



About the AVA

The AVA is a national member-based professional association for veterinarians.

Many members join the AVA to ensure that there is a strong national professional community of veterinarians. AVA provides the profession with a profile and because of the strength of its membership is also able to influence government policy-making.

Services to members include representation to government, media and the community, continuing education, various scientific and clinical journals and publications and the opportunity to join special interest groups based on individual species, specific disciplines and common interest.

The Vision of the AVA is to Advance Veterinary Science and to have a strong, united and highly respected veterinary profession across Australia.

Our Mission is to be the national organisation representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession and to act and speak with one voice on veterinary issues.

Membership of the AVA is open to veterinarians and veterinary science students. Information about the AVA including member benefits, media releases, publications and AVA policies is available on the website www.ava.com.au

In 2005, surveyed Members of the Australian Veterinary Association identified three main areas of priority:

1. continuing education
2. visibility
3. service excellence.

In accordance with these areas of priority, the 2005 Annual Report has been designed to focus on these areas of achievement.

The strategies implemented by the AVA to address these areas of priority are outlined in the CEO's Report.

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Annual Report 2005

For general enquiries concerning the
Australian Veterinary Association:
Tel: 1300 137 309
Fax: 02 9437 9068
Web site: www.ava.com.au

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Governance

The AVA Board is comprised of nine directors and is accountable to the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) as a whole for the business of the Association. AVA has been a company limited by guarantee since 1976, and the functions of the Board include:

Policy development

- Setting the strategic direction
- Approval of the annual budget for the AVA as a whole
- Consideration and approval of financial policies
- Creation and dissolution of committees and taskforces
- Approval of strategies, business plans and operational policies
- Establishment of delegations, and
- Review and monitoring of a Board Code of Conduct.

Monitoring

- Ensuring solvency
- The annual budget and related fiscal matters
- Achievement of strategic direction through the annual business plan
- Recommendation to the AGM for appointment of the external auditor
- Consideration of reports from both the internal and external auditors
- The employment and performance of the Chief Executive Officer
- Operating information to understand at all times the state of health of the company
- Overseeing the management of business risks, insurance risks, environmental issues and occupational health and safety, and
- Ensuring that the company acts legally and responsibly on all matters and that the highest ethical standards are maintained.

Composition and operations of the Board

There are nine non-executive directors on the Board. Six directors are nominated and elected by the membership as a whole, and the three largest Special Interest Groups nominate one director each.

The term of each director is three years. Directors who do not hold presidential positions may stand for a second term of office.

The membership as a whole elects the President-Elect. The Board at its first meeting following each Annual General Meeting elects the Treasurer from amongst its number. The President chairs the Board, and each Director has responsibilities on at least two Board committees.

Finance Committee

The Treasurer, Dr Diane Sheehan, chairs the Finance Committee which oversees budget development, monitors budgets, provides direction for investments, properties, other sources of income plus financial reporting. This committee also oversees AVA's business partnerships and the three AVA Trusts.

Strategy Committee

Dr Bill Darmody chairs the Strategy committee which has its focus on AVA's strategic partners, external communications and on policy development and implementation.

Membership Committee

Membership services and benefits, plus internal communications are the focus of the Membership Committee which is chaired by Dr Derek Major.

Risk Committee

Governance, risk management, external audit and accreditation programs are all within the terms of reference of the Risk Management Committee which is chaired by Dr Sam McMahon.

Board operations

The President is in regular communication with the Chief Executive Officer to review issues and construct and agree Board agendas. The Board holds most of its face-to-face meetings at the national office of the AVA, which is at St Leonards. In 2005 the Board again reviewed its own work and the contribution of each director to the work of the Board, and has put in place a three part Board performance review to be conducted on an annual basis.

The Company Secretary takes Board minutes and provides advice on legal and constitutional issues as necessary.

For the purposes of proper performance of their duties, members of the AVA Board are entitled to seek independent professional advice at AVA's expense, subject to approval from the AVA President.

Annual briefings for new Board members

At its first meeting after the AGM each year, committee membership is finalised, and new directors are provided with briefing materials: all Board members are invited to formally renew their commitment to the AVA Board Code of Conduct. A planning workshop is held annually, often at the first full meeting of the Board after the AGM. All directors are also encouraged to undertake company director training before and during their term.

Meeting strategic goals and the management of business risks

In order to meet its strategic goals, AVA develops an annual business plan linked to budget. Development of a comprehensive risk management strategy for National office has been completed, and in 2006 the larger groups within the AVA will be supported to develop and implement risk management plans for their groups that can be monitored by that group, and by the AVA Board. The Board monitors achievement of goals via the business plan and budget, and also monitors issues that may be of significant risk to the association.

Directors' fees and indemnification

AVA directors receive a small allowance for attending face-to-face meetings of the Board and the AVA President receives an allowance as modest recompense for the substantial time commitment required. This amount was increased by a small amount at the 2005 AGM. All allowances are taxable. The AVA covers the cost of return economy airfares or equivalent for attendance at Board meetings from the home base of each director, plus reasonable accommodation, meals and ground transport. Basic liability cover for directors and officers is also provided.

The Board of the AVA in 2005

Photographs of the 2005 Board appear on the following page along with a listing of their committee responsibilities.



AVA Board

Matt Makin

- Finance Board Committee
- Risk Management Board Committee
- Membership Services and Communications Board Committee
- Strategy Board Committee

Norm Blackman

- Finance Board Committee
- Strategy Board Committee

Di Sheehan

- Finance Board Committee (Chair)
- Risk Management Board Committee

Sam McMahon

- Risk Management Board Committee (Chair)
- Strategy Board Committee

Bill Darmody

- Strategy Board Committee (Chair)
- Risk Management Board Committee

Kersti Seksel

- Finance Board Committee
- Membership Services and Communications Board Committee

Derek Major

- Membership Services and Communications Board Committee (Chair)
- Risk Management Board Committee

David Lovell

- Membership Services and Communications Board Committee

Bruce Cartmill

- Membership Services and Communications Board Committee
- Strategy Board Committee

President's Report



The AVA is very much a member driven organisation, and during the past year we have refined the manner in which we deliver valued services to members as we pursue our vision for a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession.

