

The Australian Veterinary Association Limited

# Annual Report 2001



ACN 008 522 852

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## AVA Principal Supporters



**Editor**

Dennis Ringrose

**Publication Manager**

Ric Navarro

**Design**

Joanne Marchese

**Australian Veterinary Association**

President: Dr Robert Baker

CEO: Mr Bruce Wynn

Address: PO Box 371, Artarmon NSW 1570

Telephone: 02 9411 2733

Fax: 02 9411 5089

Email: [avahq@ava.com.au](mailto:avahq@ava.com.au)

Website: [www.ava.com.au](http://www.ava.com.au)

**Australian Veterinary Journal**

Editorial

Address: PO Box 371, Artarmon NSW 1570

Telephone: 02 9411 2733

Fax: 02 9411 5089

Email: [editor@ava.com.au](mailto:editor@ava.com.au)

**Scientific/Clinical Sections**

Address: 272 Brunswick Rd, Brunswick Vic 3056

Telephone: 03 9387 2982

Fax: 03 9388 0112

Email: [avjsc@ava.com.au](mailto:avjsc@ava.com.au) or [desktop@ava.com.au](mailto:desktop@ava.com.au)

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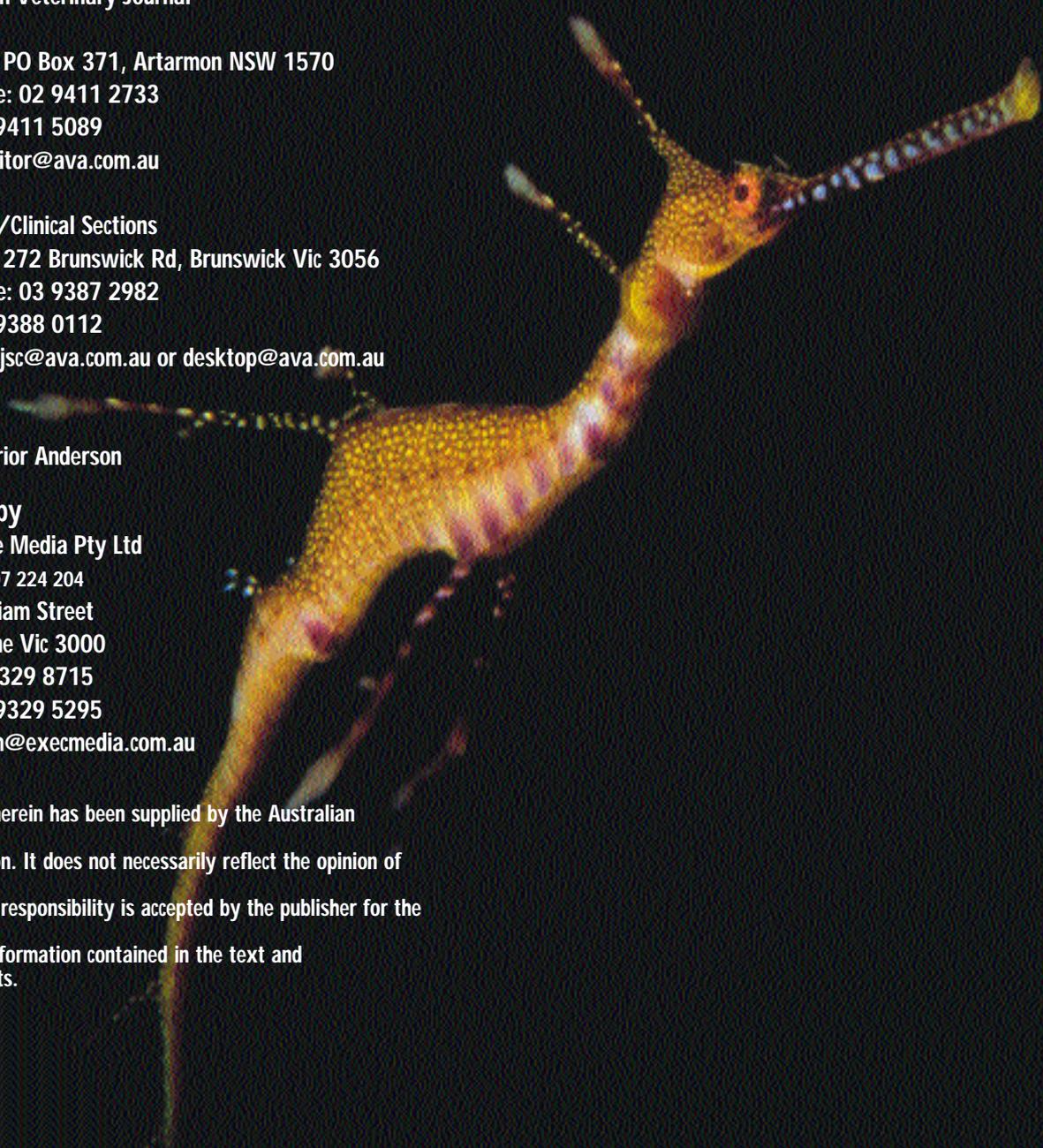
Melbourne Vic 3000

Tel: 03 9329 8715

Fax: 03 9329 5295

Email: [em@execmedia.com.au](mailto:em@execmedia.com.au)

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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 4,851 who were registered as financial members of the AVA at 31 December, 2001. That figure was an increase of 217 on the membership tally at the end of 2000.

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 in 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

### Working with the Board

I have pleasure in reporting on a very productive and successful year for the AVA. Much has been achieved and there is much more ahead of us in 2002.

The nine members of the Board bring a very wide range of skills and represent a diversity of backgrounds. The combination of three Presidential positions (President-elect, President and Vice-President), three elected members and three representatives of the major SIGs (ASAVA, AEVA and AACV) provides a good balance.

The AGM in May signaled the retirement from the Board of Dr Garth McGilvray (former President), Dr Bill Morgan (AACV) and Dr Nick Kannegieter (AEVA), all of whom contributed much to its effective functioning. New members of the Board since May are Dr Dianne Sheehan (elected member), Dr David Lovell (AEVA) and Dr Bob Rheinberger (AACV).

Dr Jo Toia, who was already a member of the Board, was elected unopposed as President-elect and will assume the office of President at the 2002 AGM in Adelaide. It is worth noting that all three current Presidential members have previously served as Presidents of their respective State Divisions (NSW, SA and Queensland).

I reiterate the comments made in last year's Annual Report by my predecessor, Dr Ian Denney, when he urged members to become involved in the activities of their Branch, Division or SIG. Not only is the involvement rewarding and worthwhile, it provides the opportunity to meet and get to know colleagues from all areas of veterinary science. It is this diversity that makes our profession so interesting and challenging.

### Working with the staff

While most of the AVA staff are based in the head office in Sydney, there are staff in six Divisions – NSW, Victoria, ACT, Qld, SA and WA as well as in three SIGs (ASAVA, AACV and AEVA). The AVA also has some AVJ editorial staff based in Melbourne, plus AVACOS staff and the National Veterinarian based in Canberra.

This is a complex and widely distributed structure and it is often difficult for Divisional or SIG staff to relate well to activities in Sydney or elsewhere.

The AVA's CEO, Mr Bruce Wynn, has now completed a year in the position and is working well with the Board, members and stakeholders. Mr Wynn and the Finance and Administration Manager, Ms Lauretta Stace, have worked closely with the Board in developing the new Strategic Plan for the AVA. This was refined at the October meeting of Policy Council and is a much clearer and more workable document than its predecessor. It is concise, easily understood and together with the operational plan, provides the basis for the AVA's activities for the next three years. It will be presented and discussed at the workshop in February 2002 for incoming Presidents, as it is critical to its success that Divisions and SIGs adopt and implement it. This has not always been the case in the past.

### Member benefits

One issue that is continually frustrating and difficult to accept is that only 65% of veterinarians in Australia belong to the AVA. The Board would like for this percentage to be much higher and is working to address a number of issues relevant to this.

One of these is the provision of confidential personal and industrial advice to members. An agreement has now been reached for provision of these benefits to members from July 2002. The CEO is also working to provide better and lower insurance premiums for members. While it is easy to argue (as I often have done) that membership of your professional association should go without saying, many respond by asking what is in it for them. To satisfy this it is necessary to provide tangible financial benefits with AVA membership.

### Rural veterinary services

The foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in the UK in 2001 focused Australian minds on our ability to diagnose and deal with an outbreak of FMD should it occur here. This, together with the federal election in November, provided the opportunity for the AVA and major industry groups to hold discussions with the Federal Government about problems with inadequate veterinary services (both private and government) in rural areas, as well as to raise the issue of funding of veterinary education. A number of commitments have been given by the government, the principal one being to underwrite a major study of rural veterinary services. This will include consideration of the need for State and Territory governments to provide more veterinary positions in disease surveillance and diagnosis, as well as incentives for rural students to enter the veterinary profession and for more new graduates to work in rural areas.

The Federal Minister of Agriculture has also announced major funding support for a new Chair in Animal Welfare at the University of Queensland. This will be the first such Chair in an Australian university and is strongly supported by the AVA, which had earlier promised a financial contribution towards its establishment.

### To the future

I am half-way through my term as President and have enjoyed the experience very much. I look forward to visiting all Divisions over the coming months and to leading the AVA into the year ahead. I hope to see as many colleagues as possible at next year's conference in my home city of Adelaide.

**Robert Baker,  
President**





## CEO Annual Report

The AVA Strategic Plan is in the final stages of an extensive review process that began in the second half of the year and will be in place from the beginning of 2002. A key aspect of this process was the adoption of a new Mission Statement:

**"To be the national organisation representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession in Australia and to act and speak with a single voice on matters of importance to the members."**

This second annual report under the current plan format evaluates the results of the commitments that the AVA provides to each of the six identified stakeholders – the members, non-members, community, governments, animal 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 the 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 2001, 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
- Encouraging the development of specific skills for AVA members

Membership continues to increase with total membership (at December 31, 2001) of 4851, an annual increase of 217 (4.5%). Within the membership categories, student members continue as the largest growing category. These figures reflect the combined result of a number of new initiatives associated with AVA student membership generally, but also an exceptionally generous private sponsorship in the state of Victoria. In several States they are also attributable to increased level of proactivity of AVA student representatives and we congratulate them and thank them most sincerely on their efforts. The AVA has a goal of achieving 70% representation of all veterinarians in Australia by beginning to focus on those in the veterinary profession who are under-represented as AVA members.

The full potential of the Association's new membership database was realised in the period under review. The new software has a vast array of capabilities to ultimately enable us to collate a range of relevant information about individual members. Through the effective use of such data the AVA is able to better target its services and membership benefits.

Comprehensive information packages have been sent to members and non-members, promoting the range of benefits of AVA membership, as well as social and continuing education activities in AVA Branches. AVA members not only support the future of their profession and their colleagues through AVA membership, they also receive tangible member benefits. In 2001 member entitlements included:

- 12 issues a year of the *Australian Veterinary Journal*
- Continuing education programs during the National Conference in Melbourne in May at discounted rates
- Commonwealth Bank Visa Gold Privilege rewards program and/or discounted Eftpos facility (accessed by more than 50% of members)
- New Members' benefits introduced in 2001, including Guild Insurance Limited 20% discounted professional indemnity insurance, discounted websites for individual practices and access to "Petalia" and its e-commerce facility
- 20% discount on advertisements placed in the Australian Veterinary Journal's professional section
- Access to AVA Online as a valued daily communication tool (some 2250 members used it in 2001)

#### Additionally:

- 129 veterinary practices were accredited as AVA Microchip Centres
- There were 23 participants in the AVA's Graduate Certificate in Management (Veterinary Practice)
- The following members were recognised with AVA service awards at the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne:

**Gilruth Prize** for outstanding service to Veterinary Science in Australia

Professor Ivan Caple

**Kesteven Medal** for contribution to international veterinary science through assistance to developing countries  
Associate Professor Bruce Copeman

#### Fellowship Awards

Associate Professor Anthony William English

#### Honorary Fellow

Dr Peter Doherty AC



### Honorary Members

Dr Antony Della Porta, Dr Graham Mitchell,  
Professor Alan Trounson

### Meritorious Service Awards

Dr Phillip Corrigan, Mrs Doreen Culliver, Dr Diane Gibney,  
Dr Tom Grimes, Mrs Barbara Horsfield, Dr Andrew Litchfield,  
Dr Ian McBryde, Dr Roslyn Nichol, Dr Debbie Osborne,  
Dr Robert Rheinberger, Dr Jo Toia, Dr Lester Torenbeek,  
Dr Neil Tweddle

### AVA Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr Malcolm McLennan

### Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award

Dr Stephen Daley

- 23 veterinary practices were recognised as "New Graduate Friendly Practices"
- 194 PetPEP veterinarians supported by National PetPEP Co-ordinator
- 153 members received discounted access to New Zealand Veterinary Association publications
- 1,969 radiographs were read as part of the AVA Hip and Elbow Dysplasia registration service and other practice services offered by the AVA.

In consultation with the Practice Management and Employed Veterinarians Special Interest Groups, agreement was reached to establish a new AVA Human Resources and Industrial Relations service, programmed for launch in May 2002. Negotiations were also commenced during the year to introduce a unique protection insurance service that will be exclusive to AVA members, offering first class benefits at special rates. This will be launched in the first quarter of 2002.

Whilst partnerships with organisations such as Commonwealth Bank, Diners Club and Guild Insurance continue to provide access to specific services and discounts for AVA members, they also make a significant contribution towards the non-dues income of the AVA. Income in excess of \$400,000 resulting from these partnerships supports the objective of maintaining affordable AVA membership subscription fees for all veterinarians.

The AVA finance and administration team has commenced the introduction of a strategy to provide an integrated administrative support bureau for all groups and divisions within the Association. These services will ultimately include:

- Finance, accounting, budgeting and banking
- Purchasing and asset management
- Human resource management
- Information technology
- Legal, insurance, contracts

### External and Community Relations

The AVA is committed to working with outside organisations in such areas as:

- 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 so as to co-ordinate 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 the Government

1,400 AVA members financially supported the AVA's Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP) for primary school children. Promotional material relating to the program has been distributed to 8,500 schools and 2,000 veterinary practices in Australia. Up to 17,000 school students have participated in the program in a variety of ways. The Queensland Division, supported by the RSPCA and Queensland Department of Primary Industry, enjoyed the most success with the program.

AVA representatives regularly met with the Minister For Agriculture, Fisheries And Forestry, officers of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Animal Health Australia to discuss veterinary issues such as exotic disease preparedness and the availability of veterinary services in regional and rural Australia, antibiotic residues in food animals, the rural summit process, current quarantine policies and procedural issues, animal welfare issues including the poultry industry and caged hens, quarantine policies and procedural issues.

In an initiative to address the issue of Australia's exotic animal disease preparedness, the AVA sent Australian private veterinary practitioners to the United Kingdom to gain experience in foot and mouth disease (FMD) management. This was an outstanding success with 37 private practitioners sent to the UK for varying periods.

The importance of practitioners in rural areas has been well recognised by governments and industry following the FMD outbreak in the UK.

The AVA commissioned a study by Emeritus Professor Trevor Heath a former Dean of the University of Queensland, to provide hard data on the issue of the availability of suitably trained veterinarians in Australia. The resulting document, "*Changes in the distribution of Australian veterinarians with particular reference to those in rural areas and in government service over the last 20 years*", was followed by a campaign conducted in conjunction with livestock industry stakeholders to raise public and Government awareness relating to Australia's exotic disease preparedness. All of these activities were key contributors to a pre-election commitment to federal funding of a major national review for completion in 2002 focussing on the availability of veterinary services in rural and regional Australia.

The Association provides its technical expertise and advice to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) through the review of draft quarantine protocols. These reviews are co-ordinated by the National Veterinarian Dr Kevin Doyle.



Reviews and inquiries by the Federal and State Governments allow the AVA to provide its professional perspective via the National Veterinarian and his recently appointed assistant, Dr Bernie Robinson, in particular, but also via various Board Members. These activities include:

- Animal welfare – in depth analysis for the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. AVA has had input into the development of the National Animal Welfare Strategy, and the National Veterinarian represents AVA on the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)
- Representations to government at ministerial level and to senior public servants and written submissions to enquiries and public consultations on issues such as scheduling of chemicals
- National Competition Policy Review of Radiation Protection Legislation
- Various Animal Health Australia programs, including JETACAR, Drugs and Chemicals
- Addressing queries from the public and the media to facilitate understanding of the role of the modern veterinarian
- Veterinarians to UK on FMD
- Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)
- National Association of Testing Authorities Veterinary Testing Advisory Committee.

Urban Animal Management is also an important issue for the AVA as veterinary expertise and input is made through local government animal control officers at the AVA's annual Urban Animal Management Conference. Two hundred and thirty four local government representatives and veterinarians attended the 2001 Conference in Melbourne.

Additional issues addressed by the AVA on behalf of the profession included tail docking of dogs, dangerous dogs legislation, culling of wild horses and the changes at the University of Queensland Veterinary School.

The AVA continued its strong links with its industry supporters.

Principal Supporters are -

Uncle Ben's of Australia  
Provet Group  
Guild Insurance  
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
- Maintenance of the viability of rural veterinary practices

- Development, review and promotion of the AVA's policies on animal welfare
- Regular review of all AVA veterinary policies

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

The AVA, with the support of Pfizer, established a new annual award program for six "Veterinary Practices of Excellence in Customer Service". Selection committee chairman and AVPMA chairman, Dr Lindsay Hay, commented that the nominations exceeded expectations in both quantity and quality.

