



DANDER

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President's Report

The year 2006 has continued where it left off in 2005 with the same issues like Bird Flu, food safety and welfare still being prominent in the poultry industry. This does not mean it is boring, but certainly frustrating, because as scientists we continue to face the continuing dominance of perceptions over the objective facts.

Even our Commonwealth Chief Veterinarian has to attempt to correct the comments of the Director General of the OIE on the matter of H5N1 and the migratory pathways of specific types of waterfowl to Australia. Over the 6 months I have represented the AVPA and other poultry industry sectors in reporting to the media on the husbandry differences in commercial poultry between Australia and countries affected by Bird Flu. I have also emphasised the advanced state of preparedness that Australia has in the event of an unlikely outbreak of Bird Flu in commercial poultry with our Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan and AUSVETPLAN. Nevertheless this has proved "boring" to the majority of the media who find the subjective comments of fund seeking researchers and pharmacists more credible. There are though media elements that have been balanced in their reporting and understanding of what perceptions and overreactions can do the economic well being of the poultry industry and the many people it employs.

I find it also intriguing regarding 'informed' comments recently in the press that are suggesting that it is the "factory farming" of poultry that is behind this potential pandemic. My observations are that the emergence of Bird Flu is in the wild waterfowl population and the majority of the impact on commercial poultry has been extensively housed rather than intensively housed poultry. In fact it is reported that in Asia there are large intensively housed poultry operations that remain free of Bird Flu through sound biosecurity practices while operating in endemic Bird Flu regions.

As a poultry veterinarian and scientist I am identifying one developing concern. While we expect our corporate bosses to sometimes question our technical judgment and push for

less scientific solutions to poultry health problems I am finding now that the internet is becoming the first choice for small poultry producers to seek a solution to their poultry performance problems. Maybe the combination of less government veterinary officers, enthusiastic pharmaceutical suppliers and the reluctance to admit failures in fundamental farm facilitation and husbandry is behind this trend. It is disappointing though that a minimalist technical input into these producers involving a sound preventative health program could provide a significant return on funds employed.

Our AVPA conference immediately following PIX is again expected to provide some high quality learning material to the audience. I thank the Organising Committee both those of the AVPA executive and those on the ground in the venue state. The AVPA by continuing to use the individual efforts of its Executive and some members rather than professional conference organisers will again produce a high standard scientific program and dinner at a cost that allows the attendance of our AVPA membership. The support of our sponsors also assists and I ask our members to recognise this.

For me this will be the last meeting I will attend as President and in fact that of the entire current Executive which includes the last two presidents. Almost every month we faithfully attended to the formal matters of the AVPA supported by a few nibbles and a bottle (maybe two) of a clean skin red.

The AVPA Executive will continue in the hands of our NSW colleagues who will consolidate the growth of our membership and prominence in the Australian Poultry Industry. They will also need to progress the challenges of our structure in which we integrate as a Special Interest Group in the AVA. A matter on our agenda at the Annual General meeting.

Until I see you at the AVPA meeting I thank you for your support over the last 2 years and promise not to be too far away from the activities of the AVPA in the future.

Peter C. Scott

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Importation & Exotic Diseases	George Arzey	<george.arzey@agric.nsw.gov.au>
Therapeutics	Susan Bibby	<sbibby@scolexia.com.au>
Welfare	John Barnett	<john.barnett@nre.vic.gov.au>

The Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance is a Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association. Membership of the AVPA 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 Kevin Whithear, School of Veterinary Science, The University of Melbourne, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee 3030, Victoria <kevingw@unimelb.edu.au> fax 03 9731 2366.

Summary of Upcoming Scientific Meetings

April 2006	PIX2006. Gold Coast, Queensland 2-4 April 2006. Contact Geof Runge Geof.Runge@dpi.qld.gov.au
April 2006	AVPA Queensland Conference. Gold Coast, Queensland 5-6 April 2006. Contact Dr Kevin Whithear; Email: kevingw@unimelb.edu.au ..
April 2006	6th International Symposium on Avian Influenza, St. John's College, Cambridge, UK. Contact: Dr. I. Capua. Fax: +39 49 8084360; Email: icapua@izsvenezie.it . April 3-6, 2006.
September 2007	XV Congress of the WVPA. China International Conference Center for Science and Technology (CICCST), 86 Xueyuan Nanlu, Beijing 100081, P.R.China, Fax: +86 10 62174126. Email: llwang@wvpc2007.org . Web: www.wvpc2007.org . September 13-16, 2007.
June-July 2008	23rd World's Poultry Conference and Sixth Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference. Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre. AVPA Contact Dr Kevin Whithear; Email: kevingw@unimelb.edu.au . June 29-July 4, 2008.

AVPA Queensland Conference — Poultry and Public Health

The 2006 AVPA Gold Coast Scientific Meeting will provide the latest information on infections, both well recognised and emerging, and various facets of their control. There will be a strong emphasis on public health issues including pandemic human influenza, potential food-borne infections and infectious aerosols from poultry facilities. A highlight will be the Great Debate "Are antibiotics used in poultry a human health risk?" Professor Peter Collignon from The Canberra Hospital, a well-known critic of the use of antibiotics in production animals will argue for the affirmative and Dr Rod Jenner, Group Manager - Veterinary Services Golden Cockerel Pty Ltd will present the case for the negative. There will be ample opportunity for audience members to have their say after the conclusion of the debate.

