

Obituary

Peter Waller

1942-2008

In memory of Peter Waller

With deep sorrow we have received the message of Peter Waller's death in February this year. Peter was born in Australia where he also died, but in the meantime he worked as a literally world-wide veterinary parasitologist. Within his field he was one of the foremost, and he was a former vice president of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP). In 2003 he received the prestigious WAAVP award for excellence in parasitology research. In autumn 2007 Peter was appointed honorary doctor at the University of Helsinki, a recognition he himself could not take part in, as the conferment ceremony took place after his death.

Most of Peter Waller's work was within ruminant parasitology, and during the last decade this also included reindeer work. His career in reindeer parasitology actually started already in 1989, when he was invited as keynote speaker at NOR's 5th Nordic Conference on Reindeer Research in Oulu, Finland. His presentation dealt with parasite resistance to chemotherapy and its potential risks to the reindeer industry. Peter will particularly be remembered for his pioneering work on anthelmintic resistance and for his more recent investigations into sustainable parasite control in diverse animal management systems ranging from the arctic to the tropics.

Peter Waller was born in Australia in 1942 and he got a veterinary degree from the University of Sydney. He did his PhD in the UK, after which he returned to Australia rising in 1986 to Officer-in-Charge of the renowned McMaster laboratory. However, he rather soon left the administrative track for research. In 1995, he married Karin Persson, and two years later they moved to Sweden for Peter to work at the National Veterinary Institute (SVA), Uppsala.

After his moving, Peter allocated his time and enthusiasm between Sweden, Australia, Lapland and the rest of the world. He regarded himself modestly as possibly the leading Australian reindeer parasitologist, but he was actually one of the most innovative reindeer parasitologists ever. We participated with him in the supervision of Dr. Jackie Hrabok's PhD work, which was largely based on Peter's idea of introducing sheep research technology to reindeer parasitology. Thus, for example, the use of sentinel animals enabled us to measure temporal changes in reindeer pasture infectivity.

Peter was an unusually social person with friends all over the world. During his second participation in the IWAP conference series (International Workshop on Arctic Parasitology) he was welcomed as the great authority that he was. He was actively engaged in planning a *Rangifer* parasitology network, however, these plans started to fade after Peter's falling ill. Now it is a responsibility for others to take over this initiative.

We miss you, mate!



*Mauri Nieminen
Antti Oksanen
Arvid Ugglå*