Integral to this process has been refinement of the AVA strategic plan into the simplified areas of

continuing education, visibility (including lobbying) and finally membership services.

This refocusing has occurred in a challenging financial environment, and in an era where the transition of the AVA into a professionally managed and operated not-for-profit organisation has meant significant change for the entire association and heightened levels of responsibility for the directors and senior staff.

Continuing Education

High quality continuing education is potentially one of the greatest strengths of the AVA as an organisation and is integral to our core objective of advancing veterinary science.

The special interest groups in particular have continued to deliver focused CE opportunities over the past 12 months and have huge potential to provide further specialist courses through a variety of mediums.

Whilst SIG conferences continue to be very successful, the AVA national conference has been significantly restructured to position it as the ultimate annual CE and social event for the profession in Australia. This has meant significant change for the groups involved with much more interaction between SIGs and this is critical as we pursue 'one AVA' and cement our position as a key provider of quality CE.

There are also initiatives to encourage more integration and cooperation between the AVA's groups to ensure that all members have access to CE of an appropriate standard in suitable locations. Historically, groups have acted as separate organisations. This is a trend which is gradually changing, and I think, is indicative of the future of the organisation.

The AVA also continues to develop AVA VetEd – the national program for collating and tallying CE activities of members. As the program improves we are seeing more people qualify for use of the post nominal CMAVA which will position the organisation well as the community and legislators come to expect continuing education as a requirement for ongoing registration.

Visibility and lobbying

The AVA spends significant time and resources in the formation of policy and in the extension and promotion of policy to decision makers within industry and Government.

Some of these activities provide direct benefits to members, as in the case of legislation governing the profession and the prescription medicine industry. Others provide lesser

immediate direct benefit to members but are nonetheless equally important in the longer term. Over the past 12 months pertinent examples include live export, and mulesing – both topical and important issues. Both issues have very much increased the relevance of the AVA to industry and government with AVA as the source of sound and practical scientific advice on these and other complex issues.

We also continually provide input to Government and Industry committees and activities via our links with the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and Animal Health Australia. We are also directly involved in advancing the national animal welfare strategy (NAWS) that is likely to revolutionise the approach of all governments and industries across Australia (and potentially internationally) to this emerging social issue.

The live export industry also deserves special attention given the ongoing concern of some members about welfare standards. As President, I along with the Australian Cattle and Sheep SIG representatives continue to extensively engage with the industry and federal government to ensure that improved standards are effectively developed and implemented. Ensuring that the welfare standards of the Australian Live Export Industry remain amongst the best in the world requires vigilance, as AVA's support is conditional upon evidence of ongoing improvement.

The mulesing debate has remained very prominent during the past 12 months and the AVA has actively encouraged the industry and governments to address the welfare issues associated with this procedure. Immediate Past President Dr Norm Blackman along with the Australian Sheep Vets (ASV) are working with industry to ensure continued pursuit of measures designed to address the welfare concerns surrounding this procedure and also to ensure that overseas industries and animal rights or welfare organisations understand the nature of Australian livestock production.

The final issue that has increased in importance over the past 12 months has been Avian Influenza. We are now at a stage where the threat of this disease both internationally and within Australia is demanding governments and industries give this issue significant attention. The AVA was fortunate to be involved in Exercise Eleusis – a national simulation exercise for an outbreak of this disease. The exercise highlighted some deficiencies in our national disease control systems that will be further addressed when the report from the exercise is released. It also highlights the importance of AVA involvement in such public health issues of national and international importance and it is encouraging that our opinion is sought and valued by others, although much work remains to be done to focus attention on the important intersection of veterinary and public health.

An important component of lobbying and visibility is an active presence with the media. With the appointment of a full time Media Officer we are again in a position to significantly increase the profile of the profession and the organisation and can carefully influence issues through the use of the media. Of course, such activities do have risks and as such need to be carefully planned and monitored to ensure the desired outcome, but the benefits for the profession and the association are considerable.

The past 12 months has been very busy in this regard, as we have tackled a number of national issues including avian influenza and Q-Fever vaccination availability, as well as more client-focused media activities about diseases of importance and the regular threats to the health of pets. Utilising the expertise of the special interest groups in talking on particular issues has also proved very useful.

Such activities further clarify and position the AVA and the veterinary profession as a respected organisation with an apolitical and scientific approach to issues. With time this is also enabling us to become more influential both with industry and government.

Integral to our success on any issue of external policy are strong strategic alliances with partners, governments and industry organisations. The AVA board is currently in the process of reassessing the value, input and resources invested into each of our strategic partners to deliver more value to the membership and more outcomes for the profession. There are some 30 organisations to which this applies, many of which are vital if the AVA is to remain as respected and influential as it has become over recent years. We are also planning ways in which to ensure the relationships remain strong, even when we disagree on issues.

All of this activity does improve the recognition of the AVA brand with the broader community and with decision-makers, and supports AVA in our quest to improving our ability to influence policy and activities for the benefit of animals.

Membership Services & Business Operations

Early in 2006 the AVA launched the new and improved *Australian Veterinary Journal* that looks and reads as a more professional and well collated publication. This follows considerable work and effort from the Editor and her team that will further enhance the value of this important member benefit and its international reputation as a high quality peer reviewed journal. In addition, the less visible components and business operations side of the journal are being reviewed to address the costings and produce added efficiencies.

There is now an AVA board subcommittee addressing membership services with a charter to work with staff and the AVA's groups to help ensure we are delivering services to members that are valued and cost efficient. This involves regularly seeking feedback from members about their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with member services. There is also a need to share valued member benefits across the organisation so that we can all benefit from good ideas. Over the coming 12 months you may notice that many services will be either modified or removed and new ones will come on board. The recent launch of overseas online membership is one example.

I commenced this report by stating that the AVA is very much a member driven organisation, but it is also important to recognise that it is now an organisation of significant size with assets and resources that must be appropriately managed. Along with this comes a level of responsibility in terms of corporate governance and operational systems.

The Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the stewardship of AVA assets and must make decisions in the best interests of the entire membership. In addition, many of the changes over the past 12 months were aimed at satisfying our governance and legal obligations and ensuring that the organisation is strong and managed in the best interests of all members. Integral to this process has been the restructure of operations so that all groups operate efficiently, without duplication and in a manner that addressed AVA's strategic objectives.

I am glad to say that we are now the closest that we have ever been to operating and functioning as one cohesive organisation. Pursuit of the 'one AVA' concept is absolutely essential if we are to succeed into the future.

As a final note it is important that I thank both the Board of Directors and staff for their commitment to the association over the past 12 months. It has been a time of enormous workload, change and uncertainty. The staff have worked tirelessly often under arduous circumstances for which they must all be given considerable credit.

Matthew Makin
President

Treasurer's Report



Overall Performance

Total income from all sources for AVA Ltd was \$7,448,380, a 6.4% increase compared to the previous year. Total expenses were \$6,670,355, a 5.3% decrease compared to the previous year. This has resulted in a surplus in overall financial performance for the year of \$778,025 compared to a deficit \$42,293 in 2004. This includes

the profit from the sale of the Artarmon property of \$217,948. Depreciation charges declined by 15.4% to \$140,918 in 2005 compared with 2004, due to the sale of Artarmon in January 2005 and the deferral of the purchase of the St Leonards property until April 2005, resulting in no building depreciation in Sydney for 3 months of the financial year.

Investments

AVA Ltd investment portfolio of \$2.4 million is currently managed through the Macquarie Bank Ltd. The average net return from the portfolio for the year was 9.5% including capital growth of more than 4.5%.

Property

The valuation of AVA Ltd property assets was not adjusted in 2005 due to the fact that this is in the middle of the three year valuation cycle that the Board of Directors have in place. The properties will be independently valued in 2006. Directors believe that the property valuations are appropriate in the current market. The sale of the Artarmon property was finalised in January 2005 and the St Leonards purchase was finalised April 2005. This resulted in an increase in the allocation to Property and Equipment within the balance sheet during 2005 of approximately 5.4% of Net Assets or \$926,000.

Business Units

Membership income increased by \$90,000 and Affinity income declined by \$23,000. The reduction in affinity income was small given 2005 included the first full year impact of the loss of the Commonwealth Bank Gold Card agreement. Sponsorship, generated a strong performance in 2005, compared to 2004, with a four fold increase in revenue to \$643,000 in 2005. This reflected the full year impact of agreements which had been put in place in 2004. The servicing cost of PetPEP, increased by 8.4% in response to increased demand.

Conferences and continuing education continued to generate a surplus for the Association of \$162,350, a decline of 40% compared with 2004.

In 2005, publications recorded a deficit of \$242,113, compared to \$127,217 for 2004. During 2005 a new AVJ Scientific Editor was appointed, based in Sydney, and the Scientific Editor has assumed the responsibilities of the Managing Editor.

The Policy Group located in Canberra operated below budget in 2005, largely due to a position remaining unfilled for part of the year.

Funds

There were no successful applications to the Communication fund in 2005. The balance of the fund is \$34,301.

In 2005, the Association received a bequest of \$100,000 on behalf of the Queensland Division, from the estate of Dr G C Simmons. The bequest required that the income from the bequest be used for continuing education within Queensland. The principal of the bequest will be adjusted in line with the CPI, to retain the real value of the bequest in perpetuity, to ensure that the memory of Dr Simmons is maintained within the Association. The income from the bequest will be available to support continuing education in Queensland.

Summary

In 2005 the Treasurer and Financial team finalised the following:

- Terms of Reference of the Finance Committee
- Property Portfolio update
- Compliance with AIFRS requirements
- Consolidation of AVA Trusts financial results with those of AVA Limited.

In summary the year has been a successful one financially with the majority of the AVA classes of groups (Divisions, SIGs, Branches and National) returning a surplus, though there was significant variability within the classes. Some 13 groups, ranging across the structure of the Association generated deficits in 2005, including one Division, seven SIGs (large and small) and five Branches (large and small). In general these deficits were either planned, noted in the budget or were very small.

Thank you for your support in my role as Treasurer over the past 3 years. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Association in this portfolio. In taking on the role of Treasurer, I had three main objectives:

- formulation of an asset management policy for AVA Ltd which provides a framework in which to evaluate the role, function and rate of return of AVA properties and within that framework formulation of the Investment Policy Statement which provides guidelines for the investment of AVA Ltd funds
- greater emphasis on AVA Ltd Consolidated reporting
- introduction of a business unit framework for financial reporting and a move to quarterly reporting

These have been adopted and have significantly improved the compliance requirements, operating efficiencies and responsiveness of the association to meet member's needs.

I would like to thank all the AVA groups for the smooth transition to the centralisation of the financial services within the organisation in line with the Auditors recommendations. Also, I take this opportunity to thank James Redrup the Corporate Services Manager and his team for the work they have put in to support the AVA groups and making the reporting and budget cycle operate efficiently in line with these operational changes.

This has only been possible with the support of the Board of Directors and the CEO and management and I appreciate and formally acknowledge that support.

Dr Diane M Sheehan
Treasurer

CEO's Report



Achievements for 2005

2005 was a year of reflection on long term direction plus action:

- Official opening of the AVA National Office at St Leonards
- AVJ citation index maintained
- Plan to revolutionise AVJ manuscript processes ready for implementation in early 2006
- AVA media profile increased
- AVA VetEd system and processes improved, with 33 members achieving CMAVA status
- Conference Scientific Convenor appointed
- Annual Conference format changed to enhance scientific program
- Many SIGs changed their names to reflect the governance-related concern by the Board about the use of the words 'association' or 'society' in their titles
- Policy development process streamlined
- Revitalisation of the Policy Compendium commenced
- Policy implementation given a much stronger focus
- Following auditors request, majority of finance accounts managed centrally, and Board committed to completing this compliance requirement
- Protocol for accreditation schemes nears completion, and four schemes reviewed
- Links with many strategic partners strengthened
- An increased level of sponsorship support for AVA by our business partners
- Budget outcome positive.

