

The Australian Veterinary Association Limited

Annual Report 2000

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT 2000



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The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd is a non-profit, incorporated body composed of members of the veterinary profession. The AVA was founded in 1921 when the members of the then handful of state associations decided to establish a national organisation to enable them to act and speak with a single voice on behalf of the interests of their members.

The original membership was 84 and this has grown steadily to the 4,638 who were registered as financial members of the AVA at 31 December, 2000. That figure was an increase of 200 on the membership tally at the end of 1999.

The mission of the AVA is to serve the veterinary profession by providing:

- Support, identity, fellowship direction and growth for members.
- Expert advice and service to governments.
- Services to the community.

This is pursued through a diverse range of activities:

- Representation of the profession to all levels of government and the general community - on matters relating to animals, the animal industries and the veterinary profession.
- Developing policies and codes of practice on relevant subjects - for the guidance of members and for the information of the public.
- Conducting surveys of the profession and preparing strategic plans for the development of the Association - for the benefit of members and the profession at large.
- Publication of a scientific journal - for the information and professional development of members.
- Development and expansion of an AVA site on the World Wide Web - providing library, online discussion and search facilities for members and a source of general veterinary information for the public.
- Preparing guidelines on professional relations and interactions - including a code of ethics for the guidance of members.
- Conducting meetings on matters of interest to the veterinary profession - including scientific, professional and lifestyle issues.

The national office of the AVA is located in Sydney, with other national staff located in offices in Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra.

There are eight Divisions (based on all States and Territories). Each of the Divisions has varying numbers of branches (based on regional boundaries - or specific professional interests, eg rural or metropolitan practitioners).

The AVA currently has 22 Special Interest Groups (SIGs); these are sub-groups within the ranks of the AVA whose members come together because of their mutual involvement in specific areas of veterinary practice. This may stem from them specialising in treatment of a particular type of animal (sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, etc) or through common interest in fields such as practice management, veterinary dentistry, holistic treatments, acupuncture, veterinary history or through working as employed veterinarians rather than running their own businesses.

The AVA is constantly engaged in a wide range of policy research and development projects of importance to veterinarians.





The President's Message

It is my pleasure to report on another active and successful year for the AVA. The year has seen significant achievements in our four key goal areas: membership affairs, external and community relations, professional affairs and association management. Despite our achievements it is clear that in an association of our size there will always be more to do to represent the full spectrum of member aspirations and expectations.

Membership affairs

Increasing our membership has been one of the most important activity areas. We have achieved this with particular success in attracting more student members. The involvement of students and new graduates is important to the long-term health of the AVA.

The first year of our program of student representatives from the four veterinary schools has been one of the highlights, with outstanding representation from each school.

Tangible membership benefits such as Commonwealth Bank loans, VISA Cards, AAPT telecommunications services and more continue to meet the needs of a broad range of members.

The annual Presidents-elect Workshop was, once again, a great success, giving participants excellent training in communication and media skills as well as an overview of the operation and policies of the AVA. This program, introduced by retired CEO Barbara Horsfield, has enabled the elected leaders of our Divisions and SIGs to be better equipped to meet the needs of their specialist constituents and the association as a whole.

An area of particular concern this year has been the position of some of the smaller divisions and SIGs. The needs of our many constituent groups vary considerably as do their resources. To accommodate this the Board has developed a project approach to support activities that are linked to AVA priorities, although this assistance has yet to be significantly utilised.

Many smaller Divisions and SIGs have been innovative in managing their affairs with minimal resources while delivering excellent service. Clearly, the rapid development of e-mail has helped the association greatly in this respect.

External and community relations

This area of AVA activity is consistently listed as a high priority by members. Our SIGs and Divisions have been extremely active in establishing and maintaining links with industry groups, as well as providing expertise to government and other groups on behalf of the association.

The location of our National Veterinarian in Canberra has enhanced our input to Animal Health Australia (AHA), Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA) and many other Canberra-based organisations. We have continued the policy of the President and CEO meeting with relevant organisation heads and Ministers to ensure the AVA position is strongly represented. Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Gardner Murray, has been particularly helpful in ensuring we have contact at the highest possible level. We appreciate his support.

Whenever we are asked to contribute to working parties, inquiries, advisory committees and so on we are able to use the broad skills base of our SIGs and general membership. We have made written contributions to many national and State inquiries and reviews during the year. This involves considerable resources but provides us with excellent opportunity to promote the AVA and the profession in a very productive way.

The installation of our new membership database has given us a vastly improved resource to identify members with expertise in the many areas when we are asked to contribute.

The year has seen a strengthening of our media profile. We still have a long way to go in matching the profile of other related organisations but with the expertise of our Communications Manager, Dennis Ringrose, we are certainly improving our strategic approach to making the best of media opportunities.

Our media policy has been refined to ensure we respond appropriately to any opportunity, as well as linking with SIGs and divisions relevant to specific issues. The basis of our readiness is a comprehensive policy compendium. There was some concern at the stand taken by AVA in the public debate on caged layer hen housing but the position we took was in line with our current policy. The banning of cosmetic tail docking of puppies by the ACT Government gave the association excellent media opportunities and exposure.

PetPEP has had a variable year with excellent progress in Queensland and good work from national PetPEP coordinator Madonna Taylor. She leaves this role after an excellent and enthusiastic contribution to establishing the program. The PetPEP workshop held at the end of the year has given us a platform to further promote and deliver this important community relations program.

The President's Message

Continued support from the Petcare Information Service is welcome and appreciated. We are also pleased to have confirmation of support for the program from the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA).

Professional affairs

One of our great concerns is the pressure on undergraduate courses to include vast amounts of information required to prepare graduates for the range of activities offered by our profession. We have maintained strong liaison with the faculties as they endeavour to meet the demands of the "veterinary marketplace".

Our annual conference in Perth provided another excellent opportunity for further education, thanks to a great effort from the SIGs. Once again our Conference Manager, Doreen Culliver, did a tremendous job in putting together an excellent conference with local input from Mike Lumsden and Peter Punch of WA Division.

Other continuing education opportunities were provided by a range of SIG conferences that were well supported by members seeking to keep abreast of latest techniques and knowledge.

The difficulties some members were having with the AHA-managed Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV) were resolved during the year through input from a number of practitioner members. It is clear that there will be increasing roles for practitioner members to carry out tasks on behalf of various governments. APAV provides the training and certification for this role.

The supply of veterinary services in regional areas has particularly concerned the AVA during the year. This applies to both government and private practitioners. The association has attempted to promote rural opportunities to student groups but much more needs to be done if regional needs are to be met.

The lifestyle survey arranged by Trevor Heath and Geoff Niethe through the *AVJ* was extremely useful in identifying the issues either encouraging or discouraging rural veterinary careers. SIGs and divisions now have useful information to address the issue. SIG initiatives such as the Australian Association of Cattle Veterinarians linking with student groups will promote rural veterinary activities and lifestyles.

Animal welfare has had an increased profile this year. Robert Baker, President-elect, has assumed Board management of the issue and SIGs have increased the profile of animal welfare in their deliberations. Policy Council has a number of controversial and difficult welfare issues on its agenda for debate and acceptance at forthcoming meetings (egg production systems, tail docking of dairy cattle, induced parturition in dairy cattle, etc).

Following the breakthrough in the ACT where the Parliament unanimously passed a law banning cosmetic tail docking - a result achieved largely through the AVA's active support campaign - we are strongly committed to taking the anti-tail docking campaign to other States and the Northern Territory.

Association management

We are fortunate to have been so well served by retired CEO Barbara Horsfield for the past five years and equally fortunate to have Bruce Wynn take up the role. I would like to acknowledge the excellent contribution by our new Finance Manager, Laretta Stace, and our new Membership Manager, Debbie Dresner, in their first period of service. The new AVA team has done a great job building on the solid base created over the last few years.

Introduction of the GST provided some difficult administrative hurdles which were well managed by our finance staff.

The AVA Board has worked as an excellent team. Each member generously contributed time, expertise and enthusiasm to numerous issues, meetings, workshops and teleconferences. AVA members have been well served by the Board and I am grateful for their support. Geoff Niethe left the Board during the year. However his enthusiasm for our profession and our association has left an indelible mark. The AVA is indebted to Geoff's contribution to its progress over the past three years.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve the AVA as President. I encourage all members to become involved in the activities of their branch, division or SIG. We are a great profession, able to vigorously debate a huge range of issues yet work collaboratively for the benefit of the profession and the community.

Ian Denney
President





This first annual report of the current planning trimester is an opportunity for the AVA to evaluate the results of the commitments it provides to each of its six identified stakeholders – members, non-members, community, governments, the animals industry and industry partners.

AVA commitments to stakeholders

- To meet the professional and personal needs of members through quality services within available resources
- To continue to represent the profession's needs and interests and promote the benefits of strong representation to non-members
- To educate, inform and promote the profession to the general community
- To educate, inform and promote the relevance of the veterinary profession to government
- To provide expert resources and advice to the animal industries through the development of long-term partnerships
- To provide mutual benefits to AVA industry partners within an agreed ethical relationship

Objectives

In 2000, the AVA Board, Divisions, Special Interest Groups, standing committees and working parties met these commitments through the following goal areas and objectives:

Membership

- Satisfying the needs and wants of constituents
- Promoting the benefits of membership to non-members
- Providing shared secretarial/administrative support for small SIGs and Divisions within the next three years
- Encouraging the development of specific skills for AVA members

AVA membership continues to increase, with the total at 31 December 2000 standing at 4,638 – an annual increase of 200 (4.4%). Within the membership categories, students and affiliate members are the fastest growing, reflecting the Board's increased promotion to veterinary students and the high status the AVA enjoys overseas among qualified veterinarians.

The \$200 discount on national membership fees for new members was introduced at the beginning of the 2000 membership year, attracting 461 new ordinary members.

Information packages were sent to non-members, promoting specific benefits of AVA membership and social and continuing education activities in AVA Branches.

Members support the future of their profession and their colleagues through AVA membership, and also receive tangible benefits.

AVA Membership Benefits in 2000 included:

- All members received 12 monthly issues of the *Australian Veterinary Journal*
- 734 members attended continuing education programs during the Annual Conference in Perth in June
- 112 veterinary practices were accredited as AVA Microchip Centres
- 17 veterinary practices were recognised as New Graduate Friendly Practices
- 194 PetPEP veterinarians were supported by the National PetPEP Coordinator
- 1,253 radiographs were read as part of the AVA Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme
- Second veterinarian Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, Katherine Clift, was supported in Philippines.
- New members benefits were introduced in travel deals and Club Shopper
- 1,309 positions were advertised in *AVJ* professional advertisements
- 2,250 members used *AVAOnline* daily as a vital communication tool
- There were 37 participants in the AVA's Graduate Certificate in Management (Veterinary Practice)

In addition, direct support comes through tangible programs from sponsors including:

AAPTcommunications, Commonwealth Bank, Diners Club and Guild Insurance, who continue to provide access to specific services and discounts for AVA members. They also contribute significantly to the non-dues income of the AVA. Revenue of \$400,000 from these services supports the AVA objective of providing affordable AVA membership fees for all veterinarians in Australia.

The following members were recognised with AVA service awards at the AGM in Perth:

Gilruth Prize

Professor William (Ian) Beveridge

Kesteven Medal

Professor John R Egerton

Fellowship Awards

Professor Ivan Caple, Dr Pam Scanlon

Honorary Fellow

Professor Peter Doherty AC

Honorary Member

Dr Judith K Blackshaw

Meritorious Service Awards

Dr John Alexander, Dr Robert Baker, Mr John Bertram, Dr William Darmody, Dr John Hamilton, Dr Ian Harradine, Dr Michael Hayward, Mr Dan Hutchinson, Dr Tim Lawrie, Dr Jill Maddison and Dr Gary Wilson

AVA Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr Catherine (Kate) Steel

Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award

Dr Carlie Georgina Schmidt

Veterinary lifestyle survey

A "Vet Lifestyle 2000" survey undertaken by the AVA produced a 29% response rate from members. One of the main purposes of the survey was to obtain information about what members are doing in a professional sense, and their own views especially about living and working in rural Australia.

The capability of the association's new membership database was refined considerably in the period under review.

The new software has a vast array of capabilities to ultimately enable us to better record, trace and collate a range of relevant information about individual Members and their particular areas of professional interest. For example we will have the capacity to do special analyses of issues such as age, gender, location, practice locations, areas of study and specialisation. Through the effective use of such data AVA will be able in future to better target its services and Membership Benefits – a big breakthrough for all Members.

External and community relations

- Developing long-term partnerships with animal industries based on mutual benefits and objectives through the provision of expert resources and advice
- Maximising networking opportunities with professional groups to coordinate issues of mutual interest
- Strengthening relationships with current and potential financial supporters
- Educating, informing and promoting the veterinary profession to the general community
- Educating, informing and promoting the relevance of the veterinary profession to government

AVA's Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP) for primary schoolchildren has been guided by the national coordinator, Madonna Taylor. Some 250 AVA members support PetPEP financially. Promotional material for the program has been distributed to 8500 schools and 2000 veterinary practices in Australia. Up to 17,000 school students have participated in the program in a variety of ways.

Queensland Division has enjoyed most success with PetPEP – 680 schools have accessed the program material and 248 schools have an educational link to veterinary clinics.

AVA representatives met with officers of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA) in February and October to discuss veterinary issues such as the export of livestock, antibiotic residues in food animals, accreditation of private practitioners to undertake government services and changes to the meat inspection services.

AVA provides technical expertise and advice to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) through the review of quarantine protocols. These reviews are coordinated by the National Veterinarian, Dr Kevin Doyle.

Reviews and inquiries by the Federal and State Governments allow the AVA to provide its professional perspective through submissions by Dr Doyle.

Urban animal management is an important issue for the AVA. Veterinary expertise and input is made through local government animal control officers at the AVA's annual Urban Animal Management Conference. One hundred and fifty local government representatives and veterinarians attended the conference in Hobart in November.

The AVA continues its strong links with its industry supporters.

Principal supporters are:

Uncle Ben's of Australia	Provet Group
Guild Insurance	AAPT telecommunications
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Pfizer Animal Health

Professional affairs

- Facilitating continuous improvement of veterinary education (student, graduate, postgraduate)
- Recognition, development and promotion of members' skills through accreditation schemes and training programs
- Promotion of Australian registration for all Australian and New Zealand veterinarians
- Promotion of integration of specialist and generalist practice
- Maintaining the viability of rural veterinary practices
- Developing, reviewing and promoting AVA policies on animal welfare
- Regularly reviewing all AVA veterinary policies

The AVA stakeholder constituency is diverse. It is the only organisation that represents all fields of veterinary science in Australia. AVA has membership of the Australia and New Zealand Veterinary Council (ANZVC) and liaises with the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc, Animal Health Australia and Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia on a regular basis.

AVA policies also guide the veterinary profession in Australia. In 2000, the AVA Policy Council approved the following policies:

- Code of Practice for In-House Diagnostic Pathology and Pathology Referrals
- Laproscopic Artificial Insemination
- AVA Deer Velveting
- Statement on AVA Values
- Accreditation of Private Practitioners for Government Contracting

The following policies are under discussion and review:

- Dispensing of Prescription Drugs by Lay Persons
- Use of Euthanasia Drugs by Lay Operators
- Training of Lay Operators to Use S4s
- Advertising Human S4 Drugs
- Egg Production Systems
- Policy on Registration
- Microchipping Policy
- Fee Recovery – Retention of Animals for Non-payment
- Use of Computer Software Packages in Veterinary Practices
- Tail Docking of Cattle
- Genetically Modified Organisms
- Mulesing
- Native Animals as Pets
- Role of the Veterinarian in Food Safety
- Large Animal Veterinary Services

- Code of Practice on Ultrasound Use in the Work Place
- Emerging Industries
- Induction of Parturition
- Guidelines for Use of the Internet in Veterinary Referrals
- Privacy Protection Policy
- AVA Accreditation Program – 'Sign of the Centaur'
- Rural Strategies
- Gender balancing

AVA has a goal of achieving 75% representation of all veterinarians in Australia and 75% of all student veterinarians. In 2000 we focused on those in the veterinary profession who are under-represented as AVA members and students were included in this category.

The "Vet Lifestyle 2000" Survey yielded valuable information for planners and decision makers associated with the future of the profession, in addition to providing important feedback to members.

Animal welfare

AVA is committed to the health and welfare of animals. The aim of the AVA Animal Welfare Trust is to use veterinary knowledge and expertise to support the welfare of animals through research, education, promotion and action from donations by AVA members. Currently the trust has funds of \$37,981 (to the end of November 2000).

AVA promotes animal welfare to members through regular columns in the *Australian Veterinary Journal*, to governments through participation in the Federal Government National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare, State animal welfare committees and the community through media releases, as well as working with welfare organisations including the RSPCA.

Management and accountability

- Ensuring best practice association management and administration
- Ensuring ongoing administrative and financial support for AVA programs and activities

The administration continues to provide sound financial management through short and long-term financial plans and ensures that all legal obligations are documented and acted upon.

We are committed to ongoing improvement in coordination of all elements of the AVA, with regular reviews aimed at developing effective executive support across Australia.

A staffing policy and procedure manual is in the process of development. The implementation of AVA strategic and business plans, and the progress and evaluation of strategies associated with these plans, are key aspects of monthly AVA Board meetings.

In addition to reviewing all programs associated with member services and responding to issues as appropriate, a membership marketing plan was developed in the period under review and is in the process of implementation

The AVA staff thanks the AVA Board, Divisions, Special Interest Groups and Executive Committees for their dedication and commitment in carrying out responsibilities on behalf of the veterinary profession in Australia.

Bruce Wynn
AVA CEO





The year 2000 has seen the AVA strengthen its financial position with Total Members Funds (Net Assets) increasing to \$6,170,740, up from \$5,354,346 in 1999.

This increase is due to a combination of obtaining a group profit of \$201,394 and an increase in reserves of \$615,000, due to a revaluation of property assets held by the AVA.

The overall profit of \$201,394 was a result of profits generated by 44 constituent groups, with 8 groups reporting a break-even result and 16 groups reporting losses for the year. AVA National generated a profit of \$3,791.

AVA National profit was contributed to by commissions of \$436,000 from Guild Insurance, the Commonwealth Bank and Diners Club. This represents a net increase in commissions of 35% compared to last year and highlights the importance of maintaining relationships with key corporate entities in order to strengthen non-subscription income streams and provide personal and business benefits to AVA members.

