WELCOME

From the desk of the ADR – July 2014

I have some good news to announce this month. We have just received the draft of our Compact funding for 2015 – and it is fantastic news for our ECRs and MCRs. Next year we will be able to provide financial support to new supervisors: $1000 for an undergrad project and $6000 for a PhD project. This includes funding towards PhD projects for Chinese students through the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science scheme. To qualify for this funding you will need to have a student in place for 2015. We will also have travel grants for ECRs and MCRs (including travel to China, if you take on a Chinese student). Our highly successful intramural collaborative projects with CPC and MBI will continue.

In addition, we have funds to strengthen our engagement with the companion animal industry. Natasha Hamilton and Vanessa Barrs are working with Helen Jones on a strategy document. Please get in touch with them if you would like to engage. We have also secured funding to develop stronger industry linkages with DPI. Funding will be available through both of these schemes for project costs, teaching relief, student support and travel.

One of my main goals in taking on the role of ADR was to ensure that all academics had an opportunity to develop their research careers. I think these compact funds will go a long way to help with that. All academics should now be in a position to take on students, generate preliminary data and begin to apply for research funding. We will have regular workshops to help with this.

It is probably a good time to mention the fact that it is possible for academic staff to switch to teaching focused positions for periods of time. For instance, I know many are currently focused on curriculum development for the DVM. You may prefer to have a couple of years to focus on that rather than developing new research projects and taking on students. If so, I am happy to discuss.

In other news – we are running a workshop on Food and Food Wastage together with DPI on Monday 18th August. It is not too late the rsvp. I hope we get a good turn out from the Faculty. The VC is attending. The plan for the day is to begin to brainstorm ideas for a joint grant application and to look at ways that we can more effectively collaborate. I encourage ECRs and MCRs to attend – we will be able to put some financial support behind these projects.

Twelve participants have signed up to do a grant writing workshop on July 21st. We are going to focus on ARC Discovery and Linkage grants.

You will be pleased to hear that our research income for this year looks like it is going to exceed $10M! This is way higher than the $7M we were aiming for. Given the big steps forward that we have taken in research over the past couple of years, I hope you join me in our mission to boost our research outputs by 20% over the next two years! I think with this new compact funding – this is achievable.

Finally – massive congratulations to Ros Bathgate for her Brown Fellowship, Vanessa Barrs for her Thompson Fellowship and Alex Chaves for his Humboldt!
WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?
Systematics and biology of the reptiles of Australia and surrounding areas, using a morphological approach to systematics. While genetics is the sexy way of doing systematic studies these days, morphology-based systematics is still an essential partner to it, and in the absence of funding for morphology-based studies, there are fewer and fewer of us pursuing a research career in this field and more and more demands on our time.

MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE?
Everything is exciting in systematics research – and you get to name new species and genera! The thrill of discovering new species never wanes. In 2011, I was senior author on a taxonomic paper that recognised four large new gecko species from north Queensland: Cyrtodactylus adorus, Cyrtodactylus hoskini, Cyrtodactylus macdonaldi and Cyrtodactylus pronarus. Most recently, I’ve discovered the microCT unit at Sydney University, allowing me to examine in-situ the skulls of tiny skinks that are too rare and too delicate to examine via the usual process of physically dissecting out the skulls from preserved museum specimens.

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
Finally finishing revising the little brown skinks of the genus Sphenomorphus in New Guinea – a project I’ve been working on since the 1990s, and that has taken me to old museum collections around the world to look at collections of preserved skinks made in New Guinea from the 1830s to the present day. After examining about 3000 specimens so far, I’ve got about another thousand to go – then I can finally write it all up. There are over 40 new species to describe.

As a “retirement” project (not that I can see myself retiring anytime in the near future), I’ve been gathering biographical information on the early 19th and 20th century collectors who made the Australian reptile fauna known to the rest of the world, with the aim of writing a book on the topic – it keeps me entertained late at night.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
I have a parasite named after me (a gastrointestinal nematode, Skrjabinodon sheai, described from a New Guinea skink in 2008), I’d always wanted to be remembered by a parasite!

WHO HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS..

- Channel 10’s The Project interviewed Dr Peter Higgins from the Faculty of Veterinary Science from about dog attacks.
- AVA have reported on Dr Julia Beatty’s “Novel gammaherpesvirus found in Australian cats” further information can be found: [ava.com.au/13241](http://ava.com.au/13241)
- The Land reported on Cameron Clarke’s Collars monitor calving cows at this year’s Dairy Research Foundation Symposium.
- The Land reported on this year’s Dairy Research Foundation Symposium hosted by the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Veterinary Science.
- Prime7 interviewed Dr Stephen Page from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about chickens being fed banned fluoroquinolones at farm level.
- Michael Ward was interviewed by ABC Breakfast Radio on his project Scientists working to stop spread of deadly contagion further information can be found: [abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australian-scientists-work-to-impede-deadly-contagion/5554492](http://abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australian-scientists-work-to-impede-deadly-contagion/5554492)
- A reminder if you have any research or findings that you think are suitable for media coverage please contact verity.leatherdale@sydney.edu or 9351 4312 before your work is published.