During 2005 the Board, members and management spent time on analysis of the underlying determinants that drive the AVA. In examining operations to identify the basic organising principle within the Association it became very clear that the answer was 'administration', and yet 'administration' was not the answer to any of the following questions:

- What business are we in?
- What are we trying to accomplish?
- What makes us distinct?

The conclusions are that AVA exists to advance veterinary science, and this can be achieved by a focus on three organising principles which are continuing education, making veterinary science visible to decision-makers and the community and supporting members with quality member services. Underlying these organising principles or pillars is good governance and efficient administration.

To commence a move of emphasis, the Board supported a re-structure of the national office to reflect a more strategic emphasis on:

- Continuing Education
- Visibility
- Member Services

Each of the groups within the AVA has been encouraged to also adopt this emphasis, and to set for themselves one or two goals in some or all of these areas as one way of all heading in the same direction across the AVA and really providing members with tangible outcomes. Good governance and efficient administration underlie these organising principles or pillars, but neither good governance nor administration should be considered by staff or members as an end by itself.

The process of change has begun and needs to continue if the AVA is to move to a more predictable budget neutral or budget positive situation into the future.

Continuing education

AVA provides a vast amount of continuing education (CE) for members, including through AVJ, workshops, presentations and conferences, and also links with the major providers of CE which are the Sydney and Murdoch Postgraduate Foundations: AVA also has strengthening ties with the College. In addition, AVA runs the AVA VetEd program to support and encourage members to record their CE and celebrate their achievement.

AVA Conference

The AVA Annual Conference and Conference Dinner held at the Gold Coast once again represented the largest gathering of veterinarians in Australia. More than 1,000 members attended, with member surveys showing that the conference remains a highly valued member benefit. A new Events Manager, Natalie Walker joins the Scientific Conference Co-ordinator, Dr Maureen Revington to oversee the 2006 Conference in Hobart.

AVA VetED

The AVA seeks to recognise and celebrate the achievements of AVA VetEd awardees. Members who complete 120 hours in a triennium are awarded 'Chartered Member' status and presented with a certificate and lapel pin. Chartered Members of the AVA and are entitled to use the post-nominals 'CMAVA'. Awardees are listed on the website and acknowledged at the Annual Conference. Numbers of participants increased significantly to 180 Members during 2005 and 26 were awarded CMAVA status, bringing the total awarded to 33. Preparations are nearing completion for Members to view their AVA VetEd record on-line.

Visibility

Acting and speaking with one voice to ensure that veterinary science is advanced and visible for decision-makers and in Australian community debates is central to the activities of the AVA.

Policy

Veterinary Director Dr Kevin Doyle oversees the Policy Implementation Group with input from the Chief Executive Officer, the Board, Policy Advisory Council, Special Interest Groups, AVA Advisory Committees and members.

AVA also works with a huge range of strategic partners including:

- Animal Health Australia (AHA) by providing advice on a range of issues such as the Protect Australian Livestock awareness campaign



CEO's Report cont.

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), with some emphasis in 2005 on the development of the Australian Veterinary Reserve (AVR) and support for the development of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy
- Australia and New Zealand Invasive Species Cooperative Research Centre
- Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
- National Farmers Federation (NFF) and its member groups including the Cattle Council of Australia (CCA)
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), particularly in relation to virginiamycin.

AVA made other contributions to public policy including to:

- National Animal Welfare Strategy
- Draft Emu Code of Practice
- Draft Sheep Code of Practice and sedating of sheep for shearing
- Following up on the Review of Rural Veterinary Services with work on new models of rural mixed practice
- The development of a quarantine policy (and operational matters) by Biosecurity Australia
- National Registration of veterinarians
- Plus antibiotic resistance; food safety and labelling of drugs.

Media and Marketing

Media monitoring demonstrated a large increase in media mentions of the AVA and its activities following the appointment of a Media Officer (Gavin Atkins) in September. Media monitoring reported mentions of the AVA in more than 170 media outlets for the final quarter, which is a huge improvement in terms of visibility and demonstrates the importance of having a dedicated media person in this position.

AVA was an important leader in the campaign to raise awareness about a proposal to stop the production of a vaccine against Q-fever, and also raised awareness about the need for dog owners to vaccinate for parvovirus.

The AVA supported community events such as World Animal Day and the Great Big Animal Open Day with logistical and media support. The Great Big Animal Open Day held in Sydney during October was judged a success by participants and may yet expand to other states.

Member Services

The appointment of a new Membership Marketing Manager, Sonya van der Steege has further improved the level of service to members, and this team is strongly supported by the Membership Board Committee. During 2006 the focus will be on increasing member numbers across all age groups and areas of interest.

Professional Ethics

A full review of the AVA Code of Professional Ethics was completed and then approved by the Board in June 2005 following recommendations from Policy Advisory Council. Planning is underway for the development of a methodology for the audit of the Code, including tracking reported non-compliance.

Australian Veterinary Journal

Huge changes have been planned for the AVJ for 2006, including a new-look layout (first published in February 2006), an on-line manuscript handling and tracking system: the possibility of enhancing international distribution and recognition is also being explored.

The Australian Veterinary Journal (AVJ) continues to be an important mechanism for the dissemination of the latest information about veterinary science and clinical practice in Australia. The AVJ is an internationally respected peer reviewed journal, and this is reflected in the fact that it is the world's third most cited veterinary journal.

Dr Anne Jackson as Editor-in-Chief of the journal, and Dr Maureen Revington as the Clinical Editor continue to enjoy the invaluable input of the Scientific and Clinical Editorial Advisory Committees, which is important in maintaining the internationally recognised standards of this journal.

Communications

The AVA has a toll free phone number, an e-line newsletter and for those interested, an email network AVAList.

The AVA website is being re-vamped to improve interactive communications with Members. Board meeting notes are now posted on website, policies and other administrative information has also been posted.

In 2005, the needs of members were again surveyed and the results were reported to Members in the email newsletter, eLine.

