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# DANDER

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## President's Report

The months since the AVPA AGM in July have gone by exceptionally quick for us all.

The AVPA executive has involved itself in many issues with the main focus being redesigning of the website and organising February's meeting (Many thanks to Peter Groves).

The executive feels that the website is an urgent and important area for work to be done as it should be a repository of all things to do with the workings of the AVPA including conference proceedings, submissions, Dander reports as well as a forum for member discussion.

We see the latter as being very important for the AVPA as there are many issues that members need to discuss and debate with each other. Some examples would include the discussion of ideas for use of our existing funds as well as topics of relevance such as the recent ILT situation.

The easiest and most practical way for this to be achieved is through a web blog as these things are far too complex to be discussed by e-mail through the secretary as they have been done in the past.

If members have any particular comments or concerns about the website, please address them to us through the secretary.

Lastly, it is with regret that we see the departure of Susan Bibby to Aviagen in Scotland. She has done a great job for the AVPA in her role as the therapeutics subcommittee convenor and we wish her well in the future.

Dave Marks

## Danderuff

*This section comments about matters impacting the poultry industry. These comments are those of the editor and do not represent the policies of the AVPA. This section is open to all members who want to present a point of view about the industry.*

The Weekly Times is providing description of the proposed take-over bid by Baiada Poultry for Barter.

There is ongoing discussion about free range standards and cannibalism. This news is somewhat overrun by the drought conditions here in Victoria, plummeting milk prices, and the controversy about piping water from the dry north of the State to Melbourne, all justified because the water in the pipeline will appear from savings. This "savings" analogy will not work with chickens, where eating fewer is not what we want, but we do want each bird to eat less! One thing that does not change is the fact that each bird eaten needs to be transported to the processing plant.

I recently note an accident that occurred when a laden chicken transport truck overturned and peppered a key freeway with chickens. Great TV coverage. Defenceless blinking eyed broilers frozen to the spot and staring into

the camera lens.

A couple of weeks earlier, I stopped on a major freeway to remove a spent breeder which had been dislodged during transport. These are welfare issues that I have agonized over since being in the poultry industry. I make reference once again to the press coverage mulesing is getting from powerful welfare activist groups. It does the poultry industry no good at all to be constantly reminding these groups and the public that chickens fall off trucks.

We never seem to note loose sheep or cattle or pigs that have fallen off the back of a truck on their way to the abattoir!

The poultry industry defence to such arguments is not that the number of chook miles travelled in Australia each year by chicken transporters is huge, and that there is a 99.9% plus safe arrival schedule.

I cannot stress enough that despite a highly efficient and sophisticated procedure, one chicken on a freeway could undo this excellence. Surely this is preventable.

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*Membership of the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd is available to individuals and groups working in, or interested in, any veterinary aspect of poultry.*

*Dander will be published quarterly (March, June, September and December). Contributions are welcome. Electronic copy is requested. Deadline for copy is by the end of the second week of the month of publication. Please send information on abstracts of interesting papers, summaries of reports, case histories, social news etc. to Grant Richards at [ava176@tpg.com.au](mailto:ava176@tpg.com.au) or Lynn Tan at [lynn.tan@bartter.com.au](mailto:lynn.tan@bartter.com.au)*

## Summary of Important Upcoming Scientific Meetings

**February 2009** AVPA Scientific Meeting University of Sydney, Arthur Webster Lecture Theatre, Camperdown February 11 – 12 Contact:

<b>MEMBERSHIP MATTERS</b>	
Thanks to all members who have renewed their AVPA subscriptions for 2009. An application form for new or continuing membership can be found at the back of this issue of <i>DANDER</i> .	
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**INTRODUCTION**

The health and productive performance of Australian egg layers has improved considerably in recent years. Flock statistics, such as 2% mortality during rearing, 3% mortality in a 60 week laying period, 380 saleable eggs/hen housed to 82 weeks of age and a feed conversion ratio of 1.99kg feed/kg eggs to 82 weeks, are being achieved. Imported genetic strains, eradication of some diseases, new vaccines and controlled-environment housing are among the main reasons for such improvement.

**CURRENT DISEASE STATUS**

Infectious diseases have become less prevalent in egg layer flocks over the last 40 years.

Currently the only infectious disease problems of significance in caged layers are sporadic ILT occurrences (mainly due to unavailability of vaccine) and Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS) due to failure of some producers to vaccinate their flocks. Sporadic occurrences of coccidiosis and infectious coryza in non-vaccinated pullets have been reported.

In free-range and barn-lay flocks, the most important infectious disease in recent years has been “Spotty Liver Disease” or “Miliary Hepatitis”, a suspected bacterial disease resembling “Vibriotic Hepatitis”, first described in the scientific literature in 1954 in the USA. There is a useful pictorial description of this disease, which some authors believe to be due to *Campylobacter spp.*, at [www.octagon-services.co.uk/articles/poultry/avh.htm](http://www.octagon-services.co.uk/articles/poultry/avh.htm). *Campylobacter jejuni* was recently isolated in pure culture from the bile of one adult hen affected with Spotty Liver Disease in Queensland. While treatment with chlortetracycline (CTC) is successful, preventative measures have not yet been developed. Mortality and egg production drops often occur around peak egg production. Other diseases and pests that have occurred less frequently in free-range and barn-lay poultry in recent years include fowl cholera, erysipelas, mites, lice, tapeworms and roundworms.