If you have any media items please send to vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au
CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Dr Roslyn Bathgate awarded a Brown Fellowship.
A/Prof Vanessa Barrs award a Thompson Fellowship
A/Prof Alex Chaves Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers
A/Prof Julia Beatty awarded the ASAVA Award for Scientific Excellence

ARC Research Hub: Prof Herman Raadsm, A/Prof Peter Thomson & Dr Mehar Khatkar ARC Research Hub for advanced breeding to transform prawn aquaculture

ARC Linkage grants to:-
- Prof Katherine Belov, Dr Catherine E Grueber
- A/Prof Mark Krokenberger
- Prof Herman Raadsm
- Prof David Raubenheimer

Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation Grants
Improving our understanding of knowledge and attitudes towards Q fever disease and vaccines in cat breeders. Dr Katrina Bosward

What is the impact of the novel feline gammaherpesvirus, Felis catus GHV 1 (FcaGHV1), on the health of domestic cats? A/Prof Julia Beatty

The use of the integrase inhibitor Raltegravir for the treatment of domestic cats with progressive feline leukemia virus infection. Dr Mark Westman

Assessment of new and current techniques for the diagnosis of Feline Infectious Peritonitis. Dr Jacqueline Norris

Detection of Aspergillus-specific antibodies by ELISA (IgG, IgA, IgM) for diagnosis of feline upper respiratory tract aspergillosis. A/Prof Vanessa Barrs

30 SECONDS WITH ...

DR MINI SINGH

WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?
My research interests include animal production and management, genetics, physiology, nutrition and nutrigenomics. I completed a Master’s degree in genetics and a PhD in genomics at the University of Sydney, while gaining experience in working with sheep and cattle molecular markers, quantitative genetics of milk traits and lactation genomics. Additionally I have experience in working with international organizations such as AUSAID and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), with an aim to improve agricultural research through technology generation and transfer. I’m presently investigating the underlying reasons for a production gap between the conventional and free range poultry production in Australia. In collaborating with commercial feed additive companies as well as other universities and scientific organizations I’m looking into nutrition and nutrigenomics aspects of the free-range poultry production. This has led to investigating diets in free-range vs. conventional systems, grass consumption by birds while on range, effect of different levels of grass intake and the dietary electrolyte imbalances caused due to high K levels in grass in different energy matrices on performance, digestible nutrient uptake. I’ve also used radiofrequency identification (RFID) technology to monitor birds and determine the effect of time spent on range. The aim is to evaluate a range of nutritional and management interventions that will reduce the magnitude of the performance gap. MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE
Estimation of grass consumption by free range birds while on range and its implications. The quantification of grass intake in free range broilers was determined for the first time with a technique used to measure pasture intake in cows. Using ‘Alkane analysis’, grass consumption was estimated to be 3.7-4.24% of total “as fed” intake. Taking into consideration the grass consumption, the total feed intake and feed conversion ratio increased significantly for birds on range. Moreover, diets intended for consumption by free-range birds are not routinely formulated to accommodate the modifying effects of grass consumption on digestible nutrient intake. For example, grass has a very low digestible energy density and high K concentration. The implications of these changes in dietary nutrient supply have been explored in the project and the outcomes of this work have shed light on possible nutritional contributions to the relatively poor performance of free-range broilers in Australia

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
“Free Range Poultry Survey 2014”.
I’m currently co-coordinating this Poultry CRC funded project, based at Poultry Research Foundation, University of Sydney and in collaboration with researchers from UNE, DAAF QLD and PIRSA-SARDI. With a growing demand for free-range poultry products, producers will need to address the issues that contribute to the performance gap between the free-range and conventional systems to remain cost-effective. Much of the poultry management practices available, are based on research conducted in conventional intensive systems. Our current knowledge base is therefore very limited in regards to extensive production methods and how it affects performance and quality. Farmers who convert to the free range systems do not have the advantage of well researched and established practices especially under Australian conditions. Information on demographics, management practices, vegetation cover, nutrition, health, environmental load and range access along with level of adaptation by farmers, will be gathered to take informed decisions on the future direction of free range poultry research in Australia. The objective is to use the generated data to develop a multidisciplinary integrated but targeted approach to future free range research in Australia

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
I was aspiring to be a fashion designer before I became a geneticist...I even have a diploma in fashion designing with a distinction to prove that...AT SOME POINT I TRADED THE ‘JEANS’ FOR ‘GENES’...
Immunoreactivity of protein tyrosine phosphatase A (PtpA) in sera from sheep infected with Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis. Veterinary immunology and immunopathology (2014). Impact of Avian Influenza on Village Poultry Production Globally


A REMINDER: If you have any publications whether Journal articles or conference papers please forward them to:-

kim.heasman@sydney.edu.au or marie.wildridge@sydney.edu.au
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NSW Science and Engineering prizes - open
There are 7 categories (out of the 8 listed) in which the University is eligible to make nominations. The Scientist of the Year will be chosen from the winners of the 7 award categories.