AVA Human Resources (HR) Service

The AVA Members HR Advisory Service is a dedicated human resource and industrial relations information service where AVA members can tap into the accumulated knowledge and know-how of a team of professional HR and industrial relations experts specialising in the fields of human resources, industrial relations, employment conditions and law, occupational health and safety, workers compensation and superannuation.

The AVA Members HR Advisory Service was designed to help AVA members gain a competitive edge in the management of their practices and their own careers.

Usage of the website was taken up enthusiastically by members and nine workshops run throughout the year on varying contemporary human resource management and industrial relations topics were well attended.

Employment Contracts continue to generate the largest number of calls (52%) with leave (15%) the second most popular topic and Workforce Management third at 9%.

I want to record my appreciation to AVA's partners and sponsors: Provet, Guild Insurance and Financial Services, MIMS IVS, Hills Pet Nutrition, GE Money CareCredit and Masterfoods Petcare – without your support, AVA would not be able to offer so much to our members.

Finally a big thank you to the Board for their guidance and a very big thank you to the staff, who have put in a huge effort and demonstrated extraordinary commitment over the past year with less resources than in previous years. Our successes this year are of your making and a testament to your willingness to work as a team, together.

Margaret Conley
Chief Executive Officer

2005 Award recipients

Gilruth Prize Winner: Dr Roger Clarke

Kesteven Medal recipient: Dr Allan Baker.

AVA Fellows: Dr John Aspley-Davis and Dr Jeffrey Brady

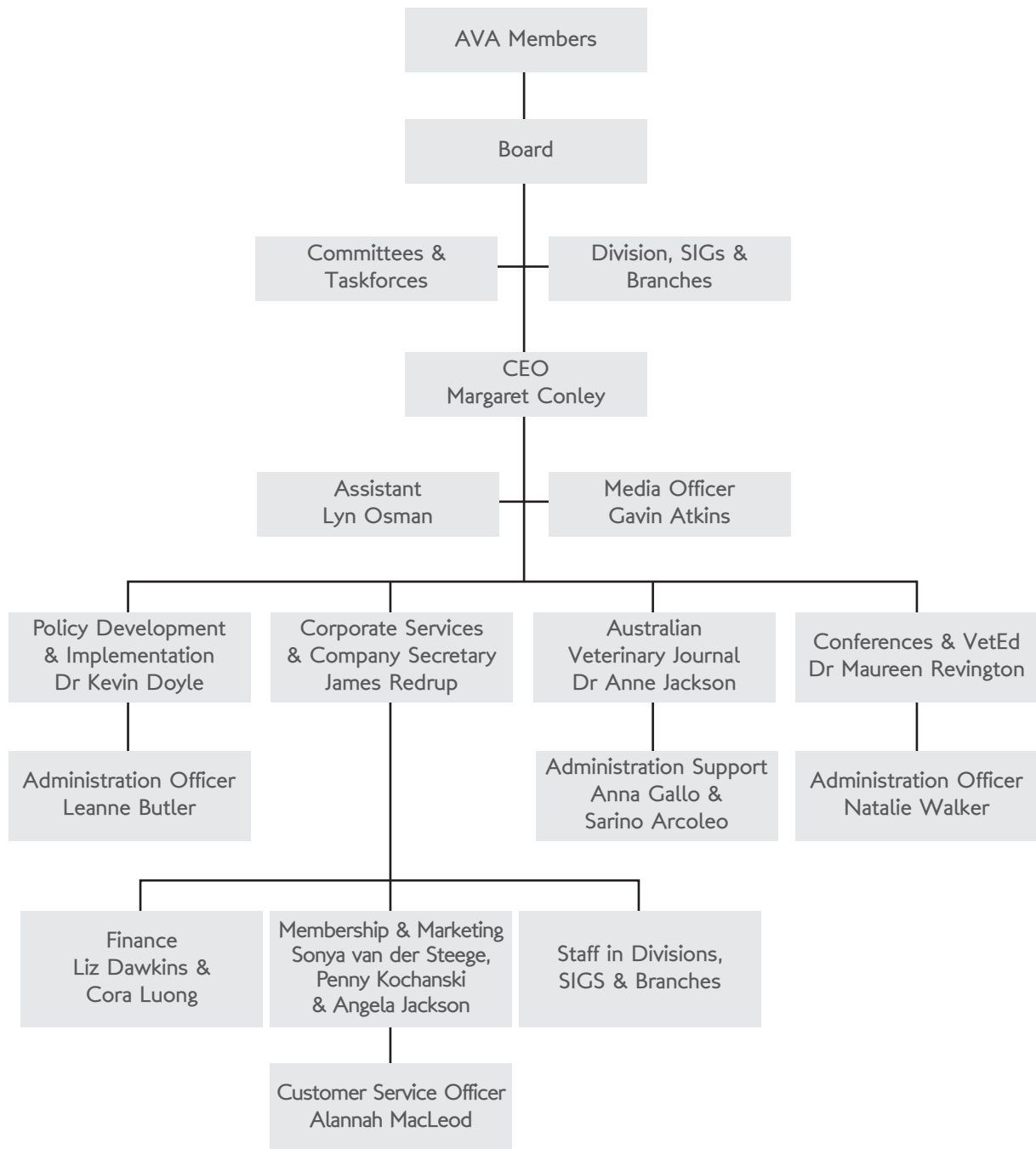
Meritorious Service Awards: Mr Patrick Allen, Dr Kevin Doyle, Dr Ronald Harris, Dr David Jones and Dr William McDonald

Excellence in Teaching Award: Dr Jennifer Hodgson

Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award: Dr Trepheena Hunter.

The winners of the **AVA/Pfizer Practices of Excellence** were East Chatswood Cat Clinic, Hamilton Veterinary Clinic, Leeton Veterinary Hospital, Mosman Veterinary Clinic, 4Paws Neutral Bay Veterinary Clinic, and Warrnambool Veterinary Clinic.

Organisational Chart & Staff





STATE DIVISIONS

Queensland

This year has seen a number of interesting, exciting, and challenging events within the Queensland division.

