

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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ANNUAL REPORT 2002



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INTRODUCTION

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 to the 4,631 who were registered as financial members of the AVA at 31 December 2002.

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.

This year has certainly been full and rewarding as the Australian Veterinary Association continues to grow and move forward. There are so many projects and activities occurring within the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Divisions and Branches as well as at National level that it would be impossible to cover all in this report. My thanks to all the hard working and dedicated office bearers, staff and members who work tirelessly within the AVA ensuring its continued growth and strength.

Strategic Plan Activities

The review of the strategic plan resulted in the development of seven key objectives aligned to three strategic areas:

- Marketing and Communication
- Policy and Regulation
- Corporate Services

The plan was presented at the AVA's Annual Conference in Adelaide. In order to develop strategies for implementation of the plan three teams were formed with a cross section of representatives from the Board, staff, SIG and Division executive. These teams worked solidly at the planning workshops to explore the various opportunities and develop a business plan in each of the three strategic areas. An added bonus was that this was an opportunity for all to work together as a united team and to identify where improvements could be made particularly in the areas of communication and membership processes. Our thanks go to John Peacock for facilitating these workshops, to Bruce Wynn and Lauretta Stace for their work in setting up the workshops, and to all participants who gave of their time and expertise.

Staff Changes

Sadly, CEO Bruce Wynn left the organisation in November. This was not an easy decision for Bruce as he was totally dedicated to the AVA, however changes in his personal situation including a rather significant health scare led Bruce to make it. On behalf of the AVA I would like to thank Bruce for his dedication and commitment and wish him well in his new endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge Finance and Administration Manager Lauretta Stace for the support she has provided and for her willingness to take on extra tasks outside her usual responsibilities both in support of the Board and Bruce, and as Acting CEO while Bruce was on sick leave.

Margaret Conley was appointed as the new CEO in January 2003 and comes to the association with strong interpersonal and business management skills, and some 13 years experience as a CEO for two not-for-profit organisations.

As a result of the strategic planning processes and other AVA activities it was decided that an area needing to be more fully developed was that of Marketing and



Dr Jo Toia

Communication. It was therefore agreed to appoint a National Marketing and Communication Manager. Eddie Ripard joined us in January 2003 and we are looking to an added strength and dimension to the AVA in these important areas during 2003.

Rural Veterinary Review

The Rural Veterinary Review continued to hold centre stage throughout 2002 and leading into 2003. The AVA has played a key role in this very important project by developing a thorough and well-presented submission, and through other activities. The submission could not have been developed without the valuable input of SIGs, Divisions and individual members. This submission, combined with those from other groups and individual members, ensured that the views of the veterinary profession were clearly presented. The AVA at the national, divisional and SIG level was also closely involved in linking the reviewer with individual members of the veterinary profession on a one to one basis as well as in focus groups around Australia.

AVA National Veterinarian Kevin Doyle had the marathon task of drawing all the submission material together as well as collating responses and developing recommendations to the draft report released in November.

Our thanks go to Robert Baker who was the AVA representative on the project steering group, to Kevin Doyle, and to all who have contributed to this project.

Member Research

One of the key objectives of the AVA is to retain and grow membership. During the year the Board approved a major study of members, suspended members and non-members to improve our understanding of members' and potential members' needs and wants. We selected Taverner Research, an independent research company with extensive experience with professional and not-for-profit associations, to undertake this project. The knowledge and insights gained from this study will be used by the AVA to develop practical and relevant services to maximise the value of the AVA to its members.

AVA Members HR Advisory Service

The AVA Members HR Advisory Service was officially launched at the Adelaide Conference. This service, working in conjunction with Wentworth Human Resources Pty Ltd, provides a completely integrated Human Resource

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

and Industrial Relations advisory service tailored to the veterinary profession – and available only to AVA members. It has been a great success with considerable positive feedback from members who have accessed the service. The call rate per month is steadily increasing. This is an example of a very practical and tangible benefit of AVA membership that can be accessed and utilised by all members in private practice, government, education, industry, or any other area.

AVA PetPEP Growth

This has been a real time of growth for the AVA Pets and People Education Program. There are now AVA PetPEP education officers employed in Queensland, New South Wales and ACT, Victoria and Tasmania. A major achievement this year was the first National PetPEP Competition with thousands of school children throughout Australia participating, veterinarians handing out certificates of participation at schools and the AVA PetPEP team working hard behind the scenes promoting, implementing, and judging the competition.

Our thanks to the team, the sponsors, and Dr Katrina Warren (PetPEP Patron) for their support and hard work.

AVA Staff

The distribution of staff located in National Office, Editorial staff, AVACOS and the National Veterinarian as well as in six Divisions and SIGs throughout Australia is complex. There have also been some changes this year with a new CEO and National Marketing and Communications Manager. This has been a very full year at all levels of the Association and the staff has continued to produce the highest level of service to our members.

Moving on

I have been deeply honoured to serve as President of this Association for the past 12 months and would like to thank all involved, particularly my fellow Board members who have provided support to me and continue to serve this Association at the very highest standard. I also could not have undertaken this year without the support of my family and my employers and I thank them for that support.

I am looking forward to the 2003 National Conference in my home state of Queensland and am sure that it will be a great success.

I wish Jo Sillince well in her year as President and look forward to providing support to her in the coming year.

Dr Jo Toia
President
Australian Veterinary Association



One of the hallmarks of the year 2002 was an extensive consultation process involving members, stakeholders and staff to produce a 2002-2004 Strategic Plan, adopted by the AVA Board in January 2002. This plan builds on the AVA vision for "a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession". It recognises the need for the Association to transform itself into a more responsive and relevant organisation with higher profile and a stronger identity, so that the core values and diverse endeavours of all members can be supported.

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."

Goals

In addressing the Association's Mission the new strategic plan focuses on five major goals:

- To be recognised as the national body representing the profession in Australia
- To provide a forum for veterinarians to exchange information and ideas and to access member services
- To assist members to strive for professional excellence
- To provide leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production, and
- To promote the value of animals and the veterinary profession to government and the community.

Strategic Objectives

Beginning with 2002 and over the next three years the priorities of the Association are being determined by reference to seven major Strategic Objectives that address the five goals and provide the key benchmarks of the Association's success:

1. Retain and grow membership
2. Promote members as the providers of best veterinary advice and expertise
3. Promote the value of AVA contribution to the community
4. Promote AVA leadership and expertise through strategic alliances with other organisations
5. Influence public policy to achieve appropriate outcomes for members and the community
6. Increase professional, educational and personal development opportunities for the membership
7. Manage the AVA to the best practice standards of association management.

In the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan three key operational areas were determined:

- Marketing and Communications
- Policy and Regulation
- Corporate Services

These key operational areas will be reflected in the 2003 structure of the AVA.



Margaret Conley

The Board has recognised the need for the AVA to shift its priorities from a "committee focus" to become a more "market attuned" organisation. An important step in this process was to proceed with the appointment of a Marketing and Communications Manager who will commence duties early in 2003.

2002 saw the following achievements in relation to each of the strategic objectives:

Membership Growth and Retention

Growing membership is a number one priority for the entire organisation: Divisions, Special Interest Groups and Branches. As of December 2002 total membership was 4,631, a small reduction on 2001, so we have plenty of work to do!

To assist AVA to grow membership the following activities have been initiated:

- Membership data analysis was undertaken to identify the various areas in which the AVA has strengths and weaknesses in membership relative to the profession as a whole
- A comprehensive survey and analysis of members, lapsed members and those veterinarians who have never been members was commissioned to ascertain feedback on services and seek new ideas for services/promotion of AVA membership
- The benefits of membership were promoted to members, non-members, new graduates, students and subscribers. Specific activities during the year included a direct mail campaign to non-members and lapsed members, upgrading of the members email address database to enable effective email communications to all members who have access to this facility, and attendance at student functions by AVA representatives to promote AVA membership.
- The AVA Members Human Resource Advisory Service was introduced, increasing the number of relevant and highly valued member services and benefits. In the first six months, 1,120 calls were made to the service from AVA members. The majority of the calls related to contracts (37%) and to leave and termination issues (25%). The degree of positive response to the service to date is very encouraging.

The major benefit of AVA membership will always be the intangible one of being a part of a professional organisation, and the opportunity provided by events, the Journal and newsletters, conferences, AVAlist, and membership of Divisions, SIGs and Branches to converse

with colleagues and stay in touch with developments in the profession.

Additional more tangible personal membership benefits include:

- 11 issues a year of the *Australian Veterinary Journal (AVJ)*
- Continuing education programs during the National Conference in Melbourne in May at discounted rates
- Commonwealth Bank Gold Privilege program and/or discounted Eftpos facility (accessed by more than 50% of members)
- Guild Insurance Limited has a non AVA member loading of 20%, an important benefit for professional indemnity insurance, plus the highly competitive Guild insurance package
- Discounted websites for individual practices and access to "Petalia" and its e-commerce facility
- 20% discount on job advertisements placed in the professional section of the *Australian Veterinary Journal* and exclusive AVA member access to these advertisements
- Access to "AVA Online" as a valued daily communication tool (some 35% members accessed AVA Online in 2002)

Promotion of Members as the Providers of Best Veterinary Advice and Expertise

In light of static or possibly declining companion animal populations, the profession faces some serious challenges in demand for veterinary services in the years ahead. Programs that identify and differentiate AVA members as the best in their field are potentially highly valued benefits of becoming an AVA member.

In their inaugural year, the AVA/Pfizer Veterinary Practices of Excellence in Customer Service Awards, open exclusively to AVA members, attracted 23 entries. Selection Committee Chairman and AVPMA Immediate Past President, Dr Lindsay Hay, was extremely pleased at the outcome of this initiative – not only in terms providing encouragement of customer service excellence – but also as a way of providing practical input to an AVA National Conference forum for exchange on ideas for improvement in customer service.

In 2002 the six winning veterinary hospitals were: Guildford (NSW), Jenni Trewren (SA), Karingal (Vic), Port Stephens (NSW), Prospect Road (SA), and Yass (NSW).

Additionally:

- Four veterinary practices were accredited as AVA Microchip Centres
- Five veterinary practices were recognised as New Graduate Friendly Practices
- Radiographs for 774 hips and 467 elbows were read as part of the AVA Hip and Elbow Dysphasia Scheme.

AVA Service Awards

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 – *Dr Jakob Malmo (Victoria)*

Kesteven Medal for contribution to international veterinary science through assistance to developing countries – *Dr Robyn Alders (Mozambique)*

Fellowship Awards – *Dr Bruce P Anderson (Victoria)*

Meritorious Service Awards – *Drs David Banks, Christopher Boemo, Joanne Cheney, George Coronas, Penelope Dobson, Nicholas Kannegieter, Peter Mylrea, Lyndy Scott, Kersti Seksel, Rick Walduck and Ulrike Wurth*
AVA Excellence in Teaching Award – *Dr Henry Collins (2001) and Dr Ross McKenzie (2002)*

Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award – *Dr Helen Chapman*

Further actions agreed upon to address this objective include encouragement and support of Special Interest Groups to promote expert services, and development and implementation of proactive animal health and welfare strategies.

Promotion of animal welfare

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 such as the RSPCA.

Promote the Value of AVA Contribution to the Community

During 2002 the AVA worked to develop and advance its community relations programs, to increase participation in Government and external community programs, and to support this work with the implementation of communications and media strategies.

1,535 AVA members financially supported the AVA's Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP) directed at primary school children, encouraging responsible pet ownership. As part of a national schools competition promotional material relating to the program has been distributed to almost 8,000 primary schools and 2,500 veterinary practices in Australia. Some 17,000 school students participated in the program in a variety of ways. The Queensland Division, supported by the RSPCA (QLD) and Queensland Department of Primary Industry continues to enjoy the most success with the program. Queensland now has a total of 20 Councils utilising the program and providing financial support. PetPEP Education Coordinators were appointed in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania during 2002 to expand the program nationally.

AVA has also worked closely with Animal Health Australia on the Protect Australian Livestock Campaign which uses the slogan – *Look, Check, Ask a Vet* – and promotes the importance of disease surveillance and the role of the veterinarian in livestock health management. This campaign will be launched in early 2003.

Promote AVA Leadership and Expertise through Strategic Alliances with other Organisations

AVA can often be most effective when working with other organisations on specific issues to achieve mutual goals. In 2002 the focus was on strengthening relationships with international veterinary associations and with educational institutions.

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

AVA also has representation on the International Veterinary Officers Council, the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the World Veterinary Association.

In 2002 a successful campaign was 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. Throughout 2002 the AVA continued to work with its constituents and the livestock industry across Australia to assist in the conduct of the review.

Influence Public Policy to Achieve Appropriate Outcomes for Members and the Community

Some of the work commenced in 2002 by AVA included the promotion of a single Australian and New Zealand Registration; initiation and participation in national studies affecting the profession; some streamlining of AVA's policy development and implementation process; and participation in legislative change and the process of government.

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

AVA provides technical expertise and advice to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) through the review of quarantine protocols. The National Veterinarian, Dr Kevin Doyle, coordinates these reviews. Dr Doyle works with professionals in States and Territories in response to mooted changes in legislation and regulation.

The AVA's policies guide the veterinary profession in Australia. In 2002, the AVA Policy Council approved the following policies and/or position statements:

- Policy on Commercial Egg Production Systems (change of name from Layer Cages and Battery Hens – B5 5.37)
- Policy on Use of Euthanasia Drugs by Lay Persons
- Updated Policy on Induction of Parturition (B5 5.23)
- Updated Policy on Live Sheep and Cattle Exports (Sheep B5 5.28 and Cattle now incorporated)
- Updated Policy on Dangerous Dogs (B5 3.2.14)
- Updated Policy on Thermocautery of Horses (B5 2.10)
- Updated Policy on the Code of Practice for the Use of Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine
- Policy on Marine Mammal Euthanasia
- Updated Policy on Sheep Dentistry including Tooth Trimming (B5 5.32)
- Updated Policy on Employment (A19)
- Position Statement on Fee Recovery – Retention of Animals for Non-Payment
- Policy on Control of Feral Horse Populations
- Policy on Mulesing of Sheep
- Policy on Tail Docking and Castration of Sheep
- Policy on Pizzle Dropping
- Guidelines for the Use of Communication Technologies in Delivering Veterinary Services
- Policy on Website Links
- Pain and Analgesia document
- Microchipping Protocols.

The following policies are under discussion and review:

- Draft Position Statement on Hunting and Fishing (previously under Draft Policy on Dogs Hunting Deer – reviewed whole package on hunting)
- Draft Policy on Sale of Companion Animals at Markets
- Updated Policy on Cattle Spaying
- Updated Policy on Branding of Cattle
- Updated Policy on the Use of Behaviour Modifying Collars on Dogs
- Draft Guidelines on Advertising Prescription Animal Remedies (PARs) (S4s)
- Draft Definitions of 'under supervision' and 'under direct supervision'
- Draft Interim OJD Policy
- Draft Policy on Genetically Modified Organisms
- Draft Policy on Native Animals as Pets
- Castration of Male Sheep greater than 3 Months of Age (put together with Tail docking)
- AVA Code of Professional Conduct
- Compulsory Continuing Education linked to Veterinary Registration
- Guidelines for Owners of Dangerous Dogs
- Role of the Veterinarian in Food Safety.

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

- AVA 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)
- AVA members in Divisions, SIGs and Branches, coordinated through the National Veterinarian and Vice President Dr Robert Baker, provided input to a Review of Rural Veterinary Services conducted by Mr Peter Frawley during the final months of 2002.
- AVA made representations to government at ministerial level and to senior public servants, including written submissions to enquiries and public consultations in a range of areas such as:
 - Scheduling of chemicals
 - National Competition Policy Review of Radiation Protection Legislation
 - Various Animal Health Australia programs
 - Primary Industries Standing Committee Working Party on JETACAR matters
 - Contact for National Registration Authority for Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals
 - Addressing queries from the public and the media to facilitate understanding of the role of the modern veterinarian
 - Veterinarians to United Kingdom on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
 - Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)
 - National Association of Testing Authorities Veterinary Testing Advisory Committee.

Urban Animal Management is also an important issue for the AVA. Veterinary expertise and input was provided to local government animal control officers at the AVA's annual Urban Animal Management Conference. Some 151 local government representatives and veterinarians attended the 2002 UAM Conference in Alice Springs.

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

Increase professional, educational and personal development opportunities for the membership

As a membership-based organisation, one of AVA's foremost roles is to assist members with professional development, management, lobbying and business skills. The AVA's Annual Conference managed by AVACOS is one way that AVA addresses this and its success was reflected by the attendance of 1,014 people at the 2002 Annual Conference in Adelaide. More than 85 per cent of attendees participated in continuing education programs during the conference.

