What’s On?

Highlands Branch Annual Meeting
September 29
Mittagong NSW

ASAVA R & R Conference
Critical Care
September 30-Oct 2
Hunter Valley NSW

Far North Coast Branch Annual Meeting
October 5
Lindendale NSW

Shoalhaven Branch Meeting
October 18
Berry NSW

Central West branch Meeting
October 19
Orange NSW

SMPB Golf Day
November 3
Sydney NSW

NSW Division Annual Regional Conference
Geriatrics
March 16-18, 2012
Wollongong NSW

AVPMA roadshow
March 26-27
Gold Coast QLD

IN THIS ISSUE – September 2011

- A Word from our President
- Branch report
- A Word from the EO
- Kath Farr memorial dinner update
- Equine Dentistry course-your input needed!
- AVAG acupuncture course
- Guild Financial partners with AVA
- Veterinary Nursing training courses
- Mentors needed
- NSW Newsletter online
- Useful contacts
- Funnies!
I am writing this sitting in front of a fire in the middle of the Goulburn River National Park after a leisurely drive through Gunnedah and Coolah. The countryside is green and beautiful and I have a few days in a stone cottage to practice the Ukulele that I bought in Tamworth on my way back to Sydney. Tamworth is a lovely city. The hospitality was tremendous. This Regional Conference honestly had us on tenterhooks as everyone registered at the very last moment. Two weeks prior we had seriously contemplated cancelling and wondered if we were on the right track and if regional vets really wanted CE?

I am so glad we were wrong. According to the talented caterers, that's the way it is in Tamworth. So all was well, we had plenty of delegates and over a hundred to the Kath Farr Dinner. The food was just fine as was the Conference. The Practical Emergency theme gave us useful hints and tips in a wide variety of areas.

Thank you to all our wonderful speakers, to Mark Fraser, Geoff Scarlett, the local vets, David Easterman in particular and the committee who pulled it all together and to Ted Irwin for his very special stand up vet comedy.

Thank you also to Roy Everett who spoke to us about the lives and times of Kath Farr. She must have had so much energy and was totally embedded in every aspect of her community. I particularly liked the part where she ended up heading out on calls with a car load of children because they all really enjoyed it. Imagine doing that without all the in-car entertainment we have for our kids these days! Then again they weren't strapped in to booster seats and probably tumbled all the way on some pretty dodgy roads.

Special thanks must go to all those who donated to the scholarship on the night. If you missed out don't worry you can still donate and if you missed out on a chance to visit rural NSW, well we will do it again.

Our next Regional Conference will be Wollongong and then we will head west again. Can’t wait! In the meantime it will be back to business and watching out for the issues such as the Companion Animal Task force and the LHPA Review.

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**Branch report – Tara Cashman**

**Spring into action!**

With the warmer weather arriving, branch activities are starting to blossom again. Look out for what is popping up in your region and be re-invigorated. All events are fully listed on the AVA website [www.ava.com.au/Events](http://www.ava.com.au/Events) or take a look below for a glimpse of the variety on offer!

**Highlands Branch** – 29 September, Mittagong.
Annual meeting and CE night - “Planning, people and performance – a round table discussion” facilitated by Sue Crampton, Crampton Consulting. Sponsored by Provet and Medfin. Contact: Steve Ferguson - s-ferguson@bigpond.com

**Far North Coast** – 5 October, Lindendale (near Lismore)
One surgical specialist, two great lectures. “Diagnosis of elbow dysplasia” and “Simple reconstructive surgery techniques you can use” with Dr Gordon Corfield. Contact: Richard Creed - richardc@lismorevet.com.au

**Shoalhaven** – 18 October, Berry
Sydney University boarded cardiologist Dr Niek Beijerink will discuss “Diagnosis and treatment of feline heart disease”. Sponsored by IDEXX. Contact: Anthony Bennett - anthonyvet2004@yahoo.com.au

**Central West** – 19 October, Orange
Dr Geoff Gribbons and Dr Peter Young from Charles Sturt University will present “Educated swaggies guide to SIRS” and “Wound management and reconstructive surgery”. Contact John Mason - john.mason@orangevet.com.au
Don’t forget to keep checking the events calendar as events are scheduled before the end of the year for the Far South Coast, Mid-North Coast, Central Coast, Newcastle and SW Slopes. Details available soon!