The Division has worked alongside the Queensland Department of Health Industrial Relations unit to revise and update the Guild Workplace Health and Safety document. Although the basic format was very well constructed, there were a few changes that needed to be made to bring it into line with Queensland policy. This process is continuing and with Guild Insurance's permission we will be looking to complete this in the near future and ensure it is made available to every member practitioner.

The Division newsletter is now a leaner, meaner, fitter and financially more rewarding exercise thanks to the tireless efforts of both Mary George, and the newsletter editor Mike Auld. Many of the members will no doubt recognise some of the changes but others may be more subtle. Paper quality, folding and increased sponsorship of the newsletter have all contributed to keep the costs down and allow it to be an economical exercise once again.

AVA Queensland Division has once again been heavily involved with the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia and AVPMA to update and remodel the Veterinary Practice Employees Award so that it appropriately reflects the true needs of practice employees. I would like to thank those involved for their many hours of cooperative work. It is through these efforts that the Association is to remain proactive and lead the profession through the many workplace changes that are currently occurring.

Similar changes are also occurring within the Vet Nurses tertiary education arena and AVA Queensland is advising Industry Advisory Councils and Groups as to the current needs and trends within the profession. The outcome of this is to enable a profession that can utilise many different tiers of tertiary qualified personnel. This will strengthen and enhance the levels of practice, service and dedication to animals, the profession, and the community at large.

There has been a significant contribution to the AVA Queensland division this year by the way of a bequest. This bequest is to be used for the purposes of continuing education for members of the division. Over time the Division will be looking forward to providing members with many opportunities to update and enhance their professional knowledge and skills.

AVA PetPEP has had a tumultuous year, with significant changes occurring within the program. A major sponsor withdrew their support, leaving the program with an anticipated 35 per cent drop in funding. Through judicious budgeting, careful planning and incredible revenue raising, the members of the PetPEP team, Sarah Thackray and Melissa Gregory, along with the Office Manager Mary George, have managed to all but eliminate this deficit. Severe belt tightening and accountancy by the treasurer Sue Fowkes has kept the program on track. With restructuring and fine tuning of the program, along with the re-signing of a major sponsor, we look forward to providing the pet owners of tomorrow with sound and balanced knowledge of pet care.

AVA Queensland Division is acutely aware of the link between animal abuse and human and child abuse and is proactively trying to prevent these atrocities by providing this program, which we believe should be a core feature of the AVA. Sadly other areas of the association do not share our opinion and feel this program is not worthy of developing or supporting. In this I am proud to be part of a division that will be continuing to ensure our future generations are informed, educated and looked after. To all who support the AVA PetPEP program – thank you.

Finally, thank you to the members who have supported the executive, and the Queensland Division over the many years. It is through your support that I have been able to play an active role in the profession. Without this opportunity I would not have gained such a great insight into the machinations of this wonderful profession. As I retire from the presidency I would like to wish my successor all the best in their term and thank you all for an interesting year.

Dr Alan Cornick
President

New South Wales

NSW Division has had a year of unprecedented change. It had been our intent to seek to reform the Division and the way that it operates. This process was stimulated by the direction of the National Office but instigated in the main by my predecessor Bruce Cartmill. Although much change was intended and planned to occur, several other circumstances gave opportunity to accelerate our change process. We have implemented far more than I would have thought possible, albeit my preference would have been for less change that happened more thoroughly. I apologise to the membership if some have not appreciated this but am optimistic that what we have started will lead to a stronger association and profession in NSW.

The key objectives that we have used to guide us have been visibility of the profession, continuing education and member services. These key objectives have driven our change process and general management.

Our visibility has increased enormously in the last few years with the reinvigoration of AVA PetPEP in NSW. Great work has been done by Peter McNair as Education Officer, supported from the committee by Rod Starr, Bruce Cartmill and Debbie Neutze. Enormous support has come from our sponsors Merial, RSPCA NSW, Novartis, Provet, Holroyd Council, Hawkesbury Council, Shoalhaven City Council and Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) and the members and practices that contribute financially. Special thanks to all vets, nurses and others that have helped to present. Bigger and better things are planned for 2006 with more Councils coming on board and some great new initiatives.

Sponsorship of AVA with PetPEP has provided a double whammy benefit in giving opportunity to our sponsors to provide speakers at branch meetings, thus assisting in Continuing Education roll out. We hope to get branches to plan their year in advance to co-ordinate this opportunity. The Division provides small branch grants to assist in meetings for CE events eg. guest speakers and workshops. We have tied this to a requirement for branches to sort out some governance and management issues. I would like to thank the Branch executives for their assistance with this and for their hard work this year.

The Community Animal Welfare Schemes (CAWS) are joint programs with RSPCA NSW and AVA NSW Division. They provide AVA PetPEP delivery, public awareness through media and a subsidised desexing program in country towns working through the practices of AVA members. They were expanded this year to include Inverell and Griffith as well as Bathurst, Bourke, Coonamble and Gilgandra. Support came from local councils, with Bathurst being particularly generous in their assistance of this great program. This year we were also assisted by funding from the M Carroll Animal Welfare Fund and the JS Love Trust. A new initiative this year was the use of casual co-ordinators and special thanks go to members Sophie Constable and Liia Kelman for their great work.

We have sought to deliver better value to members this year by reducing costs in some areas and increasing spending in others. We will have a surplus of almost \$50,000 over budget this year thanks to the high level of AVA PetPEP sponsorship, savings in the expenses of the Division and a rise in membership. The funds will be spent wisely, with part of this money being used to further expand AVA PetPEP and part to help fund a lobbyist in conjunction with national office.

We have reduced the size of the committee to nine and restructured to establish an executive of the 'three presidents' that is working well. We have regional branches represented by three area reps and three general member positions to add diversity. It was sad to see the retirement of Frank Doughty in July of this year after a dedicated nine years as Executive Officer for the NSW Division. It was very significant that Frank recommended the position of EO be made redundant and that the hard copy newsletter be developed into an electronic format. The committee has taken on board these suggestions and is in a process of evolution on both counts. We have produced two styles of electronic newsletter and are looking at strategies at how best to communicate with all members through this resource. Please be patient with us and thanks for the feedback so far, most of which has been positive.