Student representatives have been supported at each of the universities offering undergraduate veterinary courses, and AVA provided input to the review of the Queensland University Veterinary School.

AVA supported the development and implementation of a successful Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Practice, which had ten graduates in 2002. The Australian Graduate Management Consortium involving the University of Western Sydney, TAFE NSW and Canberra Institute of Technology manages this program. The course will be reviewed and updated in 2003.

AVA also provides the major job search role for veterinarians and practices, so that in 2002 some 955 positions were advertised in the AVJ and the classified supplement to the AVJ.

Manage the AVA to the Best Practice Standards of Association Management

Working towards best practice is an ongoing process. In 2002 AVA put energy into streamlining and integrating internal systems so that AVA will be better placed than ever before to offer shared support services to all groups. Communication across all groups was improved with the introduction of written policies and procedures for finance administration, IT, and HR. Work commenced on streamlining Rules and By-laws across all groups, and a long-term investment plan for asset management was developed.

Non-subscription revenue from endorsements and affinity programs has been a huge support for members and the AVA and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our principal partners:

- Diners Club International
- Petcare Information and Advisory Service
- The Provet Group
- Masterfoods Petcare Australia New Zealand
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and
- Guild Insurance & Financial Service

for their support for the Association and for the veterinary profession in Australia.

Towards the end of 2002, CEO Bruce Wynn resigned from his position. Much of the input to this report is from Bruce, and as the incoming CEO I am most grateful for both his input and his support.

My work as your CEO in 2003 will build on the achievements to date, and will be firmly grounded in the strategic plan and its objectives. I look forward to working with members, stakeholders and staff in 2003 to raise AVA's profile, to reviewing the entire membership area including the database, and to continuing the work already underway to realise AVA's mission: to be one organisation and to act and speak with a single voice on matters of importance to the members.

Margaret Conley
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Veterinary Association

The year 2002 has seen the AVA continue to strengthen its overall financial position with Total Members Funds (Net Assets) increasing from \$6,358,094 to \$6,501,884.

The operating surplus of \$143,790 was a result of surpluses generated by Divisions (\$64,677), Branches of Divisions (\$49,650), Special Interest Groups (\$29,406) and AVA National (\$57).

Affinity relationship commissions were \$791,157 compared to \$553,978 in the previous year. This is an excellent result and the AVA will continue to work at maintaining relationships with key corporate entities in order to strengthen non-subscription income streams and provide personal and business benefits to AVA members.

The average subscription income per member increased by 4.2% and the per member average of the combined subscription income and affinity relationship commission income increased by 9.5%. This occurred despite a fall in member numbers from 4,851 members in 2001 to 4,631 members in 2002. Attracting new members to the Association and retaining existing members is an ongoing challenge. A comprehensive research program to accurately identify member needs and expectations was commenced in 2002 and will be completed in 2003. The research results will provide a sound basis for AVA to increase the membership base in future years and assist in identifying new income streams for the Association.

During 2002 a review of the investment and property management strategy was undertaken. Funds available for investment will now be actively managed by Macquarie Investment Management Ltd. Three investment management providers were invited to bid for management of the AVA investment portfolio. Macquarie was the successful bidder and will commence assisting AVA in effective management of our investment portfolio from early 2003.

In 2002 fund managers across the globe faced another difficult year in the world economy coupled with volatility in Australian and overseas stock markets. The performance of the AVA's managed fund investments was therefore disappointing. With the use of Macquarie to manage our investment portfolio we anticipate this will be turned around in 2003.

Significant progress has been made in relation to the AVA property review program. Knight Frank property consultants reviewed both the Brisbane and Sydney properties during 2002. The Brisbane property has



Dr Norm Blackman

increased in value and has attracted interest from potential developers. This has provided the opportunity for the AVA to sell the existing building and purchase more suitable office accommodation in Brisbane whilst realising a net gain on sale. This should be progressed and finalised in 2003.

The AVA property in Sydney has not increased in value and decisions regarding the most suitable strategy for the future of this property are currently being assessed.

Comfund has continued to provide a valuable source of funding for several important projects approving in excess of \$78,000 worth of grants during the year including support of the member research program. AVA Members' continued generous support of Comfund in their annual subscription will ensure that these and future worthwhile projects receive adequate funding to promote veterinarians to the community and provide enhanced services to the profession. The Comfund Committee encourages all AVA Groups to approach Comfund for help in formulating an application for funding for any worthwhile project. Details on Comfund funding guidelines and application forms are available from AVA National.

The Finance and Administration Manager, Lauretta Stace, has worked hard to assist group Treasurers in the management of their financial records on the new financial management system introduced in 2001. I would like to thank the Divisions, Branches and Special Interest Groups for their cooperation in this area.

Finally I would like to thank all staff and volunteers involved in producing the year-end financial statements, particularly Lauretta Stace and her team at National Office.

Dr Norm Blackman
AVA Treasurer

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS



Jo Toia



Lyndy Scott



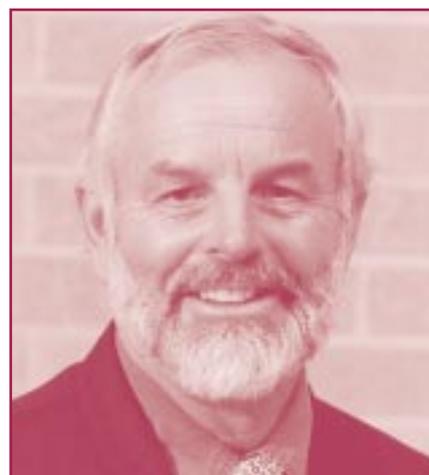
Robert Baker



Norm Blackman



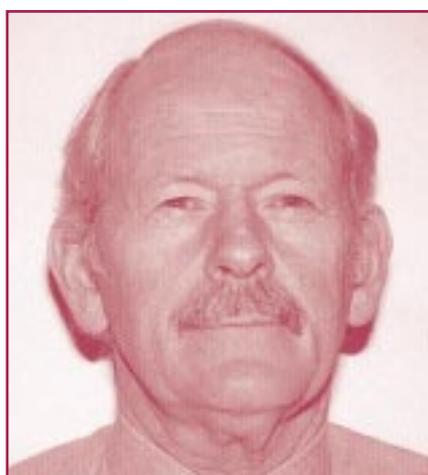
David Lovell



Bob Rheinberger



Diane Sheehan



Malcolm McLennan



Jo Sillince

From Dr Diane Sheehan

Areas of Responsibility

- World Veterinary Association
- Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations
- Commonwealth Veterinary Association

The World Veterinary Association (WVA), Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) were very active this year.

Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA)

The 24th Council meeting and the 12th Scientific Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26-28 August 2002. Dr Roger Clarke attended as the AVA representative to this meeting.

The FAVA scientific meeting was preceded by a meeting of Asian representatives to the Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE) to discuss the local implications of the proposed ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 2003 and the global implications of the involvement of the Asian region in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2005. Delegates to this meeting were invited to attend FAVA and the scientific meeting subjects were designed to highlight problems in this important area.

Dr Jim Edwards, President of the World Veterinary Association, represented the WVA and the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA). Australian trade interests were represented by Bangkok-based Dr John Edwards, former Chief Veterinary Officer of Western Australia and now representing Australia and OIE on the issues of FMD monitoring.

Recognition of the late Dr Bob Kibble by Life Membership (posthumous).

The FAVA Council meeting and FAVA Congress meeting were preceded by a minute's silence in memory and respect for the late Dr Robert McLean Kibble. Dr Enrique Carlos of the Philippines proposed a Resolution that Dr Kibble be elected an Honorary Member of FAVA posthumously and the Council members unanimously accepted this resolution.

FAVA Presidency

At the FAVA Council meeting the presidency of FAVA passed to the President of the Malaysian Veterinary Association, Dr Matta Abdul Rahman. Dr Abdul Rahman is Director of the Malaysian Department of Agriculture.

FAVA Congress

Attendance at the scientific meetings was excellent, with about 400 delegates. The excellent attendance was in part due to the very large number of government-employed veterinarians in Malaysia. There was a small animal

programme as well as a longer food/large animal programme.

Social functions were well attended and the Malaysian Minister for Agriculture, Yang Berhormat Datuk (Dr) Mohd Effendi Norwadi (a veterinarian), formally opened the meeting at a gala dinner. There was ample opportunity for informal discussions and networking.

The 13th FAVA Congress will be held in Thailand, October 24-27, 2003 in conjunction with the WSAVA Congress in that country.

The 26th FAVA Council and 14th FAVA Congress will be held in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the 2nd KVMA Congress, October 25-27, 2004.

The 27th FAVA Council meeting will be held in 2005. The Philippines successfully bid for this meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Philippines Veterinary Medical Association. It will probably be held in Manila in February.

The bid for the 28th FAVA Council meeting and 14th FAVA Congress in 2006 was made by Dr Jim Edwards and these will be held in New Zealand. It will be important for the AVA to attend this meeting. Dates will be confirmed by the NZVA.

World Veterinary Association

The 2002 WVA Congress was held in Tunisia in September 2002, along with the WVA Presidents' Assembly, Council Meeting, and other Committee Meetings. Dr Garth McGilvray attended as the AVA representative to this meeting.

With a theme of Global Food Safety, the Congress was a record-breaking event for the North African region, attracting 3,257 participants from 116 countries, and featuring 800 lectures and 300 posters. It saw the collaboration of the WVA with the OIE, World Health Organisation, FAO, Codex Alimentarius, World Bank and the World Trade Organisation through concurrent and satellite sessions.

The Congress' Plenary session featured Nobel Prize winner Professor Ferid Murad, Dr Thomas Billy, the Director General of Codex Alimentarius, Professor Thomas Blaha from Hannover, Professor Charles Pilet from Paris, and Dr Helio De Morais from Brazil.

The WVA Council Meeting decided to continue with World Veterinary Day, which will be the last Saturday in April 2003. It also decided to put forward to the Presidents' Assembly a number of amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, and to the WVA Policy on Dangerous Dogs, and the Assembly subsequently approved these.

At the Presidents' Assembly, Dr Herbert Schneider (Namibia) was elected President and Drs Leon Russell (USA) and Stanislav Knez (Slovenia) were elected Vice-Presidents. Dr Diane Sheehan of Australia was elected Councillor for the Oceania region for the next three years.

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The Presidents Assembly voted that future congresses would be hosted by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2005 in Minnesota (USA), and by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in 2008 in Vancouver (Canada).

Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)

Dr Jeff Cave has hit the ground running as the AVA's representative to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. Dr Cave was appointed the CVA Councillor for Australia to replace long standing representative Dr David Banks.

He has been coordinating the CVA Book Exchange program, whereby veterinary medical textbooks are collected and delivered to countries where local veterinarians can use them. Australia has been a generous donor in this area already particularly for African nations such as Uganda and Zambia, for Bangladesh, and for the Pacific Islands.

Assistance to East Timor and Pacific Island countries is being offered in special training areas including companion animal medicine and nutrition.

The third Pan-Commonwealth CVA conference is to be held Wellington, New Zealand, from 27-30 June 2003. The theme of the conference is "Animal Welfare, Island Nations, and Biosecurity". Several AVA members will be among the international speakers.

I would like to thank Dr Garth McGilvray for representing AVA and attending the WVA Congress in Tunisia, Dr Roger Clarke for providing representation at the FAVA Congress, and Dr Jeff Cave for taking up the reins as AVA representative to the CVA.

Dr Diane Sheehan
AVA Board

From Dr Robert Baker

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The AVA addresses animal welfare issues through an agreed set of policies, which are used by members as the basis for public comment on topical issues. Such comment is usually handled by the President, who in some cases may ask a member with particular expertise to comment; for example, the President of the relevant SIG.

The AVA's policies are constantly under review, particularly those relating to animal welfare. The complete policies will be published electronically in 2003/4 as part of a general revision of the Members' Directory and Policy Compendium.

Many animal welfare policies are contentious and sometimes controversial and require careful scrutiny and discussion before Policy Council accepts them. Draft policies are then published in the Australian Veterinary Journal, to allow comments from members to be taken into consideration.

Provision of informed and objective advice is the main role of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), whose membership comprises a Chairman nominated by the Board and representatives from each Division and from certain SIGs (ASAVA, AEVA, AACV, AAPV, AAVCB and ASVS) as well as a number of individual members with specific animal welfare interest and/or expertise. The AWAC is assisted by the National Veterinarian and a part-time Animal Welfare Officer. The AWAC provides advice to the Policy Council and Board.

The Executive met by tele-conference in March and September 2002 and a full in-person meeting was held during the AVA Annual Conference in May. Policies that were considered by the AWAC during the year included:

- Peri- and post-operative analgesia (a draft paper for submission to the Australian Veterinary Journal was subsequently written on this important subject by AWAC member Dr Steve Atkinson);
- Laparoscopic artificial insemination of sheep;
- Live sheep and cattle exports;
- Firing of horses;
- Dangerous dogs;
- Tail docking of cattle;
- Induction of parturition in dairy cows;
- Hunting;
- Mulesing of sheep;
- Pizzle dropping;
- Behaviour-modifying collars on dogs;

The AWAC keeps in touch with national animal welfare issues through its representation on the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare and from personal contacts with the Animal Welfare Committee of the Primary Industries Standing Committee. Its members in many cases also sit on their respective State or Territory AWACs. The AVA AWAC liaises closely with the New Zealand Veterinary Association's Animal Welfare Committee.

Dr Robert Baker
AVA Board

From Dr Bob Rheinberger

Areas of Responsibility

- Rural affairs and Government liaison
- National Awards

Rural Affairs

As a result of the Federal Government's promise of the last election, Mr Peter Frawley was selected as the consultant to approach all stakeholders and to conduct a Review of Australia's Rural Veterinary Services and report to the Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and of Education. The Report will be submitted in February 2004. The AVA Board, in conjunction with National Veterinarian, Kevin Doyle and many other veterinarians were able to give Mr Frawley an insight into the grass roots of rural veterinary practice and the problems associated with maintaining the appropriate expertise in rural Australia, both to protect the livestock industry from present and future exotic threats and to enhance productivity in that industry. The review has been a major focus of the Board for most of the year. There was an excellent submission from the AVA and this was supported and enhanced by the other SIG submissions. Many individual members also took the time and effort to be fully involved. Although the full impact of the outcomes of the Review will not be known for some time, it certainly has made us reflect on our involvement within the rural community. It is important that we do not lose the tremendous insight into our own individual and collective inputs as veterinarians to the Australian livestock industries and to rural communities that have been highlighted by this review.

Animal Health Australia

The Board held a very productive meeting with Dr Geoff Neumann, the Chief Executive Officer of Animal Health Australia, and Dr Roly Nieper, the Chairman of AHA. The main aim of the meeting was to forge closer links between the AVA and AHA. Graham Thompson and Kevin Doyle very ably represent us at AHA. Both groups had realised the potential of the relationship, but also that not enough was being made of this relationship. As a result of the meeting, it was decided that Dr Neumann will contribute articles to the AVJ, and AHA would try to gain more feedback from veterinarians on the ground. This can be achieved by liaising with AVA representatives and SIGs having direct contact with AHA.

Feral Pig Control

As a result of a motion to the AVA in May 2002, the Board is looking at ways and means of addressing the issue of feral pigs in Australia. The issue became more prominent as a result of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK, which highlighted the potential of the 23 million feral pigs in Australia acting as both a reservoir and

multiplier of an exotic disease. This issue has been approached by a number of different State and Commonwealth Departments over recent years. In preliminary discussions with a number of the pest animal control groups it seems that there is interest from government and farmer groups from a number of States. The present focus is on coordinating a meeting of all stakeholders and putting together a national strategy.

Dr Bob Rheinberger
AVA Board

From Dr Lyndy Scott

Areas of Responsibility

- Australian Companion Animal Council
- National Industry Advisory Group for Veterinary Nursing
- Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia
- Urban Animal Management

Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC)

The Australian Companion Animal Council was formed in 1996, with members being AVA, ASAVA, Petcare Information and Advisory Service, Pet Food Industry Association of Australia, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association. The Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia, Delta Society Australia, Avcare (the National Association for Crop Protection and Animal Health) and the Australian National Kennel Council have since become members of ACAC. ACAC mourned the death this year of Dr Robert Kibble, who was intrinsic to the establishment of ACAC through his involvement in the Urban Animal Management Coalition – the foundation of ACAC. The sharing of industry issues and information amongst members remains a vital function of ACAC.

Dangerous dogs, cats and the environment, and demographic trends relating to dog and cat populations all received media attention in 2002. Queensland, South Australian and Western Australia are reviewing legislation, in particular dangerous dog laws. It is increasingly difficult to support the role of pets in society in the face of higher density living. The aging population in Australia impacts on pet ownership with the elderly being the lowest pet owning demographic. ACAC continues to address the problem of the permissibility of pets in society and seeks strategies to reverse the Australian trend of declining pet ownership.