The AVA's policies guide the veterinary profession in Australia. In 2001, the AVA Policy Council approved the following policies and/or position statements:

- Use of Euthanasia Drugs by Lay Operators
- Accreditation of Private Practitioners for Government Contracting
- Electronic Identification of Animals
- Registration to Practise as a Veterinarian
- Tail Docking of Cattle
- Health Insurance for Animals

The following policies were reviewed:

1. Commercial Egg Production Systems
2. Use of Euthanasia Drugs by Lay Persons
3. Induction of Parturition
4. Live Cattle and Sheep Exports
5. Interim OJD Policy
6. Dangerous Dogs
7. Culling of Wild Horses
8. Thermocautery of Horses
9. Code of Practice for the Use of Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine
10. Marine Mammal Euthanasia

The following policies are under discussion and review:

1. Use of Dogs for the Hunting of Deer
2. Fee Recovery and Retention of Animals due to non-payment
3. Genetically Modified Organisms
4. Statement on Mulesing
5. Native Animals as Pets
6. Flying Foxes
7. Tail Docking and Castration of Lambs
8. Early Desexing of Animals
9. Sale of Animals at Bazaars and Markets
10. Guidelines for the Use of Communication Technologies in Delivering Veterinary Services
11. Registration of Veterinary Specialists
12. Practical Supervision of Veterinary Students



The AVA is committed to the health and welfare of animals. The AVA Animal Welfare Trust has as its aim the use of veterinary knowledge and expertise to support the welfare of animals through research, education, promotion and action from donations by AVA members. The AVA also promotes animal welfare to its members through regular columns in the AVJ, to governments through participation in the Federal Government's National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare and state animal welfare committees, and to the community through media releases as well as by working with welfare organisations including the RSPCA.

In addressing its commitment to the viability of rural veterinary practices, the AVA undertook a number of initiatives. These also partially related to raising awareness of Australia's exotic disease preparedness, as reported elsewhere in this report under "*External and Community Relations*", including the commissioning of a study by Emeritus Professor Trevor Heath relating to the changes in the availability of Australian veterinarians in rural areas.

### Association Management and Accountability

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

AVA administration via Finance and Administration Manager, Laretta Stace continues to provide sound financial management through short term and long term financial plans, to ensure that all legal obligations are documented and acted upon, to make ongoing improvements in coordination of all elements of the AVA, and to conduct regular reviews aimed at developing effective executive support across Australia. The implementation of the strategic and business plans and the progress and evaluation of actions associated with these plans are key aspects of monthly AVA Board meetings.

Recent changes to company legislation required the national office to re-evaluate AVA systems and processes and focus on potential improvements to these systems. These legislative changes included the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2000 and the new Privacy Laws that took effect in December 2001. All of the compliance issues associated with these requirements were addressed during the year. Visits to most Divisions and SIGs, staff and honoraries were an important part of this process.

Other specific projects undertaken included:

- The identification and implementation of a new accounting system
- A detailed review of the costing and management of all aspects of the production of the *Australian Veterinary Journal*
- Preparation of a discussion document for all groups on new accounting systems and processes
- Preparation of a policy and procedure manual for finance and administration
- Preparation of an internal human resources policy and procedures manual including new staff orientation, software to provide standardised employment procedures manual, performance reviews and job descriptions;

- Re-location and upgrading of computer servers
- Completion of information technology survey on National Office equipment to obtain software licensing data and update asset register
- Installation of new telephone system and staff training.
- Office software upgrade (complete except for sharing Outlook computer software).

In an Association as diverse as the AVA it is important to allow different groups to maintain their identity and control over decision making whilst providing a framework within which they can operate responsibly and reduce the risk of breaching company legislation and incurring the penalties that can be associated with such breaches.

In order to support this endeavour, the AVA finance and administration team has a medium term strategy to provide a centralised administrative support bureau for all groups within the Association. These support services will include: finance, accounting, budgeting and banking services, purchasing and asset management services; human resource management services; information technology services; legal, insurance, contracts and leases.

This goal has the potential to create a more streamlined and cohesive approach to the operation of the organisation, to assist staff, directors and officers of the company maintain a higher level of accountability for financial outcomes and to improve the delivery of administrative services within the Association.

In order to achieve the goal, the Finance and Administration team will work closely with all AVA groups to identify strategies to achieve objectives and then implement and evaluate those strategies. It is envisaged that this process will be developed over the next 2-3 year period and will broadly encompass the following strategies:

- The introduction of a new financial reporting system with a standard chart of accounts incorporating all group data as separate activity centres for management accounting and budgeting purposes
- The introduction of a "whole of business" approach to financial budgeting which will integrate with the AVA business and strategic plans
- The development of an internal policy and procedures manual providing information on the delivery of administrative services within the Association including finance and accounting, purchasing, HR, IT and contracts
- The development of a consistent "brand image" or "corporate identity" across the AVA that links and identifies all groups within the Association with the AVA image and values.

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

**Bruce Wynn**  
AVA CEO





## Treasurer's Report

**The year 2001 has seen the AVA strengthen its financial position with Total Members Funds (Net Assets) increasing from \$6,170,740 to \$6,358,094.**

The operating surplus of \$287,468 was a result of surpluses generated by 45 constituent groups, with 6 groups reporting a break-even result and 18 groups reporting losses for the year. AVA National generated a surplus of \$54,174.

AVA National surplus was contributed to by affinity relationship commissions of \$553,978 from Guild Insurance, the Commonwealth Bank and Diners Club. This represents a net increase in commissions of 21% 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.

Member numbers have increased to 4,851 members, up from 4,634 at the same time last year (4.5% increase). The AVA is actively looking for ways to attract new members to the Association, and retain existing members, through the introduction of new services and through becoming more visible and relevant to the profession, government, industry and the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the AVA volunteers - Board Members and Committee Members who donate their valuable time and expertise to assist in obtaining the goals of the Association.

Membership subscription income was \$1,836,498 compared to \$1,801,625 last year, an increase of only 1.9%. This represents a considerable challenge to the AVA as it indicates that membership subscription income per member is declining. This could be due to a number of factors, including age/sex ratios of the membership and will be more thoroughly analysed over the next 12 months.

The AVA Conference, held in Melbourne, was a financial success generating an overall surplus of \$46,000 which was distributed to the host Division (Vic), participating SIG's and AVA National.

Total investment value decreased from \$1,487,436 to \$1,428,595 in 2001. This was due to an unrealised loss on the value of managed funds held (\$34,740) and a decline in the value of Gradipore shares held in trust for the AVA Benevolent Fund (\$24,100). Income distributions to AVA National for the year totalled \$52,345. The performance of the managed fund investments were disappointing but reflected a difficult year in the world economy coupled with a volatile stockmarket both in Australia and overseas. The events of September 11, 2001 in the USA saw a marked decline in the value of shares throughout the world.

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. It is envisaged that the stockmarket will strengthen during 2002.

During 2001 the Australian Small Animal Association (ASAVA) property at Surry Hills, Sydney, was sold at auction and realised net proceeds of \$440,995, hence a reduction in the value of non-current assets (property and equipment). The net proceeds of the sale are represented in the accounts as current assets - cash, funds on deposit.

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 attendance at the Equitana Asia-Pacific festival for the AEVA group, assistance with funding Vets n Pets in the Park in Adelaide, support for the Qld Division disputes resolution workshop and assistance for the Employed Vets (EVA) in the production of an AVA Graduate Handbook.

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.

During 2001 the AVA introduced a new financial accounting software system at the National Office. This software has the capability to allow processing of all group accounts in one system, the production of activity based financial reports and electronic consolidation of group financial data. The introduction of this system is designed to assist group Treasurers in managing their role and responsibilities and to ensure that the AVA complies with its legal and fiduciary obligations, particularly in the area of GST compliance.

The Finance and Administration Manager, Laretta Stace, will assist group Treasurers over the next 12-24 month period to begin utilisation of the new system.

The 2002 National Budget projection is for a \$5,000 operating surplus. During 2002 the AVA will undertake a comprehensive review of the property and investment strategies in the context of Association property needs and maximising the return on capital.

Thankyou to staff and volunteers involved in producing the year end financial statements, particularly Laretta Stace, Liz Dawkins and Cora Luong at National Office.

**Norm Blackman**  
AVA Treasurer



## 2001 Australian Veterinary Association Board Members (As at 31 December, 2001)



**Diane Sheehan**



**Ian Denney**



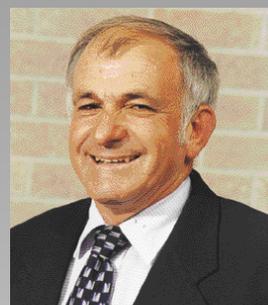
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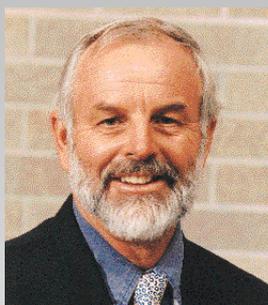
**Kersti Seksel**



**David Lovell**



**Norm Blackman**



**Bob Rheinberger**



**Robert Baker**





### Membership

The year has been one of significant activity in relation to membership. Overall membership numbers are increasing slowly. Student numbers in particular are showing a clearly rising trend, which is very encouraging for the future.

Highlights of 2001 include:

#### **New Graduate Friendly Scheme.**

Rewritten, revamped and relaunched. This scheme helps new practitioners identify those practices committed to the development of new members of the profession - and gives those using the logo a bigger pool of applicants for advertised positions. The scheme now has greater accountability, is more enforceable and has been examined legally. A number of practices have happily plunged into re-accreditation under this scheme at the time of going to press.

#### **BDO Industrial Relations/Human Resources.**

This is the largest investment into member services ever made by AVA. BDO is an independent adviser to individual members on issues such as awards and conditions, unfair dismissal, paid leave entitlements and all other important "day to day" human resources/industrial relations issues for both employers and employees. Due for launch early in 2002 (see AVJ for details), it will include a CD-ROM manual of over 600 pages and a telephone "hotline" in business hours where any member with a query can talk directly to an expert on any of these issues.

#### **New Relationship With Guild Insurance.**

The AVA relationship with Guild was strengthened in mid-2001 with the appointment of an AVA nominee as a Director on the Board of Guild. We expect this will further enhance Guild Insurance in the eyes of the veterinary profession.

#### **Student activities.**

The student representation of AVA at universities continues to improve and the representatives this year – Brigid Hale (Sydney), Melanie Hill (Melb), Carolynn Walsh (WA) and Tom Cook (Qld) – showed initiative with events like "free for members only" lectures on relevant topics, quiz nights, Honour Boards, surveys on attitudes to AVA and SIGs, and protests in Queensland about cuts to veterinary school funding. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor and individual Victorian Division members, all Victorian students were made members for 2001 and it is hoped that this sort of activity will see ongoing and active younger members making a mark in the AVA's ranks over the longer term.

#### **Strategic Plan.**

This has been reworked with a significant focus on members' issues, including the promotion of the AVJ as the premier publication of the AVA, a survey for member feedback and suggestions for the future as well as improved data analysis from the AVA's database.

#### **Income protection insurance for 2002.**

The Membership Promotions Committee identified this as a key need for many members. The AVA is delighted to be involved in negotiations aimed at providing this protection to members at an extremely competitive cost for 2002.

#### **Practices of Excellence.**

AVA and Pfizer Animal Health have jointly developed an annual awards program to recognise veterinary practices that provide outstanding service to their clients. After a long and rigorous selection process, the award recipients were announced in the December AVJ. The standard of the entries exceeded expectations - in both quality and quantity - and was very gratifying for the inaugural year of this concept.

There were also some unforeseen events in 2001, such as the sudden demise of both "Club Shopper" benefits and Ansett. While AVA is unable to re-offer the former benefits, we are in negotiations with Diners Club for a suitable deal for 2002.

*The Privacy Act* has caused some issues for the membership group, as there is a need to address significant issues in relation to the database and the use of the database – not only for AVA Ltd, but for the SIGs and Divisions. There was an extensive "cleaning up" of the main database and considerable work on ensuring that we were fully compliant on the date of enactment (December 22).

The planning and membership activities of 2001 should see AVA better focused to deliver worthwhile benefits to members in 2002, with improved analysis of member feedback and a more targeted approach to members' needs.

### Government Relations

#### **Commonwealth Government Relations**

The Association once again contributed to policy development with the Commonwealth during 2001. Dr Kevin Doyle, our National Veterinarian, was an active participant in a number of working parties and committees that have responsibility for departmental and government policy and a number of members volunteered their experience and expertise on behalf of the Association. There have been a number of meetings with the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Hon Warren Truss and his staff, to ensure that the issues affecting the profession are well known at Ministerial level. The Association continues to enjoy good relations with Dr Gardner Murray, Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer.

### **Animal Health Australia (AHA)**

The Association is a member of Australia's peak animal health body (AHA). National Veterinarian Kevin Doyle frequently contributes his expertise and that of AVA members to AHA's deliberations and policy development processes. Dr Graham Thompson has been an active participant in the work of AHA's Emergency Animal Disease Advisory Committee. His effort in making the long journeys from North Queensland and in forthrightly contributing to the work of the committee is very much appreciated.

### **United Kingdom Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak.**

The disastrous outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom involved the Association in a great deal of activity. It provided the opportunity for a number of our members to gain first hand experience of the disease and managing its eventual elimination in the UK. The AVA, Bayer, the Australian Agricultural Company, Malaysian Airlines, the Queensland and Victorian Governments and the Commonwealth Government met the cost of air travel to the UK by members participating in the project. We ultimately sent 37 veterinarians under our scheme and had another team ready to go when the UK announced they were no longer required as the outbreak was under control. The British Government, through its High Commission in Canberra, also pledged funding for a significant number of the fares purchased under the AVA scheme.

The project proved an outstanding success and has resulted in a group of practitioner veterinarians whose experience and expertise can be added to that of government and Rural Lands Board veterinarians who also travelled separately to the UK to assist in managing the outbreak.

Quite a number of AVA members travelled independently to the UK and the Association assisted their efforts where possible by coordinating documentation, travel and briefings.

### **Veterinary Resources to Livestock Industries**

For some time the AVA has been concerned about the apparent depletion of the ranks of veterinarians competent and available to provide service to Australia's livestock industries. Professor Trevor Heath, former Dean of the University of Queensland Veterinary School and a long-time analyst of career trends of veterinary graduates, volunteered to develop a report for the AVA on changes in the distribution of Australian veterinarians over the last 20 years. Professor Heath's report confirmed that there was indeed a diminished veterinary workforce available to the livestock industries. One of a number of key findings of his report was that "If current trends continue, it will become increasingly difficult for:

- Government agencies to recruit and retain veterinarians with adequate expertise and experience in specific areas, especially veterinary pathology, and for
- Rural practices to recruit and retain veterinarians (a) with adequate expertise and experience with farm animals, (b) who will accept fulltime continuing employment and (c) who are interested in (practice) management or ownership."

Professor Heath's report has provided the Association with a basis to

approach industry, government and the universities to develop solutions to the problems of rural veterinary resources. The Australian Cattle Council, National Farmers Federation and NSW Farmers Association have all taken up the issue energetically. The Commonwealth Government has agreed to fund a workshop to develop a framework for a major study of the profession in Australia. It has also responded sympathetically to a scheme to encourage and support veterinary undergraduates committed to livestock practice, government or private, although actual support had not yet been provided at the time of writing. This issue remains a high priority for the AVA.

### **Members Directory and Policy Compendium (MDPC)**

The MDPC is the AVA member's ready reference to AVA policies, procedures, Codes of Practice and general information relevant to the Association. The current format is complex and difficult to keep current. The Board has commenced a review to make the compendium easier to use and up-date as well as to clarify some of its content. This task is to be completed in 2002.

### **Education Report**

The Education Sessions at the Melbourne conference were well attended, building on the work done at the Hobart and Perth conferences and focussing on issues such as funding of veterinary schools and undergraduate education. We were fortunate to have a range of speakers as well as our guest Professor Kriek from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. This mixture of local and international attendees provided an opportunity to look at the issues affecting veterinary education on a much broader scale.

In 2001 the Education Session, under the leadership of Pam Scanlon, went a step further in looking at lifelong learning from undergraduate to retirement. The issue of continuing education is being addressed throughout a range of professions and is an important issue for the veterinary profession.

The past 12 months provided opportunities to lobby government at both State and Federal level on the issue of funding of veterinary education and rural veterinary services.

The foot and mouth disease outbreak in the UK gave some leverage in the above areas. The highly successful AVA initiative - sending groups of Australian veterinarians to the UK to assist - has enabled the veterinary profession in Australia to tap into the lessons learned and utilise the experience of these practitioners. A number of sessions at the 2001 Melbourne Conference featured these practitioners.

The AVA in cooperation with industry has made extensive representation to the Federal Government and the Opposition in regard to veterinarians in the bush, the selection of students, entry requirements and training suited to farm animal practice. These representations were highly successful and are referred to above and in the President's report.





## Board Reports

The AVA has also been actively involved on the Committee for the development of a Chair in Animal Welfare at the University of Queensland. With the announcement of federal funding (see President's report) and with support from the Queensland Government and other industry groups it appears the Chair in Animal Welfare will be established in 2002.

### Community Relations Program – Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP).

PetPEP continues to be the cornerstone of the AVA Community Relations Program. The year was very successful with much of the work being done "behind the scenes" to ensure the stability of PetPEP. The priority for 2001 was to enhance communication between the AVA, veterinarians and teachers, local councils and the general community, and to increase the profile of the program.