There have been huge burdens on our staff this year. I would like to especially praise the amazing work of Julie Giblin and thank her for her constancy in a time of enormous change. It was sad to lose Cheryl Knight through retirement during the year and I would also thank her for her years of service. Mention must also be made of the long and dedicated service to the Division of two stalwarts in Ron Hyne and Roy Everett who left the committee in 2005. I am very fortunate to have a great, supportive team on the committee.

We are experimenting with a new format for the Annual Meeting and will include a Branch Resuscitation Workshop as part of the process to further reinvigorate our branches and increase membership. We have made a strategic effort to encourage value to members by increasing the cost of events and services to non-members. Over many years, non-members have been able to avail themselves of the services provided by members' funds without paying for it. It is so important for the profession that we have as many vets as possible that are members. It will raise our profile and influence, let alone the services that we can enjoy. It does not take a lot of thought to see that cost recovery from non-members is a part of this process and I ask that members be supportive in this.

We continue to lobby the government in relation to the Companion Animals Act and the Veterinary Practice Act and will see final outcomes from these processes in 2006. Thank you to all the members that have assisted in this.

Premier lemma made announcements about cruelty legislation in October 2005, which were seen as a positive move forward. These announcements emerged from the police task force that was set up and on which AVA was represented. Major issues that were supported were cross reporting between police and animal protection agencies, a new offence of aggravated animal cruelty for 'extreme acts' of animal abuse and consideration of the need for rehabilitation programs for troubled youth. Mandatory reporting of animal abuse by veterinarians was not believed to be a practical strategy at this stage. It is recommended that members keep informed about this important community issue.

*Dr Mark Lawrie
President*

Victoria

In the past 12 months, the Victorian Division has continued to maintain its high level of activity with considerable work and dedication by the Committee and Staff. The office was staffed by our part-time Executive Officer Anne McDonald ably supported by the Office Administrator Jenny Cumming.

On the 15th April 2005, the Division held a successful Annual Meeting and Dinner in the elephant exhibit at Royal Melbourne Zoo. Members enjoyed a pleasant evening combining the formalities of an annual meeting with two interesting after dinner speakers. The AVA National President gave a presentation on 'Structural Issues and the Future of the AVA'. Dr Mike Bond entertained with a lively talk on his experiences from the beginnings of live animal exports from Australia. Life memberships were presented to 17 eligible members.

The Branches remained the dominant source of Continuing Education for the Division in 2005. Such events continue to be very popular as they present opportunities for both learning and socialising. It was reported last year that some branches have struggled to provide a program for their members. An initiative previously foreshadowed, to support these branches with the conduct of meetings has been very successful and several previously inactive branches held well-attended and lively meetings during the year. This program will continue in 2006.

Industry support for continuing education has been strong, and meetings have covered topics as diverse as vaccination protocols, DNA testing, cytology workshop, eye diseases, and the development of Australian Workplace Agreements.

The Victorian Government has again in the past year pursued an aggressive agenda on issues pertaining to animal health and welfare, as well as general matters affecting veterinary practice. There have been meetings with representatives of the Department of Human Services to discuss the regulatory environment around drugs, poisons and controlled substances handling and the use of radiation devices.

Local government has been active in 2005 developing regulation and controls on domestic animals. The Division mobilised to bring to the attention of Councils the relevant AVA policies.

We continue to have dialogue with the key players in animal welfare and management matters, including the Minister for Agriculture, the Bureau of Animal Welfare, and the RSPCA.

The Victorian Division and its members provided considerable input into the AVA policy council meetings in May and October largely thanks to our representative Dr Onn Ben-David.

Seeking member feedback via email proved popular and greatly assisted the Division in representing our constituents at this important AVA meeting.

This year with the assistance of the student representatives on the Division Committee, we improved our sponsorship and support of undergraduate education. A package of support for discrete events targeted to each year level was agreed to by the Division Committee and implemented in 2005. Integral to this package was a regular presence by the President at student events. Financial support to maintain the Practitioner in Residence Scheme was provided by the Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners' Branch. This scheme continues to be highly valued by final year students and greatly facilitates their entry into practice. Student representatives have been active in recruiting members, and we now represent over two thirds of all students at Melbourne University.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, the AVA PetPEP program was suspended in 2005. Clinics wishing to continue providing a service to schools in their area have been supported with a self-help manual provided through the Division office.

Dr David Rendell continued his role as the Division's representative on the Victorian Government Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. AWAC was restructured during the year and rather than having a position by right, membership is now by invitation of the Minister for Agriculture. It is testament to the high quality input from AVA representatives in the past that we continue to be members of this Committee. Part of the restructure has seen the establishment of Working Groups to address particular issues on the government's agenda. This has widened the scope for AVA members to input into the policy development process, as we have been able to nominate members with particular expertise to these Working Groups. There have also been several ad hoc policy groups that we have been able to call on members to support.

Dr David Rendell has undertaken the role of co-ordinating input provided by AVA members for AVA submissions to AWAC and he brings his experience in livestock production to this important committee. The email distribution list of those with a particular interest in animal welfare has flourished and is an important source of information and input to the policy process.

In the past year there have been some significant changes to the means of communicating with members. The Division has taken advantage of the support from National Office to develop a state-based eLine newsletter. This is published on an ad hoc basis and is distributed by email to all members with a recorded email address. A new editor has been appointed to assume full production responsibility for the *VicVet* newsletter. Dr Trevor Faragher is a former editor and brings a wealth of experience and journalistic expertise to the role. *VicVet* is still published quarterly and provides more in depth articles and items of general interest, as well as a report on Divisional Committee meetings.

The Division implemented a new complaints handling process in 2006 offering the assistance of Professional Standards Officers to mediate between members and the complaining public. This procedure, which aims to reduce complaints escalating to the Veterinary Practitioners' Registration Board, has been successful. It is currently suspended while we seek advice from the Association's insurers.

