons of integrating robotic systems into their dairy farming businesses.”

Previous to this role, Dr Nicolas Lyons was based at the University of Sydney researching pasture-based automatic milking systems.

“Nicolas is ideally qualified for the position with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and a PhD in Veterinary Science,” Mr Burfitt said.

“These formal qualifications, combined with his international experience in dairy production and servicing of public and private dairy businesses and organisations, made him an outstanding applicant for the newly created position.”

Dr Lyons said he is looking forward to the new role and the opportunity to work with dairy farmers on this important area.

“My main aim within the DPI will be to lead the development of a program to increase the awareness and successful adoption of robotic milking systems,” Dr Lyons said.

Media contact: Steve Green 6391 3686 or 0427 192 658

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### GOOD FOOD, GOOD HEALTH: DELIVERING THE BENEFITS OF FOOD SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA AND BEYOND

A collaborative event with the Charles Perkins Centre, Marie Bashir Institute, and Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

#### 17 MARCH 2014, MACLAURIN HALL, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Acknowledgement of Country and Official Opening</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Michael Spence, Vice Chancellor and Principal, the University of Sydney</td>
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<td>Professor Trevor Hambley, Dean of Science and Chair, Division of Natural Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.20am</td>
<td>Keynote address: Meeting the 21st century food security challenge</td>
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<td>Julian Cribb, Principal, Julian Cribb &amp; Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 1: FARMING AUSTRALIA’S AGRICULTURAL FUTURE, CHAIR: MELISSA WOOD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Farming Australia’s future food production</td>
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<td>15 min</td>
<td>Angus Gidley-Baird, Policy Director, NSW Farmers’ Association</td>
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<td>10.15am</td>
<td>Doing well by doing good – the benefits of international agriculture research to Australian agriculture</td>
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<td>15 min</td>
<td>Helen Scott-Orr, Crawford Fund</td>
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<td>Professor Lester Burgess, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Crawford Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Question and answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 min</td>
<td>Chair: Melissa Wood, Director, Australian International Food Security Research Centre</td>
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<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 2: ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA, CHAIR: ALANA MANN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Sustainable food production in the Australian environment: Why a local food system is the building block for a resilient and secure food future</td>
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<td>15 min</td>
<td>Costa Georgiadis, ABC television presenter and participant in the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance</td>
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<td>11.15am</td>
<td>Human health and nutrition security in Australia</td>
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<td>15 min</td>
<td>Shauna Downs, Menzies Centre for Health Policy</td>
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**SESSION 2: ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA, CHAIR: ALANA MANN (CONTINUED)**

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<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>The silent manipulator: protein and the burden of obesity in Australia</td>
<td>Professor David Raubenheimer, Nutrition Theme Leader, Charles Perkins Centre</td>
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<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Question and answers</td>
<td>Chair: Alana Mann, Sydney Environment Institute</td>
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**SESSION 3: TRANSLATING AUSTRALIAN EXPERTISE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, CHAIR: DR HELEN SCOTT-ORR**

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<tr>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Trends in donor responses to food security</td>
<td>Dr Jim Woodhill, Principal Sector Specialist, Food Security &amp; Rural Development, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15pm</td>
<td>One Health approach to food and nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia</td>
<td>Associate Professor Robyn Alders, Faculty of Veterinary Science and Charles Perkins Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Aquaculture in Southeast Asia – mutual benefits</td>
<td>Professor Richard Whittington, Faculty of Veterinary Science</td>
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<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Question and answers</td>
<td>Chair: Dr Helen Scott-Orr, Crawford Fund</td>
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<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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**SESSION 4: THE DIMENSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY CHALLENGE, CHAIR: PROFESSOR PETER WINDSOR**

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<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>The dimensions of the international food and nutritional security challenge: Responding to climate and economic challenges</td>
<td>Professor Nagothu Udaya Sekhar, Director (International Projects), Bioforsk, Norway</td>
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<td>2.20pm</td>
<td>A rights-based approach to food and nutrition security</td>
<td>Associate Professor Bill Pritchard, School of Geosciences</td>
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<td>2.40pm</td>
<td>Gender and food and nutrition security</td>
<td>Dr Brigitte Bagnol, Anthropologist, University of the Witwatersrand</td>
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<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Question and answers</td>
<td>Chair: Professor Peter Windsor, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</td>
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<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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**SESSION 5: FOOD SYSTEMS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE, CHAIR: PROFESSOR TANIA SORRELL**

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<tr>
<td>3.45pm</td>
<td>Food systems: evolution, historical and current impacts and disease emergence</td>
<td>Professor Richard Kock, Royal Veterinary College, University of London and Chair in Wildlife Health and Emerging Diseases</td>
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<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>Plant food systems</td>
<td>Associate Professor Robyn McConchie, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.15pm</td>
<td>Food safety systems for livestock production: from A to Z</td>
<td>Professor Michael Ward, Faculty of Veterinary Science</td>
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<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Question and answers</td>
<td>Chair: Professor Tania Sorrell, Director, Marie Bashir Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.45pm</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Associate Professor Robyn Alders</td>
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