Chlamydiosis, which is both a poultry disease and a zoonosis caused by *Chlamydoiphila psittaci*, has been reported in the last few years in layer pullets in NSW. Antibiotic treatment with either tetracycline or doxycycline (the latter under Permit) has been mostly successful, but the sources of the infection have not been determined. Previous scientific reports of this disease in chickens in Australia were in broilers in Victoria and in layer pullets in NSW.

Salmonella food poisoning attributed to the consumption of products containing uncooked egg ingredients has been reported sporadically (eg by OzFoodNet) in the last few years. In August 2007, a National Egg Food Safety Summit was held at which government health representatives met with the Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL) and other stakeholders to discuss ways of preventing egg-associated illness (including salmonella food-poisoning) in humans.

While not an infectious disease, pecking/cannibalism sometimes causes mortality, particularly in free-range egg layers and particularly during hot humid weather. Beaktrimming is authorised if this “vice” occurs.

**VACCINATION ISSUES**

Overall the Australian egg industry is well served with vaccines. Vaccination has become the main means for infectious disease prevention and control in egg layers. Vaccination efficacy is monitored by serological testing by some producers to confirm that their vaccination administration procedures are optimal. Relevant vaccines that are available to the Australian egg industry to control disease are listed in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Diseases that can occur in Australian egg layers and available vaccines**

Disease Cause Vaccine Type Vaccine Company
Marek’s Disease Marek’s disease virus – a herpesvirus Live viral herpesvirus of turkeys (HVT) and Rispens vaccines stored in liquid nitrogen and administered SC in the hatchery Bioproperties; Intervet/Schering-Plough; Fort Dodge
Infectious Bronchitis (IB) Infectious bronchitis virus – a coronavirus FD live viral vaccines-CS in the hatchery; DW during rearing and sometimes during lay Intervet/Schering Plough; Fort Dodge; Bioproperties
Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) Infectious laryngotracheitis virus – a herpesvirus FD live viral vaccine-DW or ED in rearing Fort Dodge; Intervet/Schering-Plough
Fowl Pox (FP) Fowl pox virus – an <i>Avipox</i> member of the Poxviridae FD live viral vaccine-wing web stab in rearing

Fort Dodge; Intervet/Schering Plough

Avian Encephalomyelitis (AE)  
Avian encephalomyelitis virus – a picornavirus  
Frozen live viral vaccine –DW, ED in rearing  
Fort Dodge: Intervet/Schering-Plough

Newcastle Disease (ND)  
Newcastle disease virus – a paramyxovirus  
FD live viral vaccine-CS in the hatchery and DW during rearing; chilled inactivated viral vaccine-SC or IM injection in rearing  
Fort Dodge (live and inactivated); Intervet/Schering-Plough (inactivated, alone or combined with EDS vaccine); Bioproperties (live)

Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS)  
Egg drop syndrome virus – an adenovirus  
Chilled inactivated viral vaccine-SC or IM injection in rearing  
Intervet/Schering-Plough (inactivated, alone or combined with ND vaccine)

Chicken Anaemia  
Chicken anaemia virus – a circovirus  
FD live viral vaccine-SC or IM injection in rearing  
Intervet/Schering-Plough; used in layer breeders only

Infectious Bursal Disease  
Infectious bursal disease virus - birnavirus  
FD live viral vaccine-DW in rearing; chilled inactivated viral vaccine-IM in rearing  
Fort Dodge (live and inactivated); Intervet/Schering-Plough (inactivated, alone or combined with ND vaccine); used in layer breeders only

Inclusion Body Hepatitis (IBH)  
Fowl adenovirus type 8  
FD live viral vaccine-ED or DW in rearing  
Intervet Schering/Plough; used in layer breeders only

Fowl Cholera  
*Pasteurella multocida*  
Chilled inactivated bacterial vaccine-SC or IM injection in rearing  
Intervet/Schering-Plough and Allied Animal Health (autogenous permitted vaccines)

Infectious Coryza  
*Haemophilus paragallinarum*  
Chilled inactivated bacterial vaccine-SC or IM injection in rearing  
Intervet/Schering-Plough and Allied Animal Health (autogenous permitted vaccines)

Mycoplasmosis  
*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*  
Live frozen bacterial vaccine-ED in rearing  
Bioproperties

Infectious Synovitis  
*Mycoplasma synoviae*  
Live frozen bacterial vaccine-ED in rearing  
Bioproperties; used mainly in layer breeders

Salmonellosis  
*Salmonella spp.*  
Live FD bacterial vaccine-DW in rearing; chilled inactivated bacterial vaccine-SC or IM in rearing  
Bioproperties (live); Intervet/Schering-Plough and Vic. DPI (inactivated autogenous permitted vaccines)

Coccidiosis  
*Eimeria spp.*  
Chilled live oocyst vaccine-ED or DW in rearing  
Bioproperties; Intervet/Schering Plough

*SC = Subcutaneous; FD = Freeze dried; CS = Coarse Spray; DW = Drinking Water; ED=Eyedrop; IM = Intramuscular; some administration routes are "off-label" uses authorised by the veterinarian responsible for the flock*

Issues relating to vaccines that have arisen recently include:

#### **Unavailability of Vaccines**

Vaccines that have been unavailable for short periods recently include ILT, FP, AE and IB A-strain vaccines. ILT has been the disease most apparent due to the insufficient supply of these vaccines. Mortality and egg production drops have

resulted. The chance of shortages occurring in the future with ILT, FP and AE vaccines has been reduced with two companies now producing these vaccines. There is only one manufacturer of IB A-strain vaccine.