Awards are made on the basis of research excellence and impact for work that has been primarily carried out over the last five years; it is advantageous if the work addresses a significant health, technological or environmental challenge facing NSW.

Awards are valued at $5000 in each category while the Scientist of the Year prize is valued at $55,000.

Nominations can be made by individuals, groups or the nominees themselves.

Required information:
- Nominee’s CV
- Nomination form + two page statement
- One page statements from two referees
- Signed declaration of consent
- Proof of Australian Citizenship or Permanent residency
- Signed Statutory Declaration that the work was performed in NSW at that the nominee has resided in NSW for at least five years – up to and including July 20 2014.

Closing Date: July 20 2014.

Chronic wounds: advancing the science from prevention to healing (R01)
The National Institute of Nursing Research invites applications for its chronic wounds: advancing the science from prevention to healing (R01) grant. The purpose of this funding announcement is to stimulate research that will increase the understanding of biological and psychosocial factors associated with development, progression, and repair of chronic wounds and associated adverse outcomes, and to develop and test interventions aimed at preventing the onset of chronic wounds, expediting the healing process, or alleviating wound-related symptoms. NINR is primarily interested in applications focusing on clinical research (including studies that develop and/or test clinical interventions), but recognises that certain studies may be restricted to animal models at present because appropriate human research models are not available, or human studies are otherwise not feasible. Applications that include animal studies should provide a rationale for why the use of the animal model is essential for the research proposed.

Domestic and foreign for-profit and non-profit organisations and public or private institutions are eligible to apply.

NINR intends to commit US$3 million in FY2015 to support up to six awards. Application budgets are limited to US$350,000 in direct costs in any year. The maximum project period is five years. 

Closing Date: 24th July 2014

Mollusc research grants
The Malacological Society of Australasia invites applications for its mollusc research grants. These support graduate students and others in conducting research in malacology. Any project that plans to increase knowledge of Australasian molluscs will be eligible, but preference will be given to projects seeking to resolve problems in molluscan taxonomy or whole animal biology.

There are no restrictions on who may apply, but the committee granting the awards will generally give preference to candidates who are not employed as professional malacologists.

Up to AU$2,000 will be available annually and can be granted as one or more awards. A further AU$1,000 may be made available at the discretion of the council. Grants will normally be made to assist with costs associated with field trip or research consumables required for the project.

Further Information: malsocaus.org/research_support.htm
Closing Date: 29th July 2014

Margaret Middleton Fund for endangered Australian vertebrates
The Australian Academy of Science invites applications for its science grants from the Margaret Middleton Fund for endangered Australian vertebrates. These support ecological field research and conservation-based research of Australian ecosystems leading to tangible outcomes for management with the scope of research open to terrestrial, marine and freshwater research on vertebrate animals.

Preference will be given to novel research which deals with empirical field-based data and ecological community processes with possible management implications rather than pure genetic or modelling research. The work should lead to publication in high-quality ecological or conservation journals.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. They should also be enrolled for a PhD and hold an Australian postgraduate award or university scholarship, or be within three years of obtaining a PhD and hold a postdoctoral position at a recognised institution.

Grants are worth up to AU$15,000 over a period of 18 to 24 months. Journal page charges up to a maximum of AU$2,000 may be supported.

Further Information: sciencearchive.org.au/awards/awards/conservation.html
Closing Date:- 30 July 2014
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
CONT.

Australian Academy of Science
Central to the purpose of the Academy is the recognition and support of outstanding contributions to the advancement of science. The honorific awards were established to recognise distinguished research in two categories: awards of medals and prizes are made to early- and mid-career scientists up to 15 years post PhD, and the prestigious career awards are made to scientists for life-long achievement.

The Academy supports research through the sponsorship of research conferences that focus on rapidly developing fields of research; the awarding of travelling fellowships for the exchange of scientific ideas; and provides research awards in fields such as conservation biology, and population and environment.

Further Information:- science.org.au/awards
Closing Date 30th July 2014

Mid-career research award
The Nutrition Society of Australia invites applications for its mid-career research award. This is intended to encourage excellence in any area of animal or human nutrition and to assist researchers in the early-mid stages of their careers. Nominees must be current financial members of the society and must hold a PhD, awarded five to 15 years prior to the application closing date. Successful candidates are required to present a plenary at the annual scientific meeting. The award consists of a return economy airfare, accommodation, registration and conference dinner at the meeting.