The full Conference Program is on pages 12-13 of this issue of *DANDER*.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership List

Thanks to all members who have renewed their AVPA subscriptions for 2006. If you haven't done so, please take out your chequebook now and make out a cheque of \$49.50 to the AVPA and post it to the Honorary Treasurer today. **AVPA requests that members pay their annual subscriptions directly to AVPA rather than through the AVA.** A membership renewal form is on the back page of this edition of Dander. Sustaining members will be contacted individually about renewing memberships for 2006.

New Members: There were no new membership applications in the March quarter. Current members are asked to encourage potential new members to join the AVPA. There is always strength in numbers!

2005 Financial Members: Robin Anderson, Edla Arzey, George Arzey, Caroline Ash, Trevor Bagust, John Barnett, Susan Bibby, Doug Blackall, Pat Blackall, Wayne Bryden, David Buckley, Graham Burgess, Grant Campbell, Eleanor Chaine, Peter Claxton, Peter Coloe, Kim Critchley, Peter Cowling, Colm Culligan, Mike Cundy, Peter Curtin, Wieslaw Demkowicz, Laurie Dowling, Elizabeth Evans, Peter Gray, Tom Grimes, Peter Groves, David Hampson, David Homer, Bob Hughes, Fakhrul Islam, Clive Jackson, Rod Jenner, Noel Johnston, Bob Johnston, Wayne Jorgensen, Roberta Karparthy, Vivien Kite, Sanjeev Kumar, Phil Lehrbach, Margaret MacKenzie, Michael McDermott, Paul McQueen, Gina Micke, Krystyna Minkiewicz, Linden Moffatt, Robert Morton, Adam Naylor, Amir Noormohammadi, Sarah Plant, Barry Philips, Rod Reece, Bruce Remington, Grant Richards, Julie Roberts, Simon Robinson, Ambrosio Rubite, Peter Scott, Margaret Sexton, Agim Shini, Shaniko Shini, Wafa Shinwari, Via Sfetsas, Jillian Templeton, Andrew Turner, Greg Underwood, Aileen Vanderfeen, Steve Walkden-Brown, John Walters, Ben Wells, Kevin Whithear, Pam Whitley.

Life Members: Balkar Bains, Leon Barlow, Roger Chubb, Dinah Fry-Smith, Paul Gilchrist, Harvey Langford.

Please see the AVPA website for information on sustaining members and links to websites

AVPA Sustaining Members 2005

Sustaining members contribute funds that help defray costs of services to members of the AVPA. We thank all sustaining members for their active interest and support.



Bayer Australia Ltd, 875 Pacific Highway Pymble 2073 NSW. (02) 9391 6218

Contact: Neil Cooper 0418 970 351 <neil.cooper.nc@bayer-ag.de>



Bioproperties Pty Ltd, 36 Charter Street Ringwood 3134 Victoria. (03) 9876 0567

Contact: David Tinworth 0418 334 766 david.tinworth@bioproperties.com.au

OzBioPharm

OzBioPharm Pty Ltd, 24 Parkhurst Drive Knoxfield 3180 Victoria. Tel/fax: (02) 9440 5360

Contact: John Doyle 0407 446 144 <john.doyle@ozbiopharm.com.au>



Pace Farm, Locked Bag 800 Rooty Hill 2766 NSW (02) 9830 9800

Contact: Frank Pace fp@pacefarm.com

Sunnybrand Chickens, Pty Ltd Ewingsdale Road Byron Bay 2481 NSW. (02) 6639 6888.

Contact: Andrew Young



Sunny Queen, 1248 Lytton Road Hemmant 4174 Qld. (07) 3907 9999

Contact: Azi Laghai

Importation and Exotic Diseases Subcommittee Annual Report

2005/6 has seen avian influenza becoming one of the most important global issues. The poultry industries in affected countries struggle to keep up consumer confidence and the ability of the public to distinguish between poultry pandemics or epidemics and possible human pandemic has become a challenging communication issue for Industry and Governments

In light of the significant global spread of Avian Influenza H5N1, several amendments to the current conditions for importation of hatching eggs and live birds (pigeon) have been revised. **These are:**

- Hatching eggs from domestic hen (2005/17)
- Hatching Eggs from turkeys (2005/19)
- Conditions for the importation of live birds (pigeon)

The general amendment to the import conditions are:

Certification of poultry of freedom from highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry AND poultry source flocks must be tested for antibodies to type AIV with negative results, even if the exporting country certifies freedom from HP AIV

Appendix 1 also lists the key determinants for post-arrival quarantine requirements. **These are dependent on the following:**

- Country approval rating
- Disease status of the country
- Active infection with AI or ND in the country
- (Some of the countries listed as countries from which import can progress are no longer free of H5N1).

Sourcing of eggs for hatching is prohibited from:

- Countries that are officially declared HPAI positive
- Countries with no effective surveillance program and/ or effective veterinary services
- Countries that do not practice stamping out of all outbreaks

In countries where birds are vaccinated with ND vaccines depending on the presence or absence of active infection, FULL HEPA or Partial HEPA is required in quarantine facilities. The above conditions apply to both chicken and turkey eggs.

