



# The University of Melbourne >



## Dairy heifers like raspberry too

A Dookie student research project has found that the addition of raspberry flavouring to lead feed prior to calving improved acceptance. Freya Ziller, a third year Bachelor of Agriculture student, was investigating whether raspberry flavouring would improve the acceptance of lead feed, feeding behaviour and intake. Lead feed prepares the rumen for grain rations fed after calving and also allow the management of mineral imbalance. Improved intakes directly improve animal health and overall milk production.

Freya's research project was supervised by Dr Sarah Chaplin.



Freya Ziller takes a urine sample

## Dookie student competes at Victorian Clay Target Titles



First year Bachelor of Agriculture student, Amanda Holt, achieved a 2nd and 3rd placing at this weekend's State Trap Titles, hosted by the Victorian Clay Target Association in Echuca. Captain of the Victorian Women's Shooting Team and member of the Australian Women's Shooting Team, Amanda is a shotgun specialist.

Shooting is in the blood for Amanda. Her grandfather represented Australia and her father holds two World titles.

She was invited into the Australian Team in April after qualifying second at the Nationals held in Perth. With new Olympic coach Greg Chan, Amanda has just begun training in 'Olympic Trench', which is twice the speed of her current competition format, and required for selection into the Australian Commonwealth and Olympic teams.

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## Dookie Campus welcomes new academic staff

Dookie Campus is pleased to welcome Assoc Prof Gregory Dunn (C.R. Roper Fellow in Agricultural Science) and Dr Nicola Cooley (Post Doctoral Research Fellow) to Dookie to work on the horticultural/viticultural component of the Victorian government's Science, Technology and Innovation Infrastructure Grants Program (STI) project, 'Regional and Economic Benefits Through Smarter Irrigation'.

This is a collaborative project between the University of Melbourne, the National Information and Communications Technology Australia Limited (NICTA) (a national centre of excellence in wireless sensor technology), Goulburn Murray Water, and the irrigation community. The project aims to develop and demonstrate smart water management systems. Smart water management systems, based on soil, weather and plant sensing, and supported by cutting edge wireless sensor technology, will increase economic water efficiency (profit/ML) of the horticulture and viticulture industries, therefore generating economic, social and environmental benefits in the Goulburn Valley, and making a substantial contribution to the Victorian export economy.

Gregory completed his PhD (Plant Physiology) at the University of Melbourne, after which he worked in forest research in Queensland, and more recently in applied research in Viticulture and Horticulture with DPI Tatura. He is at Dookie on a five year research and teaching appointment and specialises in applied horticulture, viticulture and science.

Nicola Cooley undertook her PhD at the University of East London in collaboration with Cambridge University. She has been in Australia 3 ½ years, working with the CSIRO Plant Industry studying the effects of seasonal variation along with deficient irrigation on grapevines. Nicola has a three year appointment at Dookie as a researcher on the STI 'Regional and Economic Benefits Through Smarter Irrigation' project.



## VTAC's first preferences results released

The results of Year 12 students' VTAC preferences were posted on staff noticeboards at Dookie last week.

Whilst only an indicator of the final enrolments for first year undergraduate students in 2006, these figures are important in assessing the size of the potential applicant pool.

These first preference results show that school leaver interest in the undergraduate courses offered at Dookie (the Advanced Diploma of Agriculture, the Bachelor of Agriculture and the Bachelor of Rural Business), remains steady, with a small improvement in numbers overall.

## Chinese Delegation visits Dookie

Eight senior agribusiness delegates from China visited Dookie Campus on Thursday 10 November. Primarily interested in the cattle industry, the delegates were given a tour of the Dookie Dairy led by Dairy Manager Nick Boyd, and then toured other areas of the Farm Estate.



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## Goosebumps and cheers as Makybe Diva wins again

Staff, friends and families enjoyed great Melbourne Cup Festivities with hosts, Gail and Dennis O'Brien. A popular winner, Makabie Diva cost bookie Mark Elliott a few dollars. However, the big winner was Jacinta Way, making the trifecta on the Cup race.

The P&B boys awarded gnomes for their annual best on field awards.

Many thanks to Gail and Dennis for an afternoon enjoyed by all in a lovely setting.



## The academic year ends on a high: the Dookie End of Year Ball

Gorgeous transformations took place all over campus throughout Friday 28 October, including the Dining Hall.