There were many significant milestones for PetPEP in 2001:

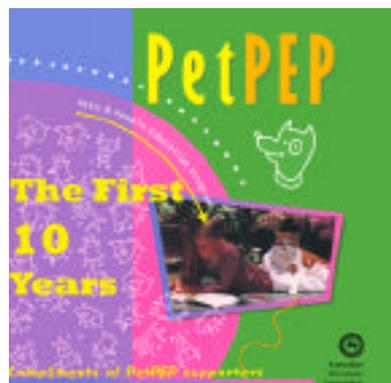
1. Tanya Pullen as National Coordinator worked tirelessly in the development of a national strategic plan. Prior to this she was integral in developing relationships with community organisations and in doing so generated funding and created a model that could be utilised in all states. Tanya was a key player in the development and implementation of the alliance with the RSPCA for the promotion and delivery of PetPEP in Queensland. Tanya also instituted the concept of Local Council contribution, a two pronged approach for support of PetPEP:
  - a. The Council contributes funds according to the size and number of schools in the municipality.
  - b. The Local Council advocates and supports PetPEP to aid facilitation of PetPEP into the schools.

Tanya completed her PetPEP contract in August. We thank Tanya for all her hard and successful work.



2. Kate Perkins began as Queensland Education Officer in February and has built on the foundation of Tanya's work. Kate's objective has been to increase the profile of PetPEP within schools and with veterinarians and she has attracted an overwhelming council response. Kate's enthusiasm is infectious to all who work with her. Kate has also been filling the role of National Coordinator since August by providing support to PetPEP veterinarians in all states and territories. Kate has utilised the success of PetPEP within schools by promoting PetPEP opportunities to national, state and local media. PetPEP activities generated a great deal of print, radio and TV media attention throughout the year. Media highlights included a four-page feature running for four separate issues in the high profile magazine "Dog's Life" and feature segments on the TV program "Totally Wild".
3. Well known veterinarian, Dr Katrina Warren has been helping to raise the profile of PetPEP as Patron, which has increased our exposure in the media with a resultant increase in distribution across the country.
4. The success of PetPEP owes a lot to the generous support of sponsors. The Petcare Information and Advisory Service, RSPCA Qld, DPI Queensland, Bayer, Fort Dodge and ASAVA all have donated funds and time to ensure that PetPEP is an ongoing success. We appreciate their remarkable support, not only their financial contributions but also their belief in the amazing potential of this program.
5. A national 1800 line was instituted in June for improved communication and to aid in the implementation of PetPEP across Australia. This has proven to be an effective tool.
6. Internal communication logistic protocols have been re-evaluated as a result of the national growth of PetPEP, which has begun a restructure to increase efficiency and communication between the AVA, veterinarians and schools.
7. New South Wales Division joined the Queensland Division in employing a part time education officer to assist in the implementation of the program. The role is to give direct support to veterinarians and schools in addition to investigating statewide sponsorship arrangements. At the time of writing, the Victorian and Tasmanian Divisions were looking to do the same in the near future.
8. AVA internal communication has been fine tuned with Laurretta Stace, AVA Finance and Administration Manager, being invaluable for funding and structural information. This advice will ensure increased efficiency and significant development of the program. Laurretta will continue to work with PetPEP in 2002.

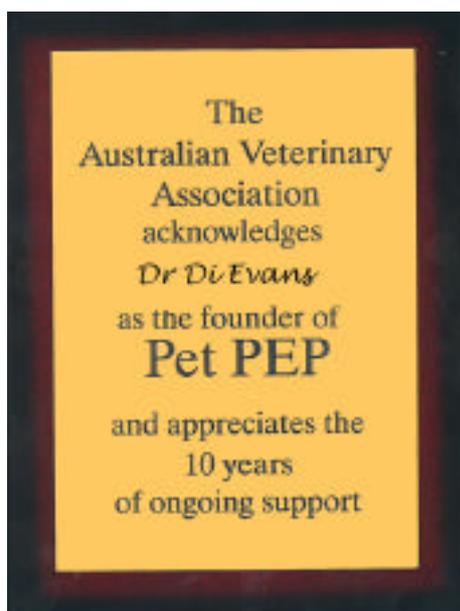
9. A competition has been run nationally to further promote PetPEP to schools throughout Australia. There are state and territory prizes for each category (lower, middle and upper primary) consisting of book vouchers with the national prize in each category being a computer for the school. The national winner of each category, plus a chaperone, will receive a trip to the 2002 AVA Annual Conference for presentation of their trophy and "lunch with Dr Katrina Warren". We thank Katrina for making her time available for this function.
10. PetPEP enjoyed the celebration of 10 years since conception. Dr Di Evans, the founder of PetPEP, attended the 2001 AVA Annual Conference for the National Annual PetPEP Steering Committee Meeting. This was also attended by President-elect Jo Toia, AVA Division Presidents, education leaders of universities, including Dr Malcolm McLennan, and key industry sponsors.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of PetPEP over the last 12 months. We look forward to the continued growth of PetPEP and providing support to the Divisions in their efforts to promote this vital community program.

### Rural Practice Incentive

The continued presence of AVA, SIGs, and Divisions on bodies such as the Cattle Council and farmers groups paid big dividends this year. Just before the elections, the Federal Government promised funds for the profession to encourage veterinarians into rural practice. The detail is still to be worked out but this initiative is a start in the right direction for veterinarians and for Australia's livestock industries.



Everyone who attended the AVA Annual Dinner enjoyed PetPEP champagne to honour the milestone.

The year 2001 has allowed PetPEP to reach new heights. PetPEP has enjoyed some years that were better than others but 10 years on, PetPEP is still going strong in many schools. Above all, the dedication of farsighted veterinarians who believe that educating children about the many benefits of PetPEP and safety around animals will allow the next generation to enjoy pets in the same way that we did as children.

### The AVA National Veterinarian reports to the AVA CEO and the Board through the AVA Strategic and Business Plans.

The National Veterinarian provides advice, representation and services to the Board, the Policy Council, Special Interest Groups, the profession, members, government, animals, community and industries. He is involved with, or supports, six AVA committees and more than a dozen external groups as indicated below.

The appointment of Dr Bernard Robinson as National Assistant Veterinarian to focus on animal welfare matters has facilitated in-depth analysis and detailed papers for the AVA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Policy Council. It has also allowed both AVA - employed veterinarians to visit intensive pig and poultry enterprises to provide factual advice on housing matters to AWAC.

#### Government

AVA through the National Veterinarian has made representations to government at ministerial level and to senior public servants and written submissions to enquiries and public consultations. Some of the issues addressed are:-

- Veterinarians in the bush (in consultation with the National Farmers Federation)
- Private practitioner support for FMD eradication in the UK and development of the AVA Scheme
- Representations on scheduling of chemicals and veterinary intervention in scheduling of chemicals
- National Competition Policy Review of Radiation Protection Legislation.

#### Animal Health Australia (AHA)

The National Veterinarian represents AVA and has been involved in AHA programs including the Accreditation program for Australian Veterinarians, the Emergency Animal Disease Cost Sharing Agreement, the AHA Maintenance of Animal Health Skills Advisory Committee (veterinarians for the livestock industry), and the Animal Health Services Program member workshop. The National Veterinarian has also supported AVA participation on AHA working groups and advisory committees.

#### JETACAR, Drugs and Chemicals

Membership of JETACAR and the JETACAR task force, which is assisting the Commonwealth Interdepartmental JETACAR Implementation Group (CIJIG), provides an opportunity for AVA input into this joint medical and veterinary committee on antibiotic resistance. AVA is participating in follow up activities and the obligations of professional organisations in the development of codes of practice and prudent use guidelines for antibiotics. AVA attended the JETACAR Summit and has featured antibiotic resistance issues at AVA Conferences and in conferences of SIGs. The National Veterinarian has had opportunity to address JETACAR issues in public forums such as the Biosecurity 2001 Conference and in SIG meetings.

Representations on scheduling matters have been a feature of this year's program.

The AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee has met twice during the year and considered a range of issues, including submissions to Government, scheduling matters and antibiotic resistance.

#### Quarantine

Biosecurity Australia, which handles quarantine policy, and AQIS, which handles quarantine operations, consult AVA routinely. AVA input is through its Quarantine Advisory Committee, which reviews draft quarantine policies and operational programs.

AVA veterinarians participate on a number of Import Risk Analysis Panels contributing to the science which underpins quarantine policy. The National Veterinarian is a member of the Technical Working Group on PRRS, which supports the Risk Analysis Panel on importation of pig meat.

#### Animal Welfare

The National Assistant Veterinarian is secretary to the AVA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, which has examined draft policies for policy council. AVA has had input into the development of the National Animal Welfare Strategy and the National Veterinarian represents AVA on the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) and on the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW). The latter reports to the Federal Government's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Animal welfare matters are included in the scientific program at the AVA Annual Conference. AVA participated in the national debate on tail docking of dogs and has provided resource material to a number of divisions and external organisations seeking to have bans legislated in the States. The ACT ban is providing a model for the other States. Housing of laying hens and dairy cattle issues have also received close attention.

The National Veterinarian participated in the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists debate on proposals for legislation requiring reporting of animal welfare abuse.

The National Veterinarian is Executive Officer to AVA Animal Welfare Trust, which was established during the year. Member contributions have been transferred to the accounts of the Trust.

#### Community

Addressing queries from the public and the media facilitates understanding of the role of the modern veterinarian. Media attention to welfare issues, antibiotic resistance, intensive livestock production, urban animal management and food safety have all been addressed.

The National Veterinarian has participated in review of legislation under the Competition Principles agreement and through the Professional Liability working group of the Australian Council of Professions. Issues of registration and the role of the Australian Veterinary Boards Council in efforts toward national registration have the potential for significant influence on the profession and the community generally.



### Veterinarians to UK on FMD

The AVA scheme for funding the travel of veterinary practitioners to the UK attracted more than 105 applicants and ultimately sent three teams comprising 37 veterinarians to the UK. The scheme led to many practitioners going independently to the UK once the value of the practitioner had been demonstrated by the AVA scheme. Reports from the British authorities and others on the performance of Australian practitioners were excellent. The role of the practitioner in exotic disease control in Australia has been firmly established.

### Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)

The National Veterinarian is a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies. National plans for monitoring and surveillance and submission of specimens, which support Australia's TSE-free status are important national contributions for AVA. AVA has participated in meetings with governments, expert groups and SIGs and has provided advice on quarantine matters.

### Animals

The AVA National Conference and associated conferences, including the AAVCB program on wildlife "Veterinary conservation biology wildlife health and management in Australasia", address the interests of animals. The National Veterinarian co-ordinates the scientific program at the AVA Annual Conference.

### Industry

Participation on the National Farmers Federation Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force provides an opportunity for AVA input into farm issues and the utilisation of AVA expertise. The latter is important in establishing educational needs.

The needs of industry are addressed in an education seminar at each AVA Annual Conference while the ongoing discussions regarding veterinarians in the bush and participating in urban animal matters assist in liaison with industry.

Participation with the chemical manufacturing industry is through the Australian Veterinarians in Industry and through the Therapeutics Advisory Committee. Microchips, urban animal control and drug matters have been the dominant issues for the small animal industries.

### Professionalism

The AVA National Veterinarian is a member of the National Association of Testing Authorities Veterinary Testing Advisory Committee. NATA is seeking to improve the quality of test results of in-house testing and in private, government and university laboratories.

AVA has supported the application from ChemCert for funding to FarmBis for training programs in chemical usage. AVA hosted a Chilean Veterinary delegation studying tuberculosis and seeking to learn from Australia's successful BTEC. Materials were prepared for a presentation on animal identification and rabies control by an AVA member in Japan while meetings were held with allied organisations, including the National Rural Health Alliance, National Farmers Federation, and the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, regarding appropriate scholarships to encourage rural youth to enter veterinary science. AVA maintains a monitoring program through a lobbying service on issues emerging in the Parliaments in order to be able to adequately represent the needs of members.

**Kevin Doyle**  
National Veterinarian





**The 23rd Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) Council meeting was held in Indonesia on the 7th of October 2001. The next FAVA Congress will be held 26-28th August 2002, in Kuala Lumpur.**

On the 8th October an animal welfare workshop of FAVA members along with WVA representation was held. Papers were presented by Dr. Garth McGilvray on behalf of AVA, WVA and NZVA.

The aim of the Animal Welfare Workshop was to promote the development of national strategies to encourage animal welfare in member countries and the introduction of workable legislation where it does not exist.

It was a very successful workshop with over 300 attendees and a group of international speakers who presented papers related to codes of animal welfare in Japan, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. In addition further presentations covered the correlation between culture, religion and philosophy in relation to animal welfare as seen by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) plus the role of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in facilitating the introduction of animal welfare legislation by governments in countries where it does not exist currently.

The associations that are members of FAVA represent the wide range in the status of animal welfare throughout the world. On the one hand there is New Zealand with a recently introduced (2000) Animal Welfare Act that reflects a whole new approach. The philosophy is one of 'welfare' and not 'protection'. It is not focussed on the punishment of those who neglect, ill-treat or are cruel to animals.

The focus is on a 'duty of care' that humans have to animals (with a broad definition of animals that includes some invertebrates such as crab, lobster and octopus). This focus is backed by a Code of Welfare (many of which are still being developed) for each species or system of production management e.g. one for layer hens and another for broilers. These codes are developed and agreed to by all the relevant stakeholders and have the flexibility to incorporate new technology, scientific knowledge and community attitudes as they are issued by the Minister and do not require lengthy parliamentary processing.

On the other hand there are countries such as Indonesia that have no legislation at all. However the Indonesian Veterinary Association is working hard to promote animal welfare in the community and to create an atmosphere which will allow the introduction of legislation in the near future. Some other countries have legislation in place but it is either unworkable or not implemented by the authorities involved.

The WVA and the veterinary associations who are members of FAVA are doing a great deal to advance animal welfare in the region by supporting each other and making the time to contribute to workshops like this.

**Garth McGilvray**



### **The National Industry Advisory Group (NIAG) for Veterinary Nursing continues to promote the implementation of the work place competency based National Training Package for Veterinary Nursing (NTPVN) and monitor the outcomes.**

The membership consists of four representatives of veterinarians (Phillip Brain, Garth McGilvray, Mike Lumsden and Jo Toia), four representatives of veterinary nurses (Jane Bindloss, Sally Boyle, Ursula Alexander-Smith and Helen Power) and one representative of the educators (David Jones).

New apprenticeships for veterinary nurses have now been introduced that relate to the NTPVN and further information on these and the training package can be obtained from Rural Skills Australia at [www.rsa.farmwide.com.au](http://www.rsa.farmwide.com.au).

Collation of industry feedback on the delivery of the package has been a significant part of NIAG's activity over the last year. This has led to correspondence and discussions with several providers of the training package. In most cases there has been a genuine desire on the part of the provider to get it right, although in one case continuation of the registration of the provider is under consideration.

Part of the process of introduction of national training packages for vocational education involves a review at an early stage. NIAG participated in stage one of the review, which was finished in January 2001. Several recommendations arose from the review, the main one being to enlarge the scope of the package to embrace the areas of work in the wider 'animal care' industry. Stage two, due for completion mid 2002, involves re-formatting the current veterinary nursing competency standards and creating competency standards for the many occupations involved in animal care. These will include animal management (shelters, kennels, catteries, animal trainers, urban animals, rangers), pet care services (grooming, pet shops, pet exercisers), animal technicians and those working with captive animals (zoos, theme parks, aquaria).

**Garth McGilvray**

### The value and significance of a strong proactive World Veterinary Association (WVA) to the veterinary profession as represented by AVA members in Australia continues to increase each year.

WVA President Dr. Jim Edwards and the Council have been extremely active and committed to ensuring that veterinarians are well represented at the many international forums on Public Health (including bioterrorism), Animal Health and Welfare, World Trade and veterinary education. Significant input has been made to the World Health Organisation (WHO), OIE, FAO and WTO. In late 2001 the WVA President visited China to meet with Veterinary Officials in relation to China joining the WTO.

As the population of the world is expected to increase from 6 billion to 7 billion between 1999 and 2010, the need to produce animal food and fibre efficiently without pollution will place significant demands on veterinary expertise in many countries, especially developing ones. National governments need to be aware of the need for well-trained and resourced veterinarians. The WVA has continued to contribute to the discussions by WHO on the monitoring of antimicrobial use in food animals and links to the development of resistant microbes. Food safety and zoonoses (e.g. BSE) have also been the subject of international workshops.

A well attended and successful 8th WVA Council meeting was held in Melbourne just prior to the AVA Annual Conference. An excellent opportunity for interaction and the exchange of ideas was taken when the AVA hosted the WVA Council to dinner during the AVA Policy Council meeting. The importance and benefit of communication within the profession was well demonstrated during the evening.

The first World Veterinary Day was held on April 28th 2001 and demonstrated the value of the profession communicating with the public. A wide range of activities was undertaken in many countries, and a full report can be found on the WVA Website - <http://www.worldvet.org/p107.htm>. It was decided to repeat World Veterinary Day and the next date is April 27th 2002.

The next World Veterinary Congress will be in Tunisia, September 25-29th, 2002. I would recommend AVA members taking the opportunity to visit North Africa and experience the culture in a safe country as well as participating in a very significant Congress. There is also the opportunity to incorporate the World Small Animal Conference, Granada, Spain, 3rd-6th of October, into the trip.

**Garth McGilvray**



## AVA Divisions - New South Wales

### NSW Division

Following a very successful Annual General Meeting and scientific session at Katoomba in April, with over 90 attendees, NSW Division has been active in many areas of member representation and policy development.