Amended conditions for the importation of live pigeons include:

Freedom from highly pathogenic AI in poultry.

Additionally testing of all pigeons in pre-export quarantine (55 days) for viral and serological evidence of exposure.

The Sub-committee provided earlier input into the development of import Policy for Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) eggs see Dander March 2004 and September 2005. The AVPA supported the importation of SPF eggs subject to demonstration of a critical national need.

In the amended policy (2006/02) the following amendments have been included under the contingency Policy:

Requirements to meet the European Pharmacopoeia.

In the case of live avian vaccines additional testing for at least 12 weeks post egg collection prior to release of the vaccine.

All facilities using imported SPF eggs will be Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) with appropriate control on end use, storage, recordkeeping and disposal.

This amended policy was endorsed by a meeting representing stakeholders (Including AVPA) in September 2005.

The Policy will apply only when there is a critical national need to import SPF eggs and approval to use the contingency policy would be required on a case by case basis.

**George Arzey
Convener**

L'implacable avancée

La filière avicole européenne a été durement touchée par la désaffection des consommateurs pour des viandes telles que le poulet, et ce malgré le discours rassurant des autorités. La semaine dernière la France était le premier pays de l'Union européenne à confirmer un cas de grippe dans un élevage avicole. "la propagation de l'infection chez les volailles d'élevages dans d'autres pays européens et limitrophes est hautement probable et pourrait être aggravée dès le printemps par l'arrivée sur le territoire Européen d'oiseaux potentiellement infectés en provenance d'Afrique ou du moyen Orient", a déclaré l'OIE.

La France, premier producteur de volaille en Europe, a confirmé la première apparition du H5N1 dans une ferme de l'Union Européenne. L'annonce a poussé 20 pays à déclarer l'embargo sur les volailles françaises, et les

autorités sont en cours de négociation pour reconsidérer cette position. Aux USA, la FAO a déclaré que la crise allait provoquer une chute de la demande en volailles, et donc des cours. "Il faut s'attendre à une diminution des prix des volailles menaçant la rentabilité de la filière au niveau mondial" a officiellement déclaré la FAO.

L'épidémie aviaire du H5N1 a conduit à l'élimination ou la mort naturelle de près de 200 millions d'oiseaux depuis 2003. Le virus peut tuer des poulets ou certains palmipèdes comme les cygnes en un jour, alors que certains espèces de canards peuvent héberger et transmettre l'agent apparemment sans signes de la maladie. La crainte principale est que le virus puisse muter en une forme aisément transmissible d'homme à homme, déclenchant ainsi une épidémie qui pourrait tuer des millions de personnes.

Thanks to Marc Marenda

Welfare Subcommittee Annual Report

While a number of issues relevant to the poultry industries have occurred in the last 12 months it has been a relatively quiet year for the welfare subcommittee (John Barnett, Rod Jenner and Peter Scott). These items include the progress of an AVA policy on beak trimming, the release of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and some research and policy items reported at conferences both overseas and in Australia.

Beak trimming: AVPA members were advised last year that a draft policy on beak trimming prepared by members of the AVPA Welfare Subcommittee and other industry personnel was still progressing through the AVA. This policy on beak-trimming, while recognising the need to beak trim, also recommends further R&D to find ways of both reducing the need and improving the procedure. It strongly encourages the use of accredited trimmers via the 'beak trimming accreditation program' which defines national competency standards, the role of the work-place trainer and the formal assessment of the skills of persons trained in the task of beak-trimming chickens. This policy is still with the AVA Policy Council. Relevant to this policy are the development of an accreditation course and a new book on beak trimming. The training documentation has been finalised (a "Beak Trimming Training Manual" and "Beak Trimming Trainer Guidelines" can be purchased from AECL). A book, funded by the Poultry CRC, "Beak Trimming Handbook for Egg Producers" by Glatz, P. and Bourke, M. has been published by CSIRO Publishers (www.publish.csiro.au {search for title}). (Some more information on this book is on page 9 of Dander - Ed).

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy: The long-awaited Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) was released by the Federal Government in October 2005 (website: www.daff.gov.au {search for Australian Animal Welfare Strategy}). The strategy is to "implement national priorities to improve the welfare of animals, and support a communication, education and training strategy to raise awareness and understanding." AAWS is particularly relevant to the sustainability of the livestock industries in that it recognises that animal welfare is both a national issue and yet remains a State/Territory responsibility. The strategy recognises the importance of animal welfare in the livestock industries and the shared responsibilities and interests of industry, all levels of government and the community. AAWS has 3 goals and within these a series of objectives and activities for each goal. **The 3 goals are:**

1. Achieve an enhanced national approach and commitment to ensure high standards of animal welfare based on a concise outline of current processes.
2. Achieve sustainable improvements in animal welfare based on national and international benchmarks, scientific evaluation and research, taking into account changes in whole of community standards.
3. Achieve effective communication, education and training across the whole community to promote an improved understanding of animal welfare.

