

## **Veterinary Science Accreditation**

### **1 AVMA Accreditation**

Dr Tim Boosinger, chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association team which visited Melbourne in March, has advised Dean of Veterinary Science, Professor Ivan Caple, that the AVMA Council has voted at its Education Meeting to award the University of Melbourne Faculty of Veterinary Science full AVMA Accreditation for seven years.

With this announcement, Melbourne becomes one of a handful of veterinary schools outside the United States to secure AVMA accreditation. Ivan and his colleagues have worked for years to achieve this rare honour. The decision means Melbourne graduates are recognised as equal to graduates from North American Veterinary Schools enhancing their mobility in the global veterinary profession. To secure accreditation required close attention to curriculum and clinical practice, along with a \$30 million investment over recent years in new facilities for the Parkville and Werribee campuses. Congratulations to the Dean, everyone in the Faculty, and to Property and Campus Services for managing a successful program of essential capital works. Melbourne now boasts what is officially a world-class program in Veterinary Science.

### **2 VSAAC Accreditation**

All Australian Veterinary Schools are visited every six years by an accreditation team representing the State and Territory Veterinary Registration Boards in Australia and the Veterinary Council of New Zealand (VSAAC). A representative from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in the United Kingdom also participates in the visitation.

A team from the VSAAC/RCVS visited Melbourne in the week 11-15th September 2006. On Friday 15th the Chair of the visiting accreditation team made a very positive oral report to the Vice Chancellor. A written report, with recommendations to comment on, is expected in about two months time. The final report will be considered by the next meeting of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) to be held in May 2007.