Thanks to Provet, platinum sponsor of NSW branch annual meetings.

A Word From The Executive Officer – Mark Fraser

Welcome to the September edition of E-Ructations. Our regional conference in Tamworth has come and gone and what a great event it was. A huge thank you to our major sponsors Provet, Hills and Guild and all our trade exhibitors, speakers and satchel insert supporters. Your invaluable commitment is much appreciated.

I think every practice within a 100km was represented over the weekend, along with a cross section of delegates from all over the state and a healthy nurse and student representation. We also had excellent coverage from the local media who were focusing on regional veterinary CE and the importance of our PPE demonstration at AELC.

On another note, we are currently looking for a NSW administration officer and if you know of any suitable candidate, please drop me a line.

The SMPB Annual Golf Day is coming up. November 3 is the date for your diary and all details, along with registration form, can be found here. It’s open to golfers and non-golfers alike!

Kath Farr memorial dinner – Geoff Tomkins

Kath Farr would have been chuffed! So many young women vets congregating in the New England area for a regional conference, so many competent and articulate persons representing the face of a changing veterinary profession.

The Tamworth regional conference was a resounding success, albeit an 11th hour save from financial failure. The Saturday evening dinner in aid of the Kath Farr Memorial Scholarship basked in the success that last-minute registrations brought to the dinner.

There were almost 100 guests in the cafe listed to host 80. A warm, clear evening allowed a spill-over onto the public footpath for an al fresco night of collegiate camaraderie. Roy Everett spoke of Kath’s early life and the factors leading to her selection of a veterinary vocation, her war-service and life in the bush at “Koolatai” station where she practised until late in life.

The dinner added another $2,700 to the fund, bringing the total to $20,000. We have sufficient funds now to make the award to a student entering final year in 2012. The NSW Division Committee would like to thank all donors contributing to the memorial fund, and hopes to have printed recognition available soon. Donations are still being taken in order to maintain this as a perpetual scholarship. To donate, click here.

Equine Dentistry Certificate IV – Your input needed!!!

AgriFood Skills Australia is now seeking validation of the draft Certificate IV in Equine Dentistry and associated units of competency for submission to the National Skills Standards Council (NSSC) for endorsement. Your input is needed.

Competency can be found on AgriFood’s website: http://agrifoodskills.net.au/training-packages/ACM/equine-dentistry-copy/
Australian IVAS acupuncture course—advertisement

Hosted by AVAG, an online Australian IVAS acupuncture course is available in 2012! Places are limited and must be secured soon.

A great opportunity to add value and choice to your practice, clients and patients! Online, interactive classes from your work or home and hands-on workshops in Australia! An internationally recognised qualification in veterinary acupuncture! AVA Vet Ed points!

For information, course brochure and registration, please go to: http://www.civtedu.org/australian-ivas-veterinary-acupuncture-course For questions, please email Chris Robinson (AVAG): crrob@ava.com.au

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Guild Financial Services partners with AVA

He who fails to plan is planning to fail
_Winston Churchill_

While the best laid plans may often go awry, especially in an uncertain economic climate, it still stands to reason that most successful people have clear goals in mind and a plan about how they will achieve them.

A new partnership between Guild Financial Services and the AVA means there’s never been a better time for AVA members to make a plan to secure their financial future.

Guild Financial Services is offering an exclusive discount to members of $1000 off the cost of comprehensive written financial advice.

Guild’s financial advisers can provide advice on:
- wealth creation
- retirement planning
- superannuation
- self-managed superannuation funds
- income and life insurance
- asset protection
- estate planning
- business risk protection.