One area of particular relevance to the poultry (and other livestock) industries is the activity under goal 2 to 'facilitate the development, collection and collation of national

statistics on animal welfare standards as a basis to benchmark Australia's animal welfare outcomes.' As it is unlikely that the Government wants to develop its own infrastructure to achieve this, it will undoubtedly fall to industry to provide the relevant information. The poultry industries are in a good position to support this goal. The egg industry has incorporated animal welfare into its QA programs (eg. Egg Corp Assured and HenCare) and the chicken meat industry has a welfare component for all sectors of the industry for incorporation into company QA programs. The welfare components for both industries can be easily modified to provide 'national animal welfare standards'. The 4 challenges for all stakeholders in the poultry industries are to:

- (i) decide on national animal welfare standards,
- (ii) encourage uptake of QA programs by all poultry industry sectors,
- (iii) decide on the measures and benchmarks that can demonstrate continual improvements in animal welfare outcomes and
- (iv) determine and provide the base infrastructure required to provide national statistics.

Some items of interest were from the **7th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare**, held in Poland in June 2005 and attended by John Barnett. This symposium is held every 4 years and is the major international meeting on poultry welfare. These items included a roundtable discussion on EU poultry welfare policy, legislation and its implementation. An EU proposal (June 2005) for broiler production and processing includes recommendations for training of all personnel, monitoring of welfare indicators on-farm via surveillance at abattoirs if stocking density is higher than 30 kg/m² (maximum up to 38 kg/m²), and action plans to reduce stocking densities if there are welfare problems. Some specific recommendations are a minimum light intensity of 20 lux at (bird) eye level, 1% mortality rate in the first week and then not to exceed 0.06 % per day and less than 0.5% for dead on arrival.

It was reported that from 2003, the minimum space requirement for hens in cages was changed to 550 cm²/hen, not 600 cm²/hen as originally proposed. This 550 cm²/hen requirement is the same as that in Australia, although in Australia there is no current expectation of providing additional space from 'furniture'. Beak trimming involving removal of no more than one third of the beak is permitted until 2010 and there is current research on beak blunting and infra-red trimming. Sweden, Norway, Finland, The Netherlands and Austria do not permit beak trimming, but it is allowed in Denmark. There was some discussion on the anomalies across EU jurisdictions in relation to the definition of perches in non-cage systems and the use of slats as a 'defined' perch.

The largest session at the conference was on 'welfare implications of changes in production systems for laying hens' and included papers on both furnished cages and non-cage systems. The session started with an overview of the nearly completed EU 'LayWel' project that is

reviewing information for the current review of the EU Directive on laying hens. The project will provide reports on the following (author/country in parentheses) and was due to be completed by January 2006:

- welfare definition and indicators- (Bessei/Germany)
- description of housing systems for laying hens – (Fiks/The Netherlands)
- health – (Tauson/Sweden)
- behaviour – (Kjaer/Denmark)
- physiological stress indicators – (Guémené/France)
- productivity and egg quality – (Elson/UK van der Weerd/UK)
- integrated welfare assessment including welfare risks – (Nicol/UK)

Further information on this program can be found on the following website:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/ssp/laywel_en.htm

There have been two papers of interest on bone fractures. A paper by presented by Wilkins at the conference in Poland reported on fracture rates in hens from non-cage systems at the end of the rearing period and at the end of lay. Eight rearing flocks were examined and there was only 1 bird out of 400 (50 sampled/flock) that had a fracture. Birds from the 8 flocks were then housed in 36 laying flocks in a barn production system but under the end of lay the incidence of bone breakage, particularly the

keel bone, ranged from 56-62 % of hens. Fracture rate different management and stocking density conditions. By appeared unaffected by stocking density. The authors rightly considered this a major welfare issue for hens. (Wilkins, L.J., Pope, S., Leeb, C., Glen, E., Phillips, A., Zimmerman, P., Nicol, C. and Brown, S.N. (2005). Fracture rate in laying-strain hens at the end of the rearing period and the end of the laying period. (Proceedings of the 7th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare, Lublin, Poland). *Animal Science Papers and Reports*, **23** (Supplement 1): 189-194) A review paper by Colin Whitehead (Whitehead, C.C., Fleming, R.H., McCormack, H.A. and McTeir, L. (2006). A comparison of genetic, nutritional and environmental effects on bone characteristics. *Proceedings Australian Poultry Science Symposium*, **18**: 252-260; available online at: www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/apss {click on proceedings and download 2006 proceedings}) at the Australian Poultry Science Symposium in February 2006 reported that bone strength was highly heritable and furthermore that additive effects of nutritional management. There did not appear to be any adverse effects on egg production. Thus, commercial companies should be strongly encouraged to select for bone strength and determine if the serious welfare risk of broken bones is reduced across production systems.

John Barnett
Convener

Therapeutics Subcommittee Annual Report

A written report will be distributed at the AGM and published in the next edition of Dander.

Susan Bibby
Convener

WVPA Bureau Member Annual Report

Apart from worldwide concerns on Avian Influenza, the WVPA's world avian health scene is fairly steady at present and may it remain so for as long as possible. Indeed, from the most recent World Veterinary Poultry Congress, held in Istanbul in August 2005, it was interesting to see a major poultry industry journal has now been quite forthright in its opinion that, because of their increasing importance to poultry industries world-wide, poultry product microbiological safety and associated issues and topics of public health should be receiving greater scientific attention from the veterinary profession than it does appear to be from the structure of the WVPA congress scientific programs at present.