The long awaited Review of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act* remains elusive. Division was advised by the Minister's office that a Spring session of Parliament presentation was likely but this now seems uncertain and an autumn 2002 presentation is now being put forward.

The Division has the assurance of the Minister that both the profession and the NSW Board of Veterinary Surgeons will receive advance copy of the legislation and an opportunity for further input: both Division and the Board are in regular communication with the Minister's office to remind him of this promise and important opportunity. NSW Division and the Board have had several regular meetings this year to make both bodies aware of mutually developing issues: the Board has made several last minute recommendations to the Minister about legal and procedural problems or grey areas of the existing legislation which need to be tightened as a matter of urgency when the Act review is finally read.

Division has retained a key interest in the activities of the NSW Board of Veterinary Surgeons this year. The separation of the Board from the Department of Agriculture and its relocation to Sydney from Orange; its financial independence and its subsequent reliance on the profession for its operating funds; and the increasing prominence of the activities of the Veterinary Surgeons Investigating Committee [VSIC] have resulted in the Division representing the interests of AVA members strongly.

Division was represented at a workshop to discuss the 2002 registration fees in August at which a wider discussion and disclosure of the Board's funding was had and made; and has had several further meetings with the Board and members of the VSIC to discuss members' and the Division's concerns over some of the procedural and administrative problems of the latter. A 15% increase in the annual roll and hospital licensing fees, essentially as a result of the Board's need to maintain sufficient funds to pursue and defend litigation resulting from VSIC complaints, is a matter of both concern and contention within the profession.

The recent appointment of a new and permanent Board Registrar/VSIC Secretary with legal, industrial relations and mediation qualifications should result in a more efficient functioning of both statutory bodies. The current terms of both Board and VSIC members expire in April 2002 and both bodies will be reconvened, giving Division the opportunity to nominate members who can serve the interests of our membership, the profession and the community.

The activities of the NSW AVA Ethics and Complaints subcommittee have not diminished. Division is currently surveying members as to their experiences and expectations of complaints handling mechanisms with a view to gauging members' opinions of an increased role for the committee in the future. As NSW is now the most litigious society in the world, it is imperative for our members' interests that the Division retains "ownership" of complaints management, where possible.

Division has had significant meetings with both the RSPCA and the Department of Local Government in 2001. The former sees a reversal of the previous "cool" relationship with NSW RSPCA but, as both organisations share common views on tail docking and several other issues, it was considered appropriate to explore how cooperation may help both to achieve worthwhile results.

It was agreed to consider a joint approach to the NSW Minister of Agriculture, re government prevarication over the tail docking issue.

The keeping of native animals as pets and the recalcitrance of many NSW councils over the payment of veterinary fees for the treatment of injured stray animals was also discussed.

NSW AVA has also participated in several Department of Local Government focus groups dealing with aspects of the *Companion Animal Act* [CAA] such as stray animal management and streamlining of permanent identification [microchipping] data submission.

The Division has now been given a permanent seat on the Companion Animal Advisory Board [CAAB] by the Minister for Local Government, largely as a result of the work we have done in a previous observer capacity. This, plus the increased input of other primary user groups such as Councils Unite for Pets and the Ranger Association, should see a shift from the previous heavily welfare group weighted balance of the CAAB.

Changes to the Regulations of the CAA commenced in October, allowing the NSW Companion Animal Register [NSWCAR] permanent identification data form to be used as a template for submitting data to private microchip registers, thus allowing pet owners the choice of ensuring Australia wide [and international] coverage of their pets' microchip. This also allows AVA members to fulfill their AVA obligation of dual registration without the time consuming difficulty of collecting and certifying two separate sets of data. This is the direct result of NSW Division lobbying.

Division has also been successful in putting onto the national AVA agenda the need for an independent study on the costs of providing veterinary services, particularly to rural communities. When complete, the study will provide appropriate statistical information to allow the Association to provide a figure for members negotiating with APAV or with local councils over rates of remuneration for contract work.

In October the Division was represented at a meeting with NSW Farmers, Cattle Council of Australia, Veterinary Faculty University of Sydney and AVA National to discuss future lobbying for increasing veterinarians in rural areas.

PetPEP in NSW remains a practitioner [rather than Divisional] driven project. Division is currently advertising, with National Coordinator assistance, a part time position for a NSW facilitator/educator using accumulated member funds.

The NSW AVA Student representative, Belinda Hales, has been instrumental in raising the profile of the Division and the Association to students at the Veterinary Science Faculty at Sydney University this year. The second half of her four lecture series co-sponsored by NSW Division and the Veterinary Science Foundation will be held in the last term of the year and she has worked well with the other three student representatives to build a consistent approach to their

role. In August, NSW Division co-sponsored and spoke at the final year student's "First 100 Days of Practice" day seminar at Camden and sponsored the faculty-industry barbeque at the Veterinary Science Foundation's Vet Week at Sydney University.

The annual Pet Expo presence will be continued in November with the prominent AVA stand manned by the Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners Branch.

NSW Division continues to believe that the Association as a whole should be driven to provide comprehensive membership service and benefit and that efficient service delivery to members is a priority. Centralising some of the production of Divisional material and activities could achieve these aims and this concept should still be an active national issue.

**Contacts** - Email: [avansw@ava.com.au](mailto:avansw@ava.com.au), Tel: 02 9411 2066 and Fax: 02 9415 2241.



## AVA Divisions - Victoria

### Victorian Division

The Division has experienced a relatively quiet year after a busy start with the Annual Conference in Melbourne during May.

The conference was not only a financial and educational triumph, but provided opportunities for extensive and beneficial social intercourse. The success of the conference was due to the great work of AVACOS, in particular Doreen Culliver, and our Local Arrangements team. A massive contribution from a small group produced substantial rewards for the masses. On behalf of all who benefited, thanks to the SIG organising committees and those who helped make it a memorable event.

The Divisional Annual General Meeting, which was combined with a successful golf day again, provided an opportunity for Past Presidents of the Division to meet and reminisce. Dr Jack Arundel presented the inaugural A.K. (Sandy) Sutherland Address, which gave an insight into the contributions by one of our valued members to the profession.

The Executive Committee has been bolstered by the arrival of new enthusiastic members. The meetings have been well attended with over a dozen members present at each meeting. The committee members represent a wide cross-section of the association as they include students, employed veterinarians, practice owners, government, industry and retired members.

The diverse basis of our group has allowed good debate and consultation providing valuable advice for national and local issues. The committee is to be congratulated on its performance during the year.

During the year the Victorian Division has provided advice to the Victorian state government on dog aggression. We have met with the Minister for Agriculture's advisors and provided the AVA's position on this matter. Kristen Steele has helped produce a paper on breed specific legislation that has been distributed to all MPs. The Division is encouraging all veterinarians to lobby their local members on this subject.

The Schools Program on Responsible Pet Ownership for the second period of two years was put up for tender. The Division joined forces with the RSPCA, Cat Protection Society, Lost Dogs' Home and Lort Smith Animal Hospital to submit a proposal.

At the time of writing, the successful tender has not been announced. It is hoped that if we do succeed this will increase the exposure of veterinarians in our community through schools. It may be a means of increasing the uptake of PetPEP by schools. As PetPEP is such a potentially valuable resource Division is canvassing ways to increase its usage by schools and we are currently investigating the engagement of a local coordinator. Kristen Steele has devoted much time to the promotion of the program on a national as well as at divisional level, with much enthusiasm and vigour.

This year all students at Melbourne University were presented with the chance of free membership of the AVA and almost all took up the offer. The students are becoming more involved in AVA matters at local level through Executive Committee meetings and seminars. It is hoped that these members will continue their involvement with the AVA after graduation and see the benefits of belonging to our association and contributing to our future.

The students assisted extensively at the National Conference in May and those attending gained valuable insight into the profession.

The Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners' Branch again provided sponsorship for the Practitioner in Residence scheme for students in final year. This scheme, which assists in the transition to practice, continues to develop and provide graduates who are better able to cope with life in practice.

A successful country meeting was held in October at Port Campbell. Members of the Western Branch worked together as a team to produce a very professional conference with large and small animal streams. The members of the organising team deserve praise for their efforts and have set a high standard with CD-ROM copies of the talks for all participants and a great mix of educational and social events.

The large animal section focussed on exotic disease preparedness, FMD and AUSVETPLAN. We are grateful to all speakers, but especially those who came from Canberra to participate.

Our quarterly VicVet, produced by Trevor Faragher, continues to receive praise from members for its standard and value. Dr Faragher manages to collect articles of interest to a wide variety of our members and collate them in a professional manner at the beginning of each season. Carmen Brasher, our Office Administrator provides assistance with the VicVet along with general office duties and has been a tireless worker this year. We have survived the year without the assistance of an Executive Officer for the first time in over 10 years.

The Division has coped reasonably well this year and is in a strong financial position, boosted by a share from the National Conference, and increased membership. We are still in the process of developing ideas for a position at AVA House that will provide enough work for a full time appointment.

**Contacts** – Email: [avavic@ava.com.au](mailto:avavic@ava.com.au), Tel: 03 9387 3706 and Fax: 03 9388 0112.

### Queensland Division

#### Veterinary Surgeons Act

A Bill was passed by Queensland Parliament in October 2001 which when proclaimed will amend certain provisions of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936*. Amendments to the associated regulations should be finalised by the end of December 2001.

Major changes to the legislation include: (a) open ownership of veterinary practices, (b) removal of advertising restrictions, (c) retention of controls by the Veterinary Surgeons Board on veterinary premises and (d) use of the courtesy title "doctor". The act of filing or rasping horses teeth will be deregulated and no longer considered an act of veterinary science.

Most members will be comfortable with these changes and the Division wished to particularly acknowledge the contributions made by Ian Douglas and Alistair Webb to the review of the *Act*.

#### PetPEP

The Qld Division continues to lead from the front in terms of PetPEP development and expansion. Our education officer, Kate Perkins, works four days a week and is an absolute dynamo. Kate has enlisted the support of 13 Councils (by mid-November) to help implement PetPEP in schools and has contacted a further 19 Councils which could be approached for support in 2002. Kate has also attended most Branch Conferences this year to spread the 'good news' about PetPEP.

In addition, the Division acknowledges the continuing financial support of our Department of Primary Industries and RSPCA Queensland for PetPEP promotion in schools.

#### University of Queensland Veterinary School

It would be fair to say that 2001 has been a difficult year for the Qld Veterinary School. The Veterinary Science Farm at Pinjarra Hills has lost most of its animal units and much of the teaching done there has been or will be transferred to Gatton. At the same time the School has been informed that it will continue to be primarily located at St Lucia and the total amount of teaching conducted at Gatton during the five year course will amount to about two weeks in total.

Professor Neil McMeniman has been appointed permanent Head of School and Jacquie Rand has been appointed Professor in the area of companion animal sciences. The school has also received approval to establish a Chair in Animal Welfare and acknowledges the role of AVA National in securing funding for the chair.

The school faces an accreditation visit in September 2002 and, if successful, has been advised by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, that an accumulated debt of \$1.6 million will be waived. Nevertheless the School urgently needs extra funds and is currently finalising a fundraising strategy.

Queensland Division looks forward to assisting the school in this and other areas.

#### Conference 2001

A very successful Queensland Division Annual Conference was held at the Gold Coast in March and was co-hosted by the Brisbane Veterinary Practitioners Branch and the South East Queensland Branch. The conference was well attended and special thanks must go to Mandy Roe and John Mackie from the Brisbane Veterinary Practitioners Branch for their efforts in organising such a successful conference.

#### Membership

It is pleasing to report that student membership has increased in 2001 - largely due to the efforts of AVA Student Representative Tom Cook. The Division thanks Tom for his efforts and welcomes Kim Benning as incoming student representative.

Several Qld members were recognised with AVA national awards this year, including Geoff Niethe (Fellowship), Jo Toia and Lester Torenbeek (Meritorious Service Awards) and Malcolm McLennan received the AVA Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Division also congratulates Jo Toia on her election as President-Elect and sadly records the death of her husband, Anton, during the year.

Queensland Division acknowledges the support of office staff Mary George, Matt Pope and Kate Perkins. The Divisional Executive is also to be commended for its dedicated work over the past year.

**Contacts** – Email: [avaqld@ava.com.au](mailto:avaqld@ava.com.au), Tel: 07 3378 5720 and Fax: 07 3378 1691.

### Western Australian Division

#### Membership

##### Undergraduates:

(Student Representation)

This year's AVASR,Carolynn Walsh, has done a terrific job in providing a link between the students and the Division. Carolynn must be congratulated on her enthusiasm and efforts in promoting the AVA to the students at Murdoch University as well as contributing to the Policy Council Meeting she attended. Carolynn, being a great organiser, has set in place a timetable and recommendation for next year's program of activities. This will be of great help to the incoming AVASR.

The President of the student association, Lauren Scales has also been a big contributor.

Both have attended nearly all the committee meetings this year and this has been invaluable in liaising with the students.

While the low student membership has been somewhat disappointing, the Division is confident that this will improve with the student's increasing exposure to the AVA.

#### Workshops

Following last year's success the final year workshop, "The Consultation", was again held at a Perth hotel and sponsored by Merial. There were over 35 students in attendance and they were very positive regarding the experience.

The Division was also involved with several programs conducted at Murdoch University in exposing the final year students to different and difficult situations they might encounter in practice.

#### Video System

The division provided finance for a sophisticated video system to be installed in the recently completed consulting rooms at Murdoch University Veterinary School. This will be used by staff as an aid to training students in the consultation process. It is envisaged that both real and mock consultations, with the students participating, will be taped to enable a thorough review process to take place. AVA members will be conscripted to assist in the training where possible.

#### Quiz Night

Once again this was sponsored by the Division and National. This was a great success and has been put on the calendar for 2002.

#### New Graduates

##### Graduate Support Scheme

With Paul Davey coordinating, this program has continued on from previous years. While it is still relatively low key it provides another avenue of support for the new graduate outside the practice environment. It is being utilised on a regular basis. Several social events, organised later in the year to facilitate contact between the mentors and the new graduates, were also well attended.

##### New Graduate Dinner

A joint venture with the Continuing Veterinary Education Office at Murdoch created a completely new format for the dinner last year. Following its great success, the format was repeated this year.

It starts with an information/discussion afternoon, with presentations from the AVA, VSB registrar and a clinical psychologist. A panel of new and older graduates then related some of their "horror cases" - followed with a general discussion. The dinner followed that evening. There was nearly an 80% attendance from last year's graduating class. The secret seems to be that the event is held on the Saturday following the graduation and this encourages interstate participation. Once again our thanks to Uncle Bens and Merial for providing generous sponsorship and to Belinda Beynon of the Murdoch CVE for her enthusiastic organisation of the event.

##### New Graduate Package

This is a publication that was initiated by Frank Gaschk some years ago. With his assistance - and Merial's sponsorship - this is now being printed professionally and is improving every year.

Its aim is to provide assistance to the new graduates in employment areas such as contracts, employment relations, support networks etc. It has also a humorous side with the recording of previous graduates' experiences. It is traditionally presented at the registration day late in November. From all reports, the new graduates find it very useful.

##### Country Membership

The program of promoting country meetings in the regional centres of Bunbury, Albany and Geraldton has continued.

In association with the VSB registrar, meetings were held to discuss concerns within the rural environment and veterinary industry. This year another meeting was held in Narrogin in an attempt to facilitate communication in that area.

The gatherings were very productive and they certainly help to stimulate membership of the AVA.

The rural situation will continue to provide a challenge to the profession.

### Public Relations

#### "All Creatures Expo"

Following last year's initial success the joint venture with the RSPCA was repeated. The aim is to allow pet owners to bring their pets to a safe, fun and educational environment in which the AVA has a high profile. The event, with a lot more entertainment and many more displays, was held in late August and again was a huge success. The RSPCA did a terrific job with the organisation.

The Division, with assistance from the VNCA, provided free consultations and information to the public throughout the day.

The public response was excellent, with well over 10,000 people attending the event.

### Legislation

Despite the fact that several other states have had Veterinary Surgeons' Acts reviewed and passed through Parliament, WA's new Act has yet to surface. With the change of government it would seem this has again been put on the back burner and is yet to see light of day. Still of concern to the Division is whether it will have sufficient time to review the Bill before it is presented to Parliament.

### Mediation

This has become a most successful program. While the number of mediations this year has been relatively low, all have had successful outcomes. A pamphlet, advertising the mediation service, is to be displayed in all veterinary clinics.

The mediation panel, chaired by Mal Nairn, has continued to run workshops and training sessions. The group, all volunteers, has put a lot of time and effort into the conduct of the mediations.

This is proving to be a valuable AVA initiative and is rapidly becoming better known across the community.

The WA Division would like to acknowledge the continued effort and support of the Division by our office manager Michelle Marino. Michelle is once again to be congratulated for her patience and perseverance with the AVA office bearers throughout the year.

**Contacts** – Email: [avawa@ava.com.au](mailto:avawa@ava.com.au), Tel: 08 9367 6827 and Fax: 08 9368 2193.



### South Australian Division

For several years the South Australian Division has been concerned about its financial and operational future. Although SA Division subscriptions have been similar to those of other Divisions, the return to the Division has not been able to meet the costs of employing an office manager, let alone fund communication and member support services.

We faced potential erosion of our member base because of an inability to service it. Sponsorships had decreased and reserves were being exhausted. The Division over the last two years has seriously addressed this issue. It therefore features prominently in the annual reporting requirements.