### **EDS Outbreaks**

EDS outbreaks have been frequently reported in recent years in non-vaccinated flocks. Substantial egg production losses have occurred. Some egg producers vaccinate against EDS for a few years and then cease vaccination. It has not been uncommon for outbreaks to subsequently occur in these non-vaccinated flocks. Vaccination against EDS should be routinely included in the vaccination program of egg layers. A combined inactivated EDS-ND vaccine is now often used to reduce the labour costs of dual vaccinations. Even though some flocks that have become infected with EDS are on modern farms with apparent good biosecurity, EDS has nevertheless occurred. The biosecurity breaches that have occurred need to be identified, as the same breaches could permit infection of flocks with avian influenza virus which has occurred five times in Australia since 1976.

### **ND Vaccination**

ND vaccination became mandatory in the poultry industry following outbreaks of virulent ND in Australia in NSW and Victoria between 1998 and 2002, apparently due to the evolution of Australian endemic avirulent ND viruses. The egg industry in some States has questioned whether vaccination should be continued and whether live vaccination only could be used. Currently all egg layers in Australia must be vaccinated with both live and inactivated ND vaccines. Consideration is currently being given to these questions by government and industry committees.

### **MEDICATION ISSUES**

Because of the current excellent health status of egg layer flocks in Australia, the only routine medications are in-feed anticoccidials used during rearing and dewormers administered strategically in drinking water. Antibiotics are infrequently used.

Issues relating to medications that have arisen recently include:

#### **Regulatory Restrictions on the Use of Medications in Egg Layers**

Many medications used in poultry now have the Label Restraint "DO NOT USE in birds which are producing eggs or may in the future produce eggs or egg products for human consumption" on labels registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Veterinarians cannot prescribe or "off-label" authorise products including antibiotics, dewormers or anticoccidials with this Label Restraint, so such medications are no longer available to the egg industry. In 2004 the Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL) successfully applied to the APVMA for Minor Use Permits to allow the egg industry to treat layer pullets with amoxicillin (S4), sulpha drugs including trimethoprim (S4) and toltrazuril (Baycox®), all of which are essential for the egg industry during the rearing of egg layers should bacterial diseases or coccidiosis occur. A condition for renewal of the Permits in 2009 is that AECL must supply appropriate egg residue data to the APVMA to assist in setting egg Maximum Residue Limits for these medications. An S4 medication can only be prescribed by the veterinarian responsible for the health of the affected birds and who is registered in the state in which the affected birds are kept.

Chlortetracycline (S4) and Linco-Spectin® (S4) are now the only treatment antibiotics and tylosin phosphate (S4), bacitracin (S4) and flavophospholipol (S4 at some concentrations) the only in-feed preventative antibiotics which can be used at dose rates specified on the label for birds in lay without withholding eggs from human consumption. It is fortuitous for the egg industry that fowl cholera, infectious coryza and Spotty Liver Disease can be treated by CTC as these diseases can occur in hens in lay.

Piperazine and levamisole can be used in egg layers to treat round worm infections, but there is no medication registered for treatment of poultry tapeworms.

Some anticoccidials containing diaveridine and ethapobate can no longer be used by the egg industry because they have the Label Restraint, but dinitolmide (DOT), monensin, lasalocid and salinomycin are permitted during rearing with specified withdrawal periods prior to lay.

Since dimetridazole (DMZ) was recently prohibited following an APVMA review, there is now no medication for control or treatment of Blackhead (histomoniasis) in egg layers, broilers or turkeys.

### **INSECTICIDE ISSUES**

Insecticides have been used in the past to control external parasites of poultry and other insects (some of which can be intermediate hosts of internal parasites of poultry) in poultry sheds during cleanout and disinfection or applied directly onto poultry and poultry equipment, e.g. nest boxes, for the same reason.

Issues relating to insecticides that have arisen recently include:

#### **Regulatory Restrictions and Unavailability of Insecticides**

Following an APVMA review, chemicals containing carbaryl were prohibited from use in poultry sheds or on poultry. Recently azamethiphos (Alfacron) became unavailable because the manufacturer ceased supply in Australia. These were the main two chemicals used in recent years by the egg industry to control external parasites such as lice and mites. Maldison is now the only appropriate insecticide registered for use against some external parasites in poultry houses, on poultry equipment such as nest boxes or on poultry. Other insecticide actives, eg permethrin, fenitrothion and cyfluthrin, can be used in empty poultry houses, but are not registered for control of mites or lice. Likewise cyromazine (Larvadex®) can be used in the feed of layers to control flies. In some States, veterinarians cannot authorise the use of insecticides "off-label" and treatment of birds with agricultural pesticides is prohibited in most States and Territories. State and Territory Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical legislation should be discussed with the relevant government officer in your jurisdiction if there are any queries relating to the use of these or other insecticides in poultry sheds or on poultry.