Would you Agree or Disagree? Personally, I strongly AGREE.

Details of the original reference being quoted from here are: Van der Sluiss, W. (2005) Veterinarians to play stronger role in human health. *World Poultry* Vol 21 (10) : pp 32-34

So, with the Commonwealth Games still rocking on in Melbourne in this merry month of March, let's revisit a few points about your own International avian specialist association, the World Veterinary Poultry Association.

The WVPA website is <http://www.wvpa.net/>. There you will be able to find entries on the following:

About the WVPA

Objects, History, Constitution and Rules, Officers,

National Branches, General Business Meeting

Membership

How to join WVPA,

Grants and Awards

Houghton Trust International Travel Grants,

Houghton Lecture Award, Bart Rispens Award

Publications

Avian Pathology, Newsletter Aerosols, Proceedings, Disease Reports

Meetings

WVPA Congress, International Conferences and Meetings

Links

Education, Journals and Books, Organizations

And I am pleased to be able to advise that the information is being kept updated pretty well – Last modification listed was 22-Feb-06

The Current Officers of WVPA (Elected Istanbul August 2005)

Prof. Dr. H.M. Hafez. **President.** Freie Universität Berlin, Königsweg, 63D-14163 Berlin, Germany.

Prof. Dr. E.F. Kaleta **Vice-President.** Justus Liebig University Giessen, D-35392 Giessen, Germany.

Dr. T.J. Bagust **Vice-President.** Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Melbourne, Werribee, Victoria 3052 Australia.

Dr. U. Heffels-Redmann **Secretary/Treasurer.** Justus Liebig University Giessen, D-35392 Giessen, Germany.

Dr. D. Cavanagh. **Editor Avian Pathology** AFRC Institute for Animal Health, Compton Laboratory, Compton Near Newbury Berkshire RG20 7NN UK.

Dr. C. Cardona **Editor Aerosols.** VM: Extension, Rm1383 Surge III, University of California, Davis CA 95616 USA.

The next Congress of the WVPA i.e all of the national Veterinary Poultry Associations (& Alliances!) of the various countries, will be the **XV Congress of the World Veterinary Poultry Association** September 13-16, 2007 in Beijing, P. R. China

Contact: XV Congress of the WVPA c/o China International Conference Center for Science and Technology (CICCST), 86 Xueyuan Nanlu, Beijing 100081, P.R.China, Fax: +86 10 62174126. Email:llwang@wvpc2007.org. Web: www.wvpc2007.org

It's a bit early to start booking just yet, but we'll be following this closely for the AVPA - let's get a really good group up there in 2006!

Members should feel free to contact me any time on WVPA related matters at trevorjb@unimelb.edu.au or by telephone (03) 9731-2011 at Veterinary Science Werribee.

Trevor Bagust
WVPA Bureau Member

What's Your Diagnosis?

QUESTION. Why is this perfectly normal, healthy chicken in the post mortem room?

ANSWER. Because we couldn't find a crook chook! Its great to know that there are no disease problems currently afflicting the Australian poultry industry.



Treasurer's Annual Report - 2005

The AVPA currently holds 3 financial accounts (Table 1). The sum of \$10,914.36 deposited as a term deposit at National Australia Bank includes an interest of \$171.04 gained on maturity date, 28/4/2005. The sum of \$41,356.69 invested at GE money includes an interest of \$1400.61 (rate of %3.45 p.a) gained in 2005. The closing balance for the National Australia Bank cheque account on 31 December 2005 was \$23,161.26. The total asset of the AVPA in these three accounts was \$75,432.31 on 31 December 2005.

Table 1. Current Assets - as in December 2005

National Australia Bank - cheque Account	\$23,161.26
National Australia Bank - Term Deposit	\$10,914.36
GE Money - Investment Plan (incl. interest)	\$41,356.69
Total	\$75,432.31

The main expenditures in 2005 (Table 2) were related to the AVPA scientific meeting held in Sydney. Costs associated with the scientific meeting in Sydney (February) were detailed in a previous edition of Dander. Expenses listed under "others" mainly included payments to WVPA as membership fees (\$638.45), accounting expenses (\$500), GST difference paid to AVA (\$1523.95) and bank charges and postage (\$154.90).

Table 2. Expenditure 2004 - as in 30th November

AVPA meeting Sydney	\$8,037.47
Dander	\$1,600.00
Others*	\$2,817.30
Total	\$12,454.77

The AVPA earned a sum of \$18,224.65 in 2005. This mainly consisted of membership fees and income related to two AVPA scientific meeting (Table 3). Membership fees were received from 76 ordinary members and 6 sustaining members. The income related to the AVPA scientific meeting in February (Sydney) were detailed in a previous edition of Dander.

Table 3. Income 2004 - as in 30th November

Membership fees*	\$5,746.00
AVPA meeting Sydney	\$10,907.00
Interest-saving accounts	\$1,571.65
Total	\$18,224.65

Further details on financial matters will be available upon request.