Last year we reviewed our routine administration activities and outside commitments and introduced strict financial controls in an attempt to achieve significant savings within an expected budget deficit. This sustained fiscal attention resulted in a significant turnaround in the finances of the Division to the point where losses were minimal for the first time in four years. We have continued to carefully manage our affairs in 2001 and this year we anticipate that the budget will balance. A serious financial "slide" has been arrested and the Division has come a long way towards developing a solid base for servicing its members into the future.

Nevertheless, there are several key areas where we remain unable to service components of our membership adequately.

In addition, our capacity to contribute or respond to national or state statutory body initiatives relevant to animal health and the profession as a whole is unsatisfactory, because it is under-resourced.

This year, we submitted a Business Plan, which identified key projects and activity areas for support in terms of commitments by AVA National to fund specific projects and/or programs, including projects that deliver executive and/or administrative support to Divisions. Support was sought in five operational areas including Business and administration, material support to Branches and SIGs within the SA Division, Communication, Special Group support and Education. Although details are not finalised we are grateful that AVA National has indicated some level of support for this proposal and anticipate that some important improvements will be implemented in 2002.

A highly successful Divisional AGM that was held at Berri Resort Hotel in the Riverland in March had two themes. A general theme featured prominent SA speakers, including the Executive Director of RSPCA South Australia who spoke on the importance of veterinarians understanding welfare legislation, the Senior Ecologist from National Parks and Wildlife SA who addressed facts and myths relating to protection and harvesting of wild life populations - and an Emeritus Professor in Biochemistry who defined areas where new technologies could have a significant impact on veterinary medicine and animal production.

John Hammond organised a popular and oversubscribed equine workshop with formal lectures and "hands-on" activities on horse legs, including corrective farriery, bandaging, laminitis and lameness components. Dr Sally Church, from Melbourne University, presided over an enthusiastic group of 26 veterinarians. There was a comprehensive trade fair and a well-attended dinner.

Leisure activities included golf, a river cruise and barbecue. At the AGM, Ian Carmichael was inducted as the Division President for a second term.

It was again identified that the SA Division has serious difficulty in attracting people to office, particularly from rural practices. Barbara Gill our office manager did a huge amount of work in organising this successful event.

The review of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act* continues to drag on. A letter from the Minister confirmed that a Commonwealth requirement in terms of the National Competition Policy process was satisfied. The Minister noted a high level of agreement in the report amongst all groups involved in the consultative process and indicated that he would seek approval to proceed directly to a draft Bill stage for a new Act.

However, he also mentioned that the draft would be subject to further consultation before consideration by Parliament, which contradicted earlier messages. Recently, there have been reports of discussions involving parliamentary counsel and others on welfare issues in livestock as they might relate to definitions of acts of veterinary science. Interference at this level could delay the process significantly. Since SA has an election looming, it is unlikely that the Act will be passed this year.

Trevor Rickman (with great support from Barbara Gill) has produced three issues of the SA Bulletin in 2001, These have provided news, reviews, clinical practice articles and updates from all areas of the profession in SA. Barbara has canvassed potential sponsorships to offset costs. There have been significant contributions to the Bulletin from the SA Veterinary Surgeons Board and the SA Special Interest Groups, including the first of a series of articles on the History of the SA Division (from 1913 onwards) by Dr Brick Smith, AVA National President 1965.

Continuing education for the profession, concentrating mainly on companion animals, was provided in four courses during 2001. One course was offered by Sydney University (Clinical Pathology) and three (Oncology and Dermatology, Orthopaedics, Ear Diseases) by the Murdoch University Foundation. This year the courses were very well attended (approximately 25 at each), possibly because a one day format is more suitable than the previous arrangement that committed people for the greater part of a weekend. Nancy Bombadieri has worked hard to ensure the success of these courses and we are grateful for her efforts.

In 2001 over 30 new graduates, mostly from Murdoch, began their professional life in SA. Bee Li Tan assumed responsibility for ensuring that they were welcomed and given appropriate support and orientation. In March, the Committee held a welcoming dinner for them, sponsored by AVA National. Following on from the success of the scheme established in 2000, each graduate was allocated a mentor to provide confidential advice, guidance and encouragement when needed. A face-to-face dinner meeting of new graduates and their mentors was held in May, generously sponsored by Bayer and Lyppard. This program has been well received in South Australia and the Division is appreciative for the support it has received in promoting it.

The Division reintroduced Vets 'n Pets in October this year and despite bad weather that adversely affected attendance, the day was highly successful. This was due almost entirely to the efforts of Dianne Treharne, who worked for months to secure sponsorships and harmonise planning. Dianne was assisted by Barbara Gill.

The day featured a Pet Trail with prizes, displays by veterinary practices and suppliers of pet products and services, breed displays, pony rides, demonstrations by trained dogs and a display of unusual cat breeds.

A feature was the annual blessing of the pets by the Catholic Bishop of Adelaide. There was a well manned AVA tent at which the profession was promoted and free "Vet Checks" and weight checks were available at the end of a long queue; IDEXX-VPS generously provided more than 100 free heartworm tests. Many thanks to all veterinarians who volunteered their time to ensure the success of this day. The SA Division is grateful to AVA National who provided substantial support through Comfund and to the other major sponsors, Merial and the City of Onkaparinga Council.

Our Functions Secretary, Bee Li Tan, has organised some excellent sponsored social events for us this year. There was a crowded and warming pub night in North Adelaide, a cooling and windy beachside sausage sizzle and a formal wine tasting presentation in the Southern Vales. Approximately 100 AVA members, partners and special guests attended the SA President's Cocktail Party in December during which a Life Membership certificate was presented to Dr Loma Nash by the AVA National President, Dr Robert Baker.

Several Committee or Divisional members represented the AVA on public and institutional bodies during 2001, including the 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 served as our Public Relations representative for dealings with the public and the media.

A small local organising committee has been active throughout the year supporting Doreen Culliver in her preparations for the AVA National Conference in Adelaide, May 2002. Time alone will tell, but at the end of 2001 we are optimistic that all is in order for a highly successful conference.

We congratulate Dr Ian McBryde on his National Meritorious Service Award in 2001. He continues to make significant contributions to the veterinary profession and to society on behalf of the profession. At the Divisional AGM, Drs Anthony and Julia Lucas were recommended for a joint award of the SA Division Meritorious Service Award (in conjunction with Merial) in recognition of their hard work and achievements for the SA Division. Julia had been particularly active with CVE and with new graduate initiatives such as the mentor program; Anthony had revitalised sponsorship and had been responsible for production of the Bulletin. Both had worked hard in surveying members to determine interests and needs and in organising social activities.

The Division has been saddened by the loss of three prominent members this year: Dr Mike Shallow a leading veterinary livestock consultant and President-elect of the Australian Sheep Veterinary Society; Dr John Geschmay, practitioner for many years in Adelaide and Divisional President in 1973; and Dr Dot Willson, who together with her husband was a pioneer rural practitioner in South Australia. These colleagues were widely respected in our community and will be sorely missed.

Thanks to all of the committee members who have contributed to the management of the Division throughout the year and to our sponsors, especially the major ones, as follows: Gold – Merial; Silver – CSL, Provet; Bronze – Jurox, Bayer, Lyppard. This support and investment in the Division has played an important role in ensuring a successful year for us.

**Contacts** – Email: [avasa@ava.com.au](mailto:avasa@ava.com.au), Tel: 08 8344 6337 and Fax: 08 8344 9227.

## AVA Divisions - Tasmania

### Tasmanian Division

There have been very few contentious issues for the division to deal with this year and once again our main emphasis has been on continuing education.

We have had three meetings this year. Our Divisional AGM was held at Strahan on the West Coast. Our speaker was Dr. Barry Munday, a former Department of Agriculture veterinary pathologist at Mt Pleasant Laboratories and now at University of Tasmania. Barry spoke on environmental toxicology problems. The social side was a Gordon River Cruise.

Our mid-year meeting was held in Launceston and was, unfortunately, poorly attended, but those who came listened to Dr David Taylor's description of Welsh sheep on Welsh mountains in a Welsh winter and FMD. David was hoping to gain some information from a pathologist's point of view. Maybe he did and now realises how difficult it can be to obtain good clean samples. Dr Les Gabor also spoke to us on feline lymphoid diseases and the results of his PhD research. We are lucky to have someone of Les's calibre working with us in Tasmania. Those who didn't attend missed a very informative study.

Grindewald Resort was the home of our major meeting for the year. Once again this was held as a three-way weekend between Vets, Nurses and Trade. There were 25 veterinarians, 33 nurses and 20 trade representatives. The Division thanks our friends in the trade for their continued and generous support. Our speakers this year were Dr Mark Stallwood, on practice management, and Dr Chris Preston, orthopaedics. Both were part sponsored by Pfizer Australia. Dr Dick Sutton was asked to speak on cowside pathology, this became haematology and we all gained enormously from Dick's clear and concise information. We would like to have all these speakers back again.

Dr George Downing spoke of his experiences of FMD, in the first wave of the UK outbreak. The UK outbreak meant that three Tasmanian veterinarians and one local stock inspector gained first hand experience of FMD. It was good to examine all the logistical problems that most of us would never consider. We were also reminded that FMD is not the only exotic disease.

The nurses programme, which they organised for themselves, centred on surgical nursing from Dr Sarah Goldsmid, assisted by members of the trade. It was a very successful weekend, however it will only be of any use if practices start to utilise these learned skills. The social side of our annual dinner was most enjoyable, a raffle was held for benefit of the AVA Benevolent fund and this was well supported. On the Sunday, our Life Members were invited to lunch. This is a new concept for us and hopefully more people will be able to attend in future years.

The assessment of nurses and providers is being examined at committee level to establish some guidelines to ensure that the levels of training are transferable between practices.

Our next meeting, the AGM, will be held at Port Arthur on March 2, 2002.

As with most Divisions, we have been asked to establish a working relationship with the State authorities regarding fees, certification and availability to assist in government work.

Members have suggested that we must include in any fee schedule allowance for possible increases in professional indemnity insurance fees. There also must be much better communication between Government policy makers and the AVA, representing the profession.

As usual, members are having problems attracting associates into Tasmanian practices. We know we are not alone in this and share it with all non-capital city areas.

**Contacts** – Email: [avatassec@ava.com.au](mailto:avatassec@ava.com.au), Tel: 03 6239 6823 and Fax: 03 6239 6824.

## ACT Division

The Division Committee has been fortunate this year to include amongst its membership not only senior, experienced and well known faces but also several enthusiastic and innovative members from the more idealistic side of midlife.

The scientific meeting programme has continued with energy and creativity. The tragic FMD outbreak in Europe was the focus of one local meeting with the presentation of first hand experience from some of our veterinarians who went to the UK to assist in the response. Other topics included BSE, another disease with acutely significant trade implications, where David Adams gave an illuminating technical exposé.

A presentation by the ACT Singers of Gilbert and Sullivan's, "Trial by Jury", was the focus of a fund raising evening with proceeds to SPANA, the Society for Protection of Animals Abroad. Several other such creative events are in the planning stages.

Relations with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of the ACT have been healthy and productive. Our main focus during this year was to promote the notion of AVA membership of the Australian Veterinary Boards Council, a matter on which a decision has not been made at the time of writing.

The ACT RSPCA decided this year to employ a veterinarian full-time at its premises. The Division is now in a transition from the previous situation where, over a period of some 15 years, it provided veterinary services free to the animal refuge. A detailed memorandum of understanding has been agreed for the transition and for the future to ensure the maintenance of good relations. The Division once again provided veterinary advice and microchipping services for the annual "Million Paws Walk".

The Division has participated in microchipping days organised by the Domestic Animal Services section of the Department of Urban Services and RSPCA. Problems encountered in the first of these "Chipping days" were overcome through the development of a policy document that forms the basis on which the Division will participate in future microchipping days.

In mid-year, the Division was alarmed at a proposal by a local parliamentary candidate to introduce legislation aimed at banning allegedly dangerous breeds of dogs. The Division appears to have had a good deal of success at a political level in suppressing the notion of such legislation. A series of well designed letters to politicians, a letter to the newspaper editor and an open seminar with expert speakers and a broad target audience, appears to have assisted in gaining support for a more balanced approach to dangerous dogs.

The Division has participated in several other legislative matters in which the profession has a key interest. Through a process of close liaison with the Department of Urban Services, it developed a memorandum of understanding on the disposal of veterinary waste.

The result was clearly of benefit to both veterinarians and the government. This MOU clarified and simplified the procedures that practitioners must follow in the disposal of waste.

The Division also provided input into the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Domestic Poultry - 4th Edition, the draft ACT Code of Practice for the Care of Orphaned, Sick or Injured Native Animals, and the draft ACT Code of Practice for the Trapping of Domestic Animals. Finally, it contributed information about the effect of fireworks on domestic animals, for the purposes of a wider study by ACT Workcover on the effects of fireworks generally.

As in previous years, the Division sent a representative to attend the Urban Animal Management Conference in Melbourne in August.

New legislation governing pet ownership was introduced in the ACT in June 2001. *The Domestic Animals Act 2000* replaced earlier legislation and provided for compulsory desexing of dogs and cats unless a permit is obtained. Registration of cats is not a feature of the new legislation although cats do have to be compulsorily identified. The Department of Urban Services has produced informative literature for the public explaining the new legislation.

Again this year, the Division has given attention to several opportunities where it can raise the public profile of the profession. It manned a stand at the annual Pet Expo in November. In addition, it has continued to support the Saturday "Pet Vet" radio talk-back programme which has a considerable local following.

It has also continued the operation of its ethics committee, which aims to be the first port of call in the case of disputes that cannot be resolved at individual practice level.

There are several support services in the ACT that, although not used much, do exist and play a potentially important role. The Division has continued to participate in the Doctors' Health Advisory Service, it has continued its mentor scheme for new graduates with a new team of mentors and it has continued to endorse the New Graduate Friendly Practice Scheme.

Amid all this positive news, the Division is saddened by the loss of several members/previous members this year, namely Graham O'Connor, Terry Nicholls (who had been very active in certain Divisional affairs), Bruce Roberts and Frank Bulley.

Finally, the Division acknowledges the excellent administrative support it gets through its contractual arrangements for part-time services from National Office.

**Contacts** – Email: [avacos@ava.com.au](mailto:avacos@ava.com.au), Tel: 02 6273 8855 and Fax: 02 6273 8899.

## AVA Divisions - Northern Territory

### Northern Territory Division

The 2001 NT Division AGM was held at the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory. We were lucky to have Ian Denney, AVA National President, attend and give an address on several important priorities of the AVA.

Seminar guest speakers were from the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. They gave a number of very informative presentations:

- John Humphrey – Diseases of Aquatic Animals in the NT
- Lorna Melville – Orbivirus Diseases in Horses in the NT
- Jocelyn Coventry – Cow Performance
- Helen Parkes – Canine Leptospirosis
- Jill Millan (in Dennis Thomson's absence) – Interesting Accounts of the Sydney Olympic Horses

The AGM and Seminars were followed by a meal and informal get together.

In August, the Division enjoyed a sunset cruise - complete with dinner and speaker. Eileen Doyle gave a talk entitled: 'Life Experiences with Animals'. Eileen, along with husband Bill, owned Camp Creek Station at Adelaide River for 15 years and Theyona Station at Douglas Daly for 13 years.

The NT Division sponsored an Alice Springs Seminar in July, which was presented by Veterinary Ophthalmologist Dr Tony Read on the topic of "The Swollen Eye".

We instructed our representative on the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) to express our view of tail docking in dogs for non-therapeutic reasons. As a result the AWAC has advised the Minister to amend the legislation to outlaw this practice. A change in Government has since occurred and the NT Division is now lobbying the new Minister.

The NT Division nominated Dr Debbie Osborne, former NT Division Policy Councillor, President and Secretary/ Treasurer from Alice Springs, for an AVA Meritorious Service Award. Debbie was presented with her award at the AVA National meeting in Melbourne in May.

**Contacts** – Email: karen.richardson@nt.gov.au, Tel: 08 8999 2133 and Fax: 08 8999 2043.



## AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AACV (Cattle)/ AAHV (Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians)

The AACV's subcommittees have provided quick responses from our best qualified members on many issues.

### Australian Association of Cattle Veterinarians (AACV)

The AACV has had a busy and productive year again and there have been numerous activities taking place throughout the country and development of policies on tail-docking and calving induction. A meeting was also held with the United Dairy Farmers of Victoria to establish dialogue on these issues with the aim of advancing the same messages. It is envisaged that this will be the start of ongoing regular meetings with the UDV on other animal welfare issues.

We were approached by the Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA) to help them draw together a common approach to feedlot diseases during the first 40 days on feed. A group of veterinarians servicing feedlots plus ALFA representatives met in Coffs Harbour in late February to collate information on feedlot diseases, which is out there, but not being co-ordinated. Out of this meeting material was put together to present to meetings of feedlot operators and personnel in Moama, Moree and Toowoomba. It is pleasing that ALFA sought our help and again it is hoped that this can be the start of an ongoing relationship with another cattle producer organisation. AACV would like in particular to congratulate Bob Rheinberger, Kev Sullivan, Paul Cusack, Nigel Nichols and Matt George for all the work put into these successful meetings.

Alison Gunn has provided us with information and allowed us to provide feedback on activities being carried out by Countdown Downunder. Dennis Thomson has led the way for us with proposals to help reform aspects of the live cattle trade. Steve Jagoe has provided excellent responses to assorted therapeutics issues during the year. We have decided to award an annual AACV Rural Practice Scholarship for young graduates to the value of \$5,000. The scholarship sub-committee drew up appropriate guidelines and these have appeared in the ACV. We received nine good quality applications - these have made very difficult the task of the selection committee. We will be awarding the first scholarship at our dinner during the next AVA National Conference. It is proposed that this will become an annual award.