## CONCLUSIONS

In general, infectious disease is currently well controlled in the egg industry. However, unavailability of some vaccines and insecticides, failure to vaccinate against EDS, the re-appearance of some "old" diseases and infestations and increasing regulatory restrictions on the use of medications and insecticides have resulted in challenges for the egg industry to control some important diseases and infestations. With the number of egg layers raised under free-range conditions predicted to increase substantially in the future, the lack of appropriate medications and insecticides could become even more important to the egg industry.

## REFERENCES

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of a number of egg industry and government technical and management staff when preparing this paper is much appreciated.

**Tom Grimes**

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## DOCUMENTING AVIAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE IN AUSTRALIA

### Introduction

Widespread outbreaks of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have occurred around the world since late 2003. In order to contain the spread and minimise the risks associated with HPAI, governments and poultry enterprises worldwide are paying increasing attention to biosecurity and surveillance. In Australia, government-industry avian influenza (AI) forums were held in 2007 and 2008, to bring together the various sectors of the poultry industry, governments and other stakeholders to enhance Australia's AI preparedness. Working groups arising from these forums included the Biosecurity Consultative Group (the work of which was described in the June 2008 issue of *Dander*) and the AI Surveillance Task Force. This article will describe the work involved in documenting AI surveillance in Australia.

### Background

In 2005, changes were made to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Code chapter on AI. All detections of H5 and H7 subtypes in birds became notifiable, and surveillance requirements for notifiable AI viruses were introduced. The OIE Code recommendations for AI are available at [http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en\\_chapitre\\_1.10.4.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.10.4.htm). These changes to the OIE code affect international trade in poultry and poultry products. Numerous countries, including the United States, members of the European Union, Japan and Canada have instigated national active AI surveillance programs in their domestic poultry and wild birds.

From January 2009, new veterinary requirements will restrict entry of poultry and poultry products into the European Union to exporting countries that have an approved AI surveillance program in place.<sup>1</sup> Some existing and potential markets for Australian poultry and poultry products are under threat, at least until Australia is able to provide evidence of an effective and ongoing national AI surveillance program.

### Surveillance for avian influenza viruses in wild birds

Surveillance for avian influenza viruses in wild birds in Australia has been enhanced in the past few years.

Australia and New Zealand are not in the flight path of migratory *Anseriformes* (ducks, swans and geese) from the northern hemisphere. Australian ducks, geese and swans are generally nomadic within Australia, with the occasional bird straying across the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand. There is also some bird movement between Australia, the Torres Strait and the islands of New Guinea. However, some *Charadriiformes* (waders) do migrate to Australia each year from the northern hemisphere via Asia. Thus, there is potential for transfer of AI viruses into and around Australia with wild bird movements.

More than 10,000 samples for AI testing have been collected from wild birds in each of the last two years, including cloacal and oropharyngeal swabs, environmental faecal samples, and blood samples. The sampling locations are mainly concentrated around water bodies (eg lakes, rivers, shoreline) and near some intensive poultry-raising areas, and sampling occurs in all Australian states and territories except the A.C.T.

The species targeted for sampling have included *Anseriformes* (ducks, geese, swans), *Charadriiformes* (waders, gulls) and *Procellariiformes* (shearwaters). A small number of samples have also been taken from other species such as *Caprimulgiformes* (frogmouths), *Columbiformes* (pigeons, doves), *Gruiformes* (coot), *Passeriformes* (perching birds), *Psittaciformes* (parrots) and *Struthioniformes* (emu).

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) 798/2008 of 8 August 2008, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:226:0001:0094:EN:PDF>

Three levels of sampling occurs:

1. Active sampling of healthy live birds and hunter-killed wild birds, with sampling mostly occurring in the warmer months, which coincides with the arrival of migratory species and the breeding season
2. Passive surveillance of sick and dead wild birds
3. Opportunistic sampling of zoo-based vagrant birds (ie not collection birds)

The sampling is carried out by State governments, zoos and private veterinary clinics, and through the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) – a program managed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Some surveys are also conducted by researchers at Universities. To facilitate collaboration between the different agency, university and State programs, the National AI in Wild Birds Steering Group (the Steering Group) was established in January 2006. The Australian Wildlife Health Network (AWHN) supports the Steering Group. AWHN provides: secretariat duties associated with teleconferences; data entry for the national wildlife database (eWHIS); provision of various media releases and updates, and collation of surveillance activities and results for reporting to DAFF.

The prevalence of AI viruses detected by PCR in wild birds has been very low (1-1.8%). However, the presence of seropositive birds is higher (up to 49% in some surveys in Western Australia), indicating previous exposure to AI viruses.

Avian influenza viruses which have been detected in Australian wild birds have included all H subtypes except H10, H14 and H16. All AI viruses detected in wild birds in the last two years were determined to be of low pathogenicity. The detection of LPAI H5 and LPAI H7 in wild birds reinforces the need for poultry enterprises to maintain strict biosecurity measures.

### **Surveillance for avian influenza viruses in domestic poultry**

Australia has had five outbreaks of HPAI in poultry between 1976 and 1997, all of which were associated with H7 subtype viruses. All of these outbreaks were detected and eradicated before spreading beyond the immediate vicinity of the index infected farm.

In 2006, a national active sero-surveillance program was completed on 180 commercial chicken layer and breeder farms, representing approximately 9% of such flocks in Australia. The survey targeted farms considered to be at higher risk of exposure to AI viruses, and found no evidence of exposure to H5 or H7 AI viruses. Similar national sero-surveillance studies have not been carried out in other poultry sectors.