The brochure "Power of Pets" (compiled in 1996 and revised in 2000) has been reprinted a number of times and given to every Federal and State politician and every local council in Australia. The ACAC brochures "Renting with Pets" and "Tenants with Pets", and the Urban Animal Management movement, assist in getting the benefits of

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pets message to the public. The new BIS Shrapnel Pet Industry Report will provide updated statistics on pet ownership in Australia.

ACAC has provided significant sponsorship over the years to the Animal Control Officer of the Year Award at the Urban Animal Management Conferences, and in 2002 continued to support the conferences and UAM in general. Information provided by ACAC is often quoted in media articles regarding pet ownership and the human-animal bond. The ACAC website is popular and provides links to member websites.

ACAC submits responses to various Governments' drafts of the Domestic Animals Bills, Companion Animals Legislation, and related documents.

ACAC representation on Companion Animal Advisory Boards continued in 2002 along with other representation on companion animal issues.

Liability issues for ACAC Directors and Officers were researched and a draft revised constitution was considered, along with the future meaningful role of ACAC.

National Industry Advisory Group for Veterinary Nursing

The National Industry Advisory Group (NIAG) for Veterinary Nursing continued 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 veterinary nurse representatives (Jane Bindloss NIAG Chair, Tracey Hunt, Ursula Alexander-Smith and Helen Power), four veterinary representatives (Phillip Brain, Garth McGilvray, Michael Lumsden and Lyndy Scott), and one representative of the education providers (David Jones).

NIAG conducted four meetings during 2002 and achieved a great deal, including the introduction of the Veterinary Nurse Accreditation scheme and appeals process. A number of nurses have already met the accreditation criteria and many are taking advantage of the continuing education requirements. The AVA acknowledges the dedication of veterinary nurses in embracing professional advancement and the many avenues that have been instituted to enable this.

National training packages for vocational education require ongoing review. A subcommittee of NIAG worked closely with the project managers on the review of veterinary nurse training. A stage one recommendation in 2001 was to enlarge the scope of the package to the current Animal Care and Management Training Package. Industry Advisory Groups in five states also contributed extensively to the national workshops run to highlight the review.

Stage two of the review in 2002 involved re-formatting veterinary nursing competency standards and creating competency standards for other occupations, including 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). There has been public acknowledgement of the excellence of the veterinary nurse package in providing guidelines for training in other animal care and service occupations.

Information on training for veterinary nurses is available at www.rtca.com.au and www.vnca.asn.au. Information on apprenticeships for veterinary nurses and the training package can also be obtained from Rural Skills Australia at www.ruralskills.com.au.

Dr Lyndy Scott
AVA Board

Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia

Good communication links have been established to strengthen the relationship between the AVA and the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA). Such mutual exchange of ideas and reports is of great benefit to the veterinary industry in general. Most veterinary practice members support the ideals of the VNCA and the AVA and understand the importance of the two bodies working together for the common good of the profession.

Following the highly successful Perth conference, the next International Veterinary Nurses Conference was scheduled to be held in Brisbane on 2-4 April 2003.

The Accredited Veterinary Nurse Scheme, an AVA/VNCA joint initiative, awarded its first badge, with a number awaiting verification. An article in the Australian Veterinary Journal promoted the scheme amongst veterinarians and the VNCA trusts this support will continue.

The Australian Veterinary Nurses' Journal continued to keep nurses informed and provides continuing education questions on clinical articles. These form part of the criteria to be an Accredited Veterinary Nurse. VNCA and AVA encourage veterinarians to support veterinary nurses in their need and desire for continuing education.

The VNCA sees the AVA's Pets and People education program (PetPEP) as an extremely worthwhile endeavour. Veterinary Nurses can and should be involved in this project to the benefit of the veterinary practice and are ideally situated to support and help implement the program. The 2003 VNCA Conference will give the VNCA and AVA an ideal opportunity to promote mutual involvement with PetPEP.

The review of the Veterinary Nurse Training Package is continuing with some fairly major changes proposed.

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These can be viewed on the Internet at www.rtca.com.au. The VNCA participated in the Review of Rural Veterinary Services. The roles of properly trained and qualified Veterinary Nurses and Technicians are an important feature of the review and the VNCA will continue to promote this aspect.

Divisional committees were actively involved in representing nurses on issues such as industrial relations, education, and Occupational Health and Safety.

The September 2002 AVJ reported on stress in the workplace and included support staff (79% veterinary nurses) in the survey. As representatives of the industry, the VNCA and the AVA are well positioned to formulate workplace guidelines to deal with these and other occupational health and safety issues.

Helen Power
President, VNCA Inc.

Urban Animal Management

2002 was another busy and productive year in Urban Animal Management (UAM). The year started on a good note with the AVA deciding its stance towards microchips and putting this out to members. This was a big leap forward and hopefully all members will follow the protocols and decisions of their representative body. Many AVA members would have seen the media frenzy prompted by dog attacks and other dog related issues, with legislative reviews occurring in many states. UAM is working to obtain better and more consistent animal management for our companion animals by Councils and State Governments.

The 2002 UAM conference in Alice Springs was the first held away from a capital city and also the first held in the Northern Territory. Dr Lyndy Scott stood in for fellow Board member Dr Diane Sheehan at the conference and associated meetings. The main topic this year was "Dangerous Dogs", a familiar topic in the popular press in 2002. This focus followed on from last year's UAM meeting in Melbourne where the topic was covered in depth with a view to obtaining the grounding for a position this year. The keynote speakers were Dr Kersti Seksel and Basil Stafford, a barrister from Melbourne who is frequently involved in Council actions. Dangerous dogs are a big issue for all in the companion animal and human health industries. The aim of the Conference was to establish a framework for all Councils and State and Territory Governments to use when considering this issue. In particular we want to try and stall the knee-jerk reactions that have been happening around the country.

The conference agreed upon a position statement that included the proposal for establishment of a National Database on Dangerous Dogs, and the factors that had to

be considered in the process. Appended to the statement was a suggested management table for the consideration of what level a dangerous dog is at and what restrictions should apply.

The UAM Advisory Group has also begun responding to State legislative reviews that involve the management of companion animals. The Group has made submissions to the Western Australian and South Australian reviews that are underway and believes that these are being taken seriously. They add to the submissions from local AVA Divisions, and hopefully add weight to the arguments from informed stakeholder groups.

This year's conference also included the Big Lick conference for the first time. During their sessions they changed their name to Animal Management in Indigenous Communities (AMIC), and resolved to incorporate. They hope to run concurrent proceedings with UAM in 2003.

The 2003 UAM conference will move to Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. It will be run next to the International Veterinary Behaviourists Conference with some overlap between the two conferences and should be worthwhile. The next issue to be reviewed is likely to be that of barking dogs. Dick Murray will be the Convenor for the conference and the Caloundra Shire Council is generously providing support. UAM hopes to see you there.

Dr Ian McBryde
Convenor, UAM Advisory Group

The AVA National Veterinarian reports to the AVA CEO and to the Board, managing the 'Policy and Regulation' elements of the AVA Strategic Plan. He provides advice and services to the Board, Policy Council, SIGs and the CEO and represents AVA on more than a dozen external groups. He also makes representations to Governments and external organisations that cover the profession, to members, government, community and industry groups, and to the general public and comments regularly on radio and occasionally other media.

The AVA National Veterinarian is supported by Dr Bernard Robinson, AVA National Assistant Veterinarian, whose work focuses on animal welfare matters. Dr Robinson is secretary of the AVA Animal Welfare Committee and performs analysis and prepares detailed papers for the Committee and for Policy Council.

The AVA Strategic Plan has seven strategic objectives towards which these two veterinarians work:

1. Retain and grow membership

The National Veterinarian promotes AVA participation in veterinary affairs within AVA and nationally. Support to members, SIGs and Divisions through advice, information and assistance with representations to governments and industry organisations is part of this. He also regularly contributes articles to the Australian Veterinary Journal.

2. Promote members as the providers of best veterinary advice and expertise

Emergency animal diseases

The National Veterinarian has worked this year with governments to capture experiences of the thirty-seven practitioners who went to the UK under the AVA scheme that provided assistance on the control of Foot and Mouth Disease. A workshop convened by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA) and Animal Health Australia (AHA), involving 15 of the veterinarians who went to the UK brought forward a recommendation for a National Veterinary Reserve (NVR) similar to the Army Reserve. Veterinarians would receive specific training in emergency animal diseases and in responding to outbreaks, and would be ready to attend outbreaks immediately on declaration.

AVA participated in work by AHA on a 'national standstill' to minimise the spread of emergency diseases immediately on suspicion or diagnosis.

AVA provided members for committees that advise governments and industry organisations during emergency animal disease planning and during outbreaks, and on wildlife. Some practitioners were involved in Exercise Minotaur which tested planning and readiness. Government members of AVA played a leading role here.



Dr Kevin Doyle

Feral Pigs

The Annual Conference in Adelaide resolved that AVA should seek to take a leadership role in control and possible eradication of feral pigs. These animals have the potential to harbour emergency animal diseases and to complicate eradication and declaration of

freedom from a number of exotic diseases. The AVA is forming strategic alliances on this issue with other interested parties.

Animal Welfare

The National Veterinarian is Executive Officer to the AVA Animal Welfare Trust. Money contributed by members with payment of subscriptions has been forwarded to the Trust for consideration for the first research funding awards.

The National Assistant Veterinarian is secretary to the AVA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee that advises Board and Policy Council. The Committee had input into AVA policies and AVA comment on the National Animal Welfare Strategy.

The National Veterinarian represents AVA on the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) and on the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW). NCCAW advises the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on animal welfare matters.

AVA dedication to animal welfare is reflected in the inclusion of animal welfare in all elements of the scientific program of the AVA Annual Conference. AVA participated this year in the national debate and at state level on tail docking of dogs.

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

The National Veterinarian is a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council Special Expert Committee on the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies. This medical and veterinary committee examines national policies and technical programs to address risks to Australia and to establish Australia's TSE free status. This is to protect the community and to facilitate exports of animals and animal products.

3. Promote the value of AVA contribution to the Community

AVA briefs and provides members with appropriate expertise as experts or members of working groups and expert panels on a wide range of animal related groups.

The National Veterinarian addresses queries from the public and media and addresses issues of importance to the profession and the industries it serves. These issues include animal welfare, disease control, antibiotic resistance, clinical practice, urban animal management, and food safety.

He liaises with community groups such as the RSPCA and Urban Animal Management (UAM), and with events such as PetExpo, and makes presentations to industry groups.

The National Veterinarian is also involved with the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians that facilitates trade and disease control through use of private practitioners.

4. Promote AVA leadership and expertise through strategic alliances with other organisations

The 'Policy and Regulation' elements of the AVA include participation in major national and international organisations. The National Veterinarian provides input into Animal Health Australia (of which the AVA is a shareholder). He coordinates comment for input to the Australian position for the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). He is an alternative Councillor to the World Veterinary Association, and a member of the National Farmers Federation's Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force (QAHTF) which advises NFF and provides excellent opportunities for strategic alliances with farm organisations.

The National Veterinarian participated in, and prepared a number of major papers for, the International Veterinary Officers Council (IVOC) meeting in Sydney in March 2002 and is involved in ongoing work with IVOC member countries on antibiotic resistance. He represents the World Veterinary Association on the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Inspection and Certification Systems.

5. Influence public policy to achieve appropriate outcomes for members and the community

Submissions to the National Registration Authority

The AVA has made submissions to the National Registration Authority on chemicals including dimetridazole and the use of macrolide antibiotics. We have also made representations to the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee, for example in the case of its examination of the use of 1080 for control of feral animals. These submissions are put together after consultations with SIGs and the AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee.

Review of Australia's Quarantine function

The AVA made a submission and in-person representations to the joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit in its review of Australia's quarantine function. The National Veterinarian and Dr Jo Sillince met with the

Committee to put the AVA's views. The submission was developed after consultation with AVA SIGs and Divisions.

Review of Rural Veterinary Services

Coordination of the AVA submission to the Review of Rural Veterinary Services and the contribution of the Consultative Committee involved work with SIGs, Divisions and members. The review received more than 112 submissions, an indication of its importance to the profession and industry. The AVA coordinated focus groups and meetings for the reviewer in country areas.

Quarantine Advisory Committee

The AVA Quarantine Advisory Committee (QAC) coordinates AVA input into risk analyses and position papers initiated by Biosecurity Australia. QAC reviews draft quarantine policies and operational programs and provides day-to-day input into the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

AVA veterinarians participate on a number of import risk analysis panels providing the science that underpins quarantine policies. The National Veterinarian and the AVJ Scientific Editor are members of a technical working group on PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome) and on the risk analysis panel on the importation of pig meat.

Disposal of chemical containers

The AVA made a submission to the ACCC in response to an Avcare proposal under the Drummuster program to include certain categories of chemical containers.

AVA also monitors legislation and develops policies on which AVA comment is based.

6. Increase professional, educational and personal development opportunities for the membership

The National Veterinarian coordinates the scientific program at the AVA National Conference and contributes to an education seminar. He liaises with veterinary schools and other education providers and gives input to AVA education measures. The National Veterinarian is also a member of the ACT Veterinary Surgeons Board and contributes to the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council.

7. Manage the AVA to the best practice standards of Association management

The National Veterinarian serves on six internal AVA committees and on more than a dozen external committees, working groups and expert panels. Strategic planning and development of the Members Directory and Policy Compendium also contribute to this objective.

Dr Kevin Doyle
AVA National Veterinarian

AVA PETS AND PEOPLE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The AVA Pets and People Education Program (AVA PetPEP) is an initiative of the Australian Veterinary Association that aims to teach primary school children about socially responsible pet ownership. The long-term objective of the program is to create a future environment more understanding of animals and their needs.

AVA PetPEP has been operating for more than ten years. Veterinarians and teachers collaborate to creatively integrate responsible pet care messages into the school curriculum. This is primarily done by distributing pet care resource booklets to teachers and by facilitating in-school pet expositions.

However, AVA PetPEP's commitment to responsible pet ownership extends beyond in-school activities. AVA PetPEP is also a nationwide network of veterinarians, veterinary nurses, schools, local councils and other animal related organisations working together to promote responsible pet ownership. One of AVA PetPEP's main objectives is to help other organisations to actively endorse responsible pet ownership within their community. This is done by recruiting local council funding and program support, lobbying for community and media awareness on pet care issues, and assisting veterinary practices to build a profile within their local community.

Based on these efforts, AVA PetPEP's National Advisory Committee led the AVA to make an increased commitment to AVA PetPEP in early 2001, and since then AVA PetPEP has experienced extraordinary growth – particularly during the last year.

National Growth

AVA PetPEP increased core staffing levels in 2002. In turn, this has increased assistance and support for veterinarians and teachers. Early in 2001 AVA PetPEP consisted of only a National Coordinator and a Queensland Education Officer for 2 days per week. AVA PetPEP now has six staff plus administrative support.

The role of the National Coordinator is to develop and drive the AVA PetPEP national strategic plan and to assist state based Education Officers to implement the program in each state. The position was increased from two to four days per week in 2002. Kate Perkins is the AVA PetPEP National Coordinator.

The National AVA Board structure has also been reformed to allow increased communication and efficiency. There are now two Board members responsible for AVA PetPEP. National President Dr Jo Toia has supported AVA PetPEP for many years, and in addition Dr Lyndy Scott joined the team last year. AVA PetPEP is also fortunate to have had the support of AVA Finance and Administration Manager Laretta Stace in all areas of human resources and financial management. With the huge growth in staffing this year, her help was invaluable.

State Growth

AVA PetPEP Education Officers coordinate the logistical aspects of the program in their respective states and aid in assisting the network of schools, vets and community groups to drive the program locally.

Sophie Kenny, a teacher who has specialised in implementing environmental education programs in primary and secondary schools, was employed as Victorian Education Officer in October, and she sits alongside Dr Kristen Steele, AVA Victorian Division Committee member and Petcare Information and Advisory Service, who provides her veterinary expertise in a strategic role for 2.5 days per week.

Rowena Bell also joined the team in October as Tasmanian Education Officer. Rowena is a veterinarian with extensive experience in project management, policy development and research.

Michelle Lee served both NSW and ACT in 2002. Michelle, a teacher experienced in implementing education programs, significantly increased involvement of vets and teachers in NSW and ACT over the year. In recognition of the outstanding growth of the program in NSW, Michelle's contract is to be renewed for a further twelve months from January 2003.

Queensland's Education Officer staffing has increased to a six-day per week position over the last year. This is shared between Caitlyn Feldmann (5 days) and Kate Perkins (1 day), both qualified teachers. Caitlyn's enthusiasm and energy have meant the program has continued to grow and attract further support from veterinary practices and councils.