Throughout the year there have been many issues requiring our input and opinion. The sub-committee structure has worked well and enabled us to provide quick responses from those of our members best qualified to make comments. AACV would like to thank those sub-committee convenors Ben Gardner (Bull Committee), Steven Jagoe (Therapeutics), Diane Ryan (Animal Welfare), Kev Sullivan (Feedlot) and Hugh White (John's Disease) and their sub-committee members for their help and support throughout the year. Ben and his bull committee have started work on revising our bull manual. This is a big task and is going to take some further time before completion, but they are doing a thorough job.

AACV ran another informative conference program at Melbourne with keynote speaker Dave Van Metre proving to be an entertaining and

The following SIGs did not lodge submissions for this report.

- AAPV (Pigs)
- AVAA (Acupuncture)
- AVPA (Poultry)
- AGVA (Greyhounds)
- AVIA (Informatics)

practical educator. The combined sheep and cattle veterinarians dinner was a memorable night with the added attraction of a surprise guest speaker, Dr Robert Mutton-Smythe, an environmentalist/comedian who demonstrated a unique knowledge of Australian agricultural systems and veterinary practitioners!

The catastrophic FMD outbreak in the UK has highlighted the need for re-evaluation of some government policies. An ideal opportunity is presented for us to lobby governments - and to encourage industry groups to do the same. AACV congratulates the AVA for being proactive in raising funds to send private practitioner volunteers to the UK to assist with FMD eradication. Experience gained there could be vital in the event of an outbreak here. The important next stage of this exercise will be the sharing of that experience with the rest of us.

University funding is another area of concern. In particular, the University of Queensland veterinary school is currently faced with staff cutbacks and closure of rural teaching facilities. With the introduction of further cost cutting measures in our veterinary schools we will soon reach a situation where we are not producing enough veterinarians to adequately service the needs of our industries - even without the burden of an exotic disease.

The AACV Dubbo Conference was held on November 15-17. The program had an exciting mix of therapeutics, practice management and health issues. The executive workshop was held the day before the conference.

Contact: [aacv@ava.com.au](mailto:aacv@ava.com.au)

### Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians (AAHV)

This SIG continues to have an active role in fostering the professional and structured treatment of animals with natural therapies in Australia. This work continued with yet another excellent overseas conference speaker, Dr Cheryl Schwartz, at the AVA's Annual Conference in Melbourne in May. The conference was a combined effort with the AVAA (SIG). Our conference sessions seemed to be able to combine a high standard of new and in depth material with fun!

Both SIGs are looking forward to a similarly inspiring and enjoyable speaker for the AVA's 2002 Adelaide Conference. He is Dr Steven Marsden from Canada.

This SIG has the first accreditation course in Veterinary Homoeopathy in Australia now up and running. The first of the five modules was held in the four days prior to the May 2001 conference. The second module was held in Brisbane in early November. Twenty-two veterinarians from Australia and New Zealand are taking the course, which consists

**AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs)/**  
**AAVCB (Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists)/**  
**AAVMA (Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association)**

of a total of five modules over three years. Each module is taught by two senior lecturers from the British Homoeopathic Physicians Teaching Group who come out from England specifically for each module. Many of the veterinarians taking this course already have previous post-graduate qualifications in homoeopathy but want to take this HPTG course as it will be the unifying standard for Australia and NZ, just as the IVAS course is now the acupuncture training standard.

An update of the guidelines for Complementary and Alternative Therapies (CAVM) is currently being discussed by Policy Council.

Most state branches of the AAHV have groups which meet regularly and in some cases coordinate lectures for veterinary students at the university teaching clinic in their capital city. New members are always welcome. The AAHV actively seeks to discuss any queries or issues concerning CAVM as they arise in the veterinary profession in order to effectively combine this important and rapidly growing area of veterinary medicine with existing conventional medicine and surgery.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

### **Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB)**

The Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB) is now entering its tenth year as a Special Interest Group of the AVA. Membership fluctuates around 200 in all categories. One of the major challenges for small SIGs is to generate worthwhile activities for members spread across a very large country. AAVCB does this by encouraging activities at State level, but this is not always as successful as it might be. Only in NSW is there a regular program of meetings, held every couple of months at Taronga Zoo. A possible solution is to make more use of the website as a mechanism for communication with members. This is being actively pursued. Much remains to be done – and this is always an issue for a small organisation with volunteer committee members.

This year, for the first time since its inception, AAVCB did not participate in the AVA's Annual Conference in Melbourne. Instead, AAVCB participated with three other groups in the conduct of a conference at Taronga Zoo in July - "Veterinary Conservation Biology – Wildlife Health and Management in Australasia". The other groups involved were the Australasian Section of the Wildlife Disease Association, the NZVA's Wildlife Society and the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians.

The conference ran over five days, with additional workshops on the prior Sunday. It was an extremely successful activity on all counts – over 200 people from six or more countries were registered. Many people said it was one of the best conferences that they had attended. The venue was a large part of this reaction – the Zoo and its ANZ Conservation Theatre providing first-rate facilities for such a gathering. Excellent proceedings were published in time for the conference. Copies can still be obtained from AVACOS.

AAVCB will take part in the AVA's Annual Conference in Adelaide in 2002, with a good three-day program in place.

The SIG appointed David McLelland as Student Liaison Officer in 2000. David is in Final Year Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney and he has done a good job of contacting student groups in each Veterinary School to encourage membership of the SIG and the AVA. David and another Sydney student, Anne Martin, have also organised an international veterinary students' conference in Sydney in January 2002, with a wildlife theme. AAVCB is supporting this conference.

One of the SIG's most significant activities is to contribute to the development or refinement of relevant AVA policies. Over the last year or so there has been an opportunity to do this for a number of policies affecting or concerning wildlife in Australia. For instance, a new policy on the euthanasia of marine mammals was discussed for the first time at the Policy Council meeting in October 2001 and was subsequently published in the *AVJ* for members' comments. Thanks are due to Rupert Woods for writing this policy. A further policy on the use of native animals as pets is proving to be more contentious and is still in a draft form.

It has been quite a good year for AAVCB, with the highlight being the international conference in Sydney in July. There is still a significant challenge in finding ways to make the group more relevant to many of its members.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

### **Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association (AAVMA)**

The aim of this special interest group is to provide a link to/from the AVA for Australian veterinarians interested in avian medicine and to provide a reserve of expertise and a lobby group on matters pertaining to avian medicine (excluding poultry but including companion, aviary and wild birds) for the AVA.

**AGM:** The AGM was held in Hobart on September 6 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Association of Avian Veterinarians - Australian Committee (AAV-AC). The 2002 AGM will be held at Currumbin Sanctuary, in conjunction with the AAV-AC annual conference on July 29 - August 3, 2002.

**Office bearers:**

President:	Dr S Gelis
President elect	Dr S Hume
Vice President	Dr D Black
Sec/Treasurer/Editor	Dr B Gartrell

**Other business:** The Office bearers would like to extend their thanks to Dr David Madill, founder and ex-newsletter editor for his work in creating this SIG.

**Membership contacts:**

Brett Gartrell  
School of Zoology  
GPO Box 252-5  
University of Tasmania  
Hobart Tasmania 7001  
Tel: 03 6231 6442  
Fax: 03 6226 2745  
Email: bgartrel@tassie.net.au (preferred contact method)

## **AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - ACVA (Camelids)/AETS (Embryo Transfer Society)/AEVA (Equine)**

### **ACVA (Camelids)**

The ACVA continues to play an active role in keeping veterinarians informed and skilled in this rapidly developing Australian primary industry.

Our main meeting for the year was our annual conference held in conjunction with the AVA Annual Conference in Melbourne. The keynote speaker was Dr Chris Cebra from Oregon State University, whose main topic was disorders of the digestive system. Local speakers such as Jenny Charles and Jane Vaughan also gave presentations.

In 2002 we plan a three-day stand-alone conference to be held in or near Canberra. Once again there will be a mix of international and local speakers.

The ACVA has been working with the alpaca industry and Departments of Agriculture this year in helping to reformulate the AlpacaMAP for Johne's Disease. We are also involved in ongoing discussions on the screening of imported alpacas, an issue vital to the successful development of a viable alpaca fibre industry in this country.

Our group produces a newsletter to keep members up to date and informed on matters of interest and issues that are topical both in Australia and overseas. New members are always welcome.

To join the ACVA and receive the newsletter, contact:

Honorary Secretary  
Dr Jane Vaughan  
PO Box 406,  
Ocean Grove, Victoria 3226.  
Email: [vaughan@ava.com.au](mailto:vaughan@ava.com.au)

### **Australian Embryo Transfer Society (AETS)**

AETS held its first stand alone conference in Ballarat in August. Attendance was beyond our wildest dreams! It was wonderful to see so many of the key industry people in attendance and having a "blinder", to quote one member.

An AETS accreditation examination was held on the Wednesday afternoon, followed by a meal and an entertaining address by New Zealand equine expert, Dr Patrick Casey, who spoke on "Sperm around the World" - among other things!

Thursday saw the official program begin with two sessions on equine work before the group headed off to Camperdown for lunch and a visit to Total Reproduction's facility. The group attended the sound and light show in Ballarat that evening.

Friday's program was held at Genetics Australia's facility at Bacchus Marsh. Key note speaker, Dr Alan Trounson, from Monash, addressed the group on cloning from Stem Cell Technology. Participants enjoyed a mix of formal lectures, workshops, a tour of the facility and meeting the cloned calves Suzy and Mayze. At

conclusion of the day's program, the group attended a wine tasting and meal at St Anne's winery en route to Ballarat.

Saturday's program was held in-house at the Ballarat Lodge with addresses by leading authorities in a number of species followed by the official conference dinner that evening at which Angus McKinnon entertained the crowd with his tales of camel ET work.

All in all, this was a very successful program. Plans are underway for a similar conference in the Barossa Valley next year. The theme will be determined by the bleeding edge of technology in 2002!

**Contact:** C/- [aacv@ava.com.au](mailto:aacv@ava.com.au)

### **Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA)**

The AEVA held another successful Bain-Fallon Memorial Lectures conference at the Capricorn Resort in Yeppoon, Queensland, with 150 delegates attending and the support of 30 trade stands.

In July, Christine Johnson took over the reins as President from Derek Major. A new client brochure on Equine Dentistry was distributed to members.

The AEVA webpage ([www.aeva.ava.com.au](http://www.aeva.ava.com.au)) has taken shape. It is planned for the webpage to be redesigned to a more eye-catching layout, highlighting new items and directing members to the restricted section. It is proposed that this page will grow to become a main source of up-to-the-minute information for members.

The Australian Equine Veterinarian continues to be well supported by sponsors and the association is pleased to report that more clinical papers have been presented for publication.

The executive of the association continue to meet and correspond with race club officials, the Keeper of the Stud Book, insurance brokers, government officials and veterinary surgeons boards. The AEVA has increased its profile through input into areas of racing administration, welfare, quarantine and therapeutics. A recent high profile wild horse culling exercise in northern NSW saw AEVA play a prominent role in subsequent meetings, discussions and policy development.

The year started and finished with the Australian Harness Racing Council's TCO2 Review in response to a mandate from last year's Annual General Meeting. Considerable improvement has occurred in response to this AEVA initiative.

The European foot and mouth epidemic has caused untold loss and hardship. Horses inevitably became caught in the political cross fire although they do not contract or harbour the disease and we have previously accepted importations from FMD endemic areas. The Executive took a strong stand, through the AVA, to avoid unnecessary restrictions on horse importations.

## AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AEVA (Equine)/ARVS (Association of Registered Veterinary Specialists)/ASAVA (Small Animal)

As the AVA matures into its new Board structure it is clear that a new relationship with its special interest groups or "subsidiaries" is required. The Executive has actively pursued greater cooperation with the AVA infrastructure to derive the maximum benefit to AEVA members. AVA has displayed a willingness to provide a business support role for the SIGs. At the same time we need to maintain our individuality as equine veterinarians, whether from private practice, industry, government or academia.

The area of quality control in pre-purchase examinations has been on the AEVA agenda for some time and the issue has been significantly advanced in the last year in collaboration with the University of Sydney Post-Graduate Committee by holding a series of continuing education seminars around Australia. With the development of a new report form and guidelines it is hoped that an increase in the standard of this important service will be achieved. It appears also that the subject of radiographic evaluation of yearlings at sales will receive some prominence in the near future, as might, drug "swabbing".

Many veterinarians, as well as horse sports participants, are becoming increasingly baffled and uncertain over matters of drug detection and withholding times. This Executive has resolved that the matter has reached a critical point and is negotiating actively with racing controlling bodies and analytical laboratories for a more workable process. Associated with this is an initiative to develop a standardised AEVA endorsed protocol for collection and testing of pre-purchase drug tests.

**Contact:** aeva@ava.com.au

### Association of Registered Veterinary Specialists (ARVS)

The ARVS continues to be active as a Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association. The Annual General Meeting was held on July 6 at the Surfers Paradise International Hotel.

The President is Dr Colin Dunlop, the Vice President is Dr Roger Clarke, the President-elect is Dr Tony Read, the Secretary is Dr Rod Straw and the Treasurer is Dr Stephen Emms.

This year's activities include finalising the Referral Handbook, our website and guidelines on standards for Australian specialist practices.

The ARVS has made a commitment to continuing education and will participate in the upcoming Adelaide Australian Veterinary Association Conference with a seminar series on the topic of oncology, coordinated by Dr Rod Straw.

**Contact:** C/- recept@ava.com.au

### Association of Small Animal Veterinarians of Australia (ASAVA)

The Executive Committee and Executive Officer continue to work hard to meet the needs of all members of the ASAVA.

#### Conferences

At the AVA National Conference in May, in Melbourne, the ASAVA presented a program entitled: "The First 12 Months". It featured a plethora of Melbourne specialists who covered all aspects of puppy and kitten development, disorders and management.

The ASAVA's conference was held in Canberra in October. The theme was the medicine and surgery of the cardiovascular system and the speakers were William (Bill) Thomas from the University of California, Davis, USA; Geraldine Hunt from the University of Sydney; and Brad Gavaghan, a cardiology specialist from Queensland.

As always, ASAVA members will receive copies of both conference proceedings free of charge – two "textbooks" – as a member benefit. The committee seeks input from members about conference themes and locations.

#### Journals

The *Australian Veterinary Practitioner*, regarded by many as a cornerstone of the ASAVA, continues to be a very popular member benefit. This journal continues to produce clinically relevant, accessible information to our members and subscribers. The SIG thanks and congratulates Rick Atwell for his stalwart approach to maintaining the quality of the AVP.

#### Membership Promotion

During 2001, ASAVA membership subscriptions were collected by the AVA for the first time. This resulted in a number of AVA members joining the ASAVA. Following on from this the executive launched a membership promotion campaign with a direct mailing to AVA members. Again, this resulted in a considerable number of new members. The committee intends to continue marketing promotions of this nature to increase ASAVA membership and to make veterinarians aware of the benefits of joining the ASAVA.

#### ACAHF

The ASAVA continues to support and promote the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation, which is steadily growing and was able to assist funding at a slightly higher level than previous years. The continued enthusiasm and involvement of trustees ensures that the ACAHF continues to grow and fund clinically based studies that benefit all companion animals.

#### Policy Issues

ASAVA continues to assist in the formulation and review of many draft policies for the AVA.

## AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - ASAVA (Small Animal)/ ASVS (Sheep)

### New Graduate Support

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

### Undergraduate Support

In an effort to assist the rather difficult period of transition to practice that our young veterinarians undergo, the ASAVA has decided to financially, and in some instances organisationally, support transition to practice programs at the four Australian veterinary schools.

### Sponsorship

The Provet Group once again sponsored the scientific program at our Canberra conference. The Macquarie Bank approached the committee with a sponsorship arrangement to support activities for the next 18 months. We acknowledge the benefits that this type of support brings to the ASAVA and its members.

### Other Activities

The ASAVA maintains an active involvement in:

- Veterinary nursing
- Urban animal management
- Animal welfare issues
- The accredited hospital scheme
- Continuing policy revision
- JETACAR and therapeutics committee issues

### Sale of the ASAVA Office at Norton Street, Surry Hills

Early in 2001, the ASAVA office at Norton Street, Surry Hills, NSW, was sold. Bought in 1991 for \$200,000 - the property was sold at auction for \$451,000. The ASAVA Committee has invested the proceeds through the AVA and will be investigating the most advantageous methods of providing extra member benefits and promotion of the profession.

### Committee

ASAVA would like to thank the committee for their ongoing enthusiasm and tireless work to ensure we meet the objectives of this Special Interest Group. In particular, we thank our Executive Officer, Jenny Wade, for her patience and dedication.

**Contact:** [asava@ava.com.au](mailto:asava@ava.com.au)

### Australian Sheep Veterinarians Society (ASVS)

The ASVS was saddened by the sudden death in September of our President-Elect, Dr. Michael Shallow. This came as a great shock to all those who knew Mike. We will miss his knowledge and expertise in the sheep industry and his contribution to the ASVS. His experience and expertise was recognised through the many tributes from colleagues in the sheep industry who had utilised his services over many years.

The Executive was due to move to South Australia in 2002. However, arrangements have been made for Paul Nilon from Tasmania to take on the role of President-elect and to share the Executive responsibilities with South Australia.

The Annual Conference continues to be the centrepiece of the year and again we had a very successful meeting in Melbourne. One of the highlights was the session on ovine Johne's disease where industry was invited. The information provided included the latest information on developments with OJD and the feedback from the industry leaders that were present was excellent. They appreciated the opportunity to be able to obtain the latest technical information in an easily understood manner, without the complications of politics. It is hoped that this will be repeated in Adelaide in 2002.