The AVA Conference, held in Perth, was a very successful event financially, generating an overall surplus of \$99,143 which was distributed to the host Division (WA), participating SIGs and AVA National.

Total investments increased to \$1,487,436, up from \$794,005 in 1999. This was due to a generous donation of shares to the Benevolent Fund, from a retired member, valued at \$51,700, and a net increase in Managed Fund investments of \$641,731. Income distributions to AVA National for the year totalled \$97,471 providing a valuable income stream for the AVA to fund its activities.

The last quarter of 2000 saw a decline in the value of some managed fund investments held by the AVA due to a volatile share market and weakening global economy. However, fund managers predict more positive returns in future periods. The AVA has invested into a diversified and balanced portfolio to reduce the risk of volatility of return and expects to see significant long-term benefits from these investments.

All AVA properties underwent independent valuation as at December 2000, (the last valuation being in 1997), resulting in an increase in overall property value of \$615,000. The National Office at Artarmon, Sydney, increased in value by \$380,000, Division properties increased by \$170,000 and the Australian Small Animal Association (ASAVA) property at Surry Hills, Sydney, increased by \$65,000.

Comfund has continued to provide a valuable source of funding for several important projects approving in excess of \$30,000 worth of

grants during the year. These included the production of education videos and pamphlets, support of the 2000 Pet Expo, various membership services and student member promotions. AVA Members continued generous support of Comfund in their annual subscription will ensure that these and future worthwhile projects receive adequate funding to promote veterinarians to the community and provide enhanced services to the profession. The Comfund Committee encourages all AVA Groups to approach Comfund for help in formulating an application for funding for any worthwhile project. Details on Comfund funding guidelines and application forms are available from AVA National.

The year 2000 saw the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) legislation and the requirement to complete a Business Activity Statement (BAS) each quarter. These changes have placed increasing pressure on all staff and honoraries involved with the production of financial statements to comply with the legislation and meet strict deadlines for recording and reporting GST liabilities to AVA National and, through them, to the Australian Taxation Office.

One of the challenges for 2001 will be to provide a better solution to this problem using alternative internet based software solutions and a consistent approach to the forecasting, collecting, recording and reporting of group financial data. It will be important to support AVA National in its plans to overcome the current problems quickly and effectively for the benefit of all constituent groups.

The start of the new millennium sees the AVA in a strong financial position, however, some challenges lie ahead. CPI increases of between 4-6% are expected in the year 2001 which will put pressure on the ability of the AVA to maintain membership subscription rates at current levels. The AVA continually strives to increase income streams from other sources and will actively seek and promote alternative income generating activities to alleviate the reliance on membership subscription income to fund AVA activities.

After 11 years service to the AEVA and five years on the AVA Board, the last four of which have been as Treasurer, I have decided to take a back seat in AVA activities for a while. It has been a pleasure working for the Association and I thank all the staff, in particular Laurretta Stace and Liz Dawkins, and the members, for their support. I look forward to returning to the AVA sometime in the future.

Nicholas Kannegieter
AVA Treasurer

2000 Australian Veterinary Association Board Members (As at 31 December, 2000)



Bill Morgan



Ian Denney



Jo Sillince



Jo Toia



Kersti Seksel



Nick Kannegieter



Norm Blackman



Garth McGilvray



Robert Baker



Accreditation programs

Throughout the past 12 months the association has discussed various concepts of self-regulation and quality assurance.

The Sign of the Centaur discussion paper proposed that the AVA embrace a quality assurance program as a means of self-regulation, promoting the profession and determining its post-graduate training and educational requirements.

Sign of the Centaur was, in essence, a marketing program for the veterinary profession and the AVA to promote the value of veterinarians to clients, animal industries and potential veterinary employees. The discussion paper was widely circulated and presented to the AVA Policy Council.

Response from members has been varied. The inclusion of "accreditation" and "quality assurance" has conjured up extremely negative feelings. Past experience with accreditation programs and QA have not been pleasant and the concepts of quality assurance are not widely understood. Accreditation and QA have become dirty words.

The AVA Board has redefined the needs and mechanics of a marketing program for the profession. Systems need to be implemented that assure the quality of veterinary services, concentrating on specific procedures that are critical to client satisfaction and good practice. We need to set a standard of good practice, encourage professional improvement and promote participating individuals and businesses.

These are the central concepts of quality assurance and also a fundamental aspect of being part of a profession.

Rural Practice Policies

The Australian Veterinary Association has a strategic goal to maintain the viability of rural veterinary practice. To assist in developing policies and action plans, Dr Geof Niethe and Professor Trevor Heath were commissioned to survey AVA members, identifying the advantages and disadvantages of rural veterinary practice.

The AVA lifestyle survey was circulated in April 2000 and completed by 1,367 members. Survey results were reported on the AVA web site, in the *AVJ* and the rural print media.

The survey highlighted numerous issues the association and the profession need to address. The chief reasons cited by respondents for leaving rural practice were "changed focus", lack of career opportunities, family, and after hours workload. Rural practitioners work longer hours, perform more evenings and weekends on call, and receive less remuneration than city practitioners.

Opportunities for rural veterinarians are integrally related to the fortunes of rural industries and areas. But they are also highly influenced by individual veterinarians and their ability to adapt their professional skills to the requirements of the industries they serve.

The AVA continues to explore a range of services that will assist rural veterinary practitioners.

National Farmers Federation

The AVA continues to maintain a good working relationship with the National Farmers Federation. AVA consults on a range of technical issues on the NFF Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force.

The AVA attended the inaugural National Farmers Federation young farmers forum. The focus of the three-day forum was "building on the strengths, meeting the challenges" of rural and regional Australia.

Australian Veterinary Journal

This was another successful year for the journal, expanding in size and attracting increased revenue from both trade and classified advertisements.

During the year it underwent the biggest change of format in five years. In April a new printer was appointed and improved square-back binding was introduced. The new binding, combined with the attractive new full-page cover photos and improved design throughout, provides members and advertisers with a more appealing journal.

The new binding also means members who file the *AVJ* have easily traceable page numbers for the Clinical and Scientific sections clearly marked on the spine.

The inestimable contribution of Dennis Ringrose, AVA Communications Manager, in consistently improving the production as well as content of the journal, deserves special recognition.

AVAOnline

Our website continues to grow and evolve, while planning for a major overhaul is proceeding. The number of members with e-mail access has grown dramatically in the past year, with close to 2,300 addresses on file at the end of 2000.

This is an increase of more than 800 since 1999. Increasing use of e-mail and the website has greatly improved internal communications within the AVA's administrative arms – National Office, Divisions and SIGs – and has enabled us to communicate faster and more directly with members at large.

It is expected that the rebuild of the existing website will start in the first half of 2001.

Media

The AVA's media profile across Australia is steadily improving. Regular pro-active press releases ensure that the media is becoming increasingly aware of the AVA as a professional body with expertise in a wide range of fields and a champion of animal welfare.

A number of media activities arranged through National Office, notably the nationwide campaign to rally community support for the proposed ACT legislation to ban cosmetic tail docking of dogs, have given the organisation wide coverage in all levels and forms of the media.

AVA's response to several issues at national and State level (such as anabolics and horse culling) has also won the organisation top-level recognition from governments and agencies. As a result, the AVA has now been given official representation on a number of advisory panels.

Microchipping

The AVA continues to work towards a policy on the use of electronic identification of animals that will provide a reliable means of identification, as well as a dependable recovery and/or tracking system.

Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC)

The key activities for ACAC in the past year have included a submission to the ACT Government commenting on its Animal Management Draft Exposure Bill and the rewriting and printing of the Power of Pets brochure.

The brochure was distributed to every state and federal politician as well as every local council in Australia. Additionally, an ACAC website has been developed to assist with distribution of ACAC publications, and sponsorship of the Urban Animal Management Conference has continued.

Many issues affecting the pet industry over the past year have been discussed, including the use of antibiotics in animals, declining pet populations and concern over organophosphates in Sydney's waterways. ACAC is keen to increase its activities next year.

Veterinary Practice Management Course

This initiative has run well to date, with the third course completed but the fourth delayed for another year due to lack of numbers. Given the level of competition in the veterinary marketplace and the GST-induced need for better practice management overall, this is indeed disappointing. Those interested in following up on this course should contact National Office.

New Graduate Friendly Practices

A few additional practices have nominated and are being processed, but whether NGFP status is promoted by practices remains uncertain. There have been some issues arising out of the guidelines, including how a practice is reassessed if it is reported as "unfriendly" at some stage after verification.

Such issues need to be addressed and a review of the guidelines is under way.

Student membership

The increased focus on student membership has paid off for the AVA, with the trend to increased student membership continuing. The student reps have done a tremendous job, not only in promoting the AVA and actively recruiting but also in developing innovative ideas on how to continue the drive to show students how valuable AVA membership can be.

The new student reps have been appointed and are a welcome addition to the AVA family.

Board Reports

Development of the new AVA database has helped this process enormously. For the first time we can accurately identify numbers and trends in useful detail and this development of "information mining" will continue into next year.

Ethics and complaints policy

AVA policy has been to encourage ethics and complaints (some States use other names) procedures for each Division, for a number of reasons:

- In Divisions with a well developed system, it is seen by members to be one of the most useful AVA services
- It is seen by regulators as the first step towards self-regulation. If the profession fails to do this, it only encourages regulators to do it themselves
- It provides a more client-focused outcome. Registration Board investigating committees who see their role only as "protecting the public" tend to be strongly "win/lose" and strongly investigative. The veterinarian usually loses the client regardless of whether the veterinarian is prosecuted or not. If the clients win, they are often no wiser at the end of the process about what went wrong and what might have been done to fix it.

(By contrast, local Ethics and Complaints Committees try to focus more on client needs. They tend to retain the client and provide a better level of understanding after the complaint. Boards are more likely to proceed to public forums in the future, with publication of the names of people involved in some States at least.)

- Such schemes seem to provide clients with a degree of reassurance – if their veterinarian is an AVA member there is a system by which peer review of treatment decisions is available at minimal cost.

As consumers generally become more service conscious there will be an increase in complaints and a greater expectation of a free and fair outcome. AVA National will continue to support the development of such committees at a Divisional level by fostering the sharing of ideas between Divisions and systems, encouraging proper standard operating procedures and reporting to members, minimising legal risk to members and developing systems to reduce the risk of further regulatory intervention.

Discounts '200 for 2000'

This was Dr Neithe's innovative experiment to test the sensitivity of the veterinary market to AVA fee levels. It appears to have served its purpose well. While there was some response, we can probably conclude that it is not the level of fees that is the issue for non-members – it is the perception of value for money.

AVA is developing methods (such as upgrading the website, better feedback mechanisms for members through *AVAOnline* and the

traditional Branch/SIG structure, more effective lobbying, better media relations) to better communicate its achievements and become more visible to members and non-members.

Member benefits

These benefits provide significant savings to members. One member recouped more than double the cost of AVA membership by simply applying the member discount to the purchase of a vehicle.

The records show an increase in members using AVA Member Benefits and an increase in their dollar savings. Initiatives in 2000 included regular advertising of the benefits in the journal and "advertising" through articles and at meetings. Future initiatives will examine how to get members to consider these savings automatically when making a purchase.

Education

The Perth Conference education seminar papers provided information on the use of information technology and the Internet for delivery of courses both on campus in self-paced and distance mode. Discussions on student selection and rural practice provided an insight into the issues that affect the profession now and in the future.

A paper was presented on the learning outcomes approach being considered at Massey University. Thank you to all presenters and the staff at Murdoch University who provided an interesting tour of the facilities at the veterinary school.

The Education Committee is providing feedback on the review of the Australian Qualification Guidelines Project for the bachelor degree and postgraduate qualifications, as well as continuing to address veterinary education issues.

Dr Henry Collins resigned as chair of this committee during the year and the board would like to thank him for his leadership and commitment.

Australian and New Zealand Veterinary Standards Committee (ANZVSC)

In Hobart in 1999 a small working group was established to review the existing Guelph competency standards document. A report on the group's findings was presented at the Perth meeting. It provided information on the method of approach to the project, which included consideration of all competency standard documents and a set of learning outcomes published by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

The report also covered an overview of work being undertaken at Massey University on learning outcomes. This had resulted in a learning outcomes paper.

Board Reports

As per the original terms of reference, the aim of the ANZVSC is “to support the Australian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) by monitoring, reviewing, updating and recommending standards of veterinary science in Australia and New Zealand. These standards are in three categories: scientific, practitioner and specialist.”

ANZVSC is therefore seeking to become a standing committee of the AVBC.

Urban Animal Management

Urban animal management has taken off in a big way and is becoming recognised as a legitimate municipal service. The projects managed by the Urban Animal Advisory Group, including the Annual Conference, are aimed at minimising municipal pet problems and maximising community pet benefits.

This year’s conference at Hobart was a great success and a credit to the local organising committee. Each year the number of councils and the range of representatives involved in the conference increases. The conference this year covered key issues including microchipping and animal management officer training and offered practical sessions.

The Urban Animal Management Advisory Group, in consultation with delegates at the Friday session, produced a position statement on microchipping. This was endorsed by attendees who included representatives of councils from across Australia and the UAMAG.

The next key issue for UAMAG is dangerous dogs and the group is looking to develop a national strategy. UAMAG is also looking to a restructure as it moves to peak body status in the field of urban animal management.

PetPEP

A PetPEP report is provided elsewhere, however it should be noted that a number of activities have been undertaken to provide a clear direction for PetPEP over the next three years.

An evaluation of the implementation of PetPEP was undertaken to provide hard data on the uptake of the program and key issues affecting its success. The return rate on the survey was 49%. Respondents identified the aspects of the program they appreciated most, which included:

- Education of children
- Opportunity to promote responsible pet ownership
- Input to the community
- Increased veterinary profile in the community
- PetPEP resources and support

The most difficult aspects for respondents appeared to be finding time to dedicate to the program and getting initial links with schools.

Where veterinarians had been successfully linked with schools, the response from both the school and the veterinarian was positive and rewarding.

*Some 17,000 primary school students received Certificates of Responsible Pet Ownership by participating in the PetPEP Program in 2000. Certificates are signed and presented by the PetPEP veterinarian. *(This number does not include primary school students who may have participated without obtaining a certificate.)

The evaluation report combined with feedback from Divisions, individual AVA members and reports from the National PetPEP Coordinator, National Finance Manager and Queensland PetPEP Education Officer, formed the basis for a one-day planning workshop in November with the PetPEP Advisory Group.

Outcomes and recommendations from this workshop were forwarded to the Board and covered:

- Moves to establish division education officers
- Funding of the program
- Administration of the program
- Improvement in uptake of the program by schools and the veterinary profession

PetPEP continues to be a key link in the community relations program for the veterinary profession.

Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC)

AVA’s Therapeutics Committee continues to play an important role in the management of therapeutic issues. John Alexander stepped down as chairman/convenor of the committee this year, replaced by Norm Blackman. The committee and the AVA Board thank John for his significant contribution to TAC activities.

Key areas of TAC activity in 2000 included:

- Input to and follow up on NRA activities (eg. reviews of avoparcin and virginiamycin in food-producing animal uses, vaccine registration requirements, labelling issues, permits for unregistered veterinary products, adverse reaction reports, etc)
- Input to and follow up on Commonwealth reviews on poisons scheduling and administrative arrangements for regulation of public health and food safety
- Submission to the NRA seeking continued S4 scheduling of Ivermectin products for heartworm control
- Consideration of issues associated with the use of therapeutics in aquaculture



National Registration Authority (NRA)

AVA continues to maintain a good working relationship with the NRA and meets regularly with NRA and AVCARE (National Association for Crop Protection and Animal Health) on a range of policy and technical issues on the registration and control of use of veterinary drugs and chemicals.

During the year the NRA continued to strengthen its compliance activities, particularly in relation to supply of unregistered products and the Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP) control program. A veterinary chemical manufacturer was heavily fined for illegal supply of an S4 antibiotic product. This is a strong sign that the NRA is prepared to crackdown on the illegal supply of veterinary drugs.

There have been a number of reviews undertaken by the NRA, including virginiamycin, diazinon, dichlorvos and the special review of sulphonamides. A review of the possible effects on farmers using sheep dip chemicals has also been undertaken.

AVA is hopeful that prophylactic uses of virginiamycin will be retained. Many of the oral sulphonamide uses in food animals are likely to be removed.

JETACAR (Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance)

AVA continued to play a significant role in relation to JETACAR. Input from the AVA and the work done by Kevin Doyle (largely AVA-funded) in his role as a member of JETACAR contributed considerably to the relatively balanced report from JETACAR when compared to the outcomes of similar committees in other countries.

The government has largely supported JETACAR recommendations and established working groups to assist with implementation. AVA will maintain a key role in this process.

Animal Health Australia (AHA)

AVA has a good working relationship with AHA. Significant changes were made to the animal health program management structure within AHA this year. We believe these changes will enhance AHA's delivery of programs. AVA representatives have been nominated for committees overseeing activities within each program area.

AVA has also played a major part in working through contractual concerns raised about the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV) with AHA. Wording of the application form and APAV booklet has been amended in a way that should resolve our concerns.

Government

The organisational structure of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA) changed significantly in the latter half of 2000. The changes

and how they would affect the management of animal health and food safety policy were a major point for discussions with AFFA in October.

A key change was the decision to move quarantine policy from within AQIS to a separate division of the department (Market Access and Biosecurity).

AFFA assured us that the intention was to maintain, if not strengthen, the importance of sound science in biosecurity (quarantine) decisions taken by government.

Other issues raised with AFFA were:

- The importance of the administration of non-health drugs remaining with NRA in relation to the Review of Commonwealth Public Health and Safety Regulations
- The Government's response to the JETACAR Report and the future role for AVA in input to implementation of the recommendations.
- Rural Summit processes and our disappointment that AVA was excluded from the summit convened by Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson
- Progress on horseshoe levy arrangements
- Export control for veterinary anabolics and our support for government in finally dealing with this issue
- Animal Welfare with particular focus on the caged hens review

AQIS (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service)

AVA continued to provide input to the activities of AQIS in quarantine and food safety areas. AQIS appreciates the technical and practical expertise AVA has in terms of quarantine issues.

The AVA National Veterinarian, Kevin Doyle coordinates responses to requests for comment on proposed animal importation protocols for the AVA. The AQIS Quarantine Advisory Committee considers changes to the draft protocols based on our responses and those from other interested groups.

Member services

Member subscriptions

Total membership at the end of September 2000 was 4,605, an increase of 171 over the previous year. This total included 542 new members (293 ordinary and 249 student members).