Primary Funding Sources

AVA PetPEP's main funding is from the AVA and from subscriptions from veterinarians. The Petcare Information and Advisory Service remains the sole national sponsor.

Queensland AVA also secured funding from state-based sponsors – the Department of Primary Industries (QLD), RSPCA (QLD) and twenty local councils. In Tasmania, AVA Tasmania assisted with increased funds; and in Victoria, AVA Victoria and the Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners Branch also provided financial support. NSW staffing continued to be funded from NSW AVA PetPEP funds accrued over the years.

As mentioned, a primary objective of AVA PetPEP is to facilitate community groups other than vets to be involved and share the responsibility of education. In Queensland there were 20 local councils financially contributing to the AVA PetPEP program in December 2002, an increase of 43 per cent over the year. This allowed the number of schools impacted by the program to increase by 75 per cent in 2002.

As the program increases so does the requirement for funding. AVA PetPEP has actively sought more support from

key groups to increase funding and to encourage other groups to take responsibility in educating children about pets. AVA PetPEP currently has submitted proposals to the Department of Environment and Heritage in South Australia, the Brisbane City Council, RSPCA QLD, and Department of Primary Industries (QLD).

Promotional Activities

The *Me and My Pet* National Schools Competition

The major project for 2002 was the *Me and My Pet* National Schools Competition, the largest promotional initiative ever undertaken by AVA PetPEP. It was launched during International Pet Week in October 2002 and invited primary school students nation-wide to submit a drawing, poem or short story entitled 'Caring for My Favourite Pet'. Competition kits were mailed to over 8000 primary schools and nearly 5000 AVA vets nationally.

The project required a specific Competition Coordinator for three days per week for four months. Peta Egan, also a qualified teacher, was employed to work alongside external legal, graphic design and public relations consultants to make the competition happen.

The competition was a huge success with almost 10,000 students participating. Veterinarians across Australia offered their time for promotion, judging and presentation of certificates of merit to participants.

A panel of judges including AVA members, AVA National President Dr Jo Toia, and AVA PetPEP National Coordinator Kate Perkins chose the three national winning entries. The three category winners were flown from Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland to Sydney in December to enjoy lunch with TV celebrity vet Dr Katrina Warren.

Maddison Kraus, aged 6, from Kunyung Primary School in Mt Eliza, Victoria, won the drawing category with a laminated A3 size picture of herself hugging her large dog wearing a collar with council registration tags. Steven Piper, aged 8, from Miling Primary School two hours from Perth, won the poetry category with a rhyme about how important it is to love his pet, Princess. Cody Lee from Miami State School outside Mackay in North Queensland won the story category by relating how he cares for his dog Gus.

The *Me and My Pet* National Schools Competition was funded by project-based sponsors Fort Dodge Animal Health, Bayer Animal Health, The Lost Dogs' Home, ASAVA, Provet and Dog's Life Magazine.

The PetPEP Hotline

The 1800 AVA PET (1800 282 738) hotline was installed in 2002 and was instrumental in supporting vets and teachers to implement the competition and to disseminate information about the program generally.

Promotional Outcomes

Media is an important way to increase awareness of the program and allows exposure for supporters and sponsors. AVA PetPEP was publicised with stories in more than 140 news publications and by 17 radio interviews.

Exposing key groups and individual veterinary practices to the program on a continuous basis was achieved through monthly articles in the Australian Veterinary Journal and The Veterinarian, articles in the state-based quarterly AVA newsletters, and the ASAVA quarterly newsletter.

Most importantly, the AVA PetPEP program enjoyed big growth within schools. The number of schools using the AVA PetPEP text resource and pet expos to teach responsible pet care messages increased by more than 50 per cent. It is expected that school interest will increase in 2003 as a result of the *Me and My Pet* National Schools Competition. Very impressively, every single vet directly approached to visit schools agreed to participate.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the AVA PetPEP program is necessary to determine if its objectives are being met, to justify funding and recommending it to teachers, schools and organisations as a valid educational program. A full evaluation of the AVA PetPEP program occurred in mid-2002. AVA PetPEP has now been independently evaluated for the second time with excellent results.

AVA PetPEP thanks everyone who has made 2002 so successful. This includes the AVA PetPEP staff, AVA staff, AVA Board, sponsors and other supporters. Most of all we thank the veterinary practices that commit their time and funds to educating our future pet owners.

Kate Perkins
National Coordinator
AVA PetPEP

AVA DIVISIONS

ACT Division

An energetic Divisional Committee has been a key element of a productive and satisfying year for the ACT Division.

The Division has continued with a very active and well patronised scientific program in 2002. Apart from more social events such as the "new-to-Canberra dinner" and a well-attended mid-year dinner/lake cruise, there have been frequent scientific evening presentations. The list of topics covered was immense, including as it has: emergency disease funding, rabies, superannuation, practice management, acupuncture/chiropractic, clinical pathology, grief counselling, AVA PetPEP, transferable drug resistance, ophthalmic pharmacology, dermatology, haemolytic anaemia, and import risk analysis on dogs and cats.

Naturally, to be able to present such a wide range of topics, the Division depends on the goodwill of many expert speakers from within the ACT and elsewhere, and the occasional financial assistance of sponsors. The Division acknowledges this generous assistance.

The Division welcomed the AVA HR service that was started on a pilot basis during the year. This innovation was well received by members.

A notable event nationally this year was the Review of Rural Veterinary Services. The Division made a submission to the review that augmented that made by AVA's National Office. In the event, the Division's submission complemented submissions from other bodies, in particular that submitted by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA).

The Division continued in 2002 to be occupied refuting misguided proposals aimed at banning allegedly dangerous breeds of dogs. A letter was published in the Canberra Times in response to one such proposal. The Division also expressed its disquiet about the effects of fireworks on animals and wrote to relevant local politicians calling for more stringent controls on the use of fireworks in the ACT.

Relations with the Domestic Animal Services branch of the ACT Department of Urban Services have continued to be excellent. Subjects of discussion and negotiation have included labelling of veterinary waste, appropriate disposal of dead animals at the tip, and arrangements for emergency treatment of injured animals of unknown ownership.

Relations with the RSPCA have also continued to be productive with the Division participating in the "Million Paws Walk" in May.

As in previous years, the Division sent a representative to attend the Urban Animal Management Conference, which was held in Alice Springs in August.

In mid-year, the Division sponsored a visit to Malkara Special School by "The Patting Paddock", a display of farm animals from Farm Animal Resource Management.

Malkara is a preschool and primary school for students who have moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. The students, who range in age from 3 to 12 years, clearly gained much from the experience. A modest level of media attention ensued.

Changes in radio programming led to the demise of the popular Saturday "Pet Vet" radio talkback session. In a parallel development, the Division's involvement in the "Snoopy Patrol" was terminated due to the limited return on the effort put into this service. The Division has continued to look for ways of enhancing the public profile of the profession and again manned a display at the annual Pet Expo in November.

The Division's Ethics Committee has again played a role in resolution of minor complaints by members of the public.

In 2002, the Division continued to participate in the Doctors' Health Advisory Service, continued its mentor scheme for new graduates with a new team of mentors, and continued to endorse the AVA's New Graduate Friendly Practice Scheme.

Sad news came during the year with the loss of two veterinarians well known in the ACT, Adam Johannesen and David Adamson.

Finally, the Division again acknowledges the excellent administrative support it gets through its contractual arrangements for part-time services from the national office. The ACT office moved to new premises during the year and the Division wishes the ACT staff well in their new location.

Dr Pat Boland
President
AVA ACT Division



NSW Division

Review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act

In late September, NSW Division was notified that there had been action in the NSW Department of Agriculture regarding the revision of the Veterinary Surgeons Act. Perseverance paid off and we secured a meeting with the Department and representatives of the Board of Veterinary Surgeons. Since then a Cabinet minute has been drafted setting out the framework from which the new Bill will be written. We continue to negotiate with Government about any changes to the Act to try to ensure that they reflect the best outcome for the veterinary profession. We have been assured of further meetings prior to the Bill being finalised.

Tail docking legislation

NSW Division actively pursued a ban on tail docking in NSW and wrote a joint letter with the RSPCA seeking this change in legislation. We believe this is an area where the AVA can stand up for its beliefs and achieve its vision of a veterinary profession that is cohesive, strong and highly respected. Through the concerted efforts of Division with respect to the Veterinary Surgeons Act and the tail docking laws we have improved our relationship with the NSW Department of Agriculture. This was reflected recently in a request from the Minister for input into changing of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Act.

NSW Division AGM

The 2002 AGM was held at Bowral in the Southern Highlands of NSW, and was well attended. Excellent speakers on emergency medicine provided the focus for the weekend. The 2003 AGM will be held 3-4 May 2003 at Tallwoods Village, a golf resort near Forster on the North Coast of NSW. Exceptional speakers and facilities warrant a strong attendance.

Membership

The position of student representative on NSW Division Committee was continued this year. The Division feels that this has had a positive affect on student membership numbers. The student member is able to spread a greater understanding of what it means to be a member. AVA Divisional Representatives continue to meet each year with students to explain and encourage membership.

The launch of the AVA Members HR Advisory Service hotline this year added significantly to the value of membership.

Ethics and Complaints

The Ethics and Complaints subcommittee continues to mediate many disputes. NSW Division mediated on a complaint between two members and found that the AVA's code of conduct is not enforceable. The NSW Division would like to see Policy Council's promised review of the

Code of Conduct and a mechanism by which the Association can discipline its members. The existence of members who do not stand by the AVA's Code of Conduct undermines the whole vision, mission and goals of the Association.

Since the change to the Board of Veterinary Surgeons and the Veterinary Surgeons Investigating Committee, the NSW Division Ethics and Complaints Subcommittee has noted a marked increase in the speed at which complaints referred to the VSIC have been advised as finalised.

Branch Liaison

Committee members attended various branch meetings throughout the year with the most recent away meeting being held at Nowra on the South Coast.

The Council of Professions

The Council of Professions meetings are regularly attended by a NSW Division Committee member. It has provided valuable input into the development of arguments taken to the Minister regarding changes to our Act based on the collective experiences of other professions. Indeed, the Council of Professions' President has represented us to Government, so providing another avenue for lobbying on behalf of veterinarians.

AVA PetPEP

AVA PetPEP is gradually gaining increasing support from veterinarians and schools across NSW. Veterinary practices that have had the opportunity to work with school students have found it a rewarding experience. Hundreds of children were given the opportunity in 2002 to participate in practice visits, classroom visits or Pet Expos due to the enthusiasm of local veterinarians and veterinary nurses who dedicated their time to this worthwhile educational program. Representatives from animal welfare organisations also participated in the AVA PetPEP program in some schools.

Awareness of the program with NSW Local Councils has started to increase. The AVA PetPEP Education Officer spoke at the Western Division of the Australian Institute of Local Government Rangers (Inc) annual meeting in Bathurst. Representatives from 13 councils were present. Long term, it is hoped that these councils will assist us in promoting the AVA PetPEP program in their regions by working cooperatively with the AVA PetPEP team and local veterinarians.

Dr Julia Sykes
President
AVA NSW Division

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Northern Territory Division

2002 was a busy year for the NT division, with the Northern Territory seemingly being the flavour of the year for conferences. Whilst NT is normally starved for high quality speakers, this year saw an abundance of interstate and international presenters at a variety of conferences.

The year kicked off with the Westralian Drug Holdings annual conference in February with sessions for veterinarians and veterinary nurses conducted by Dr Terry King, Dr Greg Burton and Darren Beard. This was followed in February by the NT Division AGM and annual conference. This was the first time that a 2-day conference had been attempted, and proved that it was both feasible and profitable for the Division. The event was co-sponsored by Elders Darwin and Pfizer with the major speaker being Dr Marcus Gunew of the Creek Road Cat Clinic in Brisbane. Other presentations were given by Dr Sam McMahon on Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK, by Dr Derek Spielman on "The Loss of Genetic Diversity Decreases Host Resistance of Virulent Disease", by Dr Dennis Thomson on "The History of BTEC in Arnhem land", and by Bruce Wynn from AVA National Office. Planning is under way for the next AGM and conference, which hopefully will continue to grow. The AVA Annual Conference in Adelaide was attended by a small group from NT Division who braved the trip south, and hopefully an equally brave contingent will head to Queensland in May 2003.

In July 2002 Darwin was overrun by cattle vets for the AACV/Post-Graduate Foundation Conference, which had a major theme of Bull Reproduction. The major speaker was US-based Peter Chenoweth, ensuring a well attended conference that was highly spoken of by all. Also in Darwin in July was the Wildlife Disease Association annual conference, which was popular and well attended.

The annual UAM/Big Lick conference was held in Alice Springs in August with a good attendance of around 120. Also in August, Darwin hosted the 29th Annual ASAVA Conference, for which the theme was dermatology. With NT Division's Debbie Osborne as President this conference went down extremely well, with many keen attendees.

AVA PetPEP went very well in the Northern Territory this year with a visit from National Coordinator Kate Perkins and with Councils in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs becoming involved. NT Division was active on both the national and NT Animal Welfare Advisory Committees, although unfortunately several attempts to get tail docking banned have now failed. We also had quite a bit of Divisional input into the Cattle Spaying and Branding Draft policies, and submissions were made from the Division and some individuals to the Rural Veterinary Review.

We are looking forward to another active year in 2003.

Dr Samantha McMahon
President
AVA NT Division



Queensland Division

University of Queensland Veterinary School

At the end of 2002, the University of Queensland Veterinary School was still awaiting the report of the VSAAC Committee that visited the School in early September 2002. The School is anticipating a limited, two-year registration with a sizeable list of recommendations to be met inside that time period. The School has too few academic staff and, as the discussion paper on the Review Of Rural Veterinary Services pointed out, it is seriously under-funded: The School's annual gross income is about half that of the other three Australian Schools. It is pleasing to note that there have been number of applicants for the new Chair of Animal Welfare, which increases the likelihood of an appointment being made to this crucial academic position.

The Queensland Division maintains close ties with the Veterinary School and for many years has had a staff member on the Executive as well as having students attend monthly Executive meetings. It is disappointing, therefore, that the School didn't seek the advice of the Division when formulating its new curriculum to be introduced in 2003.

Veterinary Practice Employees' Award-State (Vet Nurses Award)

This award went before the Industrial Commissioner in late October 2002 and came into effect on 1 January 2003. It replaces the twenty-year-old "Veterinary Surgery, Clinic and Practice Employees Award-State". The new award seeks to increase flexibility and modernise the award, to introduce a 38-hour week and to change pay scales to reflect levels of competency attained. This new award has had the gestation period of an elephant but has been harmoniously delivered through excellent cooperation between AVA personnel, representatives of the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia and AWU-Queensland. In particular, former QLD Division President Alistair Webb and Dr. John Odum need to be acknowledged for helping bring this award to fruition.

Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 2002

A Bill passed by Queensland Parliament in October 2001 and then proclaimed in December 2001 amended certain provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936. A new regulation under this Act, known as the Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 2002 came into effect on 1 September 2002 and replaced the existing provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 1991.

This new regulation embraced the following:

- to recognise the Willis dropped – ovary method as the only method of surgical spaying excluded from veterinary science;
- to increase fees payable to the Veterinary Surgeons Board; and

- to create a new provision to oblige veterinary surgeons to keep a record of continuing veterinary education undertaken by them. This record could then be used by the Board to help demonstrate competence in the course of complaint resolution enquiries.

AVA PetPEP

AVA PetPEP is a major success story for the Queensland Division and it is fair to say that the Division, through its now National AVA PetPEP Officer Kate Perkins, has led an expansion of AVA PetPEP activities throughout Australia. Kate has been ably assisted by Caitlyn Feldmann in Queensland and, at last count, Kate and Caitlyn had enlisted the support of 20 Councils to help implement AVA PetPEP in Queensland schools. At the time of writing, negotiations are under way to bring the Brisbane City Council on board, which will be a major coup for the Queensland Division.

Queensland Division acknowledges the continuing financial support of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and RSPCA Queensland for AVA PetPEP promotion in schools.

Conference 2002

The Darling Downs and South West Queensland Branch hosted a very successful Annual Division Conference in March 2002. The conference was held in Stanthorpe and a successful scientific and social program was organised by the Branch. Particular thanks go to Chris Reardon, Megan Salter and Kirsten Widderick for their efforts in organising such a well-attended conference.

Membership

It is pleasing to report that student membership increased in 2002 largely due to the efforts of AVA Student Representative Kim Benning. The Division thanks Kim for her efforts during the year and welcomes incoming student representative Anna MacNaughton.

The Division wishes to place on record that John Odum was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for 2002. John has given outstanding service to the Queensland Division for over 25 years.