The Ball was a great success, as the smiling faces attest. Emily knight organised a fantastic slide show featuring major events from 2005. The band for the evening was local Shepparton Band, "Spank the Monkey". Special thanks to Emily Knight and Claire Potter for all of their hard work in organising the Ball.



## Late rains making a big impact on the Dookie Farm Estate

Dookie's Farm Manager, Frank O'Connor reports that the rains have been the determining factor in recent activities on the Dookie farms. The rains are helping fill crops, which are indicating a yield advantage.

30 ha of Lucerne was cut the week of 7th November, and produced 170 tonnes of silage. This will go to the dairy in six weeks time and be fed out over the coming months.

The rains have also meant that the dairy has held off irrigating, delivering significant savings in water. Irrigation normally commences in October.

The humid weather however is producing optimum flystrike conditions. For protection against flystrike the Merino lambs have been back lined with Click.

The wethers in the Merino to Match trials (reported in the last edition of the *Dookie Campus News*) were shorn the last week of October. Fleeces were in the 17-21 micron range, and fleece weights were between 4.5—8.5kg. The wethers are the same age, and variations are largely the result of different genetic lines.

The beef cattle have had a successful calving, and the bull has just been put in for joining.

Frank is planning to cut hay, and is on the look out for a week of fine weather.

## Launch of the Dookie Winery Cellar Door 26-27 November

The winery will open as a Cellar Door venue for the first time over the weekend of the 26-27 November. Everyone is welcome to a weekend of local fine wine, food and entertainment. Other local wineries will also be open this weekend, with cellar doors operating at Gentle Annie Wines, Tallis Wine, Yengari Wines, and Nooramunga Wines.

Tallis Wine will combine their cellar door with a picnic in the paddock on Sunday 27 November, 10.30am—4.30pm. For more information contact Alice Tallis on 5823 5383, or [alice.tallis@talliswine.com.au](mailto:alice.tallis@talliswine.com.au)

## Faculty Staff Christmas Party

The Dean of LFR, Frank Larkins, invites all staff to attend the Land and Food Resources Christmas Party to be held from 12.15 pm at Burnley Campus on Friday 2 December 2005.

Sandy Provan will be organizing transport from Dookie Campus to Burney. Please let him know as soon as possible if you will be attending. Can you also please rsvp to Mary Vatsaloo by 25 November if you are attending, to enable her to plan numbers for catering purposes.

Sandy Provan ph 5833 9249,  
[rogerap@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rogerap@unimelb.edu.au)  
Mary Vatsaloo ph 8344 5025  
[marysyv@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:marysyv@unimelb.edu.au)

## Dookie Staff Christmas Party

Jacinta Way is the coordinator for this year's Christmas Party, to be held on Wednesday 21 December. Planning is well underway for an event that promises to be a party 'out of the box'. For more information, or to volunteer your assistance, please contact Jacinta.

## What's happening on campus

- 14-16 Nov Diploma of Viticulture
- 18 Nov Parkville PhD Students Farm Tour  
Contact: Greg Dunn
- 17-18 Nov Farm Chemicals Users Course  
Contact: Keith White
- 18-20 Nov Rotary conference  
Contact: Helen Wallace



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21-23 Nov Swan Hill Secondary College  
Contact: Lynne Harmer

18 Nov Wine Label Launch  
Contact: Tony Lacy

26-27 Nov Winery Cellar Door opening  
Contact: Tony Lacy

25-28 Nov Monastic community  
Contact: Helen Wallace

25-27 Nov Wine Appreciation  
Contact: Dave Hodgson

## Campus Services

### Staff shop

Opening Hours 7 November—17 February  
Weekdays 12:30 pm—12:50pm

If you require petrol urgently at other times,  
please contact a keyholder who may be able  
to help.

### Medical Services

Next on campus: 17 November

Dr David Rogers, General Practitioner  
Maggie Fanning, Registered Nurse, Midwife.  
On campus fortnightly on Thursdays 10am—  
2.30pm. Doctors' Surgery, 8 Ridge Rd,  
Dookie Campus.

This is a bulk billing service, please bring  
your Medicare card.

For appointments call the Carrier Street  
Medical Centre: ph 5762 2033.

## Summer and graduate jobs

For more information and a complete listing  
of current vacancies, please visit the DSA  
notice board.

2 Graduate Trainee Agronomists, IK Caldwell  
Applications close 30/11/05

Market Development Agronomist, Werribee  
Office

Station Hand, Boort District

Dairy Herd Supervisor, Finley

Technical Services Officer, MIA Rural  
Services, Griffith.