Amir H. Noormohammadi
Treasurer

New Book Titles

Beak Trimming Handbook for Egg Producers **Best Practice for Minimising Cannibalism in Poultry**

Phil Glatz and Michael Bourke

The Beak Trimming Handbook for Egg Producers is a straightforward, practical guide to beak trimming of egg-laying hens to minimize cannibalism. It provides comprehensive information on why birds peck and how pecking can lead to problems like cannibalism; the methods available to beak trim birds; why a particular method should be chosen; and at what age birds may be trimmed.

The book addresses quality control of beak trimming, enabling egg producers to be confident that equipment is properly set up, that birds are handled and trimmed according to best practice and farm biosecurity is maintained. Management of birds following beak trimming, to protect the welfare of the birds and to ensure maximum productivity, is covered in detail.

Best-practice, current methods of beak trimming, costs of trimming and ways to reduce the use of trimming are examined, along with expected future developments. The advantages and disadvantages of beak trimming are fully explored, covering both public and industry attitudes to the operation. Alternatives to beak trimming are canvassed to understand how the use of fitted devices, enrichment devices, abrasives, low lighting and the choice of low-pecking strains of birds can reduce the need for beak trimming. Finally, the book discusses strategies for minimising cannibalism and how the chosen strategy may be documented and justified.

2006 – 88 pages – spiral bound – ISBN 0643092560 – \$35.00

CSIRO PUBLISHING <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5205.htm>

The publishers have offered a copy of the book for critical review in the next edition of *DANDER*

Nutritional approaches to arresting the decline in fertility of pigs and poultry

Edited by J.A. Taylor-Pickard and L. Nollet

Continued genetic development of pigs and poultry has been the foundation of profitable production within a competitive market. However, the challenges of these production increases have undoubtedly taken their toll on reproductive function in all breeding livestock, with the incidence of infertility increasing at an alarming rate.

This edited collection of papers is taken from a series of seminars, devoted to bringing together some of the world's leading authorities in the field of pig and poultry reproduction. The fundamental aim being to re-examine the current trends in productivity in the pig and poultry industries, and to identify nutritional means to improve fertility. It considers the effects of essential nutrients in optimising productivity, and discusses innovative applications of nutrition that will help to enhance fertility. The success of such innovations within entrepreneurial integrated systems is also covered, together with the importance of producing a quality chick and piglet at birth/hatching. Finally, the role of management and the need for least cost production is discussed.

Nutritional Approaches to Arresting the decline in Fertility of Pigs and Poultry is aimed at nutritionists and animal producers as well as students and researchers studying animal and applied biological sciences.

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For table of contents see: www.WageningenAcademic.com/fertility

The History of Infectious Bronchitis in Australia (Part 2)

R. B. Cumming

In the previous edition of *DANDER* we reproduced Part 1 of an edited version of a monograph written by Rob Cumming describing his isolation of infectious bronchitis virus from chickens with uraemia in 1962 and the problem he had convincing the veterinary authorities that IBV was indeed the cause of uraemia. In this month's *DANDER* we provide some of his insights into another area in which he was always passionate and ready to express an opinion, namely the struggle to obtain research funds.

Kevin Whithear, Editor

Poultry Research Funds

At this time, there were no poultry industry research funds in Australia. However, any research institute that received donations for research from individuals or industry firms for work on agricultural problems could apply to Canberra at the end of the financial year for matching funds. This was of critical importance to my work as we had to establish isolation facilities, further equip my laboratory and feed and maintain large numbers of chickens for the experimental work.

Towards the end of 1963, a number of poultry farmers in the Tamworth area discussed the idea of providing some financial support for the poultry research at the University. A group was set up to canvass the egg producers in the Tamworth area to donate two pence per 30 dozen eggs for research. At that time, all eggs were consigned to the New South Wales Egg Board and the two pence per box was deducted from the farmer's cheque by the Board. Over 90 farmers agreed to the research levy and this was a most consistent and significant source of research funds for us until the statutory industry research funds were introduced in 1970.

Matching funds were received from Canberra for the 1962/63 period, but when we applied towards the end of 1964 for matching funds for the 1963/64 period, Canberra refused. Instead they forwarded to Bill McClymont a letter from Mr C.D. Nalder, Minister for Agriculture in Perth, Western Australia. This letter was sent to the General Secretary of the Poultry Farmers Association of Western Australia. These farmers had decided to send £400 to the University of New England to assist our research. This was a very significant and generous amount of money. To put it into perspective, £400 in 1963 would be equivalent to about \$10,000 today (2000).

However, there was opposition from high places to this donation being made. This letter was published in the WA poultry farmers' magazine *Egg and Fowl* in July 1963 (ed).

Office of the Minister for Agriculture
Perth W.A.
June 20, 1963

General Secretary
Poultry Farmers' Association of WA. (Inc.)

Dear Mr Griffin,
Re Research into Uraemia

I have had brought to my attention the proposal of the Poultry Farmers' Association of W.A. (Inc.) that a sum of £400 be made available from the Poultry Industry Trust Fund to assist research being carried out by Mr R. B.