Opportunistic and targeted sampling of poultry occurs in response to epidemiologically interesting findings, such as the detection of LPAI viruses in wild birds in the vicinity of domestic poultry farms.

In addition to the surveillance programs described above, disease events in poultry and wild birds are targeted for investigation. In 2007, over 100 disease events in avian species were tested for avian influenza, with all samples being negative. Diagnoses resulting from the investigations in poultry in 2007 included infectious laryngotracheitis and mycoplasmosis.

### **The AI Surveillance Task Force**

The AI Surveillance Task Force was established following the first annual Government – Industry AI Forum held in June 2007, to progress national policy issues associated with domestic poultry surveillance for AI. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from all industry sectors (including chickens, ducks, turkeys, ratites and game birds), two state chief veterinary officers, DAFF and Animal Health Australia. DAFF has commissioned AHA to convene the Task Force.

At a meeting held on 14 May 2008, the Surveillance Task Force considered that there was a need to better coordinate and collate the AI surveillance data on wild birds and domestic poultry that is currently being collected by jurisdictions and industry, and ensure that all relevant activities are being captured at a national level. The development of a 'dossier' of national AI surveillance activities was endorsed at the second annual Government – Industry forum held in June 2008, which was attended by all jurisdictions and industry sectors. This dossier is currently being assembled.

Once compiled, an epidemiological assessment of the dossier will be undertaken and the Surveillance Task Force will review the information with a view to determining future AI surveillance objectives.

The National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS) will be the primary mechanism for the collection of summary surveillance results for domestic poultry and captive birds for the dossier project, while eWHIS will continue to be used for results of wild bird surveillance.

DAFF will continue to work closely with the jurisdictions, industry sectors and Animal Health Australia in the development of the national AI surveillance dossier, and in the planning of any ongoing national AI surveillance program and other future related activities.

Readers doing any AI exclusion testing or surveillance are asked to submit results of investigations to your state NAHIS or Wildlife coordinators. If you have any questions or concerns about how to submit results of AI investigations, or questions about or contributions for the dossier project in general, please feel free to contact Kathy Gibson 02 6272 5984 ([Kathy.gibson@daff.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.gibson@daff.gov.au)) or Sharon Turner 02 6272 4502 ([Sharon.turner@daff.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.turner@daff.gov.au))

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Australian Wildlife Health Network  
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**WVPA Bureau Member Report Jan 09 Trevor Bagust**

Dear AVPA members,

The Website for the WVPA, the Umbrella professional organisation for each of the current 38 national avian veterinary Associations in the world including your own AVPA is located at <http://www.wvpa.net/> . From there you will be able to source a lot of information regarding the world scene and avian health. Probably the most important item on the Agenda for the forthcoming year 2009 is that the **XVI Congress of the World Veterinary Poultry Association** is going to be held during **October 2009** . in **Marrakesh/Morocco** . You will find a most interesting and informative website to be operating for this Congress at <http://www.wvpc2009.org/> . The 20-24 September 09 date band that is being shown there (at end of January 09) has had to be deferred into the next month at the request of the Moroccan Branch, and is looking MOST LIKELY to be **18-22 October 2009**. I'll advise AVPA immediately if any changes occur!

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**Now, here is a message to all of us in the AVPA from the Moroccan Organising Committee, received 27 January. Pls check the Website.**

The Kingdom of Morocco and the AMPA (Moroccan Poultry Pathology Association) are hosting the 16th WVPA Congress in Marrakesh, in September 2009, corresponding to the 50th World Veterinary Poultry Association anniversary.

Dear ALL,

It's time now to register to our next WVPA Congress 2009 to be held in Marrakech, Morocco.

You will find attached:

- the tentative agenda
- the registration form to be filled in and sent back as soon as possible
- the practical information note (please read it carefully).

See you soon in Marrakech!!

Kind regards.

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TIP TO AVPA MEMBERS : If considering attending at all, just go ahead and submit an Abstract in the next week or two for consideration for acceptance. Remember- Good field-based observations are every bit as prized at these WVPA Congresses (and the **WVPA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary !**) as will be laboratory-based studies! Now, for the scientific program, the following are the Sessions which have been arranged which will allow Scientific Papers (as oral or posters) to be presented by AVPA members.

- Session I :       Viral Diseases**
- Session II :       Bacterial Diseases**
- Session III : Public Health and Hygiene**
- Session IV : Vaccination, Immunity & Immunosuppression**
- Session V : Neoplastic Diseases of Chickens**
- Session VI : Mycoplasma Infections**
- Session VII : Parasitic Diseases**
- Session VIII : Natural Substances in Poultry Health**
- Session IX : Diseases of Turkeys & Other Species**
- Session X : Nutritional Disorders**
- Session XI : Management & Environment**
- Session XII : Miscellaneous.**

A further scientific feature of the Morocco Congress will be the integration of **Workshops on Topics :**

- **Poultry production and Food safety:**
- **Vaccination and vaccine technology**
- **Diagnosis of Avian influenza:**

An excellent social program will also be made available for the Delegates, as well as for those who are going to accompany them to this family-friendly Congress.

More Information on all aspects can be expected in the next Newsletter!!

