Greetings to everyone as we all approach another countdown period for Xmas 2012 – this newsletter has been left later in preparation than in previous years so we are only 2 weeks (14 sleeps exactly) before we find out what is in store for us and how much the family really care! Seriously, it is a great time of the year to leave the crackberries alone and ponder some of the key decisions we all will have to make on the day – do I have another red or move to bubble, do I consume another turkey leg or stay on the beans or my favourite which is where do I find the best place to sleep! No doubt the year of 2012 will mean quite different things to everyone but having reached the end of the year I hope everyone has some good reasons to celebrate their successes as we close out another year. Those of us in the front line of all things regulatory have been heavily engaged across the numerous regulatory reviews this year as at the last count we have 5 to respond to just before Xmas with a number on industry meetings on the go.

We had a very energetic AGM this year in Canberra with our AVA representative Adele Feakes also joining the meeting. It was great to have the AVA AVI representative present as Adele added a great deal of value in her delivery and updates of the happenings in the AVA. The best aspect was the introduction of some fresh blood onto the committee with Duncan Thomson, Michele Lee joining at the AGM and also to Karen Lipworth who came on board at a later stage of the year. Thanks also to everyone who placed their name back in the hat for re-election this year – the roles do take additional time and I certainly have appreciated the continuity of the majority of the committee for 2012/13.

Several major areas the committee has worked on during the year are listed below:

**Social**

The AVI held a number of very successful social functions during the year (thanks to Kasia for the start of the year and Duncan later in the year) for their great choices of venues, the very efficient manner of collecting funds and giving everyone plenty of time to plan for the functions. We hope everyone has enjoyed the opportunities to catch up with colleagues and friends during 2012. Perhaps it is time to find an alternative type of dancing for committee members to undertake!

**Conference programme**

Following the very successful programme at the Canberra conference (thanks very much to Charmaine who played a key role being the AVI conference coordinator contact for the 2012 conference), the conference organising committee of Sally, Charmaine, Michelle and Vanessa was formed.

The AVI role for 2013 conference in Cairns on the conference organising committee has been taken up principally by Sally but the conference organising committee of Vanessa, Charmaine, Sally have very effectively collated ideas from the AVI and presented to the AVA conference organising committee.
The 2013 conference in Cairns should cover the AVI members interest very well as the committee has succeed in having one plenary and a number of other sessions accepted into the agenda. On behalf of the AVI, THANKS to the entire conference team for their efforts to ensure our proposals are given full consideration.

**ILC representation**
AVI has maintained representation on the new APVMA industry group along with the AVA and Finola has taken on this role for the committee – thanks very much Finola for your efforts in making sure our points are made and in liaising in with the AVA on many issues.

**Policy Committee**
Kelly has been our representative on the policy committee this year and responded on behalf of the AVI on a number of policies during the year. The committee has responded to a number of submissions to AVA policy related to areas of with policies outlining the AVA policy on Indigenous dogs, cattle speying and Ineffective therapies are some examples of the policy areas reviewed. Sally also responded on behalf of the AVI on the Biosecurity paper.

**Compounding**
The committee have engaged very strongly in some areas that are of immediate and significant concern to all veterinarians. The committee have made submissions on the Better Regulations Review, AgVet code revision submissions (x2) and have been especially active in the areas of both compounding policy development by the AVA and very active industry committee engagement in building support for change in compliance regulations in this area. The key driver here on behalf of the committee has been Finola who has provided a high degree of energy, expertise, and passion to creating broader industry awareness of the deficiencies of the current legislation relating to lack of controls over manufacturing quality, packaging stability data and provision of products into use areas that currently registered products are available.

Thanks Finola for the great effort on behalf of the industry and the AVI this year! I certainly recommend reading Finola’s compounding article in the Veterinarian in case you missed it.