Conferences

The 2000 AVA Conference in Perth was very successful and was attended by 734 registrants and speakers. It will produce a substantial surplus of more than \$90,000. The venue was excellent and the scientific and social activities were well organised, interesting and enjoyable.

Board Reports

The 16th International Pig Veterinary Conference was held in Melbourne and attended by 1,345 delegates from 54 countries.

The 2000 UAM Conference in Hobart was very successful and attended by 151 delegates, of which 13 were veterinarians. The next UAM Conference will be held in Melbourne in August 2001.

A World Wildlife Conference will be held in Sydney in July 2001, co-sponsored by Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB). The 2001 AVA conference will be a Pan-Pacific Conference at Melbourne Convention Centre, May 14-18.

Awards

The Kesteven Medal is a joint award of the AVA and the ACVSc which is given to Australian veterinarians in recognition of distinguished contributions to international veterinary science – in the fields of scientific and technological assistance to developing countries.

It is presented alternately at the AGM of the AVA and the ACVSc. The medal was awarded in 2000 to Professor John Egerton and is due to be awarded at the 2001 AVA AGM in Melbourne.

The 2000 Gilruth Prize for meritorious service to veterinary science in Australia was awarded to Professor William (Ian) Beveridge.

Animal Welfare

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

This committee will be restructured to comprise an executive of the chairman and one representative from each AVA Division who will meet in early 2001 and then again at the AVA Conference in Melbourne, as well as by teleconference twice a year.

There will be close liaison with relevant SIGs. The board appointed Robert Baker as Chairman from October 2000.

NCCAW

The National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare meets twice yearly. It comprises representatives of Commonwealth, State and Territory Government Departments, RSPCA, Animals Australia, NHMRC and CSIRO. The National Veterinarian represents the AVA.

Animal Welfare Trust

The trustees, chaired by Dr Roger Clarke, met in Perth in June and have prepared a deed for legal ratification. The trust will specifically fund research into and promotion of animal welfare in all species. It will seek tax deductibility status from the Australian Taxation Office.

There are six Trustees including the chairman. The AVA CEO and National Veterinarian are ex-officio members.







AVA Activities - Honouring our oldest Member

The AVA this year had the opportunity to do something that very rarely, if ever, falls within the capacity of any professional association. We honoured our oldest living Member by celebrating with him his 100th birthday!

Both the event and the man in question – Dr Will Chamberlin - had a deep effect on those privileged to attend the private lunch at the University of Melbourne Staff Club.

Dr Chamberlin, a Life Member of the AVA, is still a very chirpy, alert individual who lives in a self-care hostel in Melbourne. His room is still lined with books on a range of veterinary science topics and he is a keen reader of the *AVJ*.

He dazzled those showing him through one of his old stamping grounds – the (Victorian) Veterinary Research Institute – on the day of the lunch by citing numerous events of the days when he worked there almost 70 years ago. (It had been an article in a Melbourne newspaper about the activities of the Parkville facility that first inspired Will to try his hand in veterinary science).

When introduced to some current-day veterinary students, Dr Chamberlin was capable of flicking through some of their books and discussing at length the changes that have occurred in scientific knowledge and veterinary medicine since he was a student.

Born on October 22, 1900, he has been a Member of the AVA since January 1, 1929. Will decided to start studying for his BVSc in 1924, several years after he left school (1917) and while he was working in an unsatisfying role in accountancy. He had not studied physics or chemistry at school and this meant he was not properly equipped to undertake some of the pure science subjects he encountered in university, so his initial year results were not outstanding. However, he applied himself to his quest and quickly made huge gains and achieved very good results from his second year onwards. Having fallen behind his initial classmates, he was confronted by another daunting obstacle in his final year – the closure of the Melbourne Vet School! The university made arrangements for Will to travel to Sydney University to complete his final year of studies, before returning to Melbourne to sit for his final examinations. He did so with flying colours.



Soon after his graduation in 1928, Dr Chamberlin won the Caroline Kay Scholarship in Veterinary Anatomy and undertook research into the haematology of cattle and sheep. He was awarded a MVSc in 1931 and moved to NSW to accept an appointment at the Veterinary Research Station at Glenfield under Dr HR Seddon.

After seeing an advertisement for a job in Launceston (as a Veterinary Pathologist and CSIR Research Officer), he moved to Tasmania in 1933 and spent four years developing an institute similar to those he had experienced in Parkville and Glenfield.

During that period he established laboratory test facilities for brucellosis and implemented an eradication and accreditation campaign for herds supplying milk into the Launceston market. Within three years 85 local herds had been ruled brucellosis-free.

Another important achievement for Will was his heavy involvement in an education program that helped to overcome a severe hydatids problem in the region. He did this while working in private practice, utilising newspaper columns and radio appearances to raise farmer and community awareness of the life cycle of the parasite and the need for attention on farm dogs as part of the infection cycle.

During his very long working life as a veterinarian – he only retired from active practice at the age of 80 – he held a number of significant AVA positions in Victoria (Treasurer) and Tasmania (Secretary), where he was largely responsible for re-establishing the then defunct Veterinary Association of Tasmania.

The special lunch in honour of Dr Chamberlin's birthday was organised by the AVA, Victoria Division and the University of Melbourne Veterinary School.

Among the guests were the Dean of the Melbourne Vet School, Prof Ivan Caple, the Victorian President of AVA, Dr Jeff Brady, AVA Board member, Dr Bill Morgan, and the Scientific Editor of the *AVJ*, Prof Colin Wilks.

The *AVJ* ran a number of articles about the occasion of Will's 100th birthday and, subsequently, the lunch. Prof Wilks established close contact with the guest of honour in the weeks preceding the event and acted as Will's driver on the big day.



He later reported that Dr Chamberlin had been deeply moved by the fact that his peers had decided to arrange a special function to honour him and had been slightly nervous before his arrival – for apparent fear that he might somehow disappoint the gathering.

Not only did he not disappoint the crowd, all present later said they had regarded the occasion as "very special".

Prof Wilks later reported that on the drive back to his hostel Will had been extremely animated and said: "I feel like my whole life has started over again". Since that time his extended family has informally reported that Dr Chamberlin is still showing ever-greater interest in life and his profession than was the case before the lunch.

Plans are currently being developed to have Will attend the 2001 AVA Pan Pacific Conference in Melbourne as a special guest, if circumstances permit.





The year saw a dramatic breakthrough in the AVA's long-running efforts to see cosmetic tail docking in dogs banned in Australia – the nation's first such law took effect in the ACT. We played a critical role in the unanimous decision by the ACT legislative Assembly to introduce its ban, through AVA's nationwide campaign in January to rally community support for the draft legislation.

There had been a traditional belief in political circles that such a law would be more trouble than it was worth to politicians, who had believed that the pro-docking breeder groups were a potent political force. The reality was that they were actually a very vocal rump whose "voice" had for years been much louder than its numbers warranted.

The decision by the ACT Minister for Urban Services, Mr Brendan Smyth, to overhaul the national capital's laws for urban animal control and animal welfare provided the opportunity for the AVA campaign to show what could be achieved.

Mr Smyth placed his package of new and revised laws, known as "SCAMPS", on public display for two months to allow all interested parties to have their say on the proposals before they were submitted to a vote in the Assembly.

The AVA issued a series of supporting media releases around Australia – and a detailed information sheet explaining why docking was both cruel and unnecessary. We arranged for anti-docking segments to be presented on the Nine Network's national Today program, as well as a long list of radio talkback shows in all parts of Australia. Extensive newspaper coverage was also arranged, including a massive front page story in the Canberra Times with a photograph showing two dogs of the one breed – one docked and the other in its natural state.

The impact of that photograph was immense and we subsequently gained permission from the newspaper to use it on the cover of AVA's updated anti-docking brochure.

The campaign demonstrated to politicians in Canberra – and elsewhere – that the pro-dockers are actually a very small proportion of the wider community. It also showed beyond doubt that they were poorly organised and, most important, had nothing of any substance to say in trying to defend their supposed "right" to mutilate dogs so they meet man-made breed "standards".

Mr Smyth's office received hundreds of genuine letters (we asked people to spontaneously write about their views on docking - and refused to arrange a "form" letter for this purpose) urging that the practice be banned. The pro-dockers, with all their alleged resources, managed to submit only a tiny handful of letters.

The AVA campaign also involved personal lobbying of ACT MLAs, especially the Labor Opposition because of the obvious benefits for the cause if they could be convinced to join with the Liberal Government in the ultimate vote to decide the issue. (During this campaign came the news of a pledge by the WA Labor Opposition that it would introduce a ban on cosmetic tail docking if it won the 2001 election in that State).

The ACT Division of the AVA, combined with RSPCA Canberra, to organise a public rally on February 29 – the last day for public comment on the draft legislation.

About 200 people attended the rally, many with their own undocked dogs. The event attracted considerable media attention in the ACT, including a desperate (and very large) advertisement in the Canberra Times in which the pro-docker breeders told a series of lies about the AVA and our campaign. It urged a huge roll-up at the public rally in an effort to "thwart" the supposedly evil intentions of the AVA and the ACT Government in denying them the right to continue to hack off the tails of their dogs.

The advertisement proved a very expensive flop. Only 12 pro-dockers attended the rally, again confirming that this group in society talks very loudly but is not in any way representative of the real views of the community once people are made aware of the issue of tail docking and why it should stop.



AVA President, Dr Ian Denney, and ACT Minister for Urban Services, Mr Brendan Smyth, celebrate their joint launch of Australia's first law banning cosmetic tail docking.

AVA Activities - First Tail Docking Ban

As a further blow to the pro-dockers, they stood by while Mr Smyth welcomed an Opposition MLA, Mr Simon Corbell, to the rally and led him to the microphone. Mr Corbell then announced that the Labor Opposition would be supporting the Government's ban on tail-docking. He later credited the AVA's lobbying efforts for helping to make Labor's decision. "When we read all the AVA material, we really had no possible choice other than to support this important animal welfare measure," he said.

The legislation was passed through the ACT Assembly in late November, gaining unanimous support from the 17 people who sit in that Chamber.

The ban was formally introduced into law on December 21.

Mr Smyth, who was genuinely delighted with the success of his legislation and the role played by the AVA in ensuring that success, took the unusual step of inviting the AVA President, Dr Ian Denney, to jointly launch the new law. Dr Denney travelled to Canberra for the occasion, which again attracted widespread media attention.

During his speech Dr Denney said it was now just a matter of time before other states and the Northern Territory would introduce similar laws. He pledged that AVA would continue to apply pressure to politicians around the nation to see this happen.

The AVA has planned a strategy to continue this campaign in 2001, a year when several States face elections. One of the first steps will be to follow-up on the promise made by the ALP in WA in the light of political developments there.

Mr Smyth has vowed to actively participate in the anti-docking campaign to see the idea introduced around Australia.

A particularly ironic aspect of his success in the ACT is that his attention was drawn to the docking issue by the actions of a British pro-docking group, the Docked Breeds Council. It had written to the Minister – and a number of other selected Australian politicians – to protest against the AVA's on-going campaign to see docking outlawed. Being unfamiliar with the details, Mr Smyth requested a copy of the AVA's anti-docking brochure. After reading it he decided he had no choice but to move towards a ban on the practice in the national capital!



Photo by Matt Turner Courtesy of AWEC

Background

PetPEP, the Pets and People Education Program, began in Western Australia in 1991. Dr Diane Hopkins secured funding from Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) to write the original program. Subsequently, AVA divisions including South Australia and Victoria funded an initial launch.

In 1995, Queensland Division secured funding from the Department of Primary Industries to employ an education officer part-time.

In April 1999, AVA National decided to use PetPEP as the AVA's Community Relations Program. Seven corporate and donor sponsors, including Queensland's DPI, Petcare Information Advisory Service Australia, ASAVA, Fort Dodge Australia, Bayer Animal Health and ACE Pet Protection Insurance funded the cost of rewriting the program.

Sponsorship from veterinarians was sought to fund a national coordinator part-time and contribute to ongoing running costs. About 160 vets contributed \$50,000 to the campaign in 1999 on three scales, ranging from \$150 to \$1000. The idea was to contribute on an annual basis.

The program

The revised version of the program was published in October 1999. It has a strong literacy and numeracy focus and introduces new topics on dog bites, farm animals and animal behaviour. The revised program also links with the PetPEP website, enabling future expansion and updating of information.

PetPEP is designed to be taught in the classroom. While it will stand alone as a teacher resource, individual practices using PetPEP as a community relations tool need coordination and networking.

National Coordinator responsibilities

- Facilitate links between veterinarians and schools
- Provide support to contributors
- Coordinate promotional activities to schools and veterinarians
- Maintain communications with community networks
- Maintain communications with education and animal welfare departments
- Maintain communications with sponsors
- Organise media campaigns in each state during Pet Week

Queensland education officer duties

- In-service training for teachers
- Training workshops for veterinarians and nurses
- Promotions targeting State, private and Catholic schools (pet expos, newsletters, telephone calls, letter and flyers)
- Promotion to veterinarians (conferences, newsletters, telephone calls, letters)

- Administration duties
- Organising resources
- Liaison with local and State Government departments
- Liaison with community animal welfare groups
- Pet Week promotion and activities

Linking schools with vets

Up until 1999, Queensland was the only proactive Division using PetPEP. About 100 veterinarians contributed \$200 each to participate and 30 veterinarians contributed to the National PetPEP Program. There were 680 schools involved, 248 attached to a clinic. No statistics are available from other States.

A part-time National Coordinator was employed in April 1999. Queensland Division employed the education officer one day a week. In January 2000, Queensland Division appointed Tanya Pullen education officer for two days a week.

Veterinarians registered with the program expect one-on-one support. In fact, they would prefer a coordinator to run the entire program.

A great deal of work is required to create links for PetPEP. It involves giving veterinarians a brief overview of how the program works, obtaining lists of schools and community networks, phoning school principals and providing an overview of the program. Then comes contacting community speakers, negotiating sessions for students (according to their level) and topics and lesson plans to be prepared (mostly from the veterinarian resource kit). Media promotion is required and obtaining feedback is critical.

Communication with veterinarians and nurses

Training workshops and communication via *AVJ*, *AVAOnline*, phone, fax, email, mailouts and newsletters are also required.

The workshops focus on instructional skills for teaching primary schoolchildren. Ideas are also discussed about promotion of PetPEP within schools. A calendar of events evolves from these discussions for the school term.

A workshop was conducted in most States in August 1999 and another at the AVA Annual Conference in Perth in 2000.

PetPEP is promoted to schools through brochures, advertising in teacher publications, in-servicing principals and via Pet Week activities.

AVA Activities - Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP)

More than 10,000 primary school students nationwide participated in pet expos and pet shows to launch PetPEP in Pet Week 1999. A further 10,000 students were involved during this year and 7,000 (about 30 schools) took part in Pet Week 2000, where some veterinarians did up to seven schools.

Veterinarians, nurses, local council representatives, dog obedience clubs and wildlife carers were involved, as well as veterinarians with special interests in turtles, snakes and birds who gave talks. Police and sniffer dogs also demonstrated activities. Feedback from schools has been extremely positive.

PetPEP brochures were sent to 8,500 primary schools in September 1999. From this, 160 schools ordered a program. Teachers were contacted to introduce the program by way of a pet expo.

Principals are encouraged to include the program when planning the curriculum so the animal theme is taught throughout school life. Ideally, students are exposed to PetPEP at least once in years one or two, again in years four or five and then in years six or seven to provide continuity of learning. The aim is for each student to have a sound knowledge of pets and animals by the end of year seven.

Other promotional activities this year included advertisements in teacher publications in each State. There is no data indicating exact response but feedback suggests that three or four advertising campaigns throughout the year would provide the exposure required for teachers to pick the program up. One advertisement placed in each publication costs approximately \$3000.

Promotion to veterinarians

The AVA National Conference in June provided an opportunity to meet with participating veterinarians and promote the program to non-participating veterinarians. There is a regular PetPET column in *AVJ* and updates on the web page. Information is also disseminated by telephone calls, letters and PetPEP newsletters.

State education and animal welfare departments

A presentation was given in most States in 1999 to seek funding and facilitate networking. Queensland's DPI and South Australia's Cat and Dog Management Board provided funding.

Advertisements were placed in teacher publications in all States in June-July 2000. The NSW Education Department this year lifted its longstanding ban on PetPEP advertising – under direct orders from the State Premier. This followed a direct approach to the Premier by the AVA Board outlining the sorry history of that ban, the fact that it was not sustainable in any rational analysis of the facts and indicating the issue would be made public if it was not rectified.

Communication with sponsors

Updates via newsletters and reports are provided regularly.

Administration duties

Maintaining databases and files on community networks (schools, vets, councils, WIRES, dog obedience clubs), letter writing, fortnightly and annual reports, newsletter articles, media releases and general office duties are the responsibility of the Education Officer. AVA National Office is responsible for delivery of all veterinary and school resources.

Additional resources

Continuous updating of resource materials (displays, photographs, stickers, lesson plans for classroom activities) is done by the education officer.

Liaison with local councils

To date about 50 local councils have participated in PetPEP. Most send representatives to schools as requested. Councils also use the program as a resource to promote messages about responsible pet ownership to the community.

A workshop presented to the SA Cat and Dog Management Board revealed that while PetPET was a good idea, officers believed the extra workload was too great.

Media

There has been some criticism that PetPEP has missed media opportunities. But the budget did not allocate funds for a comprehensive media campaign.

Press releases were sent nationwide and to State outlets. Radio 2UE in Sydney, 6PR in Perth, 3AK in Melbourne, Brisbane 4BC, B105, Triple M and many regional centres broadcast interviews about PetPEP and Pet Week in 1999. Two radio stations rang for interviews this year.

There are many opportunities to promote PetPEP through the media but this requires a coordinated approach, months of planning and the right budget.

Conclusions

During 1999, the focus was on producing the new edition program and veterinary resource kit and launching PetPET nationwide during Pet Week. During 2000, the aim was to link schools with veterinarians and encourage teachers to use the program in the classroom.

To date, 200 schools have a new program. A further 550 have been nominated by veterinarians and yet to order a program. Some 196 veterinarians have registered with the program, 70 this year.

PetPEP is popular with teachers and seen as a useful tool in the classroom. Many veterinarians agree in principle with the program, however the main limitation seems to be time constraints. The level of success seems to rely on having a designated person in a practice who can liaise with education officers, schools and various other groups.