And just on a Historical Note, for those in the AVPA to look back over earlier WVPA Congresses, where numbers of us have participated:

**Past Congress Sites**

Sydney <b>Australia</b>	10th
	1993
Budapest <b>Hungary</b>	11th
	1997
Cairo <b>Egypt</b>	12th
	2002
Denver <b>USA</b>	13th
	2003
Istanbul <b>Turkey</b>	14th
	2005
Beijing <b>P. R. China</b>	15th
	2007

Incidentally it was great to see the President of the WVPA, Prof. **Hafez Hafez** of Germany, attending the World Poultry Science's recent World Congress in Brisbane June30-July4 this year. It was a terrific Congress, and particular Congratulations are due to WPSA President **Bob Pym**, and also to the AVPA's **Kevin Whithear** who Coordinated the very successful Avian Health stream.  
This was an outstanding feature when combined within this WPSA Conference.

Last, but certainly not least, for *Avian Pathology*, the scientific Journal of the WVPA, the following news has been received from Prof Peter Biggs (UK):

*Rather unexpectedly **Dave Cavanagh** has informed Jane and myself as Secretary and Chairman of the Houghton Trust that he wished to give up as Editor-in-Chief of Avian Pathology. The Trustees have considered possible successors and unanimously agreed that **Janet Bradbury** should be asked to take on the job. We have been very fortunate that she has agreed and will be taking over from Dave at the time of our annual meeting of Editors and the AGM of the Houghton Trust next May.*

Our whole Membership certainly owes Dave Cavanagh a great debt for his inspirational leadership and contributions to the scientific excellence that has been achieved in *Avian Pathology* during the last 2 decades. Thanks so much Dave!! Also, every good wish for success to Prof. Janet Bradbury, Liverpool University UK. Both of these scientists are well known to us having been regular presenters of major overview and Keynote at AVPA scientific Congresses in Australia.

On any of the matters reported on here, or on other WVPA-related matters, AVPA members can please feel free to contact me via [trevorjb@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:trevorjb@unimelb.edu.au)

### Industry Health Reports NSW PHLG 22/8/2008

The following items were discussed:

#### **ILT**

Continued to inflict losses on both pullet and broiler flocks in Sydney.

Some of the affected flocks have been vaccinated and it is not clear if the current available vaccine provide sufficient protection. One of the pullet flocks with ILT was vaccinated twice by Eye Drop and still came down with ILT. Discussion on the topic ensued and the need to report and investigate properly each suspect case of apparent vaccination failure was emphasised. The possibility of conducting a small efficacy trial using both Intervet and Fort Dodge ILT vaccines followed by challenge with ILT type 8 and NSW type 4 was also mentioned.

On histo some of the ILT cases appear to have bronchial lesions rather than exclusively tracheal.

Virology has requested a comprehensive array of tissues from ILT cases to be submitted in order to enable appropriate investigations.

**Erysipelas:** The last case was reported in free range layer operation in the Hunter. Two more cases reported last year, one in Hunter Valley and another in Tamworth. There was also another case in Victoria. Still looking at vaccinating as a long term solution— total mortality in the last case was 12-13%.

**Spotty Liver:** None over winter.

**Blackhead:** In one flock and samples sent to EMAI which gave a positive diagnosis. Treated routinely with Benzicare at 19 weeks of age. Only caecal lesions evident.

**Cholera lesions:** 2 farms involved and Pasteurella was cultured.

Farm was vaccinated – “isolate” – samples sent to Burling Labs.  
Classic Chronic Cholera. Males especially but also some females.  
Autogenously vaccine used. Chris Morrow is apparently the cure.

**Fowl Pox:** Vaccinated at 7 days of age but at the time shortage of FP vaccine and hence was not followed with a second vaccination. The flock came down at 70 weeks with severe Fowl pox.

**Poisoning:** Fifty week old breeders. Control Environment Shed. Mortality of 1100/8000 over night. Next day only 100 dead in one shed and another 100 seedy, depressed etc. The day after only 5 dead.

Only clue found on P.M. was haemorrhaging in the lungs and increased clotting time. AI, ND, Bacto all negative.

Histo – possible evidence of toxin. No dead birds at back of shed and no roosters involved. Water in the middle of shed and gas heating both ways. . Next day 5 more sick – only affected front half of one shed. EMAI still waiting on some results.

Could be management problem??

**High mortalities:** in broilers – Ascites and cellulites a feature – Mortality Survey over 3 months-Mostly a management problem as happens before thin out. Tunnel Sheds built but has not stopped the problem. Low light not a cure. Earlier (younger) no tightly packed.

'Dustier Feed' with birds spending more time at the feeders?

Do not see it in Ross birds. See more in slow feathers.

High Sorghum diet leading to harder sharper claws? Or to dustier feed?

**Beak Trimming pullets:** Infrared beak trimming problem in 7-10 day old birds. If done properly should not be a problem since according to TG it is the best thing since sliced bread.

**IB** – Reported by Soy Rubite, Baiada Vic) and the relevance to NSW is the fact that a broiler farm in Vic yielded IB virus with a NSW S1 protein sequence almost identical to NSW N4/02. According to Jagoda this is the first time a NSW strain has been isolated in Victoria.