Queensland Division acknowledges the support of office staff Mary George and fourth year student Matt Pope. Matt has given outstanding part-time service to the Division and we wish him well for his final year studies. The Divisional Executive is also to be commended for its dedicated work over the past year.

Dr Malcolm McLennan
on behalf of **Dr Gaille Perry**
President
AVA Queensland Division

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South Australian Division

AVA National Conference

The Division was very pleased that the 2002 AVA National Conference was such a success. The attractions of Adelaide and surrounding areas, the quality and composition of the programs provided by the Special Interest Groups, and some key pre-conference programs contributed to that success, as did the efforts of AVACOS Conference Manager Doreen Culliver and the local arrangements committee.

The Conference Centre provided a well-serviced venue for delegates and industry exhibitors, who were highly satisfied with the value of their exposure to the profession. Both key social events were outstanding successes. The novelty of a tour of the National Wine Centre followed by dinner in the huge hall, plus an efficient bus shuttle system around the city, were appreciated by interstate visitors. The Division thanks the record number of delegates who visited Adelaide for supporting this very special event.

Funding

In 2001 the Division submitted a business plan to AVA National as part of its efforts to receive funding to enable it to deliver equivalent and consistent services to its members. Factors impeding our efforts were insufficient volunteer time to deliver projects, to respond to external agencies or to represent the AVA on important issues, and no surplus operating income from annual subscriptions. A formal funding application followed this year and we are grateful that AVA National has financially supported certain key services to members. We are involved in further discussions with AVA National on support for professional delivery of a range of essential activities that cannot adequately be serviced by divisional volunteers.

Veterinary Surgeons Act

The review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act was concluded and a draft Veterinary Practice Bill was introduced to Parliament in the last session of 2002. Lobbying of the relevant Ministers of the present and previous governments finally led to the release of a copy of the draft Bill for limited scrutiny. In general it presents few surprises or threats and entrenches the concepts of "veterinary surgeon" and "veterinary treatment". There is a lot of work to be done in defining the regulations to underpin the proposed new Act and we have put a strong case for serious involvement in this process.

Divisional AGM

Around 30 members attended a successful SA Division Annual General Meeting and Conference on March 9-10 in the Barossa Valley. A workshop, "Skin Diseases of Endocrine Origin", was conducted by Dr Andrew Carter in association with a comprehensive trade display and industry representatives were pleased with the level of

exposure and opportunity for discussion that resulted. The scientific session was followed by the Divisional AGM at which almost a full committee was elected for 2003, with David Pritchard as President. Just under 50 adults and several children enjoyed the Annual Dinner at which the Merit SA Divisional Service Award was presented jointly to Julia and Anthony Lucas for significant contributions to the Division in a wide range of activities.

Branch Activity

Branches of the Division have had a busy and successful year providing stimulating professional and social opportunities for their members.

Small animal practitioners were presented with all the inside information from a detective on fraud and embezzlement (including workplace and internet fraud), as well as rabbit husbandry, nutrition, dentistry and common diseases, and up-to-the-minute information on veterinary anaesthesia.

The Rural Practitioners Branch conducted two successful and well-supported workshops, one on liver biopsy of cattle for most precise assessment of trace element status and another for horse dentistry.

In the South-East, the Henty Branch had excellent turnouts to two very successful meetings.

Rural Veterinary Services Review

A feature of 2002 was the visit to SA by Peter Frawley, the consultant undertaking the Rural Veterinary Services Review. In a whirlwind tour, meetings held in three rural centres over two days and were enthusiastically attended by a total of more than forty veterinarians and three industry representatives.

Social events

Again, social events were a feature of the SA Division's year with lively new graduate and mentorship dinners and a pub night at a Belgian beer café. A couple of other traditional events clashed with some major calendar dates and were less well attended than in the past.

2002 wound up with our biggest-yet Christmas cocktail party attended by around 130 members and guests. AVA House Office Manager, Barbara Gill personally treated guests to a gourmet spread. Among the highlights of this year's party was the presentation of 2002 AVA/Pfizer Awards for Excellence in practice to Dr Julia Nicholls and Dr Jenni Trewren. AVA President Dr Jo Toia presented Life Membership certificates to six members of the Division. The major highlight of the evening was the official conferring of Fellowship of the Association on Dr Rod Babidge, a pillar of the Division for over thirty years.

Dr David Pritchard
President
AVA SA Division

Tasmanian Division

The Tasmanian Division had 105 members in 2002. There are 60 veterinary practices in Tasmania. The Divisional Committee held a meeting at least every two months and published four newsletters over the year, sent electronically to members and available for perusal on the AVA website. The Division was also involved in some exciting projects over the year.

Our commitment to the provision of more continuing education opportunities to members all around the State bore fruit in the organisation of six seminars, three in the North, two in the South and one in the North East, all of them well attended and received. We aim to continue this and to hold seminars on a rotating basis around the state annually.

With the appointment of Rowena Bell as AVA PetPEP State coordinator in September – the first person the Division has ever employed – we moved towards having AVA PetPEP up and running. She and National AVA PetPEP coordinator Kate Perkins launched AVA PetPEP at our annual conference in November.

The Division and a Rural Practitioners Working Group sub-committee lobbied the Tasmanian government during 2002 over concerns about our ability to cope with an outbreak of an emergency animal disease (EAD). The Tasmanian government intends to employ private practitioners in the surveillance, early detection and response to an EAD. The Division is promoting its members as veterinarians with the best on-the-ground experience and advice in animal health, welfare and production. The Division forwarded a proposal to the Tasmanian Government for the provision of veterinary services to the Government by private practitioners.

With the 2001 outbreak of FMD in the UK and heightened awareness over the necessity to demonstrate compliance with trade requirements, it is an opportune time to promote the value of the veterinary profession and in particular of rural practitioners to the government and the community and to influence public policy on behalf of members. A member of our Committee, Ron Harris, represented the Division on the FMD Preparedness Steering Committee, which met monthly since April 2002. All 33 recommendations of the David Obendorf Report have been taken up by the State Government, which subsequently advertised for three more veterinary officers, one of whom will liaise with private practitioners. The Government has also promised to commit funds to upgrading State Veterinary laboratory facilities and services. A Private Practitioner's Training Workshop in exotic disease preparedness held in Launceston in June was oversubscribed. Another is scheduled for 2003.

The Rural Practitioners' working group made a significant contribution to the Division's submission to the Federal Government's Review of Rural Veterinary Services.

AVA members had expressed some concern over the Veterinary Nurse Apprenticeship Scheme administered by the Rural Training Authority and it was resolved that a meeting of stakeholders be held to review all aspects of nurse training in Tasmania.

The Division's AGM in March was held at Port Arthur and we were delighted to have then-President Robert Baker and CEO Bruce Wynn attend. Our annual dual veterinary and veterinary nurse conference, held at Grindlewald, Launceston on November 9-10, attracted interstate delegates and was a huge success with record numbers of veterinarians, nurses and trade interests attending and well-received scientific sessions. Keynote speakers Dr Jacqueline Rand, Dr Sue Foster and Dr Linda Fleeman spoke on the common endocrine diseases in small animals.

Financially the Tasmanian Division is in good shape and continues to perform well. We look forward to another successful year in 2003.

Dr Angela Offord
President
AVA Tasmanian Division



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Victorian Division

Positional Changes

Following three years as Division President, Dr Jeff Brady passed the baton to Dr Matt Makin in April at the Division's AGM. Dr Brady continues his involvement in the Division as Vice President and interim Executive Officer. It is now almost two years since the Division employed an Executive Officer – a situation to be rectified early in 2003. This will greatly assist the Committee to function efficiently and implement the many initiatives and ideas that exist to improve service to members. Importantly, it will also be a tool by which Branches better fulfil their charter. Office administrator Carmen Brasher has continued to serve the Division well, providing much support and handling a greater workload in the absence of an Executive Officer.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee continues to do much hard work for members of the Division, with excellent attendance at all the monthly meetings and regular input into all veterinary matters within the State. Many people travel great distances to attend these and other meetings at some cost, only to drive home late at night to work the next day. The AVA would not function without such people. The involvement of students, younger members and retired members of the profession such as Drs Mason, Wheeler and Faragher make for a vibrant and enthusiastic Committee. Many members also participate in other committees and meetings as part of their honorary role.

AVA PetPEP

AVA PetPEP continued to explode in Victoria during 2002, culminating with the appointment of a part time Education Officer late in October. Sophie Kenny will with Dr Kristen Steele provide much needed support to veterinarians and teachers to help extend this great program even further. We encourage all members to utilise the assistance of our new officer.

VicVet

Dr Trevor Faragher continued to produce our quarterly newsletter VicVet – creating a well-regarded publication with small resources. All feedback regarding the newsletter is positive and we thank Dr Faragher for his effort. It is a great means of keeping members informed. In 2003 we will try to communicate more via email (which is quick and cheap) but will maintain the high standard paper version.

Practitioner in Residence

The Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners' Branch once again sponsored the Practitioner In Residence (PIR) Program for veterinary students in their final year at the University Of Melbourne. This year's practitioner, Dr Jeff Brady, gave the AVA a great chance to liaise and integrate

with the students a lot more and his appointment went extremely well. The Division's goal is to continually improve its relationship with students and the University.

Country meeting

The 2002 country meeting was held in Ballarat, but in spite of much hard work preparing and advertising was not well attended. This highlighted an issue the Division has seen develop over the past decade, namely member apathy toward the AVA and decreasing involvement from younger members. We plan to address this issue in coming months.

State Government review of veterinary pathology services

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the State Government reviewed veterinary pathology services in Victoria during the middle of the year. The Division spent much time writing a lengthy and detailed response to this enquiry and testified before the Committee. It gave us a great opportunity to highlight the serious problems that exist within the sector and push for the return of some government support. The Committee's final report is yet to be released.

Review of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTAA)

At the time of writing there is a small scale but important review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act within Victoria, in particular the clause in the Act that gives animals under veterinary care exemption from being inspected by livestock inspectors. The Minister asked the AVA about options for removing or modifying this clause following a very public incident earlier in the year. The Division is working with the Bureau of Animal Welfare and the RSPCA regarding possible changes.

Finances

The Division's finances continued to improve, the main saving being from the absence of an Executive Officer. The Division is now in a very sound position following last year's contribution from the annual conference and tight financial management. Much credit must be given to Dr Gerry Davis who continued his role as Honorary Treasurer.

Dr Matthew Makin
President
AVA Victorian Division

Western Australian Division

Membership

Undergraduates

The 2002 Student Representative, Sam Hurcombe, did a terrific job in providing a link between the students and the Division. Unfortunately Sam fell sick after the national conference and this reduced his ability to function considerably. The joint Presidents of the Veterinary Students' Association, Laura Hardefeldt and Hugh Broun, attended nearly all the committee meetings this year and this was invaluable in liaising with the students. Low student membership continues to frustrate but the Division is confident that this will improve with the students' increasing exposure to the AVA.

Following last year's success the final year workshop "The Consultation" was again held at a Perth hotel and sponsored by Merial. While the numbers were slightly down on last year, all students participating were very positive regarding the experience.

As in previous years, the interaction with students via workshops and seminars at Murdoch University continued.

New Graduates

With Paul Davey once again taking on the coordinating role, the Graduate Support Scheme continued to provide support for new graduates outside the practice environment, and it is being used more and more. Several Murdoch graduates working outside WA asked to be included in this scheme.

Social events held throughout the year to facilitate contact between the mentors and the new graduates were well attended.

The New Graduate Dinner – a joint venture with the Continuing Veterinary Education Office at Murdoch University – was held again this year. The format instituted two years ago was continued. It starts with an information/discussion afternoon, with presentations from the AVA, VSB registrar and a clinical psychologist. A panel of recent and older graduates then relates some of their "horror cases" with a general discussion, and the dinner is then held in the evening.

Once again, our sincere thanks to Uncle Bens and Merial for continuing generous sponsorship and to Belinda Beynon of the Murdoch CVE for her enthusiastic organisation.

The New Graduate Package, a publication initiated by Frank Gaschk some years ago and expanded over the last three years, has gone national. The Employed Veterinarians' Association, with the driving force of Megan Wheeler, has completely revamped this publication and it is now a much more complete document.

Its aim is still to provide assistance to the new graduates in employment, in areas such as contracts, employment relations, and support networks. It has also a humorous

side with the recording of previous graduates' experiences. Work continues on several projects both to encourage membership and to assist students in the transition to practitioner. With the concerns regarding the future of rural veterinarians it is vital that the Division promotes this aspect of veterinary membership and supports the rural practitioner. One of the projects attempts to address this issue.

Country Membership

The program of promoting country meetings in the regional centres of Bunbury, Albany and Geraldton continued. In association with the VSB registrar, very productive meetings were held to discuss concerns within the rural environment and veterinary industry, and these certainly help to stimulate membership of the AVA. The rural situation will continue to provide a challenge to the profession.

Rural Veterinary Review

Meetings with the Reviewer were arranged in mid-November with the Murdoch University Veterinary School Dean and staff and with staff at the WA Agriculture Department. Meetings were also scheduled with practitioners and farmers in both Bunbury and Narrogin. These were hosted at the regional offices of the WA Agriculture Department.

We thank all those veterinarians and staff who made the effort to come and contribute to the discussions, and also those veterinarians who contributed to the debate even if unable to get to the meeting.

Public Relations

The "All Creatures Expo" continued to be refined and goes from strength to strength with this year's being even bigger and better than previous years. 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 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.

Legislation

The new Veterinary Surgeons' Act has yet to surface. With the change of State Government it would seem this has again been put on the back burner.

The new Animal Welfare Bill passed through Parliament in mid-November 2002, and is scheduled to become law early in 2003. As a part of the Regulations for this Act the Government committed to banning cosmetic tail docking of dogs in WA. This created a flurry of activity by the Canine Council with every excuse and reason offered to maintain

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the status quo. A committee was established by the Minister to report on tail docking and the AVA was asked to be a member.

The Dog Act is also under review with the final phases of public consultation being carried out. The WA Division made extensive submissions to both review processes. There has been encouraging reference to the AVA as a resource and body of expert advice throughout these reviews. For many years both the government and media often ignored us. There is still a long way to go but at least there has been noticeable improvement.

Mediation

This successful program continues. While the number of mediations in 2002 was relatively low, most had successful outcomes. The mediation group produced a pamphlet, advertising and explaining the working of the mediation service, for display in all veterinary clinics.

The mediation panel chaired by Professor Mal Nairn continued to run workshops and training sessions. This volunteer group put a lot of time and effort into carrying out the mediations. This continues to be a valuable AVA initiative as it becomes more widely known.

The WA Division is happy to acknowledge the continued effort and support by our office manager, Michelle Marino. As always she provided terrific support and was a mine of information over the year. We congratulate her for her patience and perseverance with the AVA office bearers throughout this year.

Dr Michael Lumsden
President
AVA WA Division



Australian Association of Cattle Veterinarians (AACV)

AACV had a busy year in 2002 with major events including the AACV program at the AVA Annual Conference in Adelaide, the AACV conference in Darwin on Bull Fertility, and input to the Review of Rural Veterinary Services.

Congratulations go to Geoff Fordyce and his team for organising a highly successful conference on bull fertility at Darwin, featuring more than 80 veterinary delegates, good discussions on the results of the Northern Bull Power Project, and discussion of issues further south. The conference proceedings will update the AACV publication on Bull Testing, and there will also be a bull fertility promotion at Beef 2003 in Rockhampton.

Prior to the conference AACV held a one-day executive meeting that discussed many of the topics concerning our members. We also had a complete rework of the AACV strategic plan, and in doing so also changed the vision and mission statements" -

Our Vision: "A cohesive, strong and highly respected cattle veterinary profession".

Our Mission:

- To be the organisation that provides service and support to our members to achieve our vision
- To provide the service and support to the cattle industry
- To use our science to provide objective assessment of industry issues for the community.

The 8 points of the AACV strategic plan are loosely modelled on the AVA strategic plan.

One of the most important things that the AACV addressed in 2002 was the submission to the Review of Rural Veterinary Services. As well as providing a comprehensive submission to the review, we assisted the AVA by providing contacts for interviews of practitioners and other relevant people.

Another program that kept some members busy was Operation Minotaur, the national Foot and Mouth Disease simulation. Several of our members were involved and we anticipate seeing a full report from this exercise.

The AACV was also involved in a number of shorter workshops around Australia including a presentation at Armidale by leading Canadian embryo-transfer expert Reuben Mapletoft; presentations in Melbourne, Tamworth and Brisbane by Carol Bolin on leptospirosis, in conjunction with CSL; and a bull workshop in Central Queensland.