AVA Activities - Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP)

PetPEP will stand alone in schools as a teacher resource. However, individual practices using PetPEP for community relations need commitment to the program.

The major hurdle is lack of human and financial resources to coordinate at the grassroots. A coordinator in each State and Territory with local knowledge would provide the continuity the program requires.

Recommendations

To further promote the program through a national primary school competition, a comprehensive media campaign in Pet Week, an education officer in each State and Territory (part-time) and a national coordinator (full-time).

Continued financial support is required to promote and develop PetPEP to its full potential.

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Tel: (08) 8379 0222 Fax: (08) 8379 0229

Feedback from teachers involved in Pet Week 2000 activities

"A valuable program! Presenters were well prepared and presented information at a suitable level for children to understand. The children loved it and learned from it. Looking forward to next year"

Newtown Primary, Vic

"The children (and the staff) enjoyed the presentation of each activity. The presenters gave a positive approach to each topic and the children enjoyed handling the animals. The free samples were also greatly appreciated by all."

Altona Primary, Vic

"The speakers were excellent and interesting. Children really enjoyed sessions."

Our Lady of Mercy Primary, Tas

"Fantastic program. Everything went smoothly with the four guest speakers well prepared. The students really appreciated the session. A big thank you to all."

Bayldon Public School, NSW

"Thanks for organising the PetPEP talk. Next year it would be appropriate to split the school into two groups to better cater for needs of different aged learners."

St Joseph's Primary, Kununurra, WA

"A worthwhile experience. We would be interested in doing this again but with earlier notice so we can do a short unit in class."

Cedars Christian College, NSW

"The presentation was most professional and was enthusiastically received by the children. I'm sure the children learnt very valuable information"

Harbord Primary, NSW

NSW Division

Review of *Veterinary Surgeons Act*

This Act has been under review since 1996 and was the subject of an extensive submission by NSW Division in 1997. This year several meetings have taken place between representatives of the Board of Veterinary Surgeons (NSW), the Veterinary Surgeons Investigating Committee and NSW Division to present a new model for investigating complaints to the Minister for Agriculture and NSW Agriculture legal representatives.

Analysis and review of current procedures for complaint handling and the development of alternative options has required a large input from divisional representatives. It is expected that new legislation will be drafted in 2001.

Companion Animals Act

NSW Division continues its input to the Companion Animals Advisory Board (CAAB) on microchipping. An after-hours phone line (Petline) was set up this year by the NSW Department of Local Government (DLG) to contact owners when their pet is identified at a veterinary clinic. But the microchip registry and the recording systems continue to create problems and the Division will keep working on a resolution with the Minister.

NSW Division has made a submission to the CAAB Legislation Review Committee. We remain firmly committed to the policy that a fully integrated national database, accessible at all times to authorised persons, is essential for effective operation of a microchip-based identification and recovery system.

The division continues to voice its concern over lack of communication from both the register and the DLG to authorised implanters. Access to the register and the downtime of the internet register are other issues being discussed with DLG.

NSW Division remains committed to supporting the animal welfare and urban animal management aims of the *Companion Animals Act*. It is to be hoped that the next 18 months of implementation will see the achievement of its aims and an acknowledgment of its success by stakeholders and the community.

Membership

The membership sub-committee continues to implement the strategic plan on membership. The involvement of a student AVA representative from the University of Sydney has contributed to an increase in student membership of the AVA.

Membership promotion banners were developed for use at the university and AVA functions. Divisional representatives met with final-year students at the university's Camden campus. A phone poll of members failing to renew subscriptions was also conducted.

APAV

NSW veterinarians raised concerns about the indemnity clauses required to be involved in this program. NSW Division, National AVA and Australian Animal Health Council representatives met to resolve some of these issues. Extensions to the time for veterinarians requiring APAV approval were granted and changes to the indemnity clauses are being addressed.

Branch liaison

NSW Division met with Orana branch in Dubbo in August. The president attended five branches during the year and many other branch meetings were attended by divisional representatives.

Government liaison

The division continues to lobby NSW politicians and their departments. Divisional representatives met with the Minister for Agriculture to discuss animal welfare and the *Veterinary Surgeons Act (NSW)*. As well as preparing submissions to DLG, NSW Division was represented at a launch of *Petline* by the Minister for Local Government.

NSW Division AGM and conference

This was held at Dooralong Valley Resort on April 29. The scientific session consisted of ophthalmology, surgery, veterinary acupuncture and chiropractic. NSW Division agreed to make a significant financial commitment to the conference in 2001 and to raise the profile of this event. The conference will be held in the Blue Mountains in 2001.

Ethics and complaints

The Ethics and Complaints Sub-committee continues to use its peer review and advisory panel function to mediate in disputes between veterinarians and complaints from the public against veterinarians.

NSW members are becoming more aware of this service and using it with increasing confidence. More than 40 complaints are dealt with each year, the majority resulting in satisfactory resolutions for both parties.

This year has seen a more developed dialogue with the Veterinary Surgeons Investigating Committee (VSIC) as NSW Division has contributed to a proposed change to VSIC's mechanism for handling statutory complaints.

Veterinary science students are now made aware of the complaints management services available to the profession and NSW Division presented an interactive seminar to first-year students on complaints management.

Victoria Division

Melbourne is the city of the birth of our association 80 years ago and the cradle of Federation at the beginning of the 20th century. Victoria Division is pleased to be able to conduct the 2001 Annual Conference in Melbourne in this auspicious year.

The past year has seen much work in preparation for this event. The local arrangements committee with Doreen Culliver from AVACOS, our Communications Manager Dennis Ringrose and the AVA Board are working to create a memorable conference.

The Division continues to promote the association at all levels of the profession. The Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners' Branch has maintained financial and moral support of the practitioner in residence scheme at the University of Melbourne. The AVA has also been promoted to students through the Employed Veterinarians' Association and through members such as Glenn Browning, our Honorary Secretary, Mike Harrison, former Victoria Division President, and Professor Ivan Caple (Dean of the Faculty) who was awarded a Fellowship at the AVA Conference in Perth.

AVA student representative Peter Finnin and VSSV president Alison Gillespie have also been instrumental in the University of Melbourne having the highest percentage of students as members. The Division believes that the introduction of the philosophies, operation and benefits of our association to students is vital to promote the long-term participation of veterinarians.

To this end, the division has initiated a scheme to encourage current Members to sponsor student membership. All students at the University of Melbourne will be offered free membership for 2001 through a donation. This means their membership subscriptions will be covered even if individual veterinarians or clinics do not sponsor them.

At the other extreme, lunches were held during the year for retired veterinarians, with a special lunch for Dr Will Chamberlin. Professor Colin Wilks organised a joint lunch for our executive and the University of Melbourne to celebrate Dr Chamberlin's 100th birthday. Much has already been written about this remarkable man and I will only take this opportunity to again thank him for rekindling my dedication.

These lunches have been a time for reminiscence and debate on topical issues facing the profession. The continued enthusiasm and activity of the retired members is an example for younger veterinarians. The very active Central Branch meetings have been the main forums for the enduring performance of these retired members.

Our AGM was combined with the inaugural President's Cup golf day at Peninsula Country Club. The day was organised by Brian Oakley of Provet Holdings and proved to be a cost-neutral exercise with the generous sponsorship of many companies previously acknowledged in *VicVet*. It is hoped to expand on the idea for future AGMs and involve more members. The then CEO, Barbara Horsfield, attended the AGM and was inspirational.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Group continued to motivate the executive with their activity. The group's formula has been adopted by AVA National to help generate a more interactive and dynamic method of producing AVA animal welfare policies. Victoria Division continues to influence State animal welfare issues through involvement on the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

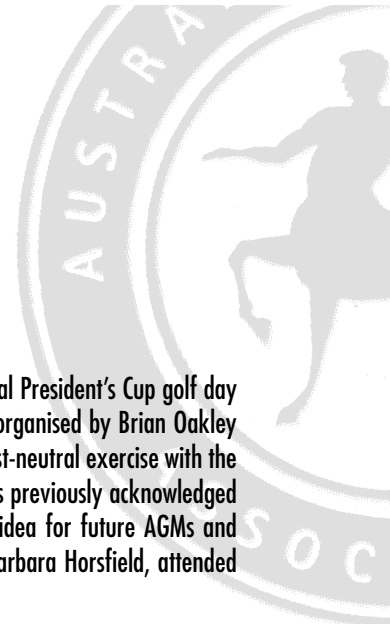
The executive is developing a strategic plan for the next few years. The plan will help us focus on matters of importance to members and work toward providing the best possible future for Victorian veterinarians. A strategic planning meeting in October was the first of many sessions to develop our future. Members have been encouraged to participate.

Branches which have been very active during the year include Central, North-Eastern, South Gippsland, Central Highlands, Geelong and Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners' Branch (MMPB). The energy of their executives has kept the objectives of the AVA alive across our State. Dinner meetings have allowed the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, ideas and opinions to keep our division alive and prospering.

Communications continue to be directed by Trevor Faragher, with assistance from Glenn Browning, Ken Picken and others. The standard of *VicVet* has been maintained during the year, keeping members well informed. The electronic infant is still fighting for survival but a bright future is assured. The Division is also developing its website at *AVAOnline*. Up-to-date communication is vital for our members and this is an area of high priority.

Executive Officer Ken Picken and Office Administrator Yvonne Olsen have provided Members, non-member veterinarians, government and the public with superb assistance during the year. Sadly, both are moving on to other pursuits and we thank them for their efforts over many years of service and wish them well in the future.

The executive has been tireless in its duties and members of the Division can be thankful for their work.



Queensland Division

Review of *Veterinary Surgeons Act*

The review commenced in March 1999 and a draft document was released in November last year. In July as part of ongoing consultation between the State Government and the relevant stakeholders, the *Veterinary Surgeons Act* Review Reference Group (on which the division has two representatives) was recalled to discuss procedures that are exempt from being "acts of veterinary science".

The meeting was very positive and the recommendations generated were in line with the AVA stance. The Division also made a further submission on certain aspects of the lay ownership issue.

The review of the Act is now progressing with surprising speed. The confident prediction is that Queensland will have a new *Veterinary Surgeons Act* and regulations within the next one-to-two years.

PetPEP

There have been considerable developments on *PetPEP* this year. In late August after many months of discussion, RSPCA Queensland agreed to support our division with the implementation of *PetPEP* in primary schools, to the tune of \$20,000 a year.

This financial support will allow an increase in the part-time position of our education officer Tanya Pullen from two to three days a week. As well, it will facilitate the training of RSPCA volunteers in several centres to participate in *PetPEP* activities. This collaborative approach between AVA and RSPCA will provide a wider and more effective promotion of *PetPEP* with better resourcing and a larger pool of enthusiastic supporters.

Queensland Department of Primary Industries continues to assist AVA with this education program. Their many years of support have made possible the ongoing success of the State's *PetPEP* education officer. In the later part of the year Tanya has been talking to several city councils about their potential involvement in the *PetPEP* scheme.

Training workshop for Disputes Resolution Committee

The Division conducted a weekend training workshop for members and potential members of the disputes resolution committee in October. Dr Harry Weaver was the principal presenter. The weekend was a great success. The Division is revising the existing complaint handling protocols with the aim of improving this vital service to both AVA members and the community.

University of Queensland Veterinary School

The release of the Brown Report late last year seemed to stem dissent over the relocation of the veterinary school at the University of Queensland. But in the first few months of the year questions were again raised about the intentions of the university hierarchy.

Meetings of the veterinary school staff were told that funding would not be spent on the present St Lucia and Pinjarra Hills locations. The Division has once again expressed its concern to the university over these insidious developments.

The Division has been watching with increasing concern the difficulties arising from attempts to find a replacement for the retiring head of school, Professor Keith Hughes.

Divisional AGM and Conference

The Conference and AGM were held on the first weekend in March at Rydges Capricornia Resort at Yeppoon in Central Queensland. The weekend continued the ongoing success of conducting the divisional AGM in conjunction with branch-hosted conferences.

The quarterly divisional newsletter had a facelift this year. A colour outer shell was introduced and received favourable reports from sponsors and members alike.

The Division has worked hard to maintain good lines of communication with members using the fortnightly communique *The Grapevine* and monthly teleconferences with Presidents of the State's six branches.

The paid employees Mary George, Matt Pope and Tanya Pullen have served the membership well and the honorary officers have once again been enthusiastic and diligent in their work for the Division.

Western Australia Division

Conference 2000

Without doubt, the major activity for WA Division in 2000 was hosting the AVA Annual Conference in Perth. The Division thanks all involved, nationally as well as locally, for organising such a successful and enjoyable event that was extremely well supported by visiting and local veterinarians.

Membership

Our main thrust is still to promote contact with as many undergraduate students as possible. While the emphasis tends to be on their later years, the committee has attempted to promote the AVA to younger students.

AVA student representative Greg Kelman must be congratulated on his enthusiasm in promoting the AVA to students at Murdoch University. Carolyn Walsh, our incoming student representative and president of the student association, has also been a big contributor. Both Greg and Carolyn attended nearly all the committee meetings this year and this was invaluable in liaising with students.

AVA Divisions - Western Australia/South Australia

A first this year was a workshop involving final-year students with role-playing in "The Consultation", held at a Perth hotel and sponsored by Merial. The workshop was extremely well received by students and will be repeated next year.

The Division was involved with several programs conducted at Murdoch University that exposed final-year students to difficult situations they might encounter in practice.

A quiz night was also held with the student association – another great success which should become an annual event.

New graduates

The Graduate Support Scheme continues. While relatively low-key, it provides another avenue of support for the new graduate outside the practice environment and is being used regularly.

A new format was introduced for the new graduate dinner, a joint venture with the Continuing Veterinary Education Office at Murdoch. It was combined with an information/discussion afternoon with the dinner in the evening. The event was held on the weekend of graduation to encourage interstate participation. The result was a huge success with more than 35 new graduates attending. Uncle Ben's and Merial sponsored the day.

Country membership

The program of country meetings in the regional centres of Bunbury, Albany and Geraldton was organised again. In association with the VSB registrar, meetings discussed how changes to the new *Veterinary Surgeons Act* might affect country practice. The meetings were productive and helped to stimulate AVA membership.

Public relations

In a new joint venture with the RSPCA, the All Creatures Expo raised the profession's profile in animal welfare. The aim was to allow pet owners to bring their pets to a safe, fun and educational environment where the AVA had a high profile.

The event, held in late August, was a huge success. With the RSPCA providing most of the organisation and legwork, WA Division provided free consultations and information.

The public response was excellent with nearly 10,000 people attending. Industry is interested in becoming more involved and Novartis Animal Health sponsored the day.

Legislation

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act* is still in the pipeline. However it seems to be progressing. The VSB has seen a draft of the new legislation. Some of the proposed changes, relatively few considering changes in other States, have been released for discussion. Of major concern to the Division is whether we will have the opportunity to view the Act before it goes to Parliament.

Mediation

Mediation is being used more often in the dispute process and our volunteers conducted several successful mediations this year. Mediation has mainly been between veterinarians and clients, with all parties successfully reaching a conclusion.

Volunteers have put a lot of time and effort into training and carrying out mediation sessions. This is proving to be a valuable AVA initiative as it becomes more widely known.

WA Division acknowledges the support of our office manager, Michelle Marino. Michelle reached the 10-year service mark this year and is to be congratulated for her patience and perseverance with AVA office bearers over the years.

South Australia Division

The South Australian Division entered 2000 with serious misgivings concerning its financial and operating future.

Although divisional subscriptions were on a par with others we were unable to meet the costs of employing an office manager, let alone fund communication and member support services. We faced erosion of our member base because of an inability to service it. Sponsorships had decreased and reserves were exhausted.

This issue was earnestly addressed at our AGM, which resolved to place it on the agenda for the national AGM. A discussion paper – "Services to members of small divisions of the Australian Veterinary Association" – was prepared for that meeting.

We believe that the outcome from Perth, whereby approved divisional projects are supported by National Office, provides greater equity within the divisional structure to ensure that all members can enjoy similar privileges. We are currently preparing business justifications to access a share of the funds which national office pledged.

Meanwhile, we have reviewed our routine administration activities and outside commitments and introduced strict financial controls to achieve significant savings within the budgeted deficit for 2000. As part of this we decided not to hold "Vets 'n Pets in the Park" in 2000, pending a review of organisational structure, funding and expectations for 2001.

The divisional AGM was held at Wirrina Cove Resort, south of Adelaide, in March. It included a scientific program, trade fair, dinner, golf competition, barbecue and other activities. Scientific sessions featured presentations by interstate veterinarians on radiology and emerging infectious diseases in domestic and wild animals.

A highlight was the plenary session by Mark Auricht who presented an inspirational story of a team of Australians who climbed the fifth highest mountain in the world. Ian Carmichael was inducted as Division President for 2000 by outgoing President Trevor Rickman. Barbara Gill, our new office manager, did a huge amount of work in organising this successful event together with Julia and Anthony Lucas, who in 2000 have continued to inject an air of optimism and achievement into our activities.

During the year the review of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act* passed through its final stage in terms of divisional input. Submissions by both the AVA and Veterinary Surgeons Board were given a good hearing. There was significant support for many provisions of the old Act from diverse animal interest and welfare groups. We are optimistic that the new Act, albeit with some changes, will not adversely affect the practice and professionalism of veterinary science in SA.

The SA Division currently has representation, together with government and industry leaders, on a committee designed to review animal health priorities and policy application in South Australia.

Anthony Lucas (with great support from Barbara Gill) produced three issues of *SA Bulletin* in 2000. This is a high-quality professional publication provides news, reviews, clinical practice articles and updates from all areas of the profession in SA. With no formal budget or sponsorship, Anthony has produced these bulletins on a cost-neutral basis. We value the contributions to *SA Bulletin* from AVA National, the South Australian Veterinary Surgeons Board and the South Australian Government Animal Health Branch.

Continuing education for the profession, concentrating mainly on companion animals, was provided in six courses during 2000 (three each from the Sydney and Murdoch University Foundations). These courses are not always profitable but provide a vital service to our members.

More than 40 new graduates chose to commence their careers in South Australia this year. Their professional welfare and orientation has been ably managed by Julia Lucas.

In March, the committee held a welcome dinner for graduates, sponsored by AVA National. Sixteen new graduates attended, including several from country practices. The opportunity was taken to promote the role of the AVA and advantages of membership, highlighted by presentation of the new graduate referral list, a document listing local veterinarians with specialist expertise who are available to provide advice. This list has now been upgraded for presentation to the next crop of graduates.