Cumming at the University of New England, Armidale, into the problem of Uraemia. I have made enquiries concerning this matter and have received a report from Mr J. Shilkin, Acting Chief Veterinary Surgeon, as follows:

"Enquiries that Dr Gardiner and myself have made recently in Sydney indicate that the general consensus of opinion amongst veterinary pathologists and other veterinarians is that Cumming's work is still inconclusive.

"Cumming considered that Uraemia is caused by an aberrant strain of infectious bronchitis. Sera sent by him to America was stated to have given a positive result, but sera forwarded by the Veterinary Research Laboratory, Yeerongpilly, Queensland, to the United States on several occasions has been negative for infectious bronchitis, and sera forwarded by the Glenfield Veterinary Research Station, New South Wales, to both the United States and England has also been negative. In addition, it is known that Cumming has not been able to obtain positive results with positive sera forwarded to him from the United States.

"Several papers on this problem were delivered at the Veterinary Conference in Sydney last week which was attended by Dr. Gardiner, and this Department is well informed on the matter which, however, at present is very confused. Although it is possible to isolate a virus and both Cumming and Mr Newton (Director, Veterinary Research Laboratory, Yeerongpilly) have been successful in doing so, there is no conclusive proof yet that this virus is in fact a strain of infectious bronchitis, nor that it produces Uraemia.

"Because of the present work in progress, it is likely that useful information will come out of the investigations, but there is little doubt that the Queensland and New South Wales Departments are in much more favourable position with resources and environment to undertake this work than Cumming is at the University of New, England.

"Our own laboratory will also be in a favourable position within a few months when a source of virus free fertile eggs becomes available and further work is planned to help elucidate some of the disease problems in poultry at that time.

"I am unable, therefore, on the basis of the information available at present to recommend that a donation of £400 be made to the University of New England for the purpose of assisting Cumming's work and this view is shared by Dr Gardiner, Mr. L. Newton, Director of Veterinary Research, Queensland, Mr A. Clay, Director, Division of Animal Industry, Queensland, and Mr. Watts, Director, Division of Animal Industry, New South Wales."

I am informed that Mr Shilkin has discussed this matter with the Officer in Charge, Poultry Section (Mr R Morris).

In view of the information available it seems to me that a donation as suggested by the Association would be premature.

I appreciate very much the interest the Association has shown in suggesting a useful donation to research, but I think that the later information submitted to me might be considered by your Association and your further views expressed

Yours faithfully,
G.D. Nalder

Minister for Agriculture

In view of this damning report, apparently supported by several senior Veterinary Surgeons of the various Departments of Agriculture in Australia, Canberra decided that they could not match our request for funds (we were applying for roughly £1500 which was the starting salary for a Lecturer at a University in 1962). This was a devastating blow and really slowed our research down for several months. However, the University did allow my funds to go into the red, as Professor Bill McClymont was certain that the decision would be reversed.

Professor McClymont, Rob's Head of Department, was very supportive of Rob and his pioneering research. He released a long and detailed statement refuting the claims made in the letter to Poultry Farmers' Association of WA by the Minister for Agriculture (ed).

On receipt of Bill McClymont's letter, Canberra agreed that there was nothing wrong with my work and they would fully support us in future. However, as several months had elapsed (it was now February 1965) they said that all matching funds for the previous year 1963/64 had been allocated. This was a further severe blow to our research, but other people and other sources of funds were helping us along. We continued to get matching funds from Canberra the next year and until the statutory poultry industry fund was set up in the early 1970s.

A final twist to all this is that the £400 eventually arrived from the Western Australian farmers at the University of New England. A couple of years later, a virologist (Vic Smith) was appointed by the Department of Agriculture in Perth. He readily isolated IB virus from outbreaks of uraemia in Western Australia and published his results in the Australian Veterinary Journal.

First Australian Meeting on IB

By January 1964, we had produced quite a lot of exciting information on IB uraemia which still officially was not caused by a virus in New South Wales. In the poultry press, and there were quite a few monthly publications then, I never missed an opportunity to decry the NSW Department of Agriculture's ostrich attitude to the presence of IB in Australia. Things got so bad that the Director General of Agriculture in New South Wales, Dr Graham Edgar wrote to our Vice Chancellor asking him to get me to desist. The Vice Chancellor's response was that our job was to deal in scientific facts and not bother about government policy. So finally, in April 1964, the first Australian meeting on IB was arranged in Sydney. I was asked (indirectly ed) if I would be prepared to attend with all expenses paid by the Department of Agriculture. I was delighted to attend and this really put to rest this denial of the presence of IB in Australia.

During this meeting, things did not run all that smoothly as there were several people present with very strongly divergent views (mainly about Rob ed). On the positive side ... people like Beri Sinkovic and Len Hart and Paul Gilchrist were all very friendly.

Back in the 1960s, I still attended Annual General Meetings of the Australian Veterinary Association, and it was interesting how (senior departmental veterinarians ed) continued to give me the cold shoulder. A number of people never spoke to me, turning their backs on me if I approached them, while others would talk to me as long as I didn't mention IB. It was interesting how I could go up to a group, join in the conversation gently, mention IB and a couple of Department of Agriculture veterinarians would walk away.

It would be hard to imagine Rob not mentioning IB in any conversation around that time. In the final instalment to be published in the next *DANDER*, Rob takes on the Department, yet again, on what he considered to be misleading extension information to farmers about IB. He also has things to say about electrolyte replacers and vaccines.