See Dr Jagoda Ignjatovic comments below;

We consider isolation of this virus significant for the following reasons: S1 protective antigen sequence of V1/07 is almost identical to a group of viruses represented by the strains N4/02. The N4/02 and strains similar to it were isolated in 2002 and 2003 on a number of different farms in NSW where they caused respiratory problems and mortalities in broilers. At the time of their isolation we suspected that none of the existing vaccines protected against these strains because their protective S1 antigen differed very much from other Australian IBV strains, including all existing vaccines. Sandra and Gaylene have done challenged studies and showed that none of vaccines

provided protection including when vaccinated twice with the same strain, such as Vic S.

Isolation of V1/07 in Victoria is therefore not a good news. It means that the virus has most likely spread from NSW to Victoria, although this is difficult to prove, because it might also have emerged in Victoria and then to have spread to NSW.

Reported by E Arzey & G Arzey

#### **Book Review - Diseases of Poultry: colour atlas**

By Ivan Dinev Ivanov and CEVA Sante animale; first edition 2007

ISBN 978-954-9411-12-6

This atlas is a collection of mainly gross pathological pictures from Ivan Divev, an Associate Professor at Stara Zargora in Bulgaria. Nearly all the photos are from his collection and the quality of the reproduction for the most part is excellent. Some nice pictures of many manifestations of E. coli and Fowl typhoid give a good balance rather than a concentration of exotic or rare diseases. Neoplastic conditions are treated separately. Some nice dissections to show Marek's tumour in the lung show the care taken in collecting these pictures. The coverage extends to duck and turkey conditions and is extensive and some nice examples of old diseases like tuberculosis. Some histological sections are included but the colour balance in some of these is poor.

A lot of pictures of swollen heads variously ascribed to TRT, Pasteurella, E.coli and other agents makes one wonder is a section on differential diagnosis should have been included. The text generally is a broad overview and useful but further information would be needed and a book on poultry diseases consulted. Coccidial diseases are not always diagnosed to species level but perhaps the examples represent more what is seen in field cases.

A few unusual diseases are included including Hyperadrogenism of broiler chickens (an unknown intoxication), acute butane-propane intoxication and *Galium aparine* (Cleavers) seed poisoning (I have seen this without realizing what it was in Russia).

Polypodia is illustrated (the occurrence of more legs than normal) and is quite common in Eastern Europe and in my experience high incidence of this is associated with shaking of eggs and disruption of the blastocyst etc (not radiation) during early incubation as described in classical experiments. There is a general lack of examples of management induced diseases (swollen heads due to grill damage in broiler breeders for example) although invagination (intussusceptions) is illustrated and ascribed to "strong intestinal peristalsis often following ingestion of feed after a restrictive feeding regimen" which I would agree with. Although volvulus is illustrated no inciting factors are suggested. In general conditions with aetiological agents are well represented but I think tenosynovitis in broiler breeders is only rarely if ever caused by Reovirus and more likely to be due to management factors.

The preface states that the book also exists as an expanded electronic version. The most beautiful thing is that most of the bacteria are still referred to by the name they were first introduced to me. I suspect that I have the only copy in Australia so eat your hearts out. This book deserves a wider audience and I would recommend it to any one starting out with chicken pathology.

Chris Morrow

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## Obituaries

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### Jack Howling

“Jack began his involvement with the poultry industry when his parents established a commercial layer farm near Sydney in the early 60’s. He then moved into broilers and later back into layers. This stimulated Jack’s interest in poultry, which developed into a strong passion for the poultry industry and its advancement. Jack matriculated and joined Inghams at their Roseworthy complex as a farm labourer, thus gaining valuable first hand experience in practical poultry management. He then moved to the Tegel laboratory at Leppington as a technician and remained there until 1975. It was here that Jack completed the requirements for the award of a Biology Technical Certificate.

In 1975 Jack moved back into poultry production at the Badgery’s Creek breeder complex of Consolidated Poultry Industries. In 1979 Jack moved to Queensland to join Woodlands Enterprises at Beerwah as livestock production manager, and in 1982 he joined the Darwalla Group at Mt Cotton as Operations Manager for many years and then General Manager where he remained until his untimely illness. Thirty years ago, Jack was excited yet scared at the thought of moving into livestock management – scared that he would not be good at it, not have the skills. Well, 30 years of history proved he made the change successfully. It is well known how he quickly earned the respect and loyalty of his employees.

As a person, Jack gained the respect of all sections of the poultry industry for his willingness to contribute to industry affairs, particularly in relation to education and the advancement of the industry. Jack used to enjoy meeting company reps; he had a good sense for differentiating what was snake oil from what was a worthwhile product. The odd rep tried to put it over him across the boardroom table and left somewhat deflated. Yet again they would come back for another visit and it didn’t take them long to realise Jack was all bluff and really was a softie – though we weren’t allowed to say that publicly.

Jack joined the PIX committee in 1983, he was vice-president since 1997. His wise counsel and his practical knowledge was a very valuable asset in the development of the PIX programs. He was instrumental in organising the highly successful social activities of PIX since 1983. This responsibility took much time and effort, freely given to ensure the success of these activities. Jack, as he was supposed to be checking Dreamworld as a suitable PIX social activity loved to ride the Tower of Terror. Many times the industry has been entertained by Jack on stage, he was always willing to have some fun as he was supposedly checking out these venues, and we will always remember Jack with the comedian on stage at the Jupiter’s show a few years ago. For his contribution to the poultry industry, Jack was awarded the prestigious Noel Milne Award in 2002.