An individual mentor scheme (very well received) was also established in 2000 to provide confidential advice, guidance and encouragement to recent graduates.

Julia also surveyed new and recent graduates on whether they felt the AVA was serving their needs. She concluded that younger veterinarians have much to offer because they are passionate about political issues and prepared to translate their passion into activism.

Our functions secretaries trio of Jo Powell (convenor), Bee Li Tan and Trudy Seidel organised some excellent sponsored social events. Such as a beachside sausage sizzle (over 40 present, plus dogs), wine and cheese tasting and a pub night followed by dinner and a barbecue. The message is spreading that those who attend will enjoy themselves. It is encouraging that recent graduates and nurses have been prominent at these events.

About 120 AVA members, partners and special guests attended the SA President's cocktail party in December, where a feature was the presentation of a National President's pin to Dr "Brick" Smith (AVA National President 1965 and SA Divisional President 1945-46) by current National President Dr Ian Denney. Colleagues recognised with life memberships in 2000 were doctors Hans Van Gyen, Graeme Smith and Pat Cole.

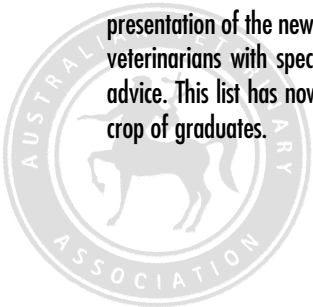
Committee members continued to represent the AVA on public and institutional bodies in 2000, including the Council for the Professions (Trevor Rickman), Veterinary Surgeons Board (Ian McBryde), Dog and Cat Management Board (Ian McBryde), SA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (Robert Baker) and Council of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (Mary Barton). Dr Jenny Weston has quietly served as our public relations representative, dealing efficiently with sensitive public issues.

Several SA members were recognised with AVA national awards this year, including Dr Pam Scanlon (Fellowship) for outstanding contributions and doctors Robert Baker, Tim Lawrie and John Hamilton (meritorious service awards).

We are proud that AVA members have elected Robert Baker as incoming National President.

Sadly, this year also saw the passing of some important figures in the history of SA Division, namely Dr Roberta Read, AM (Lady Humphreys) and Dr Marjorie Reid.

Roberta Read was the first woman to practice veterinary medicine in South Australia, the first to specialise in companion animals and was Divisional President in 1960. Marjorie Reid was the first woman veterinarian employed by the SA Department of Agriculture, first woman Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer in Australia and SA Division Secretary 1977-78.



Tasmania Division

Our AGM was held in March and in response to members' requests a GST seminar followed it. This session dealt with issues that specifically affect veterinarians in private practice.

Roy Mason was presented with life membership for his years of service to the AVA and the veterinary profession. Bob Clippingdale has accepted the position as President-elect and we look forward to having him in charge again.

Next year's AGM at Strahan will feature an information session on conservation biology.

Throughout the year Tasmania's *Dog Control Bill* has been under review. At the time of writing the Bill was still to be debated in Parliament. While compulsory microchip implants are unlikely to be adopted, provision has been made to enable their introduction when a working model is ready. Interaction with local government over this Bill has highlighted the need for an increased public profile.

In response to AVA National Office requests, a divisional strategic plan has been drafted. Our next task is to provide an appropriate business plan. And after many months of work, a draft of the occupational health and safety manual is nearing completion.

Regular social events have been held throughout the year, from golf days to quiz and comedy evenings. They have been well attended and enjoyed by all. The effort taken by regional organisers is greatly appreciated.

During the year positions on the Veterinary Surgeons Board came up for renewal. Andrew Nicholson (Chairman), Marie Richards and Neal Ward have been elected for a three-year term and John Gillham will retain his position as Registrar.

World Animal Day celebrations have been revived in Tasmania, with displays and competitions held throughout the State.

This year our Annual Conference weekend was titled "The Birds and the Bees". Marilyn and James Gill presented an enthralling series of lectures on canine reproduction and avian medicine. A nurses' conference was held simultaneously to maximise the information available. The formal dinner was a great success, with veterinarians, nurses, partners and trade attending.

This year the nurses' study achievements were recognised with certificates awarded at the dinner. Due to the positive response, the awards presentation will now occur at every annual dinner. A raffle held at the dinner raised a \$312 donation for the AVA Benevolent Fund.

National President Ian Denney and CEO Bruce Wynn were both in attendance and applauded the unity and good feeling that stretches across the veterinary profession, including nurses and trade.

Thanks must go to the conference organisers in securing sponsorship and planning such an event. Their wonderful effort - and the enthusiastic involvement of all concerned - ensured the conference was a success. Planning has now begun on next year's event.

A quarterly divisional newsletter continues to be sent to all veterinarians and is also available at the web address. Tasmania currently has approximately 60 per cent AVA membership. Largely due to the Annual Conference weekend, the committee feels the AVA is projecting a positive future for its members.

ACT Division

The highlight of a busy and successful year for the ACT Division was the passing of new domestic animal legislation and amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act (SCAMP)* on November 28.

Passage of the Bill was the culmination of prolonged community consultation in which the division participated. We also co-hosted (with RSPCA) a "Rally for Tails" outside the ACT Legislative Assembly at which the ACT Opposition announced its support for the new law.

The Division was an instigator and active participant in development of the package. The ACT is the first jurisdiction in Australia to ban the tail docking of dogs. This law is the first success in the long campaign mounted by AVA and other animal welfare organisations and ACT encourages all other divisions and relevant SIGs to follow our lead in lobbying the State and Northern Territory Governments.

Our division contributed to reviews of ACT health professionals legislation, prescription drugs in Australia, the ACT *Animal Welfare Act (NCP)*, the role of the ACT Veterinary Surgeon and the Animal Disease Emergency Plan.

Together with the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, we surveyed the effects of new laws limiting availability of fireworks. We found that the incidence of firework-related animal incidents increased despite the new legislation and have recommended to the government that, like other States and Territories, we effectively ban the use of fireworks.

An active and well-supported meeting program explored such subjects as surgical materials, veterinary legislation and national registration, launches of new pet foods and medications and the National Wildlife Health Centre. Other topics included: hydatids, pest animal fertility control, implementation and effectiveness of quarantine arrangements for Olympic equestrian events and an all-day clinical seminar run by four specialists.

As well, Caroline Roberts (Australian Youth Ambassador to Thailand) and Reuben Rose (Dean at Sydney) spoke at a dinner cruise on Lake Burley Griffin.

Our meetings were organised by Ian Davis and Naomi Hansen. We were saddened by Ian's death in November. His funeral was very well attended by AVA and work colleagues and a moving eulogy was given by Kevin Doyle. The Division has planned the Ian "Bluey" Davis scientific meeting for early 2001.

On a happier note, David Adamson deservedly won the ASAVA Practitioner of the Year Award, and Michael Banyard and Doreen Culliver were awarded silver trays in recognition of their long commitment to advancing urban animal management at the UAM

Conference in Hobart. Michael also convenes our awards committee. Division once again participated in a number of community activities such as the RSPCA Million Paws Walk and Christmas Pet Party, ACT Pound Open Day and ACT Pet Expo.

Our participation in the Pet Expo was organised by John Aspley Davis, who also coordinates other areas of corporate promotion and community service such as the Out of Hours Scheme, a lost and found segment and veterinary talkback on local radio and advertising in the Yellow Pages.

The Veterinary Surgeons Board, with whom we have an excellent working relationship, also had a stand at the Pet Expo and both organisations received positive comments about the standard of veterinary care in the ACT.

The division has negotiated with the Doctors Health Advisory Service in the ACT to provide crisis counselling to veterinarians, their families and co-workers. In addition, to our existing mentoring scheme, in 2001 the ACT Division will follow South Australia's lead in establishing one-to-one mentors for new graduates.

We felt the loss of AVA National staff Barbara Horsfield, Dan Hutchinson and Pam Young, as well as some local AVA staff. ACT Division pays for administration support from AVA National staff based in Canberra and we are very grateful for the efforts of Doreen and her team. The Divisional Committee has worked tirelessly, and I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of Treasurer Naomi Hansen, Secretary Dick Roe and Kevin Doyle.

Members of the Division are conscious of AVA's poor membership among government veterinarians. We are moving to form a special interest group to serve them.

A small but enthusiastic number of practices have delivered PetPEP to local schools and veterinary nurse Sue Ellis has been appointed our local PetPEP coordinator.

Thanks to all the sponsors who contributed so much to the Division's meetings, newsletter and community involvement this year. Without them 2000 would not have been the success it was.

Northern Territory

Executive Changes

President of our Division, Dr Allen Bryce, left Darwin in March to take up a position with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Wellington, New Zealand. He is enjoying his new job as National Manager for Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Approvals.

Dr Lorna Melville took over the role of President and attended the 2000 Presidents' Workshop in Perth. Lorna is senior veterinary virologist of the DPIF Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory in Darwin.

Dr Jill Millan recently returned from Canberra where she worked for AQIS. Jill represented the NT Division as President at the AVA 1999 National Conference before moving interstate. She joins us again as Vice-President.

Policy councillor Dr Danny Atkins attended the annual policy meeting and provided consultation within the Division and the broader NT community on a range of issues.

New executive member Dr Mauricio Perez-Ruiz did a fine job of representing NT Division as the RSPCA representative. There was a lot of discussion about microchipping and early desexing of animals.

Another new member is Dr Stephen Cutter, who was on the organising committee for a successful Aboriginal dog health seminar in Darwin in August.

2000 AGM and seminar

The 2000 NT Division AGM was held at the Territory Wildlife Park, with 22 people attending the seminar afterwards.

Seminar guest speakers from the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission gave a number of very informative presentations:

Mr Steve Templeton gave an insight into developments in parks in the USA and how the welfare of animals is a major concern in the design of displays.

Dr Jodie Low Choy gave a talk on new diseases in red kangaroos and black wallaroos, candida skin infections in birds and the work the Territory Wildlife Park is doing to investigate them.

Dr Wendy Bergen presented a seminar, raising many issues of concern to veterinarians and the public in general regarding rehabilitating native animals.

After the presentations, Territory Wildlife Park resident veterinarian and AVA member, Dr Jodie Low Choy, treated members and their families to a tour of the veterinary facilities of the Wildlife Park. She showed how injured wildlife is rehabilitated and demonstrated the infrastructure required for feeding requirements throughout the park. An informal dinner at a local hotel followed the tour.

Annual business highlights

The NT Division executive steadily worked through a number of issues. Employment of our Executive Officer, Ms Karen Carlson, ensured prompt organisation of teleconference meetings and minutes, as well as regular publication of the NT newsletter *AVANTage* and organisation of newsletter sponsorship from Westralian Drug Holdings Limited. She is currently in consultation with Guild Insurance to accept further sponsorship for NT Division.

The Division provided sponsorship to the Darwin branch of the RSPCA for publication of the brochure "Pets and Cyclones".

We contributed to discussion on the NT *Animal Welfare Act*, with provision for tail docking of dogs, lambs and pigs. This is currently being followed up by the NT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

NT Division President Dr Lorna Melville was successful in having veterinary studies put on the essential skills list. This means financial assistance from NTETA (Northern Territory Education Travel Assistance) will be available for veterinary students who must travel interstate to study.

The Territory nominated Dr Debbie Osborne, former NT Division Policy Councillor, President and Secretary/Treasurer from Alice Springs, for an AVA Meritorious Service Award.



CONCIERGE



Photo by Matt Turner Courtesy of AWEC

PIJAC Australia welcomes the publication of the AVA Annual Report and Yearbook for 2000 and congratulates the publishers on another quality and very useful publication.

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Australia (PIJAC) is widely acknowledged internally and externally as being the peak industry body representing the various diverse trades that comprise the Australian pet industry.

PIJAC is a national association with current membership numbering 500 and rising and comprising:

- **Pet Stores**
- **Boarding Kennels and Catteries**
- **Grooming Salons**
- **Dog Trainers**
- **Aquarium Industry**
- **Manufacturers and Distributors**
- **Livestock Breeders**
- **Vet merchandising pet related products a variety of other care/service providers.**

PIJAC's national Board comprises directors enlisted from the various membership categories, and there are subcommittees and state units in most capital cities to facilitate dialogue with other industry and government agencies on a wide range of common issues.

The Australian Pet Industry is large and very economically important providing employment for 37,000 Australians and generating retail turnover in excess of \$3.3 billion.

PIJAC's mission is to enhance the commercial pet market through responsible supply, care, sale and ownership or companion animals. PIJAC is a foundation member of the Australian Animal Council (ACAC). PIJAC has recently completed the drafting of the first ever national code of practice for pet shops which will govern the activities of members throughout Australia and should in time establish standards for the pet industry as a whole.

Message from PIJAC Australia

PIJAC members have an important role to play in the supply of companion animals to members of the public and also ensuring the general well being of these companion animals through correct, subsequent and ongoing care. There is no doubt that PIJAC members and their veterinarian counterparts share these noble aims and there is clear evidence of increasing localised cooperation across these professions.

In pursuit of our stated aims and objectives PIJAC works actively in co-operation and/or association with various government, welfare agencies and other industry bodies, including the AVA, within all states of Australia and internationally to

create an environment whereby our members can *learn and embrace best possible practice.*

We welcome our working relationships with the AVA and look forward to an ongoing and productive association.

**Ian Mustchin,
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Photo by Matt Turner Courtesy of AWEC

The year 2000 has been a busy and productive one for the AACV.

Executive

The AACV executive held its weekend workshop in Sydney from November 10-12. Issues addressed included future stand-alone conferences, AACV promotion at cattle industry conferences, shows and other activities and development of an AACV form for members to cover the requirements of record keeping in connection with dispensing drugs and maintaining accurate history files.

Sub-committees

Our existing sub-committees (dairy, feedlot, bull, BJD, animal welfare and therapeutics) remain largely intact, with minor personnel changes. The busiest one at the moment is the bull sub-committee that has the sizeable task of redesigning the bull brochure, the bull manual and moving towards uniform bull testing and assessment standards.

AACV input has been sought and provided on a proposal to review the use of virginiamycin in cattle, as well as the Livestock Export Accreditation Program (LEAP) review, AVA Policy Council reviews of cattle tail-docking and calving induction policies. Input to the Cattle Council (CC), made possible by our associate membership of CC, continues to provide mutually beneficial exchanges of information.

Sponsorship and promotion

AACV is in its best financial position ever, due to our sponsorship program. This has given us funds to subsidise members' attendance at continuing education workshops on ultrasound technologies and Breedplan. AACV is currently planning a review of ultrasound machines for pregnancy testing which will be carried out by a University of Queensland masters student. We are also in a position to offer the first ever AACV rural practice travel scholarship to a young veterinarian.

Our funding has allowed AACV to have a presence at Beef 2000 and the Queensland Royal Show, while plans are under way for similar promotion of cattle veterinarians to producers. Since Beef 2000, AACV has had a column in *Beef Improvements News*, another avenue to promote the services of our members to producers and the general public.

Student promotion

Recent months have seen a move by AACV to form stronger links with veterinary student bodies in Australian universities. This is in addition to the annual prize for best bovine case study or essay in each of four universities.

Victorian State representative, Andrew Jemmeson, recently organised a successful student function to promote cattle practice to

the Melbourne Veterinary Student Bovine Appreciation Group (BAG). A similar night is planned for University of Sydney students. AACV has provided funds for a prize of veterinary instruments for University of Queensland students at their half-way dinner in August and prizes have been provided for the Murdoch Veterinary Students' quiz night too.

Vanuatu conference 2000

May 15-19 saw the NZ Dairy Veterinarians and AACV combine for a conference themed on reproduction in large dairy herds. A work-and-play format saw all attendees thoroughly enjoying this conference, many with their partners.

Perth Conference

The AACV scientific program at the Perth conference went off extremely well, thanks to our organising committee of Kevin de Witte, Bob Rheinberger and David Nichols, along with colleagues from the Australian Sheep Veterinary Society. The live export sessions were very well attended and even attracted a low-key demonstration by an animal rights group.

Melbourne Conference (AVA)

Planning is underway for the AVA Pan-Pacific Conference in Melbourne, May 14-18, 2001. The emphasis will be on individual animal medicine this year. We still have to deal with the individual animal in our daily work, even if we are concentrating on herd management issues. In particular we want to provide a full update on downer cows from nutritional prevention through to assessment (including metabolic profiles), treatments and management.

AAVPM (Practice Management)

This young group with more than 400 members is a phoenix arising out of the yet-to-be-extinguished ashes of the employers' response to the challenge of APESMA's claims on the profession.

Its first meeting at the 1998 Darling Harbour AVA Annual Conference elected George Coronos foundation President and Ken Picken Secretary/Treasurer, later to become interim Executive Officer.

New life was breathed into AVPMA with an inaugural committee meeting in Melbourne in September 1999. It drew upon the talent incubating in the nation's capital, including people who were grappling with the very first course in veterinary practice management.

AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AAVPM (Practice Management)/ AAVCB (Conservation Biology/ACVA (Camelids))

From there, overtures were made to Caroline Jevring to cross oceans from aurora borealis to the chill of WA for the AVA Perth Annual Conference. The warmth and depth of her presentation quenched the thirst of many seeking to fan the flame of successful business. Such was the success that preparations have begun to draw Dr Berney Pulcay and Dr Steve Garner, extremely experienced practice management speakers, to Melbourne in 2001. Dr Pulcay is from Canada and Dr Garner from the US.

At our AGM in Perth, Lindsay Hay was elected President for the forthcoming year. Jim Allen, is Treasurer and Sue Halloran is newsletter editor. The committee intends to have representation from all States and Territories.

A second committee meeting in September 2000 in Sydney widened our State representation. Much of our time was spent on our constitution, in particular the burning question of a form of practice membership and the possibility of giving voting rights to a practice delegate who may be neither AVA member nor veterinarian.

A new constitution has been submitted to AVA National along with a change of name. We explored the avenues of member services once the heat of the *Veterinary Surgeons Award* (VSA) becoming national died away. Late in the year the Industrial Relations Commission extended the interim Award to practices across Australia.

We provide model employment contracts and information on health and safety standards through our interim Executive Officer and we have advertised for a part-time person to fill that role. We offer members \$150 of free advice on practice matters through the law firm, Freehills.

We plan to have a regular newsletter with information linked to similar groups in other countries. We received \$5000 from AVA National to fund the response from employers questioning aspects of the VSA. This was a dollar-for-dollar match for a similar service to employed veterinarians.