The foot and mouth disease outbreak in the UK provided an excellent opportunity for first hand experience in handling an exotic disease. Many of our members took advantage of the AVA initiative in providing support to allow as many veterinarians as possible to gain first hand experience in an actual outbreak.

The UK experience with FMD also highlighted the major problem facing rural industries in Australia - the difficulty in attracting veterinarians to rural areas.

The problems of one-person practices in small country towns needs to be addressed if we are to maintain adequate veterinary resources to the livestock industries and provide an effective surveillance program, especially in the more extensive areas. It is to be hoped that the recent pre-election promises will be considered as core promises and followed through.

Ovine Johne's disease continues to dominate the political scene in the sheep industry. The surveillance program has supported the initial decisions with regard to zoning. It is now up to the sheep industries in the various states to decide whether they want to progress their zoning to a higher status. Whilst there has been some criticism of zoning, it has assisted in controlling the spread of the disease. The findings from our excellent research groups are providing a way forward in handling the disease and we need to continue with a positive outlook on the control of the disease.

John Plant's term as President of ASVS will soon end and he has thanked the members of the ASVS Executive for their support and assistance over the last two years. He also paid tribute to John Seaman, who handled the OJD issue and who filled-in while John Plant was indisposed for a period.

ASVS would not be able to survive without the direction, guidance and support of our office in Brisbane. We thank Anne Cover for her continuing support and assistance to us and hope that this will continue for some time.

**Contact:** C/- [recept@ava.com.au](mailto:recept@ava.com.au)

## **AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AVDS (Australian Veterinary Dental Society)/ AVERT (Ethics, Research & Teaching)**

### **Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS)**

The AVDS presented four days of lectures and a full day's workshop at the AVA's Annual Conference held in Melbourne in May.

The topics varied from basic to advanced to exotic and were well received. Dr Tony Caiafa arranged for the wet lab to be held at the Melbourne Dentistry school in Parkville and we thank the school for their co-operation and assistance.

A number of our members attended and presented papers at the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' week at the Gold Coast International Hotel in July. Drs Steve Coles and Rod Salter were examiners for two membership candidates in Veterinary Dentistry; Drs Andrew Easton (Kuranda Qld) and Lian Yeap (Perth WA) were this year's two successful candidates. We congratulate them on this achievement. We now have 14 members and two registered specialists in veterinary dentistry. Dr David Clarke joined Dr Steve Coles as a diplomate in the American Veterinary Dental College this year.

Pet Dental Health Week was run again this year. It is scheduled in 2002 for the last week in the month of August. Dr Tony Caiafa, the convener and 'chief organiser' pulled it together under the theme of dental trauma. Tony, Gary Wilson and Wayne Fitzgerald prepared a feature article for publication under this theme.

Drs Warren Foreman (SA) and Gary Wilson (Qld) are working on the program for the next dental program featured in conjunction with the AVA Annual Conference in South Australia in 2002.

**Contact:** C/- [recept@ava.com.au](mailto:recept@ava.com.au)

### **AVERT (Ethics, Research & Teaching)**

One of the smallest SIGs in the AVA, AVERT has at last begun to fulfil the promise foreseen by those who helped it form. Steady growth occurred over the past two years, especially in the past 12 months when numbers have doubled. In the last Annual Report, the evolution of this group was discussed. This process has continued and a proposal to re-consider a change of name for the group was canvassed at this year's Annual General Meeting. The concept is to try to reflect the nature of the interests of the people who are, and who would be, interested in becoming members. At this stage though, the members decided to leave things as they are.

What is pleasing about the membership is the interest from many sectors of the veterinary community in the aims and objectives of this group. Because of the extensive expertise in animal welfare and ethical matters within the non-veterinary sectors of the community, there has been an increasing interest in the activities of AVERT from many non-veterinarians as well. As foreshadowed in the last report, the interest in membership from colleagues across the Tasman is

growing as well – the numbers of people active in this area being too small in New Zealand to form their own group. They are looking to us for support and continuing education.

In the past few years, one of the chief aims of the Executive has been to establish linkages with many people and groups with common interests. As a result of the success of this process, the AVA Annual Conference in Melbourne ran a jointly sponsored program with ANZCCART to examine the question of animal pain and its control. In our opinion the program was a huge success with numbers of people attending sessions beyond our expectations. Dr Karol Mathews, from the University of Guelph in Canada, a renowned expert in this field, provided the principal focus for the papers with Dr Christina Dart from Sydney University Veterinary School. The Proceedings of the sessions will soon be available and should provide a most up-to-date reference for all sectors of the veterinary profession from practitioners in small and large animal practice to veterinarians involved in advising researchers in the care of their various research animals.

The linkages mentioned above have also included planning with other SIGs for joint programs at future conferences. It is intended to have speakers from each relevant group presenting their views on matters of mutual interest. There has been a significant increase in concern about the welfare of animals across all SIGs and AVERT members have been invited to provide input into the development of the policies of other SIGs and their submissions to Policy Council, over the past year. In 2001, the Australian College of Veterinary Science inducted its first members in the Chapter of Animal Welfare, Ethics, Policy and Law (Animal Welfare). A number of the new College Chapter are members of AVERT. We congratulate them and look forward to future chances to examine issues together and to lead the development of policy in animal welfare matters as well as providing advice on this broad topic as needed.

The program for the Annual Conference for 2002 in Adelaide is developing well. The theme revolves around ethical issues and it is hoped that several sessions might include cooperation with other SIGs in looking at matters and situations where animal welfare and ethical decisions are routinely made. One concept is to try to develop for those attending mechanisms for making ethical decisions by looking at difficult situations and working through a number of potential mechanisms for selecting the most ethical course, while optimising the welfare of our animal patients. As an example, it is intended to examine the welfare and ethical issues surrounding purposeful killing of animals. The topic will cover aspects such as euthanasia through to keeping animals alive at the request of the owner when real welfare issues exist, from the killing of animals for food through to the killing of animals in research situations. The program will include some sessions based on the format of the television program, "Hypotheticals", where a facilitator will work through many issues with a selected panel after which the audience will discuss the issues raised and try to determine a 'correct' response – and whether there is one.

## AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AVERT (Ethics, Research & Teaching) / AVHS (History) / AVI (Industry)

Animal welfare and the ethics of animal use are issues of public interest in our society and the members of AVERT, as veterinarians with special knowledge and expertise in this area, hope to contribute to discussions at all levels from general community concern, political decisions, industry or commercial interests, veterinary professional responses and animal welfare group activities. This is a unique bipartisan role for our profession.

AVERT would like to once again thank the two people without whom this SIG would fail to function with any efficiency – Mary Bate our Secretary and Editor, and Susan Maastricht, Treasurer and Membership person. They have invested a large amount of their time, energy and expertise into seeing AVERT develop as a viable and active group.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

### Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS)

This small (102 members) SIG held a successful meeting at the AVA National Conference in Melbourne in May. Six members presented papers, which have been abstracted in the *Australian Veterinary History Record*, No 31, July 2001; some have been submitted by their authors for publication elsewhere. Members who attended the meeting enjoyed a convivial dinner and a field trip to the Historical Museum at Bundoora Park to visit the site where the index case of contagious pleuropneumonia occurred. At the invitation of Professor Ivan Caple, Dean of the Melbourne Veterinary School, members attended the opening of the Parkville branch of the Veterinary Science Library named in honour of James Anderson Gilruth, first Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society, which was held during the Melbourne Conference, elected a new executive after sterling service to members by the retiring President, Keith Baker, Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Bunn, and the Editor of the *Record*, Peter Mylrea, who was foundation Secretary and Editor of the *Record*. The meeting elected their successors: Trevor Faragher (President), John Auty (Secretary/Treasurer), Ian Parsonson (Editor), Richard Roe (Librarian) and Patricia Macwhirter, Paul Canfield and John Fisher (committee members).

We continue current projects. An essay contest for Australian veterinary students on some aspect of Australian veterinary history – this year in parasitology – was organised by the Society. Novartis Animal Health has sponsored this contest with first prize of \$500 and a similar sum as expenses for the winning student to present their paper to the AVA Annual Conference in Adelaide in 2002.

Our initiative to have the veterinary profession suitably acknowledged in the Longreach Hall of Fame has, at long last, started to bear fruit. AVA Board has asked Bryan Woolcock to liaise with the Hall of Fame where an exhibit illustrating the contribution of the veterinary profession to the development of the livestock industries in Australia will be mounted.

Sixteen Australian veterinarians who are considered to have contributed most to the advancement of veterinary science in Australia have been selected. Their biographies will be prepared and submitted for inclusion in the forthcoming *International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography*.

The AVHS will welcome all veterinarians to its meeting in Adelaide in May 2002.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

### Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI)

The membership of AVI is strong in terms of numbers and participation. Meetings of AVI committee are held approximately every two months and attendance has been excellent.

The year culminated in the AVA conference in Melbourne at which AVI presented a program in its own right - as well as in combination with other SIGS (ASAVA and AVPH). The AVI Annual Dinner, organised by Sally Oswin, was a good night for all of the 30 guests - to the extent that it was difficult to raise a quorum at the Annual General Meeting breakfast the next day.

AVI gives thanks to the outgoing committee for its meritorious efforts on behalf of AVI throughout the year and congratulates the incoming committee members on their election.

The committee for 2001-2 comprises Bob Pigott, John Gilham, Neil Cooper, Susan Davidson, Ruth Davis, Maurice Webster and Ian Urquhart. As with most conferences, much of the interesting discussion took place outside the formal venues.

Most of the year has been involved in the planning and implementation of our program for the 2002 AVA National Conference. This year we have combined sessions with the cattle and pig groups as well as a session on antibiotic resistance. The combined sessions are anticipated to be on new technologies in the treatment and processing of animal bio-solids and so have an environmental flair.

AVI continues to be a tightly knit group and offers its members a forum for discussion of new topics in an environment a little more intimate than the broader spectrum of the AVA itself. AVI has one of the highest membership rates (pro-rata) of any SIG but it is always great to welcome new members.

It would also be great to see as many members of AVI as possible at the AVA Annual Conference 2002 in Adelaide - it will be a great week and a chance to travel with your partner.

AVI is in a sound financial position and membership is growing steadily. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge in AVI so join up and start networking.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

## AVA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AVPH (Public Health)/ AVPMA (Practice Managers)/ EVA (Employed)

### Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH)

This Special Interest Group continued its work on public health issues by running a program at this year's conference which dealt with the veterinary/medical interface in relation to diseases of bats and disease control methodologies in humans as compared to animal controls.

This followed a highly successful initial day, held in conjunction with members of the Epidemiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, dealing with zoning for disease control and disease surveillance.

We were disappointed not to be able to have John Wilesmith talking about BSE, but the session was very well attended anyway.

Our sessions finished off looking at antibiotic resistance, a key issue for veterinary surgeons that will continue to impact on every practice.

We are keen to continue to establish links with other SIGs in an attempt to run combined conference sessions that will be of broader interest to the profession.

As a widely separated group operating in a number of different areas, we are attempting to maintain more up to date contact by way of e-mail. This appears to be a useful addition to our communications.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

### Australian Veterinary Practice Managers Association (AVPMA)

The committee has been burning with activity this year.

There has been a back burn period since January when our executive office changed to that of Vetmark, with our Executive Officer, Mark Stallwood. It has not been without spot fires but the flames have been quenched. Three newsletters have been generated from this office.

In Melbourne, we put on our second conference fanned by the inexhaustible spirit of Jim Allen and Sue Halloran. Our original program was extinguished, as the speaker could not attend due to medical problems. At short notice, we were able to engage the services of Drs Steve Garner and Berney Pukay whose elegant, fiery and consuming presentations led to standing room only at many of the sessions.

So brilliant were they that Steve and Cheryl, his wife, returned in November to present their "Transformation for Success" concept to colleagues and lay staff in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane as one-day seminars, with a three-day residential workshop in the Blue Mountains (NSW). The latter was aimed at those who have already been inflamed by his approach and burned for a more in-depth presentation.

We have also negotiated Australian agency rights to their publications.

Our smouldering constitution, on which we had laboured for many hours in an attempt to encompass lay members, ignited a review of associate membership within the AVA and, in particular, within SIGs. Lindsay Hay, our President, chaired the committee finalising the details for the Pfizer sponsored "Practice of Excellence" award. Six inaugural awards were made.

We have been working on industrial relations and human resources issues with AVA National and EVA and these will be ongoing. Our group also assisted with presenting issues at AACV Dubbo Conference.

AVPMA is still finalising its five-day segment for the 2002 AVA National Conference in Adelaide in May 2002.

We anticipate that this SIG will be a beacon to the success of practice in these more challenging times.

**Contact:** C/- receipt@ava.com.au

### Employed Veterinarians Association (EVA)

The EVA has once again had a very active year in dealing with the ever-changing *Veterinary Surgeons Award 2000*.

Early in the year APESMA indicated to the EVA that they were planning to make considerable changes to the document without consultation with EVA, AVPMA or profession at large. This concerned the EVA executive greatly and we have spent much time trying to improve the APESMA-EVA relationship and keep the profession informed of proposed and actual changes.

The EVA has continued to provide telephone industrial relations advice to employed members of the association and handles on average three to four calls per week. In the future, provision of this service will be the responsibility of the AVA-IR/HR BDO service, which has the full support of the EVA. That service will provide a more comprehensive and speedy source of information for the entire profession.

The EVA, with the technical assistance of AVA National and the financial assistance of Comfund, has begun construction of a national publication to assist new and recent graduates. This manual will incorporate components of the many Division and SIG manuals that are currently produced to create a single national publication of high calibre. It is expected to be completed in time to benefit the graduates of 2002.

The EVA also continues its involvement in the Victorian Division executive, AVA Policy Council, the new IR council and liaises constantly with APESMA and AVPMA.

**Contact:** eva@ava.com.au

## AVA Benevolent Fund

### The Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund continues to play a quiet but vital role in the well being of the lives of the profession's less fortunate members.

The recent and belated political recognition of some of the issues that confront veterinarians on a daily basis - and the results of current university surveys addressing the issue of personal stress in the veterinary profession - have been important. These may go some way to providing confirmation to Trustees as to whether the AVA Benevolent Fund is providing the most appropriate support to colleagues in distress.

At the 25th Annual General Meeting, the four-year term of the Secretary/Trustee Dr. John Hayhoe concluded. He indicated a desire to be considered for re-appointment and the Trustees recommended this to the AVA Board. Trustee Dr. Lyndy Scott is the next to conclude a four-year tenure.

During the year, two interim reports on the activities of the fund were distributed to the Trustees and Divisional Representatives. At the suggestion of Trustee Dr. Ron Hyne, during the 25th AGM, several regional representatives were added to the existing Divisional structure in an attempt to make the Fund's presence more visible at the local level. Drs Ian Harradine, Roy Everett, and Kay Eccleshare accepted the role of local contacts for north east and north west NSW and North Queensland, respectively. Retired NSW representative, Dr. Bob Kibble, was replaced by Dr. Natalie Courtman.

During the NSW Auxiliary 2000 Christmas Luncheon hosted at Dr Kibble's home, both Bob and his wife Mathilde Kibble-Kearney were thanked for their efforts in assisting the AVA Benevolent Fund over the years.

There have been 14 contacts regarding possible assistance from the fund covering the period between the 25th and 26th Annual General Meetings of the fund, with four of these tragically involving purported suicides. In two contact cases, assistance was approved by the Trustees.

In all other contacts, thanks were proffered for the sympathetic consideration shown by the Fund. Watching briefs are maintained on the contacts for an appropriate period. A total of \$15,885.50 was distributed to twelve beneficiaries during the year, with donations amounting to \$12,185.80, of which \$4,843.50 was contributed by 231 members when renewing their AVA Membership.

The records of the fund are now heavily based on an electronic format, with appropriate disc storage. A draft information sheet for the fund was prepared during the year with the assistance of Dr. Scott Matthew. This was displayed at the AVA stand at the 2001 Annual Conference in Melbourne, where face to face meetings between the Secretary and Divisional Representatives from Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory occurred, as well as with Conference delegates. The Veterinary School Deans were also contacted as part of a continuing awareness programme by the Trustees.

The Trustees convey their thanks to the Divisional Representatives for their support over the year. The fact that there are caring people always available at the grass roots level adds that personal element during what can be a very sensitive and emotional period for colleagues in need of support. In addition, the efforts of the fund's less visible supporters such as donors, the general veterinary profession, the profession's office staff and the fund representatives' various partners are deeply appreciated.

**Randall Lemin,  
Secretary/Trustee,  
AVABF.**



## AVA - Staff

<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>DIVISIONS</b>	<b>SIGS</b>
Bruce Wynn Chief Executive Officer	Frank Doughty Executive Officer NSW	Anne Cover Executive Officer - AACV
Lyn Osman Executive Assistant	Frances Parkinson Administration Officer NSW	Jan Eagleton Executive Officer - AEVA
Lauretta Stace Finance and Administration Manager	Julie Giblin Administration Officer NSW	Jenny Wade Executive Officer - ASAVA
Liz Dawkins Finance Officer	Mary George Administration Officer QLD	
Cora Luong Accounts Officer	Matt Pope Office Assistant QLD	
Keira Sinclair Administration Assistant	Michelle Lee PetPep Education Officer NSW	
Debbie Dresner Membership Manager	Kate Perkins PetPEP Education Officer QLD	
Jaime Sihanikom Membership Officer	Carmen Brasher Administration Officer VIC	
Moana Robins Administration Assistant	Barbara Gill Administration Officer SA	
Dennis Ringrose Communications Manager	Michelle Marino Administration Officer WA	
Colin Wilks Scientific Editor - AVJ	Karen Richardson Administration Officer NT	
Maureen Revington Clinical Editor - AVJ		
Anna Gallo AVJ administration and desktop publishing		
Sarina Arcoleo AVJ Assistant		
Kevin Doyle National Veterinarian		
Bernie Robinson Assistant National Veterinarian		
Doreen Culliver Conference Manager		
Maria Walker Office Assistant		
Jeanette Scarr Office Assistant		
Vacant - to be advised National PetPep Coordinator		

### Report of the Directors

Your directors have pleasure in presenting the financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2001.