Jack not only gave his time, but himself. He supported younger members of the industry who benefited from his experience and guidance. Jack was a conscientious member of the CRC Education Committee until his death, and was keenly interested in attracting and educating young people in the industry. Jack was one of the prime instigators of the highly successful Queensland WPSA Schools Project, which reaches out to the Agricultural departments of Queensland High Schools. Jack was constantly amazed at what his staff could do, not always in a good way either. He would look at us with that wry grin as if to say “How did you manage to do that! Just what were you thinking?” He was very loyal to those who worked for him and Jack has a following of employees who were very loyal and protective in return.

All of us here will know of Jack’s love of telling a good joke. Many times during a tense meeting, just out of blue Jack would tell a joke, they were always good ones – he could remember them from months back and he always told them so well.

Jack will be sorely missed by all of us in the industry, in particular those of us at Darwalla/Golden Cockerel. Our condolences go out to Jack’s wife, Sandy, his four children and his grandchildren.”

**Albert Benfer**

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**A personal thought about Jack:**

**Hands up how many of you brought Jack an expensive dinner or bottle of wine, to be dined in return at McDonalds Gatton?**

**The lesson to us all is that Jack got away with it!!!!!!**

**Grant Richards**

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### Miles Pulsford

“Miles was a young teenager when the great depression began. He attended the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and then studied veterinary science at Sydney University where he met his wife Bronte.

Having had experiences of hardships during the depression as well as responsibilities for war-time food production, these built and reinforced his passion for working in the problems of feeding a hungry world. Immediately after the war, he took a position as a research pathologist at the institute of Medical & Veterinary Science in Adelaide and achieved the highlight of his working life – isolating the SA2 strain of laryngotracheitis virus and adapting this weaker strain to develop a vaccine that is still in use today. This development effectively gave people access to two new food supplies – affordable chicken meat and affordable eggs.

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In the 1960s, he had a conflict of interest with the management of the IMVS who wanted him to lead a project using guinea pigs. Miles was passionate and committed to work directly with farm animals and averse to using laboratory animals, so he resigned and worked for several years in small animal practice, a period he found frustrating and even less relevant to the food economy than laboratory guinea pigs.

He was later appointed to the Department of Agriculture to work with the state's sheep flock. However, his work load was heavy and he later developed a severe neurological condition that forced him to retire unexpectedly aged 55. His ill health also prevented him from undertaking planned retirement projects including write-ups and publishing scientific work of the past few years. This however did not prevent him from reinventing himself.

The logical, analytical, goal-oriented scientist embraced many of the less rigid social ideas that were circulating in the 1970s. He and his wife Bronte developed an interest in human alternative therapies, but they eventually separated in 1983. Miles then travelled to California where he worked for several months in the vegetable garden of "human growth" commune and met his second wife, Emma. They returned to Australia and Miles took up windsurfing at the tender age of 67!

Despite a diagnosis of Parkinson's syndrome in his early 70s, he went on to win a windsurfing race at the age of 79, for the age group 60 plus. His other trophy-winning, sporting triumph around the same time was ice-skating.

His family have recorded a lifetime of invention and discovery. He is reported to have overcome his Parkinson's Disease with a controversial and unproven regimen developed after years of biochemical modelling, experimentation, measurement, observing, testing and fine-tuning.

In later years, his frustration increased with gradual onset of macular degeneration which increasingly limited his interaction with the world. Following Emma's death and his own deteriorating health, Miles moved into hostel care where he developed a close friendship with Nancy until her death several years ago. He is survived by his three children, Jenny, Betsy and Tim, Robyn, Sandy and Anna, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren."

**P McCormack**

**Paul Presidente**

You knew Paul if you have an obsession for all things faecal, and those beasts parasitological hidden therein. My association with Paul began with lungworm. And then we moved to the jewel in the crown: alpaca coccidia, especially those very beautiful, large oocysts from *Eimeria macusaniensis*. : The joy of examining a sporulated "E mac" is like eating gourmet blue vein cheese and washing it down with a good red! Eat your heart any *Eimeria maxima* fan! Paul had a very hands on and practical approach to laboratory parasite diagnosis.

My brief association with Paul, who was located at the Department of Primary Industry, Werribee, instilled tonnes of enthusiasm for these 2 parasites. Paul had the same effect on many people. Despite his sudden death, his love of parasites is a great legacy to leave to colleagues.

**Grant Richards**

# Interested in studying poultry health?

## AVIAN HEALTH ONLINE

Avian Health Online is an interactive web based learning environment. It is taught by the University of Melbourne in collaboration with the Poultry Diseases Research Center, University of Georgia, USA. It has been designed for veterinarians to further their understanding in poultry health and management and enable them to better function in today's global poultry industry.

Currently, we offer two part-time postgraduate courses in this arena:

- A Postgraduate Certificate in Avian Health - 1 year
- A Master of Avian Health and Medicine - 3 years

Totally online, these programs offer convenience to working professionals.

Course commences: 2 March 2009  
Applications close: 9 January 2009

For information on scholarships please visit [www.poultrycrc.com.au](http://www.poultrycrc.com.au)

For further information please

Visit: [www.avianhealthonline.vet.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.avianhealthonline.vet.unimelb.edu.au)

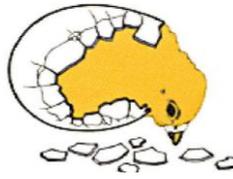
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- AU\$44 for student membership  
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