We are extending our dialogue to VNCA, EVA and the University of Sydney and have been involved in the criteria for selecting the practices for the Pfizer/AVA "Veterinary Practices of Excellence" Award mooted at the Perth AGM.

We believe the AVPMA phoenix will play an increasingly valuable role in the viability and vigour of the practising veterinary profession.

AAVCB (Conservation Biology)

Introduction

The group's activities continue to focus on the annual conference and, in NSW, on two-monthly meetings at Taronga Zoo. There is still an urgent need to find ways of getting members more actively involved across the country, beyond the publication of a newsletter and the website.

Membership

Membership in all categories continues to hover around 200. Particular efforts are being made to increase the student membership.

Website

The AAVCB home page has been improved and will develop into the main avenue of communication with members. This potential has not yet been explored to any significant extent.

Newsletters

An AAVCB newsletter is published three times a year on average and is well received by members. There is now a move towards e-mail as the main way of sending the newsletter to members but those without e-mail will continue to receive hard copies. This system will save money and should mean that more newsletters and bulletins can be sent to members.

Conference 2000

The group had a very successful three-day program in Perth. One session was conducted jointly with AVERT.

Conference 2001

Planning is well advanced for an international conference in Sydney in July 2001, in which AAVCB will combine with three other groups to present a five-day conference at Taronga Zoo on "Veterinary Conservation Biology: Wildlife Health and Management in Australasia". Because of this, AAVCB will not participate in the AVA's 2001 Annual Conference.

ACVA (Camelids)

The ACVA is a special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association for veterinarians with an interest in camelids.

This is a small but active group which meets annually with a three-day conference. This year our gathering was held in Perth at the AVA Annual Conference. It was well attended and included a number of Australian speakers talking about nutrition, anaesthetics, surgery and skin conditions.

Camelid practice continues to be important for many veterinarians and a special interest group like this is important to the alpaca industry in Australia.

AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - ACVA (Camelids)/AETS (Embryo Transfer)/AEVA (Equine)/AGVA (Greyhounds)

Our group communicates via a newsletter that is published periodically throughout the year. To become a member and receive the newsletter, contact Jane Vaughan, PO Box 406, Ocean Grove, Victoria.

2000 office-bearers

President: Andrew Paxton-Hall;

President-elect: Chris Rayson;

Vice-president: Bill Beresford;

Secretary: Jane Vaughan;

Treasurer and Policy Councillor: Leigh Coghlan;

Australian ALPACA Association liaison officer: Richard Dixon;

Conference organiser 2001: Randi Rotne;

Newsletter editor: Trevor Faragher.

AETS (Embryo Transfer)

One of the main issues AETS concentrated on this year was the acceptance of non-veterinary lay operators into the society as associate members. This was discussed in length at Hobart and many non-veterinarians joined AETS at Perth.

This raised issues of the welfare aspects/S4 drug control, veterinary supervision and other points relating to non-veterinary operators. Several sub-committees have been formed to look into these matters, especially welfare issues in regard to laparoscopic AI – use of local anaesthetics and sedatives.

Shane Ashworth organised an informative workshop on embryo freezing which was well attended.

The general consensus at the Perth meeting was that the timing of the 2001 AVA Melbourne Conference was not suitable for most of our members for the main technical update. AETS plans to have a two-day program at the AVA Conference and a more comprehensive three-day conference in August. This time of year is better for both sheep and cattle operators and several field trips and workshops will be arranged.

The University of Sydney held a semen assessment workshop early in the year. It was well attended by most of the major production centres and has paved the way for more defined industry standards and quality control. More courses are planned and AETS hopes this will improve the debate over semen quality by reducing client dissatisfaction and friction between semen production centres.

AETS plans to introduce a code of practice for laparoscopic insemination and associated issues such as semen assessment. This will include a code of conduct for all members and associate members of AETS.

AEVA (Equine)

This year AVA collected subscriptions for local members of the Australian Equine Veterinarian Association, freeing up the Executive Officer for more important membership matters.

A successful Bain-Fallon Memorial Lectures conference was held in Melbourne, with 168 delegates and 35 trade stands in support.

AEVA endorsed a code of practice for veterinarians working in the racing industry and set up an ethics and complaints sub-committee to hear cases of alleged breaches of the code by members.

In July, Derek Major took over as President - from David Lovell. Client brochures on colic and emergency care sold out and have been reprinted. We also printed and distributed new brochures to our members.

The association established its own web page to speed up transmission of information to members. Our aim is to keep our members informed on important issues that come to the notice of the executive. The address is www.aeva.ava.com.au/

AEVA continues to be well supported by sponsors but struggles somewhat when it comes to obtaining clinical papers.

Our executive continues to meet and correspond with race club officials, the Keeper of the Stud Book, insurance brokers, government officials and Veterinary Surgeons Boards.

AGVA (Greyhounds)

Membership of the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association remains at a healthy 158 and we are receiving a number of requests from new graduates concerning the SIG.

Dr John Murray, is President of AGVA, Dr Ray Ferguson is Secretary/Treasurer and Dr Chris Boemo is our Policy Councillor. He was asked to consider higher office with the AVA but had to decline. Dr John Newell continues to monitor the development of greyhound racing in Vietnam and the first track is now operational under the stewardship of Mr Phil Bell.

Dr Jim Gannon has done further work on drug evaluation and administration guidelines. There are now 35 medications on the list. He appreciated the \$1,000 grant that AGVA contributed to the study. Work on an anti-oestrus vaccine continues and it is now being trialled clinically. The problem of a suitable adjuvant has apparently been solved.

A protocol for veterinary surgeons officiating at greyhound race meetings is available from Ray Ferguson. AGVA acknowledges the assistance of Greyhound Racing Victoria in compiling the booklet. It

AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - ASAVA (Small Animals)

is an excellent publication that anyone associated with track racing should have.

A paper outlining the functions and aims of AGVA was sent to the SA Division publication during the year.

Dr John Kohnke has co-authored *The Ultimate Greyhound*, which is an essential addition to the library of any greyhound veterinarian or enthusiast - and very good value for money.

Following the introduction of our awards last year in Melbourne there are three recipients this year for outstanding contributions to greyhound medicine and surgery: Dr Chris Boemo, Dr John Kohnke and Dr Ray Ferguson. The awards have been sponsored by Allan Brown of Natural Performance Products.

AGVA acknowledges the sponsorships it receives from Nature-Vet and Natural Performance Products. Both companies have given us magnificent support over the years, which will hopefully continue.

ASAVA (Small Animals)

Conferences

At the AVA National Conference in Perth, ASAVA presented a varied program. In conjunction with the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association, Rick Read presented two days on joint and skeletal problems in dogs. Pfizer sponsored a half-day program on caring for the older pet.

The remainder of the program featured Drs Robert Holmes, Kersti Seksel and Heather Barrett speaking about animal behaviour disorders and management.

The behaviour section of the program also featured a debate on the use of electronic behaviour-modifying collars in a program sponsored by Novartis.

The ASAVA 2000 conference was held at Lake Taupo in New Zealand. The scientific program was sponsored by Provet NSW. The conference theme was "It's in the blood". Speakers Ann Hohenhaus from The Animal Medical Centre in New York and Bruce Parry from the University of Melbourne covered an array of topics related to haematology, cytology and oncology.

Industry support for the conference was magnificent with 20 companies travelling to Lake Taupo to take part in the industry display. The 100-odd delegates included more than 20 New Zealand veterinarians.

Journals

The Australian Veterinary Practitioner, regarded by many as the cornerstone of ASAVA member benefits, continues to be very

popular. This journal produces clinically relevant, accessible information for members and subscribers. Our thanks and congratulations go to Rick Atwell for his ongoing effort in maintaining the high quality of the journal.

ACAHF

ASAVA continues to support and promote the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation which is steadily growing. It funded four clinically relevant and valuable projects in 2000.

Promotion and marketing

We have significantly redesigned our information brochures to enhance their visual appeal and to promote the corporate image of ASAVA. New-look brochures were launched at the ASAVA conference and the committee is confident that our members will appreciate the updated and attractive format.

ASAVA gave financial support to the Delta Society to produce a brochure outlining their work in the important area of the human-animal bond. This brochure will be distributed to all ASAVA members and further copies and information can be obtained from the Delta Society.

Policy issues

ASAVA continues to assist in the formulation and review of many draft policies for AVA. One current issue relates to vaccination protocols. In response to concerns of members, ASAVA commissioned an extensive review of the literature pertaining to dog and cat vaccination by Stephen Holloway to help members make an informed opinion about this hot topic. The review, "To vaccinate or not to vaccinate", was published in the *AVP* in January. There will also be a debate on this topic within the ASAVA stream of the AVA annual conference in 2001.

New graduate support

ASAVA continues to host a dinner for new graduates at the AVA Annual Conference. As in past years, the dinner in Perth provided an opportunity for new graduates to meet and debrief about their experiences during the first three years of practice.

As always, the anecdotes flowed freely. The best new graduate story was determined by the acclamation of the group and its teller awarded a bottle of champagne. The opportunity to share stories with their peers has proved invaluable for young veterinarians.

In an effort to assist the difficult transition-to-practice period that young veterinarians undergo, ASAVA has decided to financially, and in some instances organisationally, support transition-to-practice programs at the four Australian Veterinary Schools. In 2000, support was provided for an existing program at the University of Sydney.

Other activities

ASAVA maintains an active involvement in veterinary nursing, urban animal management and animal welfare issues. The Accredited Veterinary Hospital directors continue their work to promote excellence in veterinary care via the ASAVA Hospital Accreditation Scheme.

Dr Craig Macpherson represented ASAVA on the Australian Companion Animal Council and served as its Chairman. Dr Dick Murray agreed to be ASAVA's representative on the AVA Urban Animal Management committee. Phil Brain continued his fine work with the veterinary nurses group.

Committee

ASAVA is a thriving and active SIG which continues to work hard to meet the needs of its members. The strength of any organisation is in its people and ASAVA is no exception. Our executive officer Jenny Wade and the whole executive committee give unstintingly of their time to serve ASAVA and its members.

ASVS (Sheep)

The ASVS executive moved from Queensland to NSW this year under a policy of rotating it between States. The efforts of Peter Rolls and his committee have left the society in good hands.

The changeover occurred at a successful meeting at the AVA Conference where the highlights were a joint session with AACV on live animal export and lively debate on Ovine Johne's disease.

Our annual conference is the peak forum for information exchange and discussion on sheep health and husbandry issues. It is regularly attended by government, research, industry and private veterinarians. The reputation of the scientific program and proceedings is a tribute to our program conveners over many years. Animal welfare issues continue to attract attention. Our policies on live sheep export, mulesing and laparoscopic AI are being reviewed or finalised. Unfortunately, at the present time (and for the foreseeable future) there is no alternative available that is as effective as mulesing in preventing breech strike.

The challenges for ASVS in the next five years include OJD, providing adequate veterinary services to the sheep industry, quality assurance programs, accreditation of veterinarians with expertise in the sheep industry and improved liaison with industry organisations.

OJD continues to cause concern, with a number of reports of average annual mortality of more than 10 per cent on infected properties. An extensive surveillance program has not detected any new foci of infection and the spread of infection outside the high prevalence areas has been controlled.

ASVS prepared and presented a submission, on behalf of AVA, to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference Committee. A major decision on further action with OJD will be made

next year when the National Ovine Johne's Disease Program is reviewed and a decision made on future action.

The Animal Health Australia Conference in Canberra in October highlighted major problems in providing veterinary services to the extensive livestock industries. The decline in public sector resources for service delivery has highlighted the need to maintain a critical mass to deliver animal health services to these industries.

There are opportunities for governments to utilise the resources available through private veterinary practitioners. This applies particularly to the single person isolated in a veterinary practice in a small town. The progress made in testing for OJD in NSW would not have been possible without the involvement of veterinary practitioners.

Associated with this is the difficulty for young veterinarians to gain experience and credibility in the sheep industry. ASVS is providing support for students to become aware of opportunities here, by encouraging the formation of sheep appreciation groups within the various faculties.

Involvement in quality assurance schemes for export and slaughter will require an accreditation scheme for veterinarians in the sheep trade. Sheep practitioners have been at the forefront of a number of flock accreditation schemes. We need to ensure there are minimal accreditation standards for these schemes, rather than the present requirement to become approved for each scheme. Hopefully we can achieve the same position with a single national registration requirement.

We look forward to next year with the International Sheep Veterinary Conference in South Africa providing another opportunity to promote the expertise and role of Australia's sheep veterinarians in maintaining the health and viability of the nation's sheep industry.

AVAA (Acupuncture)

The AVAA maintained its momentum during the year. The highlight was the AVA Annual Conference in Perth, where the main part of the program was presented by Roger Valentine, DVM and Rahmie Valentine, OMD.

These enthusiastic and informative speakers discussed an innovative approach to the diagnosis and treatment of allergies using the NAET program, based on traditional Chinese medical diagnosis. It expanded our knowledge of acupuncture.

The Annual General Meeting saw a change of office bearers, with Pam Short retiring as Secretary/Treasurer after many years and Ashleigh Hibbert as newsletter editor. Allen Sultan is now Secretary/Treasurer and Carl Muller is the newsletter editor again.

AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AVAA (Acupuncture)/AVDS (Dental)/AVERT (Ethics, Research & Teaching)

In October, Carl Muller and Ulrike Wurth presented a two-day program to final-year veterinary students in Melbourne as part of a small animal medicine elective. In November, Clare Middle and Carolyn Jackson presented a well attended two-day introductory acupuncture program for Perth veterinarians.

In 2001, AVAA will hold another International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) training program. Lectures will be held at Werribee in February, July and October. This is an intensive training program for veterinarians that combines lectures, practical sessions and distance education. Participants who complete the course and pass a written and practical exam receive IVAS certification.

Our program for the Melbourne AVA Annual Conference should not be missed. The first day features Dr Elizabeth Frank who is currently completing a PhD on myofascial pain. If you have never heard of this condition you need to attend. Many cases of lameness that are difficult to diagnose are due to myofascial pain and being able to treat them is very rewarding.

The following four days feature Dr Cheryl Schwartz, a holistic veterinary practitioner. She is a stimulating and entertaining speaker who will discuss the holistic approach to treating older pets such as dogs, cats and horses.

AVDS (Dental)

The AVDS had a solid and productive year in 2000. In August, we again held Pet Dental Health Week. With the continuing support of Hill's Pet Nutrition, well over 400 practices throughout Australia became involved in promoting pet dental health to their clients.

AVDS again contributed to the success of the AVA National Conference in June by running a five-day program, including a well attended workshop on the last day.

AVDS became one of the first SIGs to use, almost exclusively, digital presentation formats at this year's conference. AVDS thanks Dr Elizabeth Vickridge for an outstanding effort in making our dental sessions a great success.

AVERT (Ethics, Research and Teaching)

After substantial growth in 1999, membership of AVERT remained stable during 2000.

President Steve Atkinson has established a meaningful way forward for AVERT, with an ability to "laterally think" our role in the profession generally. His networking skills have created interfaces between AVERT and numerous other SIGs.

We are still one of the smallest SIGs but working on improving our position.

One problem with a small membership is that there are too few people to undertake all the activities that help us grow.

The executive spends most of its time working on conferences. But through the dedication of Steve Atkinson, Mary Bate (Secretary) and Susan Maastricht (Treasurer) AVERT manages to perform well. At the annual general meeting in June the same executive was appointed for the next 12 months.

Annual conference

AVERT's executive, members and others rated our sessions at Perth a great success. For the size of our SIG and the number of registrations at the whole conference, attendance was outstanding. More pleasing still was the positive feedback.

A joint session with the Conservation Biology SIG proved illuminating and stimulating. Because AVERT has the major thrust of animal welfare it has the unique capacity to link with many other disciplines, so joint sessions with other SIGs will be regular features in future.

Proceedings from the Perth 2000 Conference are being completed and our regular newsletter has been produced and circulated to members. Thanks go to Mary Bate for the enormous amount of work she has put into these activities.

In another pleasing outcome, we have been approached by other SIGS for copies of some of the papers from Perth to be included in their newsletters.

Melbourne conference, May 2001

Dr Karol Mathews from Canada is being supported to visit Australia as the principal speaker for a proposed three-day AVERT program on pain and pain control during the AVA Annual Conference in Melbourne.

Karol is a recognised expert and widely published. We have received support from the ANZCCART Board (Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching) with an indication that they would like to join us in developing a joint program.

Such a combination will attract many delegates from the biomedical and other research fields to these sessions. The proposed program will look at all aspects of pain and pain management in animals. Several high-profile Australian and New Zealand speakers have also indicated interest in being part of our program.

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists

Members of the SIG have been involved in formation of the Animal Welfare Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. Several members were appointed to its inaugural executive. The first examinations for this chapter are to be held in June 2001. AVERT would like to inform all interested people of the chance to gain membership.

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Animal welfare networking

AVERT has begun to receive recognition from other parts of the world for its efforts to promote animal welfare and ethical debate in Australia. Steve Atkinson was approached by organisers of the Latin American Animal Welfare Congress to present several papers at their October 2000 gathering. This was a great opportunity to develop ties with colleagues in other parts of the world and present the Australian perspective on our activities to a large audience.

AVHS (History)

The Australian Veterinary History Society continues as a SIG to foster interest in the history of the profession and veterinary science.

This year's Annual Conference was held in May in Sydney at the veterinary faculty of the University of Sydney. A program of five speakers was followed by the AGM and the annual dinner.

The following office bearers were elected: Dr K Baker (President), Dr C Bunn (Secretary/Treasurer), Dr R Roe (Librarian), Dr P Mylrea (Editor), Drs P McWhirter, P Canfield and J Fisher (committee members).

Trevor Faragher will be the convenor of next year's Annual Conference in Melbourne, to be held in conjunction with the AVA's Annual Conference in May 2001. At this stage we plan to have six speakers and hold the AGM on May 13-14. The theme of our Conference will be "Past and Present – a Celebration of the Centenary of the Federation of Australia".

Thanks go to Peter Mylrea for continuing to edit our *Australian Veterinary History Record*. In addition to providing a forum for the publication of articles of historical veterinary interest, including presentations at our annual conferences, it allows us to communicate with our members.

At long last there is positive news concerning our push to have the veterinary profession's contribution to development of Australia's pastoral industries acknowledged in the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach. The AVA Board supports this project and hopefully steps will soon be taken to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

To stimulate an interest in veterinary history our society will conduct an essay contest for veterinary students next year. The theme will be "The History of Veterinary Parasitology in Australia", a field in which our veterinarians have been pre-eminent. Novartis Animal Health are sponsoring the contest with a first prize of \$500 and the

opportunity to present the winning essay at our 2002 conference. Further details will be circulated to veterinary schools next year.