Director	Experience	Special Responsibilities
RM Baker, BVSc, MSc, MagSc, DipBusAdmin	Director AVA since 2000, President 2001-2002, President SA Division 1998, AVA Member since 1969	President, Director (Division issues, Association Management, Animal Welfare)
J Toia, BVSc, DipEd, B.Ed.Stud	Director AVA since 1998, President-Elect 2001-2002, President Qld Div. 1997, AVA Member since 1993	President Elect, Director (Education, Professional Standards, Community Programs, Strategic Plan)
IS Denney, BVSc Dip Ed (Tech)	Director AVA since 1997, President 2000-2001, President NSW Div. 1995-96, AVA Member since 1970	Vice President, Director (Member services, Government)
NL Blackman, BVSc, Dip Ed (Biotech) FAICD	Director AVA since 1999, Treasurer 2001-2002, President ACT Div. 1994, AVA Member since 1978	Treasurer, Director (Government, Therapeutics, Insurance, Sponsorship)
JL Sillince, BVSc, MACVS, MBA, MAICD	Director AVA since 1999, President NSW Div. 1994-95, AVA Member since 1983	Director (Membership promotion and benefits)
K Seksel, BVSc (Hon), MRCVS, MA (Hons), FACVSc, Dipl. ACVB	Director AVA since 1999, AVA Member since 1986	Director (Communications, Community Promotion, Animals)
RJ Rheinberger, BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AACV 1998, AVA Member since 1974	Director (Rural practice, Accreditation)
D Lovell, BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AEVA 1999-2000, AVA Member since 1987	Director (Practice Management, NFF, Awards)
D Sheehan, B.Sc, BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President ASAVA 2000-2002, AVA Member since 1984	President Qld Division 1994, Director (Professional Associations, Legislation)

### The AVA Vision

The vision of The Australian Veterinary Association is for a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession.

### The AVA Mission

To be the national organisation representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession in Australia and to act and speak with a single voice on matters of importance to the members.

## 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 2001, the Association recorded a surplus of \$287,468 compared with a surplus of \$201,394 for the previous year. The net assets of the Association at 31 December 2001 were \$6,358,094 compared with \$6,170,740 a year earlier.

### Review of Operations

The Company comprises 8 Divisions, 21 SIGs and 39 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 surpluses in some years (to be carried forward for future use) and losses in some years (representing the expenditure of past or future surpluses). The results in 2001 comprise a surplus for 45 constituent groups, break-even for 6 and losses for 18.

The SIGs recorded a surplus of \$129,841 the Divisions recorded a surplus of \$43,353 the Branches recorded a surplus of \$60,100, whilst the AVA National Group recorded a surplus of \$54,174 (see page 64 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 2001 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 2001.

### Potential Developments

The AVA Board has approved an operating budget for 2002 for the National Group which forecasts a surplus of \$5,000.

### Directors Benefits

Since 31 December 2000 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 12 (11), N.L. Blackman 12 (11), I.S. Denney 12 (12), D. Lovell 7 (7), R. Rheinberger 7(5), K. Seksel 12 (11), D.Sheehan 7 (7), J. Sillince 12 (10), and J. Toia 12 (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 15th day of March 2002 in accordance with a resolution of the directors.**



**N.L. Blackman**  
Director and Honorary Treasurer



**R.M. Baker**  
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 2001 as set out on pages 57-64. 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.

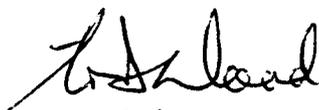
### Audit opinion

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

- a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2001 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,  
15 March 2002

### Directors' Declaration

The directors of the company declare that the financial report, as set out on pages 58-64:

- a) comply with accounting standards; and
- b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2001 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.L. Blackman**  
Director and Honorary Treasurer



**R.M. Baker**  
Director and President,  
Artarmon,  
15 March 2002

## Financials

### Statement of Financial Performance - For the year ended 31 December 2001

	Note	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>Operating surplus</b>			
National Group as detailed on page 64		54,174	3,791
Divisions			
New South Wales		10,419	6,236
Victoria		30,673	(6,856)
Queensland		(7,539)	12,973
South Australia		1,440	(1,040)
Western Australia		(4,416)	22,930
Tasmania		12,227	5,020
Northern Territory		(3,298)	(2,709)
Australian Capital Territory		3,847	3,880
Special Interest Groups			
AACV (Cattle)		32,331	66,171
AEVA (Equine)		25,552	(18,676)
ASAVA (Small Animals)		2,330	6,524
Other		69,628	66,931
Branches of Divisions		60,100	36,219
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	3	287,468	201,394
Retained surplus - 1 January 2001		3,348,606	3,119,301
Total available for appropriation		3,636,074	3,320,695
Amounts transferred from reserves	11	232,591	27,911
<b>Retained surplus - 31 December 2001</b>		<b>3,868,665</b>	<b>3,348,606</b>

The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

### Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2001

<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash	4	1,360,603	592,082
Receivables	5	333,057	381,523
Inventories	1(d)	39,002	32,669
Other	6	91,032	80,992
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>1,823,694</u>	<u>1,087,266</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Investments	7	1,428,595	1,487,436
Property and equipment	8	4,191,497	4,591,297
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>5,620,092</u>	<u>6,078,733</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>7,443,786</u>	<u>7,165,999</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and borrowings	9	929,946	856,300
Provisions	10	155,746	138,959
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>1,085,692</u>	<u>995,259</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>1,085,692</u>	<u>995,259</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>6,358,094</u>	<u>6,170,740</u>
Retained surplus		3,868,665	3,348,606
Reserves		2,489,429	2,822,134
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u>6,358,094</u>	<u>6,170,740</u>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Statement of Cash Flows** - For the year ended 31 December 2001

	2001 \$ Inflows/ (Outflows)	2000 \$ Inflows/ (Outflows)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from members' subscriptions	1,836,498	1,801,625
Receipts from AVA activities	4,028,665	3,353,070
	<u>5,865,163</u>	<u>5,154,695</u>
Less:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(5,450,708)	(5,013,941)
Plus:		414,455
140,754 Interest received	41,177	38,983
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<u>455,632</u>	<u>179,737</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payments for non-current assets - Investments	-	(859,944)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets - Investments	-	169,867
Payments for non-current assets - Property and equipment	(128,333)	(120,214)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets - Property and equipment	441,222	21,063
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>	<u>312,889</u>	<u>(789,228)</u>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash held</b>	768,521	(609,491)
<b>Cash at the beginning of the financial year</b>	592,082	1,201,573
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year (Note 4)</b>	<u>1,360,603</u>	<u>592,082</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net cash inflow from operating activities to operating profit for the year</b>		
<b>Operating surplus for the year (as detailed on page 58)</b>	287,468	201,394
<b>Adjustment for non-cash items</b>		
Depreciation	98,652	104,107
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	(227)	(8,310)
Net unrealised loss on investments	34,740	50,632
Investments - gifted	-	(51,700)
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in trade debtors	48,466	(178,586)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(6,333)	9,228
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	(10,041)	(44,962)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accruals	(1,975)	163,205
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	16,787	(54,189)
Increase/(decrease) in membership subscriptions in advance	(11,904)	(11,082)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<u>455,632</u>	<u>179,737</u>

# Financials

## Notes to the Financial Report - For the financial year ended 31 December 2001

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the relevant Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional requirements and the Corporations Act 2001. 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 2001.
- (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.

	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>2. Operating revenue</b>		
Subscriptions	1,836,498	1,801,625
Interest	41,177	38,983
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	227	6,024
Other revenue	3,979,972	3,525,632
	5,857,873	5,372,264
<b>3. Operating surplus</b>		
Operating surplus is arrived at after crediting and charging the following specific items:		
Credits		
Interest received / receivable - other persons and/or corporations	41,177	38,983
Profit on sale of fixed assets	227	6,024
Charges		
Depreciation of equipment	98,652	104,107
Provision for employee entitlements	16,786	(54,189)
Unrealised loss on Managed Funds and Listed Shares	34,740	50,632
<b>4. Current assets - cash</b>		
Cash at bank and on hand	558,305	289,974
Funds on deposit	802,298	302,108
	1,360,603	592,082
<b>5. Current assets - receivables</b>		
Trade receivables	193,424	165,096
Provision for doubtful debts	(3,000)	(3,000)
Commissions receivable	87,821	94,183
Other receivables	333,057	381,523

## Notes to the Financial Report - For the financial year ended 31 December 2001

	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>6. Current assets - prepayments</b>		
Prepayments	91,032	80,992
<b>7. Non-current assets - investments</b>		
Managed funds	1,400,995	1,435,736
Listed shares	27,600	51,700
	<u>1,428,595</u>	<u>1,487,436</u>
<b>8. Non-current assets - property and equipment</b>		
Land and buildings		
Freehold land		
At directors' valuation December 2001	2,180,000	-
At independent valuation December 2000	-	2,520,000
Buildings		
At directors' valuation December 2001	1,740,000	-
At independent valuation December 2000	-	1,830,000
	<u>3,920,000</u>	<u>4,350,000</u>
Office furniture & equipment - at cost	988,366	1,021,838
Less accumulated depreciation	(727,251)	(802,251)
	<u>261,115</u>	<u>219,587</u>
Leasehold improvements - at cost	33,982	33,982
Less accumulated amortisation	(23,600)	(12,272)
	<u>10,382</u>	<u>21,710</u>
Total property and equipment	<u>4,191,497</u>	<u>4,591,297</u>
Independent valuations of all properties were carried out in December 2000 by valuers registered in their respective State/Territory. During 2001 the ASAVA property was sold. Depreciation policy for office furniture and equipment is set out in Note 1 (b).		
<b>9. Current liabilities - creditors and borrowings</b>		
Sundry creditors	128,081	161,634
Funds held on trust		
AVA Animal Welfare Trust	40,504	25,178
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	204,952	219,503
Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation	195,390	198,842
Comfund	167,067	65,053
Urban Animal Management	36,642	21,658
PetPEP	61,848	22,045
Other	25,065	17,112
Income received in advance		
Membership subscriptions	7,711	19,615
Publications subscriptions	5,786	46,310
Annual conference income	29,468	51,350
Other income	27,432	8,000
	<u>929,946</u>	<u>856,300</u>
<b>10. Current liabilities - provisions</b>		
Employee entitlements	155,746	138,959

## Financials

### Notes to the Financial Report - For the financial year ended 31 December 2001

	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>11. Reserves</b>		
<b>Communications Fund</b>		
Balance 1 January	90,546	90,546
Transfer (to) funds held in trust - Comfund	(90,546)	-
Balance 31 December	-	90,546
<b>Annual Conference Fund</b>		
Balance 1 January	-	27,911
Transfer (to) statement of financial performance	-	(27,911)
Balance 31 December	-	-
<b>Scholarship Fund</b>		
Balance 1 January	20,540	20,540
Transfer (to) funds held in trust - Other	(20,540)	-
Balance 31 December	-	20,540
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>		
Balance 1 January	2,711,048	2,096,048
Transfer (to) statement of financial performance	(232,591)	-
Revaluation of land and buildings	10,972	615,000
Balance 31 December	2,489,429	2,711,048
<b>Total Reserves</b>	2,489,429	2,822,134

### 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	3,838,107	3,895,020
SIGs	1,579,213	1,438,401
Divisions	449,056	405,701
Branches	491,716	431,618
	6,358,093	6,170,740

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	570,542	555,001
Divisions	400,379	366,178
Branches	157,319	164,500

### 14. Remuneration of Auditors

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

Audit of the financial statements	14,800	14,300
Other services	3,145	4,250
	17,945	18,550

### 15. Remuneration of Directors

Allowance received or due and receivable by the President of the Association  
Directors' Honoraria

	30,000	29,425
	16,700	13,200
	46,700	42,625

### 16. Related Parties

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

**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 55. 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 Report - For the financial year ended 31 December 2001

17. Financial Instruments

(a) Credit Risk Exposures

The credit risk on financial assets of the entity which have been recognised on the statement of financial position 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.

2001	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		< 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
<b>Financial Asset</b>						
Cash and deposits	558,305	802,298			-	1,360,603
Receivables	-	-			333,057	333,057
	<u>558,305</u>	<u>802,298</u>	-	-	<u>333,057</u>	<u>1,693,660</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	3.0%	3.3%				
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Sundry and other creditors					198,478	198,478
Funds held on Trust	731,468	-			-	731,468
	<u>731,468</u>	-	-	-	<u>198,478</u>	<u>929,946</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	4.0%					
Net Financial Assets	<u>(173,163)</u>	<u>802,298</u>	-	-	<u>134,579</u>	<u>763,714</u>

2000	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		< 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
<b>Financial Asset</b>						
Cash and deposits	289,974	302,108			-	592,082
Receivables	-	-			381,523	381,523
	<u>289,974</u>	<u>302,108</u>	-	-	<u>381,523</u>	<u>973,605</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	3-4%	5.1%				
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-			286,909	286,909
Funds held on Trust	569,391				-	569,391
	<u>569,391</u>	-	-	-	<u>286,909</u>	<u>856,300</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	7.2%					
Net Financial Assets	<u>(279,417)</u>	<u>302,108</u>	-	-	<u>94,614</u>	<u>117,305</u>

Reconciliation of Net Financial Assets to Net Assets

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Net Financial Assets as per above	763,714	117,305
Prepayments	91,033	80,992
Inventory	39,002	32,669
Investments	1,428,595	1,487,436
Property, plant & equipment	4,191,497	4,591,297
Provisions	(155,746)	(138,959)
<b>Net assets per statement of financial position</b>	<u>6,358,094</u>	<u>6,170,740</u>

## Financials

### National Group Operating Statement - For the year ended 31 December 2001

	2001	2001	2001	2000	2000	2000
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Membership Subscriptions	991,968	-	991,968	1,008,452	-	1,008,452
Communications Fund	30,346	30,346	-	30,585	30,585	-
Sponsorship/Supporters	48,350	-	48,350	50,000	763	49,237
Conferences	777,864	804,834	(26,970)	661,519	643,110	18,409
Member Services :						
Hip Dysplasia Scheme	42,782	29,461	13,322	43,708	40,341	3,367
Affinity agreement commissions	553,978	-	553,978	449,983	-	449,983
Practice Management Program	-	-	-	-	3,097	(3,097)
Other	246	202,428	(202,182)	-	32,012	(32,012)
Properties (rent received/expenses)	44,010	102,215	(58,204)	44,817	130,324	(85,507)
Publications :						
Australian Veterinary Journal	771,880	767,935	3,945	675,774	863,469	(187,695)
Other	176	9,965	(9,789)	1,011	23,502	(22,491)
Website:	-	32,294	(32,294)	-	-	-
Media: -	21,672	(21,672)	-	-	-	-
AVACOS (Conference Organising Service)	85,000	71,000	14,000	158,540	71,000	87,540
Staff Services	15,961	-	15,961	17,545	-	17,545
Interest Earned	27,021	-	27,021	49,780	-	49,780
Other	5,165	-	5,165	-	-	-
Distributions from Managed Funds	52,345	-	52,345	97,473	-	97,473
Unrealised Gain on Managed Funds	-	-	-	14,870	-	14,870
Profit/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	227	-	227	6,024	-	6,024
Administration :						
Salaries	-	357,073	(357,073)	-	541,219	(541,219)
Employment overheads	-	132,505	(132,505)	-	172,237	(172,237)
Postage, Printing, Telephone	-	96,392	(96,392)	-	112,962	(112,962)
Other	-	53,501	(53,501)	-	41,240	(41,240)
Outreach Activities :						
Pet Pep	9,468	30,000	(20,532)	35,355	63,684	(28,329)
Australian Animal Health Council	-	22,000	(22,000)	-	22,000	(22,000)
Animal Welfare activities	-	60,805	(60,805)	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	5,471	(5,471)
Board and Policy Council :						
Travel & accommodation	-	77,500	(77,500)	-	88,619	(88,619)
President expenses	-	11,730	(11,730)	-	30,732	(30,732)
President Allowance	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	29,425	(29,425)
Other	-	55,325	(55,325)	-	55,354	(55,354)
Liaison with Government & Other Assoc.	-	113,919	(113,919)	-	24,677	(24,677)
General Expenses :						
Audit	-	14,800	(14,800)	-	10,800	(10,800)
Bank Fees	-	42,988	(42,988)	-	36,206	(36,206)
Legal Fees	-	16,197	(16,197)	-	16,088	(16,088)
Depreciation	-	89,898	(89,898)	-	90,583	(90,583)
Other	-	49,351	(49,351)	-	81,530	(81,530)
Interest paid to Divisions, SIGs, Branches	-	76,480	(76,480)	-	80,615	(80,615)
Totals	3,456,786	3,402,613	54,174	3,345,436	3,341,645	3,791
Operating Surplus			54,174			3,791