Dr Alison Gunn
President
AACV

Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians (AAHV)

The Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians hosted a successful week at the AVA Conference in May in Adelaide, in association with the AVAA. The seminar was planned to run back-to-back with the internationally acclaimed Veterinary Homeopathic course in which several of our members are enrolled. We were fortunate to entice Dr Steve Marsden, an internationally recognised and highly qualified veterinary herbalist, acupuncturist, chiropractor and natural therapist from Edmonton, Canada. He shared with us his gems of practice tips and energetic discoveries, and enthused many of our members who attended.

The AAHV continues to follow up several issues. Number one is the widespread treatment and diagnosis of animals by lay, non-veterinary therapists.

We are concerned at the lack of regulation on non-veterinary therapists, which disadvantages veterinarians working in this field. Such therapists can use the word "specialises" in their advertising, do not have to have approved premises to work in, and often work within human practices. They have no duty of care with regards to off-label use of human products, and some use unregistered veterinary chemical products.

Non-veterinary therapists can start a business with a weekend course and call themselves lay therapists. Many qualified human natural therapists are providing animal care services. The AAHV is concerned that the quality of care and welfare of animals may be compromised, and we seek the support of the AVA to assist in changing the amending the various Veterinary Surgeons' Acts to reflect some of the practices that should be acts of veterinary science. .

We need help from the profession with advising on minimum qualification standards for such therapists from an animal welfare perspective. We also need promotion and encouragement for veterinarians to take up natural therapies, as there are large numbers of clients turning away from veterinarians to holistic therapists. . We need to ensure that clients who are searching for holistic treatment can find it within the veterinary profession.

Other issues the AAHV is concerned with include:

- Getting the general veterinary field to recognise published peer-reviewed references and research on alternative and complementary veterinary treatment.
- Deflecting criticisms based on non-scientific stereotyped or prejudiced ideas regarding holistic and complementary medicine.
- Enabling quality education and further studies in holistic medicine to be pursued and facilitated for our members.

Dr Elaine Cebuliak
President
AAHV

AVA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Australian Embryo Transfer Society (AETS)

2002 saw continued growth of AETS, with the diverse group of researchers, clinicians and operators that makes up our membership achieving a critical mass and benefiting from the Association.

The AETS conference held in the Barossa Valley in South Australia in August was well organised and an interesting three days. The immediate Past President of AETS, Margie Trowbridge, must be congratulated for the work she and Anne Cover did to bring this all together. The quality of the speakers – in particular keynote speaker Rueben Mapletoft – was excellent and the day trip to the SARDI complex at Turretfield was a highlight. The work being done at this facility was ample evidence of Australia's position as a world leader in the field of theriogenology.

The agenda for AETS for 2003 and beyond includes finalisation of the industry agreed standards for frozen semen and the inclusion of other species (in particular canine) into these standards. The makeup and geographic diversity of our membership means that our Annual Conference is our only opportunity for group discussions, and a consequence of this is that the issues that should be addressed by the members only achieve incremental progress. The challenge in 2003 is to accelerate this process.

Another pressing issue will be the formulation of a policy on laparoscopic artificial insemination and embryo transfer in sheep and goats.

We have been walking around this issue for quite a while, unable to nail it to the wall, mainly as a consequence of the vexed question of lay operators and their usage of Prescribed Animal Remedies. The presentation of this policy has become a priority and we are close to having a draft circulated to members for comment.

If this year sees the acceptance of a final policy document and industry uptake of the semen standards, then it will have been a year of excellent progress. The only thing left to do is organise a conference of equal calibre to the one we had in 2002.

Dr Greg McCann
President
AETS

Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA)

This year saw the AEVA executive look at the role of the Association, the services it gives to members, and the relationship of the Association with the AVA. The executive has met four times and held several teleconferences to discuss these matters.

In 2002 we addressed a number of issues through our sub-committees and state representatives. We made submissions to the State Government Inquiry into Pathology Services in Victoria, as well as to the NSW Parliamentary Enquiry into Racing. We addressed issues concerning professional indemnity insurance, foal insurance certificates, pre-purchase blood testing, and equine dentistry courses and illegal supply of S4 drugs. At the beginning of the year we finalised several policies with the AVA. At this year's AGM we released a position on the treatment of horses by veterinarians with unknown substances.

We also issued a set of guidelines on pre-sale radiography of yearlings, which was a topical issue throughout the thoroughbred industry over the last year. Our Association's book, the Guide to Examination of Horses for Purchase, was re-vamped. The AVA has been working closely with our Association to re-organise the accounting system and this exercise had a few hiccups, which are gradually being ironed out.

The AEVA website has really got up and running this year and we now have a facility which, among other things, can advise members of coming events and provide information on policies concerning horses via the web site. This year's Annual Bain Fallon Memorial Conference was held on Queensland's Gold Coast with American speakers Professor Tom Tobin, Cynthia Koliak-Baker, and Janice Young. They were assisted in their talks by Queensland's Davis Auer and Steven Raynor. The topic, "Equine Medications and Conditions of the Foot", combined with the excellent location, attracted about 120 delegates from all around Australia and overseas. Social events included a Seaworld Sponsored Dinner, the Annual Gala Dinner, and the usual golf afternoon.

In association with the Conference we also held the second Veterinarian/Farrier Seminar titled "Shoeing for Performance". Registration for this seminar, which involved one day of lectures and a one-day workshop, exceeded expectations. Some 192 delegates (including 144 farriers and 44 veterinarians) came from Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Asia. The workshop involved 20 horses, radiographs, PowerPoint presentations of histories, and finally a video link-up of case presentations by each group of veterinarians and farriers.

At the conclusion of the conference and seminar, John Brown took over as President of the Association from Chris Johnson, who now becomes Vice-President. President-elect is Kevin Squire and Treasurer is Ken Jacobs.

2002 saw AEVA's long-time Sydney office staff member Jan Eagleton announce her retirement, and the subsequent hiring of Nicola Rose. Other administrative changes in our Association will unfold in the coming year.

Dr John Brown
President
AEVA

Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association (AGVA)

The AGVA's annual conference held in Adelaide was arguably one of the more successful in past years, with delegates coming from as far afield as New Zealand and Macau.

Keynote speakers included Dr Kim Smith (Brisbane) who gave a most informative address on developments in suture materials and techniques, which included a wet-workshop on tendon repair. Two sessions were necessary, such was the interest shown by attendees. Dr Alastair Smith (Melbourne) brought delegates up to speed on recent developments in Neospora research. This is a problem that is focusing the attention of those concerned with greyhound reproduction and performance.

The AGVA was pleased to have as observers CEOs from the NSW, Victorian and South Australian Greyhound Racing Authorities. A dialogue has been opened and judging by the post-conference comments the authorities appreciate the profession's input in matters relating to greyhound health and care. The number of medications and their withholding guidelines has been increased to 42; and a summary of this work is available from Ray Ferguson, our secretary/treasurer (rferguson@monashvet.com.au)

Two highlights of 2002 included Chris Boemo's AVA Meritorious Service Award, which was presented at the Adelaide conference, and Jim Gannon's AM (General Division) for his services to greyhound medicine and surgery.

Lectures on the greyhound are incorporated in the undergraduate syllabus at Werrabee and it is hoped that this will be expanded to the other Veterinary Schools. It must be noted that with the increase in prize-money, especially in Victoria and NSW, it will not be long before elite greyhounds will be winning as much as \$500,000 in a racing career.

Dr John Murray
President
AGVA

Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA)

The Executive Committee and Executive Officer continued in 2002 to work hard to meet the needs of all members of ASAVA.

Conferences

AVA Conference

The ASAVA stream at the AVA Conference in Adelaide in May was well attended with approximately 80 attendees per session. The speakers, Drs Dawn Boothe, Darren

Foster, and Harry Boothe provided thought provoking and informative presentations on Feline Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacology. ASAVA acknowledges the support of the Pharmacology Chapter, which was a joint sponsor of the speaker, Dr Dawn Boothe.

ASAVA Conference

The 29th ASAVA Annual Conference was held in Darwin, from August 18-23. A total of 120 veterinary delegates attended with many taking the opportunity to extend their stay in the Northern Territory and experience the outback. Drs Sonya Bettenay and Ralf Mueller presented the latest in small animal dermatology in their own inimitable and highly entertaining style. Twenty-three companies from the veterinary industry were in attendance supporting the conference.

As always, ASAVA members will receive copies of both conference proceedings as a member benefit. The proceedings for 2002 were supplied to members on CD-ROMs, which is a great use of modern technology. The Committee also seeks input from members about conference themes and locations.

Journal

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 journal recently updated its cover in an endeavour to enhance its image further and improve the effectiveness of communication.

The ASAVA would like to acknowledge and congratulate Professor R. (Rick) Atwell for his 20 years' service as Editor of the Australian Veterinary Practitioner. Professor Atwell continues to be a magnificent contributor to both the scientific calibre and the ongoing improvements of the Journal.

Membership Promotion

The ASAVA Committee continues to promote the AVA and ASAVA to student members via presentations to students at all veterinary schools in Australia.

ACAHF

The ASAVA continues to support and promote the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation, which is steadily growing and 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, including:

AVA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

- Dangerous dogs
- Use of behaviour-modifying collars
- Compulsory continuing education
- Veterinary specialist practices
- Alleviation of pain
- AVA Code of Conduct
- Fee recovery and the retention of animals in lieu of payment
- Sale of animals at markets

New Graduate Support

The ASAVA hosted a New Graduates' Dinner during the AVA Conference, which was attended by 63 new graduates (up to three years post-graduation). As always, this was a popular event, giving recent graduates the opportunity to share their experiences of veterinary practice and emphasising the support of both the AVA and ASAVA for this group of veterinarians.

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

Bayer Australia Pty Ltd sponsored the scientific sessions at the AVA conference in May and The Provect Group once again sponsored the scientific program at the Darwin 2002 conference.

A representative of the Macquarie Bank announced at the Annual Dinner in Darwin that the Bank intended to continue sponsorship of the ASAVA.

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 revisions
- JETACAR and therapeutics committee issues

Committee

I 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 I would like to thank our Executive Officer, Jenny Wade, for her patience and dedication and congratulate Jenny on her 20 years' service.

Dr Diane Sheehan
President
ASAVA

Australian Sheep Veterinary Society (ASVA)

The ASVS has negotiated another year and is in a strong position financially and in its membership

John Plant and his NSW-based executive did an outstanding job during the last two years. The new executive is geographically dispersed, but email communication makes collaboration possible.

The highlight of 2002 was the Adelaide conference. Colin Trengove organised a wide-ranging programme for an eclectic group of people and has been appointed conference convenor for the 2003 Cairns conference. The program format in 2003 will change slightly: the five days will act as review forum for one major topic, but there will still be room for proffered papers, and some exotic disease training at the end of the program.

John Plant continued as the ASVS Policy Councillor. In the last year, Policy Council reviewed some contentious issues including mulesing and live sheep export. This task was not easy, as sheep veterinarians and the AVA seek to balance industry needs with animal welfare concerns and mounting public antipathy to some procedures.

ASVS combined with AACV to make a major submission to the Review of Rural Veterinary Services. During 2002 there were several disasters involving live export of sheep and cattle. ASVS continues to monitor developments in this field. While most members are sympathetic to the idea of live – stock export, it is obvious that export bodies will need to improve their standards if the veterinary profession and governments are to continue supporting the industry.

Dr Paul Nilon
President
ASVS

Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS)

The Australian Veterinary Dental Society had a very successful year in 2002, holding two major events, the AVA Conference in May and National Pet Dental Week in August.

The four-day AVDS program at the AVA Conference in Adelaide was one of our most successful, with three days of lectures and a day of hands-on wet-workshop at the Adelaide Dental School. The week was very informative and all participants said the workshop opened their eyes to what could be done in veterinary dentistry.

The fifth National Pet Dental Week was a huge success, with more than 1,100 practices receiving a dental publicity kit supplied by Hills Pet Nutrition. Public relations was organised by Pfizer and we obtained 13 TV spots, 20 radio interviews and 40 newspaper stories, reaching an audience of 3.7 million Australians. Planning for the 2003 AVA Conference in Cairns is well under way, and as well as having a comprehensive dental program incorporating lectures and a wet-workshop, we will be combining lectures with AEVA (3 lectures), AAHA (2 lectures), and the North Queensland nurses group (half a day).

Dr David Clarke
President
AVDS

Australian Veterinarians in Ethics, Research and Teaching (AVERT)

AVERT continues to be a small but effective SIG in the AVA, due largely to the commitment of a small group of dedicated veterinarians. This was exemplified by the outstanding success of the AVERT program at the Annual Conference in Adelaide where most of the sessions were standing room only. AVERT's immediate Past-President Steve Atkinson is to be congratulated for his leadership in organising this conference and other AVERT activities during his term.

The 2002 Conference broke new ground by having two joint sessions with other SIGs, ASVS (sheep) and ASAVA (companion animals). These took the form of Hypothetical sessions that were facilitated with skill and enthusiasm by Ross Cutler. The session with the ASVS addressed the welfare implications, both positive and negative, of management practices such as mulesing, tail docking, castration, and pizzle dropping. There were many enthusiastic and interested participants in the ensuing debate, which was voted a great success. The other hypothetical, with the ASAVA, concerned the ethical implications for veterinarians of genetically modified pets. There were some "enthusiastic" verbal exchanges and the debate also became a discussion of the ethics of artificial breeding. Other sessions discussed ethical decision-making, the purposeful killing of animals, humane endpoints, conflicts of interest, and the welfare of transgenic animals.

The 2003 meeting in Cairns also promises an exciting program. It is being organised by Simon Bain with the support of other SIG members. Sessions will encompass issues in animal welfare policy (National Animal Welfare Strategy, the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, AVA Animal Welfare Policy), welfare issues concerning foetal and neonatal animals, ethics in research and teaching, and shared sessions with equine and poultry veterinarians. Members of AVERT had input into a number of other activities related to animal welfare and ethics in 2002. These included the National Animal Welfare Strategy; the Australian College Chapter on Animal Welfare Science, Ethics, Policy and Law; the Code Liaison Group rewriting the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animal for Scientific Purposes; the highly successful ANZCCART conference in October (Animal Welfare and Animal Ethics Committees – Where are the Goalposts Now); the AVA Animal Welfare Policy Committee; and the Fourth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences held in New Orleans in August.

Membership numbers of AVERT have been reasonably static (around 69) for the last 2-3 years after an increase of around 40% in 1998-99. Previous reports have noted discussions about the role of AVERT and how it has

changed since it was first formed. The Aims and Objectives of AVERT are to:

- Provide support and a forum for the exchange of information between veterinarians involved in Animal Ethics Committees, animal welfare duties in institutions, use and /or management of laboratory animals for research and teaching.
- Define problems of a veterinary nature in the husbandry, management and use of animals in research and teaching, and promote research into their solution.
- Support and promote the principles of refinement, reduction and replacement in the use of animals in research and teaching.
- Promote continuing veterinary education in the field of animal use in research and teaching.
- Promote the role of veterinarians in research, teaching and scientific institutions.

vProvide veterinary advice on best practice in the care and use of animals in research and teaching to relevant government and statutory authorities and to the general community.

AVERT is reconsidering its role in its area of interest, which has seen growth in the use of animals for research, increased awareness in the public and our profession about the ethical issues relating to animal use, and ongoing activity by other societies and groups that are also interested in animal welfare and ethics. Our SIG has to be able to differentiate its contribution so that it adds value to these other groups, which include the Australian and New Zealand Society for Laboratory Animal Science (ANZSLAS), the Australian Animal Technicians Association (AATA), the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), the ACVSc Chapter on Animal Welfare Science and the other SIGs in the AVA.

Since its inception as a group whose main aim was to provide mutual support and sharing of experience among a group of veterinarians entering a field of activity for which veterinary training at the time did not necessarily prepare them well, AVERT now has a repository of skills which could be used to underpin the needs of others in the profession across a broad front of issues relating to ethics and animal welfare.

I thank the Members of the Executive for their ongoing support and especially Vice-President Simon Bain for shouldering the load of Conference Convenor. I also acknowledge Susan Maastricht for stepping recently into the role of secretary in her usual enthusiastic way.

Dr Michael Rickard
President
AVERT

AVA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS)

The Annual General Meeting of this small SIG was held at the AVA National Conference in Adelaide on 6 May 2002. Office bearers were re-elected after reports of the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Librarian and Editor had been accepted by the meeting. Members of the AVHS and the AVA enjoyed six papers that were presented to the meeting. Abstracts of these papers were published in the Australian Veterinary History Record (no. 33). The meeting awarded honorary life membership of the Society to Dr Peter Mylrea for his services to veterinary history and to the AVHS in particular.