The World Veterinary History Society is seeking biographical details of prominent Australian veterinarians and Dr Bob Taylor is overseeing this project.

Most but certainly not all of our members are retired and we also have a small number of non-veterinary members. AVHA membership costs only \$11, payable to the treasurer, Dr Chris Bunn (13 Burnside Street, Watson, ACT 2602), or included with payment of the AVA subscription.

Recently retired members are especially encouraged to join as a way of maintaining their links with their profession.

AVI (Industry)

During the year, AVI's revised constitution came into effect, the most immediate change being the method of election of the President and President-elect.

The year 2000 has seen an increase in membership of the SIG and a good attendance at meetings and committees, particularly considering the geographic distribution of the members. Most committee meetings following the Perth AGM were chaired remotely, with members predominantly in the AVA Sydney office and the chairman in Tasmania. This was an effective arrangement.

The principal objectives of the SIG are being achieved, in particular the provision of specialist information to the AVA and members. Significant and effective assistance was provided in preparing the AVA response to *JETACAR* and the proposal to remove NRA management from the Department of Primary Industry to Health.

The contribution of members involved in this work is greatly appreciated and rewards can be seen in the success of the high quality AVA submissions.

Procedures are being put in place to facilitate the process of getting timely information and opinion to the National Veterinarian for responses from the AVA.

The other successful objective has been in sharing specialist knowledge of our members with the general membership of the AVA. One way of doing this has been the cooperative sessions run with other SIGs at the AVA Annual Conference.

This year we conducted a joint session dealing with public health aspects of antibiotic usage. Proceedings from this conference are posted on the AVI website. We want our website to become a significant reference point for information for the veterinary profession, as well as serving our own members.

AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AVPA (Poultry)/AVPH (Public Health)/EVA (Employed)

For the 2001 conference there will again be a joint session with AVPH as well as one with ASAVA. We have also made contributions to the development of AVA policies through the Policy Council. The SIG continues to meet the needs of its members and provide specialist information and advice to the AVA.

AVPA (Poultry)

A major issue for AVPA has been the ongoing debate about the welfare of cage layers. Our animal welfare sub-committee chaired by John Barnett has prepared a draft revision of AVA policy on poultry layer cages and battery hens for the Policy Council.

The amended draft policy was published in the August edition of *Dander* and all AVPA members were invited to comment. An AVPA position statement on cage egg production systems has also been given to the Policy Council.

AVA has been approached by the Australian Egg Industry Association to participate in the development of an Egg Production Assurance Program and involvement is likely to be actioned through AVPA. We await further developments on this proposal.

AVPA has been invited by the president of the AVA Victorian Division to participate in their Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG). AWAG provides advice and guidance to the Division's representative on the Victorian Government's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. AVPA agreed to participate, with Peter Scott as its representative.

The therapeutics sub-committee chaired by Tom Grimes has prepared a revised draft AVPA code of practice for use of antibiotics in the poultry industry. This will be published in the October edition of *Dander* for comment by AVPA members. The therapeutics sub-committee also contributed to the AVA submission on virginiamycin to the NRA.

Newcastle disease continues to be of major concern to AVPA and the Australian poultry industry. AVPA's scientific meeting in Melbourne in November devoted an entire day to presentations and discussion on Newcastle Disease and its control. Dr Mike Alcorn from Northern Ireland will be keynote speaker.

AVPH (Public Health)

The major event for our small SIG during 2000 was the highly successful combined program on antibiotic resistance we ran with Australian Veterinarians in Industry at the AVA Annual Conference in Perth.

Two international speakers, Christina Greko from Sweden and John Prescott from Canada, gave stimulating presentations to an informal plenary session which was well attended and enthusiastically received.

AVPH is keen to see practising veterinarians, particularly – but not exclusively – those in food animal production conscious of the important issues surrounding their use of antibiotics. Our group will seek to maintain the profile of this issue before the profession.

EVA (Employed)

Following a brief period of inactivity the EVA committee was reformed in February. The new executive immediately set about redefining the group's role in light of the differing circumstances that now surround the SIGs existence – namely the activities of APESMA and the *Veterinary Surgeons' Interim Award*.

Of primary importance to the new executive was ensuring that within the AVA structure, the opinions and needs of employed vets are at all times factored into the decision-making process.

A great deal of time was spent in answering queries about the award. There has been constant liaison between EVA and APESMA staff in facilitating the extension of the award and answering more difficult inquiries. We are concerned with the lack of veterinary representation within APESMA, especially given their plans to further alter conditions in the current award following national extension.

There is much work yet to be done to improve the award and this will be an integral role of EVA well into the future. Representation on the governing structure of APESMA is currently being pursued.

EVA earlier this year was granted a position on the AVA Victoria Division Committee. This has been a great way of establishing and maintaining close and effective links with divisional representatives. The warm welcome from this Division is greatly appreciated and their enthusiasm to have younger veterinarians involved on the ground level should be applauded. It has been fundamental in getting EVA off the ground. Hopefully, as EVA elects State representatives they will also be welcomed onto other divisional committees.

Representation has also been granted on the Policy Council, education and membership subcommittees, the gender issues working group and the soon-to-be-announced industrial relations subcommittee. Closer ties have been established with the new AVPMA executive by creation of a corresponding member on their committee.

Much focus this year has been directed towards informing veterinary students of EVA's existence. Feedback from a midyear mailout suggested that students are confused by the functioning roles of AVA, EVA and APESMA and how they are integrated. EVA has attempted to overcome this by speaking at student dinners and contributing articles for student websites and publications.

To date, this initiative has mainly involved the University of Melbourne but it is being extended to other veterinary institutions.

In the coming year EVA will release a strategic plan to members for comment and will endeavour to rewrite its constitution. We anticipate membership numbers will continue to increase as our relationship with the student body continues to improve.

Financially, the SIG is very sound with significant resources available to achieve our objectives. An attempt will be made to incorporate previous AVA student representatives into the SIG's structure to maintain their enthusiasm for the AVA and get them actively involved.

The following Special Interest Groups did not lodge submissions for this Annual Report:

AAHV (Holistic)	AAVMA (Avian)
AVIA (Informatics)	AAPV(Pigs)

A submission was received from the Association of Registered Veterinary Specialists (ARVS), however a last minute technical problem has prevented this from being included in this publication. The Editor apologises for this unfortunate but unavoidable situation.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

- Brochures
- Newsletters
- Company logos

TEL/FAX: (03) 9836 2694
EMAIL: mardes@bigpond.net.au



MARCHESE DESIGN

AVA Activities - AVA National Veterinarian

The National Veterinarian works to the AVA strategic and business plans and provides services to the six major stakeholders of the AVA: the profession, Members, government, animals, community and industry.

Government

AVA, through the National Veterinarian, has made representations to government at ministerial level and to senior public servants. Written submissions have been sent to major inquiries, including:

Special Review of the Animal Use of Virginamycin by the National Registration Authority as recommended by the Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (*JETACAR*).

Tax Deductibility of Donations for Philanthropic and Community Welfare Activities – a review by the Prime Minister's Task Force.

Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program conducted by Animal Health Australia.

Scheduling of Ivermectin for use in small animals by the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee.

Senate Inquiry into the Prevalence of Ovine Johne's Disease (with the Australian Sheep Veterinary Society) with in-person evidence also.

Review of Commonwealth Administrative Arrangements for Regulation of Public Health and Food Safety by the Ministers for Health and Aged Care, and for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Galbally Review of Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances.

Science Capability Review conducted by the Chief Scientist.

Ongoing representations have been made regarding reviews of legislation under the National Competition Principles Agreement, especially of Animal Welfare Acts and Veterinary Surgeons Acts by the States and Territories.

Animal Health Australia (AHA)

The National Veterinarian has been involved in AHA programs including the National Workshop on Foot-and-Mouth Disease; the seminar "Animal Health in Australia – Securing our Future"; and the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians regarding their legal obligations and the need for professional indemnity insurance. This office also facilitated a meeting between AHA and the Veterinary Committee (the Chief Veterinary Offices of the Commonwealth, States and Territories) to define their roles as AHA takes up issues formally carried by government. AVA, as a shareholder of AHA, participates in

AHA working groups and advisory committees and its annual general meeting.

AHA is developing an Emergency Animal Diseases Cost Sharing Agreement between States, Territories and industry organisations to replace current government arrangements for the costs of eradication and compensation.

JETACAR

Membership of *JETACAR* provided an opportunity for veterinary input to this joint medical and veterinary committee. *JETACAR* was the widest review of its kind, encompassing both professions. Its recommendations are designed to ensure that evaluation of antibiotic resistance and veterinary use of antibiotics will be done on a professional and scientific basis, rather than emotional political expediency.

The National Veterinarian also participated on the Veterinary Committee Taskforce which provided the veterinary input to government for implementation of the *JETACAR* Report.

Quarantine

AVA is consulted on development of animal quarantine policy by the new policy organisation Biosecurity Australia and on operations by AQIS. AVA's Quarantine Advisory Committee reviews draft quarantine policies, arrangements and operational elements. The importation of horses for the Olympic Games was such a program.

AVA veterinarians have participated on a number of risk analysis panels evaluating the science behind quarantine policy. The writer has been involved in studies on porcine reproduction and respiratory disease relating to imports of pig products and genetic material.

Animal welfare

The National Veterinarian is secretary to the AVA Animal Welfare Committee and represents AVA on the Australia and New Zealand Council for Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) and on the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW).

This participation and discussion on livestock exports and international trade in animals and publication of articles in the *Australian Veterinary Journal* has helped highlight animal welfare issues and the role of the AVA.

Emergencies like culling of horses and the hen-housing debate require up-to-date appreciation of the issues and the science behind the particular programs. *AVJ* continues to publish articles on animal welfare on a regular basis.

The National Veterinarian is Executive Officer to the AVA Animal Welfare Trust. The trust deed is being finalised with the Australian Taxation Office and money collected has been transferred into the accounts of the trust.

Members

The interests of members are reflected in APAV work with AHA: follow-up of the Rural Summit, especially the need for veterinarians in the bush. This office also has important input into issues such as microchip identification policies and practices and the animal welfare policies of government.

Preparation and coordination of policies for Policy Council and consultation with members through the *AVJ* are important elements of the work program. The AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee develops policies and advises on drug and poison issues. Representations on control of anabolic steroids led to changes to laws and government attitudes.

Papers for the Australian Veterinary Boards Conference and membership of the ACT Veterinary Surgeons Board enable representation of the interests of the profession.

Community

The Australian Council of Professions, through its deregulation and public liability committees, improves the relationship between the profession and the community.

Responses to queries from the public and contact with the media facilitate understanding of the role of the veterinarian. Concerns of animal welfare groups and individuals often are allayed by explanation of the issues and underlying science. Urban community perceptions on farming and other animal issues have to be addressed. During the Olympic Games, the appropriateness of quarantine arrangements and the safety of the equestrian horses were queried.

Animals

The interests of animals are addressed through AVA's Special Interest Groups and Divisions. Workshops and open fora give the community, animal carers and wildlife organisations an opportunity to express their concerns and gather information.

Industry

The National Veterinarian has a close relationship with the livestock industries. I have prepared papers for the Sheepmeats Council of Australia (with Mr Peter Klein, Executive Director) for presentation at the US Animal Health Association and for the Cattle Council of Australia (on the implications of *JETACAR*).

The National Veterinarian is also a member of the National Farmers Federation Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force bringing AVA expertise to industry.

Microchip issues and chemicals dominate work with the small animal industries.

Other studies

The National Veterinarian was involved with medical experts in the University of Melbourne assessment of precautionary measures to reduce the risk of transmission of new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease by blood and blood products.

This led to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service changing collection rules for people from United Kingdom. I was a member of the Veterinary Committee Working Group on Bio-safety in Field Investigations seeking protection of veterinarians in the field when investigating potential zoonoses. The emergence of several zoonoses in Australia has highlighted this need.

Dr Kevin Doyle
AVA National Veterinarian

The 25th anniversary has been one of mixed emotions for the Benevolent Fund.

The pleasure of celebrating 25 years of compassionate and financial support to colleagues and their families in distress has been tempered by the passing of two stalwarts of the AVABF since its inception: Leila Taylor, wife and companion of Dr Bob Taylor, the original Secretary, and Dr David Rees, longtime Treasurer and trustee.

While saddened by their passing, the veterinary community can take comfort from the fact that the Benevolent Fund is in such a healthy state due largely to the efforts of these people and the respect they commanded inside and outside the profession.

The new millennium and its information technology boom is having an impact on the day-to-day workings of the fund, which has allowed trustees to expedite decision making and broaden the horizons for promotion of the fund and its objectives. New technology has also allowed AVA Finance Manager Lauretta Stace to provide trustees with a list of association member supporters, something they have long sought. It will enable the trustees to give those members appropriate recognition.

During the past 12 months there has been an inflow of about \$8000 in donations, excluding interest from investments with the AVA. Money allocated to 16 beneficiaries amounted to \$20,318, with almost half this amount for educational grants and the bulk of the remainder providing funds for emergency relief.

The Benevolent Fund has achieved the original trustees' aim of having reserves of \$100,000 by 2000. Recently, a generous donation of shares was made to the fund. The trustees believe this is the first donation of its kind. This transaction was being finalised as the fund's AGM was held on October 15. The trustees are grateful for any donation, no matter what form it may take.

There were seven calls concerning new cases over the year. Tragically, one included a suicide. Some of the fund's longstanding beneficiaries have indicated that they have moved on from their period of dependence. All expressed gratitude for our support during times of intense personal hardship.

The fund ends its 25th year in very sound shape. Projects for our 26th year include continued promotion of the AVABF's ideals and moves to formalise the relationship with the Doctors Health Advisory Services or equivalents in the States and Territories to create more immediate accessibility to their resources. Discussions about this should involve Veterinary Surgeons Boards and AVA Divisions.

The trustees thank all those who have helped the cause over the year. Such people include staff at the AVA Artarmon office, the fund's divisional representatives, the various AVA auxiliaries, the quiet army of colleagues who assist all of the aforementioned and our magnificent donors.

Many donors have been helping the fund for the greater part of our quarter-century and our praise for them on behalf of the profession should be unrestrained.

Randall Lemin
Secretary/Trustee



AVA - National Staff

NATIONAL

Bruce Wynn
Chief Executive Officer

Lyn Osman
Executive Assistant

Lauretta Stace
Finance and Administration Manager

Liz Dawkins
Finance Officer

Louise Reid
Accounts Clerk

Veronica Kells
Administration Officer

Debbie Dresner
Membership Manager

Ben Chai
Membership Officer

Roslyn Beach
Administration Assistant

Dennis Ringrose
Communications Manager

Colin Wilks
Scientific Editor - *AVJ*

Maureen Revington
Clinical Editor - *AVJ*

Anna Gallo
AVJ administration and desktop publishing

Sarina Arcoleo
AVJ Assistant

Kevin Doyle
National Veterinarian

Doreen Culliver
Conference Manager

Danielle McCallum
Office Assistant

Jeanette Scarr
Office Assistant

Madonna Taylor
PetPEP Coordinator

DIVISIONS

Frank Doughty
Executive Officer NSW

Frances Parkinson
Administration Officer NSW

Julie Giblin
Administration Officer NSW

Mary George
Administration Officer QLD

Matt Pope
Office Assistant QLD

Tanya Pullen
PetPEP Education Officer QLD

Ken Picken
Executive Officer VIC

Yvonne Olsen
Administration Officer VIC

Barbara Gill
Administration Officer SA

Michelle Marino
Administration Officer WA

Karen Carlson
Administration Officer NT

SIGS

Anne Cover
Executive Officer - AACV

Jan Eagleton
Executive Officer - AEVA

Jenny Wade
Executive Officer - ASAVA

Report of the Directors

Your directors have pleasure in presenting the financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2000.

Director	Experience	Special Responsibilities
IS Denney BVSc Dip Ed (Tech)	Director AVA since 1997, President-elect 1999-2000, President NSW Div. 1995-96, AVA Member since 1970	President, Director (AVA Policy & Planning, Association Management)
RM Baker BVSc, MSc, MagSc, DipBusAdmin	Director AVA since 2000, President-Elect 2000-2001, President SA Division 1998, Policy Councillor SA Division 1994-98, Secretary SA Division 1992-97, AVA Member since 1969	President-Elect, Director (Member Services, Information Technology Animal Welfare)
GA McGilvray BVSc, MRCVS	Director AVA since 1996, Vice-President 2000-2001, President 1999-2000, President-elect 1998-99, NSW Div. Committee 1991-97, WVA Councillor 1999, AVA Member since 1965	Vice President, Director (Legislation, Professional Associations)
NJ Kannegieter BVSc, DipVetClinStud, PhD, FACVSc	Director AVA since 1996, Treasurer 1997-2000, President AEVA 1994, AVA Member since 1989	Treasurer, Director (Finance, Insurance, Sponsorship)
J Toia BVSc, DipEd, B.Ed.Stud.	Director AVA since 1998, President Qld Div. 1997, Qld Div. Committee six years, AVA Member since 1993	Director (Education, Professional, Community Programs)
WF Morgan BVSc, MVS	Director AVA since 1998, AVA Member since 1991	Director (Government representation, Accreditation, Rural Practice Policy)
JL Sillince BVSc, MACVS, MBA, MAICD	Director AVA since 1999, AVA Member since 1983	Director (Membership promotion and benefits)
NL Blackman BVSc, Dip Ed (Biotech) FAICD	Director AVA since 1999, AVA Member since 1978	Director (Government, Therapeutics, Planning, Accreditation)
K Seksel BVSc (Hon), MRCVS, MA (Hons), FACVSc, Dipl. ACVB	Director AVA since 1999, AVA Member since 1986	Director (Communications, Community Promotion, Animals)

The AVA Vision

The AVA's Vision is for a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession.

The AVA Mission

The AVA serves the profession by providing:

- Support, identity, fellowship, direction and growth for members
- Expert advice and services to governments
- Services to the community

Financials

Significant Changes

No significant changes occurred in the state of the AVA's financial affairs during the year.

Results

For the year ended 31 December 2000, the Association recorded a profit of \$201,394 compared with a profit of \$424,751 for the previous year. The net assets of the Association at 31 December 2000 were \$6,170,740, compared with \$5,354,346 a year earlier.

