INFECTIONOUS BRONCHITIS VIRUS AND LAYING HENS
Associate Professor Julie Roberts
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Infectious bronchitis is an acute and highly contagious disease of chickens which is caused by a coronavirus. As the name suggests, it affects the respiratory system but also other organs including the kidneys, oviduct and gastrointestinal tract. The presence of the disease in Australia was first documented in 1962 by Robin Cumming of UNE. At the time, IB was considered an exotic disease in Australia and Rob had great difficulty convincing the veterinary bureaucracy in Australia that the disease was, indeed, present. Fortunately, senior people at UNE gave Rob their full support and he was able to publish his findings in the Australian Veterinary Journal. Many studies on IBV have been completed at UNE by Rob and Roger Cumming and more recently by students and technical staff in Julie Roberts’ laboratory. Some of the main findings will be presented in the seminar.

Biography:
Julie Roberts completed an Honours degree in Zoology at James Cook University and a PhD in Animal Physiology at Flinders University. She then worked for a short while in the Department of Physiology at the University of New South Wales before completing Postdoctoral Fellowships at the University of British Columbia in Canada and the University of Arizona in the U.S.A. Julie arrived at UNE as a Lecturer in Physiology in 1986 and has been here ever since. She plans to retire in 2018. Julie’s main research interests are electrolyte and water balance in birds and mammals and factors affecting egg quality in laying hens.