To receive your $1000 discount voucher and take advantage of this offer contact AVA national office on 02 9431 5000. **Guild Financial Services** has a strong history of providing financial advice to health care professionals through qualified salaried advisers.

For more information visit www.guildfinancial.com.au/ava-offer
Veterinary Nursing Training Courses- Julia Crawford

It is time to think about enrolling staff in Veterinary Nursing Courses for next year. What are the options? To become a qualified Veterinary Nurse requires completing a Certificate IV Veterinary Nursing Course. This will involve completing the Cert II in Animal Studies prior to starting the Cert IV.

Training can be delivered in a number of ways ranging from attendance at college one day per week, block release 2-3 times per year, distance education/correspondence or full time training.

The premise of the national training package for Veterinary Nursing is to ensure that students gain theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The practical skills are to be learned in the workplace. As part of the training, a student will be required to demonstrate skills in the workplace or a simulated veterinary practice, to a qualified workplace assessor.

You should ensure that the training organisation you choose is able to meet your requirements. The training organisation should be licensed to deliver Certificate II in Animal Studies and Certificate IV Veterinary Nursing.

The training organisation should also have Vocational Training & Advisory Board (VTAB) accreditation. VTAB is the government organisation that registers and licences training organisations. Ensure that any college chosen can issue a “statement of attainment” or academic transcript that directly relates to the units of the training package for Certificate II Animal Studies and Certificate IV Veterinary Nursing. This will ensure that if a student transfers to a different college there is a record of the individual units from the training package that have been completed.

The training package does not state how long it should take to complete all of the units required to gain a Certificate IV Veterinary Nurse qualification. The mode of delivery will affect the time frames of delivery. On average it should take 3 years to gain Certificate II in Animal Studies and then Certificate IV Veterinary Nursing.

Traineeships are available to help with the cost of training. See www.ntis.gov.au

Thanks to Helen Power

Mentors wanted!

Sydney Faculty of veterinary Science intern mentoring program is looking to find additional new mentors for the 2012 program to meet an increased demand from students.

They particularly needing Small Animal practitioners based in the Sydney region but will have need for other practitioners as well. Please ask interested mentors to contact me at this email address.

david.foote@sydney.edu.au  They can also peruse general information on the program website:


David Foote- Program Director
Intern Mentoring Program | Faculty of Veterinary Science
Did you know you can access this issue and past NSW newsletters online? Click here to go to the NSW page on the AVA website. You can also find past proceedings and details of the Kath Farr Scholarship along with handy web tips.

Don’t forget to check the AVA calendar to see what events are coming up. Members are reminded that they can post an event simply by logging on to the AVA website and clicking on the Add an Event tab. This is a great way to promote branch events and meetings.

### Useful contacts

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>AVA Members HR Advisory Service</td>
<td>1300 788 977</td>
<td><a href="mailto:avrhotline@whr.com.au">avrhotline@whr.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AVA Member services</td>
<td>1300 137 309</td>
<td><a href="mailto:members@ava.com.au">members@ava.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AVA Counselling Service</td>
<td>1800 337 068</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting, Finance &amp; Super helpline</td>
<td>1800 881 293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guild Insurance</td>
<td>1800 810 213</td>
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### On the Lighter Side! – Trivia & Funnies

Did you hear the one about...

Two campers are walking through the woods when a huge brown bear suddenly appears in the clearing about 50 feet in front of them. The bear sees the campers and begins to head toward them. The first guy drops his backpack, digs out a pair of sneakers, and frantically begins to put them on. The second guy says, "What are you doing? Sneakers won’t help you outrun that bear." "I don’t need to outrun the bear," the first guy says. "I just need to outrun you." Boom Boom!

### AVA NSW DIVISION

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<tr>
<td>Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street</td>
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<td>The Australian Veterinary Association</td>
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