The AVHS is providing short biographies of eminent Australian veterinarians and milestones in Australian veterinary history to the Veterinary School of the University of Sydney to print on the back cover of the 47 or so handbooks that the staff are writing for their undergraduates. The 17 biographies of eminent Australian veterinarians and 19 in milestones in Australian Veterinary History that have been provided so far are also published on the AVHS web page www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/avhs, which is a further collaboration with the School. The Society has begun publishing current issues of the Australian Veterinary History Record on this web page and aims to add all back issues.

The catalogue of the Australian Veterinary History Library has also been added to this web page, so that all members can, for the first time, see a listing of this asset. However, the contents of the library are available only through the good offices of the honorary librarian, as these remain in "temporary accommodation" in a lock-up storage unit in an industrial area of Canberra. The AVA Historical Collection suffers a similar fate and uncertain future in the same storage unit. A display of samples of this collection was mounted by the curator of the collection, Dr Bob Taylor, at the AVA Conference in Adelaide where this glimpse of the collection was appreciated by many interested AVA members. In November 2001, the AVHS initiated discussions with the AVA Board to discover what the Board sees as the future of the AVA Veterinary History Library, and by what means it intends to secure that future in the long term. Some progress to conserve and access these irreplaceable assets has been made.

The AVHS will welcome all veterinarians to its next meeting at the AVA National Conference in Cairns on Monday 26 May 2003, and invites AVA members to present a paper on any aspect of veterinary history to this meeting. Email enquiries or abstracts to faragher@netspace.net.au.

Dr Trevor Faragher
President
AVHS

Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI)

The highlight of 2002 for AVI was the Adelaide Conference in May. As in recent years the Conference was the major activity of the year, providing not only a scientific meeting for members and the profession at large, but also an opportunity for our dispersed membership to socialise. Planning for the 2003 Cairns Conference started upon the completion of the Adelaide Conference. During the year five other social events were undertaken, four in Sydney and one in Melbourne. All events were well attended.

Membership increased with numbers standing at 132 in all categories of membership. While only a small proportion of members are classified as associate members, efforts have been made with others to provide a class of SIG membership more reflective of their membership role.

During the year effort was made to progress an AVA Guideline for the advertising of Prescription Animal Remedies by veterinarians.

The success of the year can be attributed to the effective working of the Committee.

Dr John Gillham
President
AVI



Australian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA)

Scientific Meetings

The AVPA aims to encourage the presentation of material of scientific interest at meetings of members. To this end, meetings were organised in April at the Gold Coast and in November in Melbourne.

The meeting at the Gold Coast followed the Poultry Information Exchange (PIX) Conference organised by Queensland DPI and focussed on the results of research being undertaken on avian diseases, avian disease agents, nutrition and welfare in various institutions throughout Australia.

The meeting in Melbourne focussed on many issues that centre on the evolving roles and responsibilities of the veterinarian in the modern poultry industry and had sessions on the diversifying role of the veterinarian in the poultry industry, avian health issues locally and overseas, emerging markets and needs of the Australian poultry industry, and emerging technologies and diagnostics.

These meetings provide the opportunity for a wide range of technical people in the poultry industries to meet with veterinarians and scientists to discuss issues of mutual interest. The meetings aid communications in the poultry industry.

Membership

Membership in early November 2002 stood at 82 ordinary members, 7 life members and 11 others.

Sub-Committees

Three standing sub-committees operate so that there can be rapid responses to issues of importance to the poultry industry. The sub-committees provide the mechanism for "an authoritative voice on behalf of the veterinary profession in matters relating to the avian species". The sub-committees provide expert advice on welfare, therapeutics and importation and exotic diseases. The Welfare Sub-Committee Convenor, Dr John Barnett, provided advice to Policy Council in 2001 that provided the basis for an amended Policy Council statement on layer hen welfare being accepted as AVA policy at the meeting of Policy Council in May 2002. The Therapeutics Sub-Committee Convenor, through Dr Tom Grimes, was instrumental in the AVA responding, through the AVA's National Veterinarian, to allegations about the misuse of antibiotics in the poultry industry. The Importations and Exotic Diseases Sub-Committee, led by George Arzey, continued to supply advice about importations of birds and poultry products.

Dander – the AVPA Newsletter

Dr Kevin Whithear, immediate Past President of AVPA, has taken over the duties of editor of Dander from Dr Roger

Chubb and one very informative issue has been delivered to members.

Website

The AVPA website (www.jcu.edu.au/school/bms/avpa/) is maintained by Dr Graham Burgess at James Cook University and provides the opportunity for communication with and between AVPA members.

Student Scholarships

The AVPA seeks to provide veterinary students with practical experience in poultry medicine and associated laboratory and research work, and to this end is in the process of establishing scholarships at each of the five Veterinary Schools in Australia and New Zealand. The scholarships will comprise \$1,000 cash to one student at each Veterinary School, providing the best assessment of the work undertaken during an elective taken in the final year of the course. We anticipate that this initiative will provide some students the opportunity to see and experience veterinary work in the poultry industry and generate interest in students to think about working in the poultry industry after graduation. The scholarships will be provided for the next five years.

Executive Matters

The Executive has been in place since the Annual General Meeting in April 2002. I would like to express my appreciation to the executive members of the AVPA: Peter Scott (President Elect), Jill Disint (Secretary), Peter Cowling (Treasurer) and Kevin Whithear (Past President) for their enthusiasm and work in ensuring that the AVPA can operate for the benefits of its members.

Dr Andrew Turner
President
AVPA



AVA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH)

AVPH held another successful conference program at Adelaide in May, with excellent input on various microbial problems and on public health issues such as BSE. In our role as facilitator for government veterinarians, we had some very helpful talks on Foot and Mouth Disease as well. Planning our program for Cairns 2003 has started. Emphasis is being placed on Japanese Encephalitis and biosecurity in general, with consideration of their impact on public health and food safety. Our hope is to engage other SIGs in producing suitable topics of interest to a broader veterinary audience.

Our leadership has now changed with Lee Cook taking over as President, and Sally Spence, also based with NSW Agriculture at Orange, taking up the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

AVPH is keen to see new members joining. With the growth in interest in food safety matters, and the potential input of veterinary surgeons to this area, we are sure many of our colleagues would benefit from engagement with our SIG.

Dr Lee Cook
President
AVPH

Employed Veterinarians Association (EVA)

2002 saw a change in role for the Employed Veterinarians Association. With the successful launch of the AVA HR service at the AVA Conference in Adelaide in May, many of our usual queries from members are being referred to this service. This has ensured that the concerns of veterinarians have been answered promptly and accurately. Feedback from members who have used this service has largely been positive. We are aware of a number of new members who have joined the AVA simply to use the HR service. Overall this is a very pleasing result. This outsourcing of human relations matters has freed up the EVA committee to concentrate on other initiatives.

EVA's future association with the HR service continues more in a supervisory role and a visionary role for future projects with Wentworth Human Resources Pty Ltd, thereby ensuring the AVA HR service remains relevant and benefits members.

A great deal of time and energy was focused on finalising the New Graduate Guide. It is pleasing to announce that the inaugural copies will be presented to the 2002 graduates! The guide is a comprehensive publication containing information relevant to graduate veterinarians. It forms a valuable resource covering topics such as career planning, employment options, understanding the Veterinary Surgeons Award, complaints management, finding a job, dealing with clients, and postgraduate opportunities. We thank the numerous authors who produced some very interesting and valuable information. Feedback from final year students, recent graduates and experienced veterinarians during the review process was very positive. The booklet will go a long way to supporting new graduates in those formative years as they leave university and begin their veterinary careers.

It is envisaged that this manual will be an ongoing project to be reviewed annually, ensuring it remains accurate, informative and relevant to new graduates. EVA will continue in this role, and a number of other parties have also offered to assist, so we look forward to this being a longstanding publication. We are looking into ways to best assess the success of this project.

Comfund generously sponsored the production of this booklet.

Throughout the year EVA was active in attending Policy Council meetings, assisting with submissions to the Review of Rural Veterinary Services, and the Victorian Veterinary Pathology Services Review, and in more recent times the AVA Member Satisfaction Survey. The results of the latter will provide a valuable insight into perceptions of what the AVA does and how it represents both members and non-members.

Dr Megan Wheeler
President
EVA



The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) is a non-profit, tax-exempt trust of the Australian Veterinary Association. The Foundation was established in 1989 to raise and distribute money to support clinical research related to companion animals. The ACAHF raises money through a variety of avenues including donations from veterinarians, the public, the ACAHF Memorial Donation Scheme and corporate sponsorship.

This report serves to publicly acknowledge the generous support that has been given to the Foundation by pet owners, veterinarians and industry. In addition, the Foundation is pleased to provide progress reports on funded projects continuing or commencing in 1999, 2000 and 2001 and announce the successful applicants for funds in 2002.

The ACAHF Grants Committee assesses applications for grants each year, and the Trustees allocate the grants according to the funding available in any one year. Some grants are funded over a two to three year period. Grants are ranked according to a system that places emphasis on the clinical nature of the research.

Progress reports on projects continuing or commencing in 1999

Many of these projects are completed and the results have already been published or submitted for publication in national and overseas veterinary journals and presented at research meetings.

Projects funded from ACAHF general funds:

Physiologic and analgesic effects of morphine infusions in post-operative dogs

Chief investigator: Dr Ava M Firth, University of Melbourne

Correlation of cardiac chamber dimensions and wall thickness with weight and parameters of linear body size in healthy dogs.

Chief investigators: Dr Jennifer L Richardson and Dr Robert H Labuc, Murdoch University

The role of muscle dysfunction in the pathogenesis of hip dysplasia in dogs

Chief investigator: Assoc. Prof. Richard A Read, Murdoch University

Lipid parameters in diabetic cats

Chief investigators: Assoc. Prof. Jacquie S Rand and Dr Greg JW Martin, University of Queensland

Protease/antiprotease interactions in canine acute pancreatitis

Chief investigator: Dr Rick B Atwell, University of Queensland

Investigation and treatment of "canine leproid granuloma syndrome"

Chief investigator: Dr Richard Malik, University of Sydney

Evaluation of the suitability of the collection of capillary blood for blood glucose monitoring in diabetic dogs and cats

Chief investigator: Assoc. Prof. Jacquie S Rand, University of Queensland

A retrospective review of cases of medial patellar luxation in dogs to ascertain response to surgical correction and long-term prognosis

Chief investigator: Dr Richard A Read, Murdoch University

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based diagnostics for canine parasites

Chief investigator: Assoc. Prof. Robin B Gasser, University of Melbourne

Project funded by the "Ottie" Testa Memorial Fund

The characterisation of osteosarcoma tumour types as a basis for prognostic evaluation of clinical patients

Chief investigator: Prof. Wayne F Robinson, University of Queensland

Projects funded through a donation by ASAVA for a project involving veterinary practices

Upper respiratory disease in cats – improvements in diagnosis and understanding

Chief investigators: Dr Jane E Sykes and Glenn F Browning, University of Melbourne

Projects funded jointly by ACAHF general funds and a donation by ASAVA for a project involving veterinary practices

Evaluation of potential prognostic indicators for canine osteosarcoma

Chief investigator: Originally Prof. Wayne F Robinson, now Assoc Prof. John R Thornton, University of Queensland

Development of a PCR-based screening test for globoid cell leukodystrophy in kelpie dogs

Chief investigator: Dr Rosanne M Taylor, University of Sydney

Progress reports on projects continuing or commencing in 2000-2001

Projects funded from ACAHF general funds:

The effects of the Australian paralysis tick and tick antitoxin serum on the cardiopulmonary system of the dog with regard to new methods of treatment

Chief investigator: Dr Fiona E Campbell, University of Queensland

Measurement of serum erythropoietin concentration in dogs with spontaneous hyperadrenocorticism

Chief investigator: Dr Caroline S Mansfield, University of Sydney

Isolation of the feline amylin gene using the candidate-gene approach and assessment of the gene's role in the pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes

Chief investigator: Assoc. Prof. Jacquie S Rand, University of Queensland

Investigation into the genetic basis of pituitary dwarfism in German shepherd dogs

Chief investigator: Dr Paul Q Thomas, The Murdoch Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Victoria

Evaluation of the suitability of the collection of capillary blood for blood glucose monitoring in diabetic dogs and cats

Investigators: Professor J. Rand and Linda Fleeman, The University of Queensland (This project commenced in 1999 and is part of a three year funded project)

Investigation of the emergence of extended spectrum B-lactamase (ESBL) and fluoroquinolone Antibiotic resistance in small animal medicine

Chief Investigator: Dr. D. Trott, University of Queensland

Distribution of the CLAD mutation in the Irish Setter population in Australia

Chief Investigator: Professor RC Augsteyn, National Vision Research Institute

DNA methylating systems and their role in canine neoplasia

Chief Investigator: Dr. P. Irwin – Murdoch University

Projects awarded funding to commence in 2002

Comparison of Glargine, PZI and Caninsulin for the treatment of feline Diabetes mellitus in client owned cats.

Chief Investigator: Professor J. Rand, University of Queensland

Investigation into the virulence determinants of multi drug resistant Escherichia Coli (MDREC) in companion animal medicine

Chief Investigator: Dr. D. Trott, University of Queensland

Use of Lufenuron in the treatment of Malassezia dermatitis in dogs

Chief Investigator: Dr. J. Norris, University of Sydney

Investigation and treatment of feline leprosy syndromes

Chief Investigator: Dr. R. Malik, University of Sydney

Contact: ACAHF, PO Box 674

Surry Hills, NSW 2010 (tel: 02-9360 7189)

Dr Roger Clarke
Chairman
Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation
(ACAHF)

AVA Benevolent Fund

The AVA Benevolent Fund had a steady stream of enquiries throughout the year which meant that most of its representatives were involved in new projects, whilst maintaining a watching brief over ongoing commitments. 2002 varied from many previous years in that there were several calls for assistance for which a short-term commitment was a unique feature. In addition, the Trustees were able to work constructively with two Veterinary Surgeons Boards to bring about a satisfactory conclusion to innovative programs that the Boards had initiated in an attempt to help veterinarians in distress. In some instances, Trustees sought guidance from the AVA membership at large as to how best to assist colleagues experiencing personal misfortune. Their honest appraisal and assistance helped the Trustees immensely, and the Trustees appreciate their efforts.

The Fund, as did the profession, lost one of its strongest supporters with the death of Dr Robert Kibble, who was NSW representative of the Benevolent Fund until illness forced his retirement. Dr Kibble and his wife Mathilde were always ready to assist the Auxiliary of the NSW Division of the AVA in fund raising activities for the Fund, and their support over the years has been deeply appreciated. Dr Kibble was succeeded briefly by Dr Natalie Courtman until her transfer to Canberra, and recently Dr Bob Ratcliffe has accepted the position of NSW Metropolitan representative of the Fund.

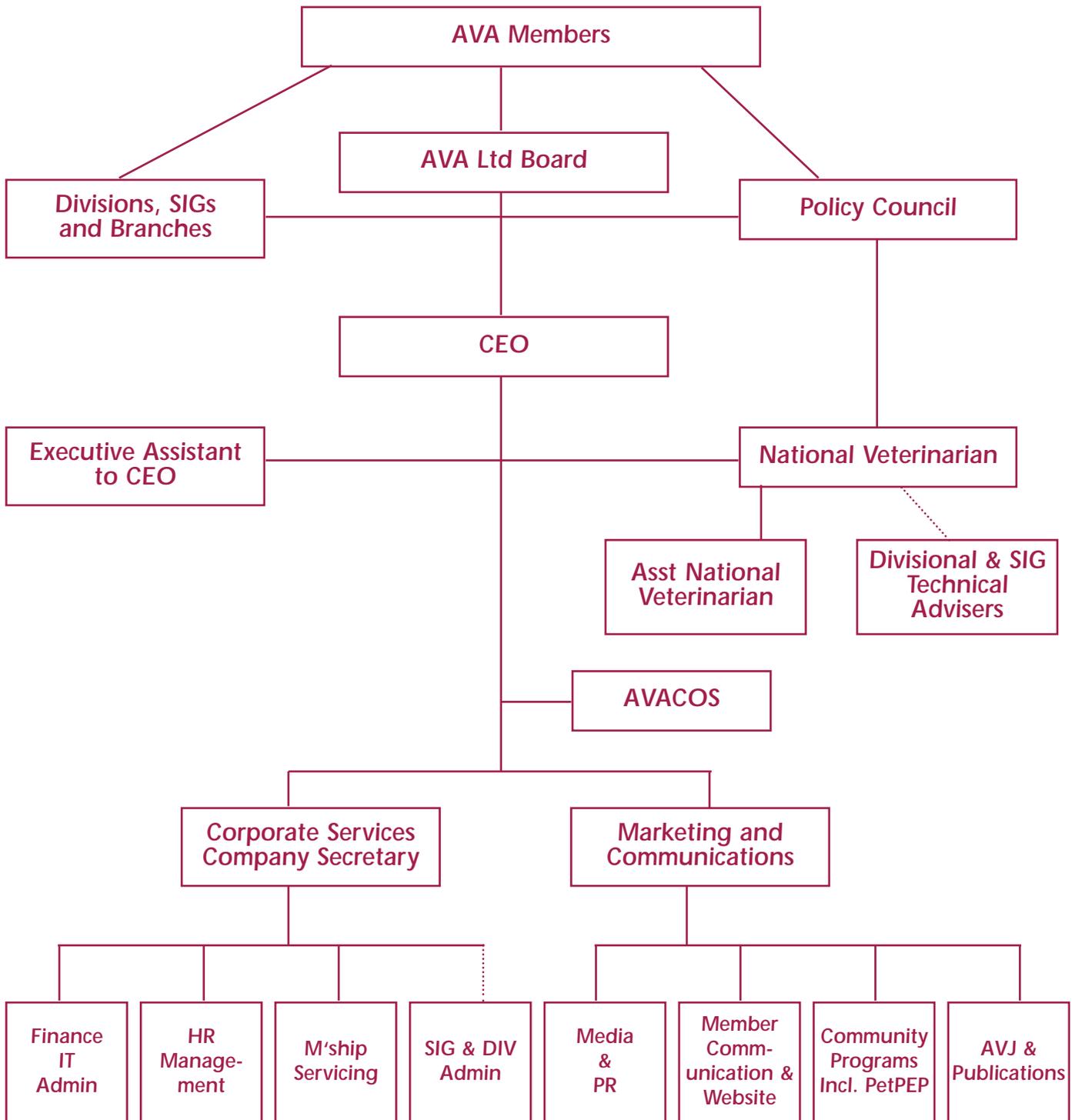
Dr. Lyndy Scott has been reappointed as a Trustee to the Fund for a further 4-year term.