Further Information: nsa.asn.au/index.php/awards_prizes_scholarships/nsa_mid-career_research_award/
Closing Date : 31 July 2014

Looking for rural leaders
WOMEN in rural and regional areas are being urged to enter The Australian Financial Review and Westpac 100 Women of Influence Awards.

Now in its third year, the 100 Women of Influence Awards are open to all Australians to nominate outstanding and influential women across corporate, community, arts, philanthropy, public and not-for-profit sectors.

There are 10 categories:
- board/management;
- public policy;
- young leader;
- social enterprise and not-for-profit;
- philanthropy;
- global influence;
- innovation;
- local/regional community;
- diversity; and
- business enterprise.

The winners will be announced from 100 finalists at Sydney Town Hall on October 22. Entries close on August 10 and can be submitted online at 100womenofinfluence.com.au

AgriFood skills Australia international fellowship
The International Specialised Skills Institute, in collaboration with AgriFood Skills Australia, invites applications for its international fellowship. This is for overseas travel to gain higher-level skills and an appreciation of international best practice in the agrifood industry. This includes research in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, conservation and land management, animal care and management, meat, seafood, racing, and food processing including beverage, wine and pharmaceuticals.

Applicants must be Australian residents and over the age of 18. Two fellowships, worth AU$10,000 each, are available this year. Further information issinstitute.org.au/fellowships/fellowships-available/
Closing date 14th August 2014

Fulbright Scholarship
Multiple funding opportunities are available within the 2015 Fulbright Scholarship application round to study in the United States of America. Opportunities include scholarships for postgraduate studies, postdoctoral studies, professional scholarships and senior scholarships. Funding value varies, up to 10 months.

Further Information:- sydney.edu.au/scholarships/research/current_research Scholarships.shtml
Closing Date: 1 August 2014

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Australia invites applications for its scholarships. These aim to encourage students to take an active interest in animal welfare issues, to support animal welfare research that might not otherwise attract funding, and to promote the objectives of the RSPCA within the research community.

The following scholarships are available:
- the RSPCA Australia Alan White scholarship for animal welfare research, which funds original research aimed at improving the welfare of animals in Australia;
- the RSPCA Australia scholarship for humane animal production research, which funds individual research projects related to the development of humane alternative animal production systems, with priority given to alternative housing and husbandry systems for pigs and poultry.

Applicants must be enrolled in full-time or part-time education in an accredited course at an Australian university or college. Scholarships are not restricted to any particular academic discipline; however applicants demonstrating a major commitment to or involvement with animal welfare issues are strongly favoured.

The scholarships are worth AU$8,364.

Further Information: rsppca.org.au/facts/students/scholarships
Closing date: 26th August 2014

The Rhodes Scholarship 2015 NSW
One candidate is selected for the Rhodes Scholarship for each state each year. Applications are invited from outstanding candidates rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk or further details are provided see flyer attached.
Closing Date: 3rd September 2014

Research Professional: researchprofessional.com/ has many other opportunities listed.
WORKSHOPS/COURSES

Introduction to Animal Research: Welfare and Ethics Course
Registrations are now open for the next Introduction to Animal Research: Welfare and Ethics (ITAR) course. This course has been scheduled for Thursday 24 and Friday 25 of July, 2014.
The ITAR course aims to provide an overview of the ethical context of animal use in research and teaching, relevant legislation, individual responsibilities of animal users, administrative requirements at the University, and an introduction to principles of best practice in animal research and teaching. This course is compulsory for all new animal researchers. Experienced animal researchers and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend
Further Information:- sydney.edu.au/research_support/ethics/animal/training/introduction.shtml

DATABASES ON TRIAL AT THE LIBRARY

Trial access not available off-campus
Sage Research Methods: srmo.sagepub.com/
A research methods tool created to help researchers, faculty and students with their research projects. Researchers can explore methods concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods or identify a new method, conduct their research, and write up their findings. Since SAGE Research Methods focuses on methodology rather than disciplines, it can be used across the social sciences, health sciences, and more.

Please fill out the Database Evaluation Form sydney.edu.au/library/databases/dbevaluation.html- Thank you

SOMETHING EXTRA...

COMPETITION: Feral Photos 2014, Invasive Animals CRC, Australia-wide
We are looking for the best images of Australia’s pest animals and the impacts they have on biodiversity and agriculture.
We accept photos from all locations across Australia and remote camera photos are also accepted.
You can enter up to five images for the chance to win some great prizes. To see some past winning entries, check them out at the links invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos/2013-winners/
Competition closes on 30th September 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
E vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au
F facebook.com/VeterinaryScienceSydney?ref=hl.
sydney.edu.au/vetsci/research