One significant change in the committee this year was the resignations of Kasia Hamilton and Peter Bracken. Both had fully engaged in the committee during their time in the roles of social convenor and treasurer respectively and I wish to thank them both very much for the engagement and inputs. They have both been missed. The new committee have again managed the additional workload of the roles very well and I thank everyone for their contributions during this year.

From my perspective, 2012 has been a very successful year for the AVI in terms of industry engagement and social activities between members. I need to really thank the current committee for their efforts this past year – AVI have a great group of people involved on the committee and this certainly makes the role of President much easier.

During 2012, the current committee and their roles were:

**President:** Kim Agnew  
**Secretary/Website Coordinator:** Vanessa Watson  
**Treasurer:** Duncan Thomson  
**Social Functions:** Duncan/Vanessa  
**CE Coordinator:** Sally Colgan  
**ILC:** Finola McConaghy  
**Policy Council:** Kelly Graham  
**Conference:** Charmaine, Sally, Vanessa, Michelle
Welcome to our new AVI Committee Member:

Karen Lipworth

I spent 6 years in small animal practice both in Australia and the UK before moving into Industry and I haven’t looked back since.

Worked for over 4 years at Merial Australia as a Field Vet followed by an office based role as the Technical Services Veterinarian.

A year ago I moved from talking about fleas to food when I became the Technical Services Manager for P&G Pet Care ANZ.

I love being able to use my veterinary skills and experience in industry roles and am looking forward to contributing further as a member of the AVI committee.

When I am not working you’ll generally find me around Bondi doing bootcamp or socialising with some friends over a glass or two of wine!

Sally has continued her active and energetic contributions to the AVI which never seem to slow down! Thanks Sally for these continued efforts and constant focus of providing CE options for us to consider.

Thanks to Michelle for being the southern state representative for the AVI and stepping onto the committee this year – your help on the conference inputs has been much appreciated.

Last but certainly not least I must thank Vanessa for her prompt responses to all communications that arrive into the committee and the very complete minutes that appear after each meeting – thanks Vanessa for your great secretarial work again this year!

I am certainly looking forward to a time to recharge and I trust everyone has an opportunity to enjoy this time of the year with friends and family. I wish everyone a very happy, safe and rewarding festive season and hope we can continue the good fight into 2013 when it arrives.

Best wishes

El presidento
AVI Committee Members 2012-2013

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Why not take a journey “Into the Future” with the AVA conference in Cairns in 2013!

An exciting line up is in preparation to stimulate, inspire and amaze you with what the future may hold in modern veterinary medicine!

The Monday plenary is expected to be given by Professor Martin Pera. Professor Pera is the Programme Leader of Stem Cells Australia. He has over 25 years’ experience in human pluripotent stem cell research and has authored over 100 peer reviewed publications. Pera was among a small number of researchers who pioneered the isolation and characterisation of pluripotent stem cells from human germ cell tumours of the testis, work that provided an important framework for the development of human embryonic stem cells. We are also planning a session on stem cell research and stem cell use in practice, wherein we will hear from renowned Australian researcher, Dr Chris Little, on his work on stem cells in tendon injury, followed by a visiting US Equine surgeon, Dwayne Rodgerson’s experience with stem cells and PRP in equine practice in Kentucky.

The “Pera Plenary” is only one of five plenaries planned for the week. These are always interesting and extremely well-attended sessions, so get ready to circle them on your programme! Temple Grandin will be presenting on aspects of animal behaviour. Dr Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Almost half the cattle in North America, are handled in a restraining system that she designed for meat plants. Chute and race systems that she has designed for cattle are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behaviour are widely regarded. In addition, Associate Professor James Gilkerson will provide us with a view into the future of infectious disease in Australia in the Ben Cuneen Memorial Lecture later in the week.

The scientific content of the industry programme also covers contemporary issues that are of interest to all our members. We are again running the “cutting edge” scientific forum where new and exciting research will be presented in short, sharp, boluses, allowing you to take home six packages of riveting information in only two sessions!