Review of Operations

The Company comprises 8 Divisions, 21 SIGs and 38 Branches in addition to the AVA National Group. All groups operate within their own budgetary control but within financial operating guidelines promulgated by the Board. Being a not-for-profit entity, the Company does not seek to maximise profits but to provide member services compatible with income achievable. On the foregoing basis, it is expected that constituent groups will generate profits in some years (to be carried forward for future use) and losses in some years (representing the expenditure of past or future profits). The results in 2000 comprise profits for 44 constituent groups, break-even for 8 and losses for 16.

The SIGs recorded a profit of \$120,950 the Divisions recorded a profit of \$40,434 the Branches recorded a profit of \$36,219, whilst the AVA National Group recorded a profit of \$3,791 (see page 76 for details of National Group operations).

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

There was at the date of this report no matter or circumstance that has arisen since 31 December 2000 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect: (a) the operations of the Association; (b) the results of those operations; or (c) the state of affairs of the Association in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2000.

Potential Developments

The AVA Board has approved an operating budget for 2001 for the National Group which forecasts a profit of \$37,500.

Directors Benefits

Since 31 December 1999 no director has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the Association or a related corporation with the director or with a firm of which he/she is a member, or with an Association in which he/she has a substantial financial interest.

Directors' Meetings

The number of Directors' meetings held during the time each Director held office during the year and the number of meetings attended by each Director (shown in brackets) are:

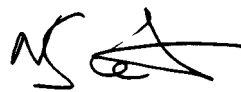
R.M. Baker	6 (5)	N.L. Blackman	13 (12)
I.S. Denney	13 (13)	N.J. Kannegieter	13 (13)
W.F. Morgan	13 (10)	G.A. McGilvray	13 (13)
G.E. Niethe	7 (7)	K. Seksel	13 (12)
J. Silince	13 (10)	J. Toia	13 (10)

Insurance for Company Officers

During and since the financial year the Company has paid, or agreed to pay, premiums in respect of contracts insuring persons who are or have been a Company Officer against certain liabilities incurred in that capacity. Company Officer for this purpose means any Director or Secretary of the Company and includes any other person who is concerned, or takes part, in the management of the Company.

The insurance contracts prohibit disclosure of the nature of the liabilities insured by the contracts and the amount of the premiums.

Signed at Artarmon this 22nd day of March 2001 in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



N.J. Kannegieter
Director and Honorary Treasurer



I.S. Denney
Director and President

Audit Report to the members

Scope

We have audited the financial report of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited for the year ended 31 December 2000 as set out on pages 70-76. The company's directors are responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the company.

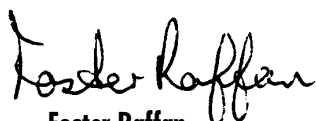
Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, the results of its operation and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

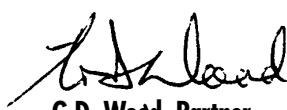
Audit opinion

In our opinion the financial report of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited is in accordance with:

- a) the Corporations Law, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2000 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations; and
- b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Foster Raffan
Chartered Accountants



G.D. Wood, Partner
North Sydney,
22 March 2001


Directors' Declaration

The directors of the company declare that the financial report, as set out on pages 70-76:

- a) comply with accounting standards; and
- b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2000 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

The directors further declare that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the directors by:



N.J. Kannegieter
Director and Honorary Treasurer



I.S. Denney
Director and President
Artarmon,
22 March 2001

Financials

Profit and Loss Account - For the year ended 31 December 2000

	Note	2000 \$	1999 \$
Operating profit/(loss)			
National Group as detailed on page		3,791	160,143
Divisions			
New South Wales		6,236	2,783
Victoria		(6,856)	5,691
Queensland		12,973	10,592
South Australia		(1,040)	(13,462)
Western Australia		22,930	29,359
Tasmanian		5,020	16,339
Northern Territory		(2,709)	(949)
Australian Capital Territory		3,880	(456)
Special Interest Groups			
AACV (Cattle)		66,171	19,035
AEVA (Equine)		(18,676)	77,215
ASAVA (Small Animals)		6,524	(6,023)
Other		66,931	79,877
Branches of Divisions		36,219	44,607
Operating Profit	3	201,394	424,751
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		3,119,301	2,524,932
Total available for appropriation		3,320,695	2,949,683
Amounts transferred from reserves	11	27,911	169,618
Retained profits at the end of the financial year		3,348,606	3,119,301

The profit and loss account should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet - as at 31 December 2000

Current Assets			
Cash	4	592,082	1,201,573
Receivables	5	381,523	202,937
Inventories	1(d)	32,669	41,897
Other	6	80,992	36,030
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>1,087,266</u>	<u>1,482,437</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	7	1,487,436	794,005
Property and equipment	8	4,591,297	3,975,229
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>6,078,733</u>	<u>4,769,234</u>
Total Assets		<u>7,165,999</u>	<u>6,251,671</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and borrowings	9	856,300	704,177
Provisions	10	138,959	193,148
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>995,259</u>	<u>897,325</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>995,259</u>	<u>897,325</u>
Net Assets		<u>6,170,740</u>	<u>5,354,346</u>
Retained profits		3,348,606	3,119,301
Reserves	11	2,822,134	2,235,045
Total Members' Funds		<u>6,170,740</u>	<u>5,354,346</u>

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows - For the year ended 31 December 2000

	2000 \$ Inflows/ (Outflows)	1999 \$ Inflows/ (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from members' subscriptions	1,801,625	1,487,233
Receipts from AVA activities	3,353,070	3,346,134
	<u>5,154,695</u>	<u>4,833,367</u>
Payments to suppliers and employees	(5,013,941)	(4,790,800)
	140,754	42,567
Interest received	38,983	50,681
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>179,737</u>	<u>93,248</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for non-current assets - Investments	(859,944)	(600,000)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets - Investments	169,867	-
Payments for non-current assets - Property and equipment	(120,214)	(89,794)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets - Property and equipment	21,063	485,585
Net cash flow from investing activities	<u>(789,228)</u>	<u>(204,209)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	(609,491)	(110,961)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	1,201,573	1,312,534
Cash at the end of the financial year (Note 4)	<u>592,082</u>	<u>1,201,573</u>
Reconciliation of net cash inflow from operating activities to operating profit for the year		
Operating profit for the year	201,394	424,751
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation	104,107	90,670
Net loss/(gain) on disposal of non-current assets	(8,310)	6,665
Net unrealised loss/(unrealised gain) on investments	50,632	(88,367)
Investments - gifted	(51,700)	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Decrease/(increase) in trade debtors	(178,586)	21,659
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	9,228	(3,333)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	(44,962)	17,187
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accruals	163,205	(50,051)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(54,189)	22,293
Increase/(decrease) in membership subscriptions in advance	(11,082)	(348,226)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>179,737</u>	<u>93,248</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - For the financial year ended 31 December 2000

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional requirements and the Corporations Law. Except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation, the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

- (a) **Members' subscriptions:** membership subscriptions are brought to account as income at the time they are received except that where members' subscriptions are received in respect of a future financial period, the income is deferred and subsequently recognised in that future period.
- (b) **Depreciation:** depreciation on furniture and equipment is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the net cost of each item during its effective working life. Additions are depreciated from the date of acquisition.
- (c) **Income Tax:** no income tax is payable by the Association as it has been advised on 30 October 1981 by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation that it is exempt from income tax under the terms of section 23(e) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.
- (d) **Inventories:** inventories comprise primarily forms and membership insignia which have been included in the accounts at cost on a first in first out basis. All inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- (e) **Revaluation of Non-Current Assets:** land and buildings are revalued at three yearly intervals. Independent assessments are obtained from registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use and such assessments are used as a guide when revaluations are made. Revaluation increments (decrements) are credited (debited) directly to the asset revaluation reserve. In the event of a disposal of an asset which has been revalued, the revaluation in respect of that asset is transferred from the reserve to Members' Funds. Investment in Managed Funds is disclosed at the year-end market values. Investment in Australian Listed Shares is disclosed at the market value as at 31 October 2000.
- (f) **Cash:** for purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes deposits at call which are readily convertible to cash on hand and which are used in the cash management function on a day-to-day basis, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

	2000 \$	1999 \$
2. Operating revenue		
Subscriptions	1,801,625	1,835,459
Interest	38,983	50,681
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	6,024	485,585
Other revenue	3,525,632	3,345,504
	5,372,264	5,717,229
3. Operating profit		
Operating profit is arrived at after crediting and charging the following specific items:		
Credits		
Interest received/receivable - other persons and/or corporations	38,983	50,681
Unrealised gain on Managed Funds and Listed Shares	-	88,367
Profit on sale of fixed assets	6,024	-
Charges		
Depreciation of equipment	104,107	90,670
Interest paid/payable		
Other persons and/or corporations	-	23,362
Provision for employee entitlements	(54,189)	26,554
Unrealised loss on Managed Funds and Listed Shares	50,632	-
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	7,633
4. Current assets - cash		
Cash at bank and on hand	289,974	932,944
Funds on deposit	302,108	268,629
	592,082	1,201,573
5. Current assets - receivables		
Trade receivables	165,096	94,049
Provision for doubtful debts	(3,000)	(3,000)
Commissions receivable	94,183	65,345
Other receivables	125,244	46,543
	381,523	202,937

Notes to the Financial Statements - For the financial year ended 31 December 2000

	2000 \$	1999 \$
6. Current assets - prepayments		
Prepayments	80,992	36,030
7. Non-current assets - investments		
Managed Funds	1,435,736	649,554
Listed on Australian Stock Exchange	51,700	144,451
	<u>1,487,436</u>	<u>794,005</u>
8. Non-current assets - property and equipment		
Land and buildings		
Freehold land		
At independent valuation December 2000	2,520,000	-
At directors' valuation December 1999	-	1,965,000
Buildings		
At independent valuation December 2000	1,830,000	-
At directors' valuation December 1999	-	1,770,000
	<u>4,350,000</u>	<u>3,735,000</u>
Office furniture & equipment - at cost	1,021,838	984,021
Less accumulated depreciation	(802,251)	(776,830)
	<u>219,587</u>	<u>207,191</u>
Leasehold improvements - at cost	33,982	33,982
Less accumulated amortisation	(12,272)	(944)
	<u>21,710</u>	<u>33,038</u>
Total property and equipment	<u>4,591,297</u>	<u>3,975,229</u>
Independent valuations of all properties were carried out in December 2000 by valuers registered in their respective State/Territory.		
Depreciation policy for office furniture and equipment is set out in Note 1 (b).		
9. Current liabilities - creditors and borrowings		
Sundry creditors	161,634	130,162
Funds held on trust		
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	219,503	162,669
Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation	198,842	133,452
Other	42,290	44,786
Income received in advance		
Membership subscriptions	19,615	30,697
Communications fund	65,053	54,205
Publications subscriptions	46,310	58,188
Annual conference income	73,008	12,000
Pet Pep income	22,045	46,118
Other income	8,000	31,900
	<u>856,300</u>	<u>704,177</u>
10. Current liabilities - provisions		
Employee entitlements	<u>138,959</u>	<u>193,148</u>

Financials

Notes to the Financial Statements - For the financial year ended 31 December 2000

	2000 \$	1999 \$
11. Reserves		
Communications Fund		
Balance 1 January	90,546	86,841
Transfer from profit and loss account	-	3,705
Balance 31 December	<u>90,546</u>	<u>90,546</u>
Annual Conference Fund		
Balance 1 January	27,911	27,911
Transfer (to) profit and loss account	(27,911)	-
Balance 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>27,911</u>
Scholarship Fund		
Balance 1 January	20,540	23,710
Transfer (to) profit and loss account	-	(3,170)
Balance 31 December	<u>20,540</u>	<u>20,540</u>
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance 1 January	2,096,048	2,266,201
Transfer (to) profit and loss account	-	(170,153)
Revaluation of land and buildings	615,000	-
Balance 31 December	<u>2,711,048</u>	<u>2,096,048</u>
Total Reserves	<u>2,822,134</u>	<u>2,235,045</u>

12. Capital

The company is limited by guarantee and as such there is no issued capital. The liability of each member is limited to \$50.

13. Segmental reporting

The principal continuing activity of the company is that of promotion and advancement of veterinary and allied sciences.

Its membership and operations are predominantly confined to one geographic area, being Australia.

The results comprise National Group, SIGs, Divisions and Branches. The net assets of the various component groups are as follows:

National Group	3,895,020	3,341,230
SIGs	1,438,401	1,252,450
Divisions	405,701	365,267
Branches	431,618	395,399
	<u>6,170,740</u>	<u>5,354,346</u>

The net assets of the component groups include funds deposited with National Group (on which interest is credited at rates approximately 0.5% above institution rates) as follows:

SIGs	555,001	488,713
Divisions	366,178	327,444
Branches	164,500	153,359
	<u>1,085,679</u>	<u>969,516</u>

14. Remuneration of Auditor

Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditor of the Association:

Audit of the accounts	14,300	14,000
Other services	4,250	2,150
	<u>18,550</u>	<u>16,150</u>

15. Remuneration of Directors

Allowance received or due and receivable by the President of the Association

Directors' Honoraria	29,425	23,970
	13,200	9,300
	<u>42,625</u>	<u>33,270</u>

16. Related Parties

Special Interest Groups, Divisions, Branches: Income, expenditure, assets and liabilities are consolidated with National Group data in the financial statements.

Directors: The names of persons who were directors at any time during the financial year are set out in the "Report of the Directors" on page 67

Information relating to the remuneration of directors is set out in Note 15. There were no other transactions between directors and the Association during the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements - For the financial year ended 31 December 1999

17. Financial Instruments

(a) Credit Risk Exposures

The credit risk on financial assets of the entity which have been recognised on the balance sheet is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts.

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The company's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out below. Exposures arise predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the company intends to hold fixed rate liabilities to maturity.

2000	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		< 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	289,974	302,108	-	-	-	592,082
Receivables	-	-	-	-	381,523	381,523
	<u>289,974</u>	<u>302,108</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>381,523</u>	<u>973,605</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	3.4%	5.1%				
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	395,665	395,665
Funds held on Trust	460,635	-	-	-	-	460,635
	<u>460,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>395,665</u>	<u>856,300</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	7.2%					
Net Financial Assets	<u>(170,661)</u>	<u>302,108</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,142)</u>	<u>117,305</u>

1999	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		< 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	932,944	268,629	-	-	-	1,201,573
Receivables	-	-	-	-	202,937	202,937
	<u>932,944</u>	<u>268,629</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,937</u>	<u>1,404,510</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	4.2%	5.1%				
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	363,270	363,270
Funds held on Trust	340,907	-	-	-	-	340,907
	<u>340,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>363,270</u>	<u>704,177</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	7.2%					
Net Financial Assets	<u>592,037</u>	<u>268,629</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(160,333)</u>	<u>700,333</u>

Reconciliation of Net Financial Assets to Net Assets

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Net Financial Assets as per above	117,305	700,333
Prepayments	80,992	36,030
Inventory	32,669	41,897
Investments	1,487,436	794,005
Property, plant & equipment	4,591,297	3,975,229
Provisions	(138,959)	(193,148)
Net assets per balance sheet	<u>6,170,740</u>	<u>5,354,346</u>

Financials

National Group Operating Statement - For the year ended 31 December 2000

	2000	2000	2000	1999	1999	1999
	Income	Expense	Net Revenue/ (Expense)	income	Expense	Net Revenue/ (Expense)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Membership Subscriptions	1,008,452	-	1,008,452	998,654	-	998,654
Communications Fund	30,585	30,585	-	22,758	22,758	-
Sponsorship/Supporters	50,000	763	49,237	46,100	-	46,100
Conferences	661,519	643,110	18,409	602,091	602,643	(552)
Member Services :	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hip Dysplasia Scheme	43,708	40,341	3,367	41,092	33,989	7,103
Insurance Endorsements	258,107	-	258,107	208,873	-	208,873
Commonwealth Bank Visa Card	103,844	-	103,844	63,464	-	63,464
Diners Club	74,048	-	74,048	50,016	-	50,016
Practice Management Program	-	3,097	(3,097)	35,000	31,600	3,400
Other	13,984	32,012	(18,028)	24,077	33,100	(9,023)
Properties (rent received/expenses)	44,817	130,324	(85,507)	52,455	90,434	(37,979)
Publications :	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australian Veterinary Journal	675,774	863,469	(187,695)	659,372	690,525	(31,153)
Other	1,011	23,502	(22,491)	510	23,257	(22,747)
AVACOS (Conference Organising Service)	158,540	71,000	87,540	61,000	61,000	-
Staff Services	17,545	-	17,545	30,699	-	30,699
Interest Earned	49,780	-	49,780	40,681	-	40,681
Distributions from Managed Funds	97,473	-	97,473	32,464	-	32,464
Unrealised Gain on Managed Funds	14,870	-	14,870	26,424	-	26,424
Profit/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	6,024	-	6,024	483	8,116	(7,633)
Administration :	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	-	541,219	(541,219)	-	479,649	(479,649)
Employment overheads	-	172,237	(172,237)	-	143,840	(143,840)
Postage, Printing, Telephone	-	112,962	(112,962)	-	96,098	(96,098)
Other	-	41,240	(41,240)	-	33,035	(33,035)
Outreach Activities :	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pet Pep	35,355	63,684	(28,329)	74,753	99,895	(25,142)
Australian Animal Health Council	-	22,000	(22,000)	-	21,000	(21,000)
Other	-	5,471	(5,471)	-	2,842	(2,842)
Board and Policy Council :	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel & accommodation	-	88,619	(88,619)	-	82,072	(82,072)
President expenses	-	30,732	(30,732)	-	33,942	(33,942)
President Allowance	-	29,425	(29,425)	-	23,970	(23,970)
Other	-	55,354	(55,354)	-	45,992	(45,992)
Liaison with Government & Other Associations	-	24,677	(24,677)	-	22,730	(22,730)
General Expenses :	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit	-	10,800	(10,800)	-	10,000	(10,000)
Bank Fees	-	36,206	(36,206)	-	25,403	(25,403)
Legal Fees	-	16,088	(16,088)	-	15,803	(15,803)
Depreciation	-	90,583	(90,583)	-	78,515	(78,515)
Other	-	81,530	(81,530)	-	25,652	(25,652)
Interest paid to Divisions, SIGs, Branches	-	80,615	(80,615)	-	72,963	(72,963)
Totals	3,345,436	3,341,645	3,791	3,070,966	2,910,823	160,143
Operating Profit	-	-	3,791	-	-	160,143