Income amounting to \$29,819 flowed into the Fund, both from direct donations and interest earned on investments, while support in a variety of guises equivalent to \$27,207 was distributed by the Trustees.

The Trustees would like to thank those members of the profession who give so freely of their time to support the vital work of the Fund. That work could not be accomplished, however, without the ongoing financial support so generously bestowed on the Fund by those within and outside the profession who believe strongly in the merits of its underlying philosophy. Veterinarians Australia-wide should applaud their efforts.

Dr Randall Lemin
Secretary/Trustee
AVA Benevolent Fund

AVA - ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Bruce Wynn
Chief Executive Officer

Lyn Osman
Executive Assistant

Marketing & Communications	Policy & Regulation	Corporate Services	Conference Organising Services
<p>Vacant: Marketing & Communications Manager</p> <p>Steve Ireland Managing Editor – AVJ</p> <p>Colin Wilks Scientific Editor – AVJ</p> <p>Maureen Revington Clinical Editor – AVJ</p> <p>Anna Gallo AVJ administration and desktop publishing</p> <p>Sarina Arcoleo AVJ assistant</p> <p>Kate Perkins National PetPEP Coordinator</p> <p>Caitlyn Feldmann PetPEP Education Officer QLD</p> <p>Michelle Lee PetPEP Education Officer NSW</p> <p>Rowena Bell PetPEP Education Officer TAS</p> <p>Sophie Kenny PetPEP Education Officer VIC</p>	<p>Kevin Doyle National Veterinarian</p> <p>Bernard Robinson Assistant National Veterinarian</p> <p>Frank Doughty Executive Officer NSW</p>	<p>Lauretta Stace Corporate Services Manager</p> <p>Liz Dawkins Finance Officer</p> <p>Cora Luong Accounts Officer</p> <p>Annel Singh Membership Manager</p> <p>Jaime Sihanikom Membership Officer</p> <p>Angela Jackson Membership Assistant</p> <p>Rebecca Grieve Administration Assistant</p> <p>Frances Parkinson Administration Officer NSW</p> <p>Julie Giblin Administration Officer NSW</p> <p>Mary George Administration Officer QLD</p> <p>Matt Pope/Scott Taylor Office Assistant QLD</p> <p>Carmen Brasher Administration Officer VIC</p> <p>Barbara Gill Administration Officer SA</p> <p>Michelle Marino Administration Officer WA</p> <p>Karen Richardson Administration Officer NT</p> <p>Anne Cover Executive Officer – AACV, ASVS, AETS</p> <p>Patricia Duczmal Office Assistant – AACV</p> <p>Jan Eagleton Executive Officer – AEVA</p> <p>Nicola Rose Administration Officer – AEVA</p> <p>Jenny Wade Executive Officer – ASAVA</p>	<p>Doreen Culliver Conference Manager</p> <p>Jeanette Scarr/ Melanie Keen Office Assistant</p> <p>Maria Walker Office Assistant</p>

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Report of the Directors

Your directors have pleasure in presenting the financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2002.

Director	Experience	Special Responsibilities
J Toia , BVSc, DipEd, B.Ed.Stud.	Director AVA since 1998, President 2002-2003, President-Elect, President Qld Div. 1997, AVA Member since 1993	President, Director (Strategic Plan, Policy Council, Division issues, Association Management, Community Programs)
JL Sillince , BVSc, MACVS, MBA, GAICD	Director AVA since 1999, President-Elect 2002-2003, President NSW Div. 1994-95, AVA Member since 1983	President-Elect, Director (Membership programs, promotion and benefits, Communications)
RM Baker , BVSc, MSc, MAgSc, DipBusAdmin, MAICD	Director AVA since 2000, President 2001-2002, President SA Division 1998, AVA Member since 1969.	Vice-President, Director (Animal Welfare, NFF, Rural practice, legislation)
NL Blackman , BVSc, Dip Ed (Biotech) FAICD	Director AVA since 1999, Treasurer 2001-2003, President ACT Div. 1994, AVA Member since 1978	Treasurer, Director (Government, Therapeutics, NRA, Insurance, Financial and Risk Management, Governance)
RJ Rheinberger , BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AACV 1998, AVA Member since 1974	Director (Rural practice, Accreditation, Government, AVA Awards)
D Lovell , BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AEVA 1999-2000, AVA Member since 1987	Director (Practice Management, Professional Standards, Professional Associations)
D Sheehan , B.Sc, BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President ASAVA 2000-2002, President Qld Division 1994, AVA Member since 1984	Director (Professional Associations, Legislation, Community Promotion, AVACOS)
L Scott , BSc, BVMS, MBA, MACVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2002, President ACT Division 1997, AVA Member since 1982	Director (Professional Associations, Government, Community Promotion)
M McLennan , BVSc, MSc, MACVSc, GCEd	Director AVA since 2002, President Qld Division 2001-2002, AVA Member since 1964	Director (Education)

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.

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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 2002, the Association recorded a surplus of \$143,790 compared with a surplus of \$287,468 for the previous year. The net assets of the Association at 31 December 2002 were \$6,501,884 compared with \$6,358,094 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 2002 comprise a surplus for 48 constituent groups, break-even for 7 and losses for 14.

The SIGs recorded a surplus of \$29,406 the Divisions recorded a surplus of \$64,677 the Branches recorded a surplus of \$49,650, whilst the AVA National Group recorded a surplus of \$57.

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 2002 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 2002.

Directors' Benefits Since 31 December 2001 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 10 (10) N.L. Blackman 10 (9), I.S. Denney 4 (4), D. Lovell 10 (10), M. McLennan 4 (3), R. Rheinberger 10 (9), L. Scott 6 (6), K. Seksel 4 (3), D.Sheehan 10 (10), J. Sillince 10 (9), and J. Toia 10 (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 20th day of March 2003 in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



N.L. Blackman
Director and Honorary Treasurer



J. Toia
Director and President

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Audit Report to the Members

Scope

We have audited the financial report of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited for the year ended 31 December 2002 as set out on pages 46-54. 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 2002 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, 20 March 2002

Directors' Declaration

The directors of the company declare that the financial report, as set out on pages 46-54:

- a) comply with accounting standards; and
- b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2002 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



J. Toia

Director and President

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2002

	Note	2002 \$	2001 \$
Operating surplus			
National Group		57	54,174
Divisions			
New South Wales		268	10,419
Victoria		15,787	30,673
Queensland		36,466	(7,539)
South Australia		12,660	1,440
Western Australia		9,111	(4,416)
Tasmania		(1,895)	12,227
Northern Territory		(2,073)	(3,298)
Australian Capital Territory		(5,647)	3,847
Special Interest Groups			
AACV (Cattle)		(325)	32,331
AEVA (Equine)		4,205	25,552
ASAVA (Small Animals)		4,362	2,330
Other		21,164	69,628
Branches of Divisions		49,650	60,100
Operating Surplus	3	143,790	287,468
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year		3,868,665	3,348,606
Total available for appropriation		4,012,455	3,636,074
Amounts transferred from reserves	11	–	232,591
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year		4,012,455	3,868,665

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

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2002

	Note	2002 \$	2001 \$
Current Assets			
Cash	4	1,529,936	1,360,603
Receivables	5	306,716	333,057
Inventories	1(d)	32,132	39,002
Other	6	92,449	91,032
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>1,961,233</u>	<u>1,823,694</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	7	1,515,588	1,428,595
Property and equipment	8	4,160,257	4,191,497
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>5,675,845</u>	<u>5,620,092</u>
Total Assets		<u>7,637,078</u>	<u>7,443,786</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and borrowings	9	961,745	929,946
Provisions	10	173,448	155,746
Total current liabilities		<u>1,135,194</u>	<u>1,085,692</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>1,135,194</u>	<u>1,085,692</u>
Net Assets		<u>6,501,884</u>	<u>6,358,094</u>
Retained surplus		4,012,455	3,868,665
Reserves	11	2,489,429	2,489,429
Total Members' Funds		<u>6,501,884</u>	<u>6,358,094</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 2002

Note	2002 \$ Inflows/ (Outflows)	2001 \$ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from members' subscriptions	1,826,539	1,836,498
Receipts from AVA activities	4,528,928	4,028,665
	<u>6,355,467</u>	<u>5,865,163</u>
Less: Payments to suppliers and employees	(5,872,699)	(5,450,708)
	482,768	414,455
Plus: Interest received	37,243	41,177
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>520,011</u>	<u>455,632</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for non-current assets – Investments	(500,000)	–
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets – Investments	199,689	–
Payments for non-current assets – Property and equipment	(50,367)	(128,333)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets – Property and equipment	–	441,222
Net cash inflow from investing activities	<u>(350,678)</u>	<u>312,889</u>
Net increase in cash held	169,333	768,521
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	1,360,603	592,082
Cash at the end of the financial year (Note 4)	<u>1,529,936</u>	<u>1,360,603</u>
Reconciliation of net cash inflow from operating activities to operating profit for the year		
Operating surplus for the year	143,790	287,468
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation	95,706	98,652
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	–	(227)
Net unrealised loss on investments	123,908	34,740
Net realised loss on investments	75,311	–
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Decrease / (increase) in trade debtors	26,341	48,466
Decrease / (increase) in inventories	6,870	(6,333)
Decrease / (increase) in prepayments	(1,417)	(10,041)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors and accruals	(23,310)	(1,975)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	17,702	16,787
Increase / (decrease) in membership subscriptions in advance	55,110	(11,904)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>520,011</u>	<u>455,632</u>

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 December 2002.
- (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.

2. Operating revenue

	2002 \$	2001 \$
Subscriptions	1,826,539	1,836,498
Interest	37,243	41,177
Affinity commissions	791,157	553,978
Other revenue	3,711,429	3,426,220
	<u>6,366,368</u>	<u>5,857,873</u>

3. Operating surplus

Operating surplus is arrived at after crediting and charging the following specific items:

	2002 \$	2001 \$
Credits		
Interest received / receivable – other persons and/or corporations	37,243	41,177
Profit on sale of fixed assets	–	227
Charges		
Depreciation of equipment	95,706	98,652
Provision for employee entitlements	17,702	16,786
Unrealised loss on Managed Funds and Listed Shares	123,908	34,740
Realised loss on Managed Funds	75,311	–
	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

4. Current assets – cash

	2002 \$	2001 \$
Cash at bank and on hand	511,551	588,305
Funds on deposit	1,018,385	802,298
	<u>1,529,936</u>	<u>1,360,603</u>

Notes to the Financial Report – For the financial year ended 31 December 2002

	2002 \$	2001 \$
5. Current assets – receivables		
Trade receivables	133,267	193,424
Provision for doubtful debts	(3,000)	(3,000)
Commissions receivable	109,000	87,821
Other receivables	67,449	54,812
	306,716	333,057
6. Current assets – prepayments		
Prepayments	92,449	91,032
7. Non-current assets – investments		
Managed funds	1,502,088	1,400,995
Listed shares	13,500	27,600
	1,515,588	1,428,595
8. Non-current assets – property and equipment		
Land and buildings		
Freehold land		
At directors' valuation December 2002	2,180,000	–
At independent valuation December 2000	–	2,180,000
Buildings		
At directors' valuation December 2002	1,740,000	–
At independent valuation December 2000	–	1,740,000
	3,920,000	3,920,000
Office furniture & equipment – at cost		
Less accumulated depreciation	1,037,789	988,366
	(797,532)	(727,251)
	240,257	261,115
Leasehold improvements – at cost		
Less accumulated amortisation	33,982	33,982
	(33,982)	(23,600)
	–	10,382
Total property and equipment	4,160,257	4,191,497

Independent valuations of all properties were carried out in December 2000 by valuers registered in their respective State/Territory. Depreciation policy for office furniture and equipment is set out in Note 1 (b).

Notes to the Financial Report – For the financial year ended 31 December 2002

	2002 \$	2001 \$
9. Current liabilities – creditors and borrowings		
Sundry creditors	199,118	128,081
Funds held on trust		
AVA Animal Welfare Trust	43,180	40,504
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	199,773	204,952
Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation	205,267	195,390
Comfund	120,915	167,067
Urban Animal Management	49,132	36,642
PetPEP	39,621	61,848
Other	8,756	25,065
Income received in advance		
Membership subscriptions	62,821	7,711
Publications subscriptions	–	5,786
Annual conference income	33,163	29,468
Other income	–	27,432
	961,746	929,946
10. Current liabilities – provisions		
Employee entitlements	173,448	155,746
11. Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance 1 January	2,489,429	2,711,048
Transfer (to) statement of financial performance	–	(232,591)
Revaluation of land and buildings	–	10,972
Balance 31 December	2,489,429	2,489,429

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.

	2002 \$	2001 \$
13. Segmental reporting		
(a) 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.		
(b) The results comprise National Group, SIGs, Divisions and Branches. The net assets of the various component groups are as follows:		
National Group	3,838,164	3,838,107
SIGs	1,608,622	1,579,213
Divisions	513,730	449,057
Branches	541,369	491,716
	6,501,884	6,358,094
(c) 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	612,537	570,542
Divisions	471,534	400,379
Branches	159,817	157,319
	1,243,888	1,128,240
14. Remuneration of Auditor		
Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditor of the Association:		
Audit of the financial statements	12,000	14,800
Other services	4,900	3,145
	16,900	17,945
15. Remuneration of Directors		
Allowance received or due and receivable by the President of the Association		
Directors' Honoraria	30,000	30,000
	15,900	16,700
	45,900	46,700
16. Related Parties		
Special Interest Groups, Divisions, Branches: Income, expenditure, assets and liabilities are consolidated with National Group data in the financial statements.		
Directors: The names of persons who were directors at any time during the year are set out in the "Report of the Directors" on page 43. 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 2002

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.

2002	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	511,551	1,018,385				1,529,936
Receivables	–	–			306,716	306,716
	<u>511,551</u>	<u>1,018,385</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>306,716</u>	<u>306,716</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	2.7%	4.1%				
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors					295,102	295,102
Funds held on Trust	666,644	–				666,644
	<u>666,644</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>295,102</u>	<u>961,746</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	4.1%					
Net Financial Assets	<u>(155,093)</u>	<u>1,018,385</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>11,614</u>	<u>874,906</u>
2001						
2001	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			interest bearing	Total
		<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	558,305	802,298			–	1,360,603
Receivables	–	–			333,057	333,057
	<u>558,305</u>	<u>802,298</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>333,057</u>	<u>1,693,660</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	3.0%	3.3%				
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	–	–			198,478	198,478
Funds held on Trust	731,468	–			–	731,468
	<u>731,468</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</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>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>134,579</u>	<u>763,714</u>

2002
\$

2001
\$

Reconciliation of Net Financial Assets to Net Assets

Net Financial Assets as per above

874,906

763,714

Prepayments

92,449

91,032

Inventory

32,132

39,002

Investments

1,515,588

1,428,595

Property, plant & equipment

4,160,257

4,191,497

Provisions

(173,448)

(155,746)

Net assets per statement of financial position

6,501,884

6,358,094





Australian Veterinary Association
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