We have a session on compounded pharmaceuticals, presented by well-versed authorities on the subject from industry (Dr Finola McConaghy) and private practice (Dr Nick Kannegieter). We hope this session will stimulate interest and lively debate on this important topic and we need you to alert the general veterinary public to this matter, so they can come along and learn how relevant and important this issue is to practising veterinarians as well as industry.

The APVMA will send a representative to update us on the latest legislation and reforms; we have a refresher sessions on statistics and their interpretation from Dr Nigel Perkins – well known to the AVI as an expert advisor and consultant in all things statistical (!); a session on Animal Ethics and approvals for clinical trials from Dr Stephen Atkinson; information on funding in-practice research (Dr Max Zuber) and an insight into designing and running veterinary clinical trials from Dr Peter Cockcroft.
There are plenty more interesting speakers and topics from other streams and SIGs and it will be a great conference. It's an excellent venue and a super city to bring your family and have a little holiday too! The AVI social committee have selected a restaurant for our AGM dinner which is guaranteed to gastronomically delight attendees - to be held on Monday night!

Hope to see you in Cairns in May 2013!

Sally Colgan
AVA Scientific Committee 2013
AVI CPD Liaison 2012-2013
AVI Social Report

A number of very successful social events were held in 2012. These continue to be popular events for AVI members.

2012 has seen events in Canberra at the AVA, Infusions restaurant in Sydney, and the recent AVI Christmas dinner at Nar Ottoman in Cremorne.

Nar Ottoman was billed as the place to bring your Santa Claus belly (dance). Our AVI president took this sage Turkish advice, and was seen to be strutting his stuff with the local belly dancer. Several other AVI members took to the stage too—all in the name of good Christmas cheer!

AVI President, Kim Agnew (above), and Committee member, Finola McConaghy (left) showing off their belly dancing talent at the AVI Christmas dinner.
AVI members enjoying dinner and belly dancing at the Nar Ottoman AVI Christmas Dinner 2012
Summary report on ILC

Recent AVI Action relating to Compounding Pharmacies

Finola McConaghy has been representing the AVI in their continued campaign to educate veterinarians regarding the correct use of compounded pharmaceuticals, recent activities include:

- Represented on APVMA ILC working group, we have had a number of meetings of this group which includes representatives from State legislative bodies, DAFF, APVMA and the compounding pharmacy association. The latest development is to contact the Veterinary Surgeons Board to request that they circulate to veterinarians guidelines for correct use of compounded medications.

- At the upcoming AVA conference in May 2013, AVI and EVA are running a shared session ‘Using compounded medications – practical and legal implications’ the speakers are Nicholas Kanneigeter and Finola McConaghy.

- Represented on AVA TAC working group preparing AVA Guidelines for vets on appropriate use of compounded medications.

- AVI has sent a letter to VMDA to request that the VDMA send a proposal to AVA recommending that AVA prepare guidelines for appropriate advertising at AVA conferences and seminars designed to ensure that both compounding pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies can only advertise registered products.

Finola McConaghy

FROM THE SECRETARY

DID YOU KNOW that the AVI now has its own AVA email address??

- You will now be receiving all AVI correspondence from the new email address:
  
  avi@ava.com.au

- So if you have any suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to email the Committee on the above email address.

  Please be sure to save this address to your ‘safe’ mail list so that you don't miss out on receiving any important industry-related emails, or your AVI Social Events invitations!.

Have a safe and happy Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

See you in 2013!

Vanessa Watson
AVI Secretary
AVI Financial Results - 2012

Report Period:
1st January 2012 – September 2012

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Overall result:

2012 has been a great year from a financial perspective. It is normal for the main source of income to the AVI to come from subscriptions - which were increased in 2012. AVA National Conference is the biggest event for the AVI and includes the subsidization of both the speakers and the social event. There was no specific AVI conference in 2012, however one is budgeted for 2013.

Duncan Thomson
Honorary Treasurer