Have you registered yet?

AVPA Scientific Meeting, Gold Coast 2006

The PIX organisers are kindly looking after registration for the AVPA Scientific Meeting that follows immediately after PIX. It is important that you submit your registration to them by **Friday 31 March 2006**.

All details are on the registration form that can be downloaded from <http://www.pix.org.au>.

The Scientific Program follows on the next 2 pages

AVPA Scientific Meeting – Gold Coast 2006

Wednesday 5 April and Thursday 6 April

Holiday Inn, Gold Coast Queensland

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Wednesday 5 April

Time	Topic	Speaker
0900	Registration	
0930	Opening and Welcome by AVPA President	Peter Scott
Session 1	Avian Influenza – the Latest	Chairperson: Dr Peter Groves
0940	Eradication strategies against Avian Influenza	Dr Goossen van den Bosch (Intervet)
1010	Avian influenza to human pandemic influenza - Planning and preparedness	Dr Lance Sanders, (Department of Health and Ageing)
1030	Exercise Eleusis: its planning, execution and the outcome	Dr Peter Beers (DAFF)
1050	Panel and Audience Discussion	
1100	Morning Tea	
Session 2	How much do feed additives improve broiler performance?	Chairperson: Dr Peter Scott
1130	Microencapsulated acidifiers and their place in poultry feed	Dr Robert Gauthier (JEFO International)
1150	Natural strategy to improve poultry health and performance	Dr Aziz Sacranie (Alltech)
1210	The use of sodium butyrate in combination with free organic acids in poultry	Dr Koen Schwarzer (INVE Nutri-Ad)
1230	Essential oils and their use in poultry	Dr Kurt Wegleitner (Biomim)
1250	Panel and Audience Discussion	
1300	Lunch	
Session 3	New Research	Chairperson: Dr Trevor Bagust
1400	Avian Hepatitis E virus: Identification of infected broiler breeder flocks in Europe and clinical effects of infection	Dr Chris Morrow (Aviagen)
1420	ILT – Epidemiology and diagnosis	Dr Amir Noormohammadi (University of Melbourne)
1440	A survey on the presence and levels of food-borne pathogens in Australian broiler litter	Dr Pat Blackall (QDPI&F)
1500	The epidemiology of <i>Campylobacter</i> in broiler flocks – an Australian perspective	Jillian Templeton (QDPI&F)
1520	Afternoon Tea	
Session 4	Reports from the New Generation of Poultry Scientists	Chairperson: Dr Kevin Whithear
1550	Bacterial vectored delivery of prophylactic proteins to control necrotic enteritis	Scott Sheedy (CSIRO)
1610	Extracts from Australian and New Zealand native plants as prebiotics for broiler chickens	Janak Vidanarachchi (UNE)
1630	Relationships between gut microbial species and energy metabolism in broiler chickens	Dr Valeria Torok (SARDI)
1650	Development of a novel attenuated vaccine for infectious laryngotracheitis	Jo Devlin (University of Melbourne)
1710	OGM/AGM	Peter Scott, President AVPA
1930	AVPA Dinner	

Thursday 6 April

Time	Topic	Speaker
Session 5	The latest on sanitisers and infection control	Chairperson: Dr Susan Bibby
0900	Innovations in antimicrobials from farm to fork in the poultry industry	Alan Bailes (Ecolab)
0930	Selecting a disinfectant for EDC — Emergency Disease Control	Mike Pritchard (Antec)
10.00	The evolution of QAC sanitisers - Single versus dual chain quats	Malcolm Swalwell (Cleantec)
10.30	An update on the through chain <i>Salmonella</i> control using specific killed vaccination strategies, an <i>in vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> analysis	Tony Pavic (Birling Avian Laboratories)
1100	Morning Tea	
Session 6	Debate: Are antibiotics used in poultry in Australia a human health risk?	Chairperson: Dr Tom Grimes
1130	Affirmative	Prof Peter Collignon (The Canberra Hospital)
1145	Negative	Dr Rod Jenner (Golden Cockerel)
1200	Rebuttal: Professor Peter Collignon	
1205	Rebuttal: Dr Rod Jenner	
1210	Audience Discussion	
1230	Lunch	
Session 7	Infectious aerosols from poultry facilities	Chairperson: Dr Pat Blackall
1330	Are tunnel ventilated meat chicken sheds a contributor to bacterial pathogens of public health importance to the surrounding environment?	Nalini Chinivasagam (QDPI&F)
1400	Marek's disease viruses in poultry dust - current knowledge and implications	Assoc Prof Steve Walkden-Brown (UNE)
1430	Psittacosis – An emerging problem?	Dr Peter Scott (Scolexia)
1440	Psittacosis – Field experiences and diagnostic dilemmas	Dr Rod Badman (Vic DPI)
1510	<i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i> – Laboratory diagnosis	Dr Amir Noormohammadi (University of Melbourne)
1525	Wrap up of Conference	Dr Peter Groves AVPA President
1530	Close	

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Membership fees are due by the 31st of January, 2006
The annual membership fee is \$49.50 (inc GST) for individuals

Please find enclosed cheque made out to the Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance for the current year.
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