The outcome of the review and audit of accounting processes has been beneficial for the Division and initial teething problems have been resolved

Maintaining income levels has been an issue due to reduced membership numbers. Victoria appears to have suffered disproportionately from the impact of the abolition of the spousal discount.

Late in 2004, the Division was invited by the Australian Medical Association to become a member of the Steering Committee for the 4th Doctors' Health Conference held in Melbourne in November 2005. The focus for the Conference was 'Creating a healthy professional community'. The Division had a very direct involvement in the Conference, with the President chairing one session, and a prominent member, Dr Jack Ayerbe, leading a workshop specifically looking at the issues confronting veterinarians.

Developing systems to support the physical and mental well being of our members will be an important element in the Division's program for 2006.

Dr James Gilkerson
President



Tasmania

2005 was a busy year for the Tasmanian Division culminating in a most successful Annual Conference at St Helens in November. All credit must go to the principal organisers, Drs Angela Offord and Deidre Pyecroft. A great venue was selected, excellent speakers were chosen and a record attendance of vets, nurses and industry was achieved. All together this has resulted in a good return to the Divisions coffers which will enable a wider program of seminars this year. It is pleasing to note that the Conference attracted not only vets but also nurses from Victoria.

The Division has been active as a respondent in consultations with the Veterinary Board in a detailed examination of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987. Following the Board's review and AVA consultation recommended changes have been submitted to the Government for preparation of amendments to the Act and consequential changes to regulations.

In addition to the continuing education provide through the Annual Divisional Conference and the AGM, the Division has provided evening seminars in the three regions of the State. The seminars are provided at minimal cost to AVA members and have consistently attracted good attendances. Either a meal or supper is provided with the seminar.

For some time the Divisional Committee has been trying to bring together the Sydney PGF and the Division for cooperative events. To this end we have now arranged with the PGF to hold a 'Time Out' in conjunction with our 2006 AGM.

For most of last year plans were being developed for an effective reintroduction of AVA PetPEP activity in Tasmania in 2006. In the interim the Division supported financially and in text review, the production of a brochure 'Protecting Kids and Animals' for distribution in Tasmania through schools and other outlets. The brochure was the initiative of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Coalition and supported by two State Government departments and a number of animal welfare groups including the RSPCA. Copies have been obtained for distribution through veterinary practices.

2006 is going to be another busy year for your Committee and members at large with the AGM in March, the National AVA Conference in Hobart in May and the Divisional Conference again in St Helens in November.

Dr John Gillham
President

Western Australia

2005 continued in the same vein as previous years for Western Australia, with spectacular success in some departments in which we perform well, and relative insipidness in those areas in which we don't.

Those areas in which we continued to succeed included the following:

The AVA New Graduate Support Scheme is now well established and co-ordinator Dr Paul Davey was this year awarded the B.J. Lawrence Veterinarian in Residence Award from Murdoch University. This allowed Dr Davey to undertake a study exploring the contrast between expectation of undergraduates and the reality of practice. A weekend workshop was arranged for AVA Mentors to learn valuable counselling skills and really cement ways to establish relationships with new graduate veterinarians. The scheme is well accepted by the new graduates and immediately places the Australian Veterinary Association firmly in their scopes from their first day of graduation onwards.

Country visits are now an annual tradition with the state president travelling to the rural centres of Bunbury, Albany and Geraldton to meet the local practitioners, place the AVA firmly in their view finder, and discuss the current concerns of the profession. This year the trip down south was a collection of travellers that also included the registrar of the Veterinary Surgeons Board, the director of Continuing Veterinary Education from Murdoch University, and the Dean of the Veterinary School. Dr Mike Lumsden stepped in and completed the visit north to Geraldton ensuring the AVA remained accessible to members right across the state.

The AVA kept a face in the media locally through a number of channels, Dr Lumsden represented as a veterinarian from the AVA on a monthly radio segment, and Dr David Marshall on a weekly radio short segment. Dr Mark Hopwood and Gavin Atkins arranging a media release with respect to local Breed Specific Regulations law changes. Dr Hopwood appeared on a number of radio segments to discuss the new draft. The AVA also appeared in local TV news segments with information on pet insurance and the finances of keeping a pet, and regional radio stations discussing the increasing costs of veterinary care.

Dr Kate Fuderer continued the excellent work she started in 2004, bringing AVA PetPEP along and establishing contracts with a number of local councils. Right at the end of 2005 the direction of PetPEP locally changed dramatically, and while details cannot be divulged at the moment the future of the program in the west may sink or swim with some degree of finality. This is a time of exciting prospects for us and the next month or two will be very interesting!

Dr Peter Adamson single-handedly invented a new role for the Division this year, under the title of Representative for Sustainable Living. Dr Adamson has been closely following local state government plans and how they include, or fail to include, provisions for pet care and allowing pets to live in society. He has made some wonderful contacts across the state in a number of departments and has worked very hard for the profession in this area.

The Division has continued to work closely with Murdoch University in providing monthly Practitioners Branch Seminars, which are well attended by the local veterinary population. A seminar was also arranged in conjunction with a visit to Bunbury to fire up the South West Branch and was again well attended by the regional vets.

Dr Tony Vigano and Mr Cliff Bridle continued their excellent tradition of arranging the Trade Fair in WA, for the 27th time this year! All records seemed to get broken, with a new high for the number of exhibitors. AVA CEO Margaret Conley made the cross continent hop to attend, and feedback from attendees and trade representatives indicated that standards were again first class.

So those were the areas we did well, and we did them with passion and success. Where we did poorly was to attract new members onto committee and get others to become active in the Australian Veterinary Association at a local level. My everlasting thanks goes to the local members who were active, and showed an interest in the Division, and in particular to my predecessor Dr David Marshall and in turn his predecessor Dr Mike Lumsden, who both continue to work tirelessly for the Association. The drive and enthusiasm that we have for the areas in which we work well will soon be sapped if there is no mechanism to share the workload, and we need to establish a better system of succession within the committee.

Where the Division heads to from here in trying to attract new and interested members to take on roles for the AVA is uncertain, but will become probably our biggest goal for the upcoming year.

Dr David Neck
President

South Australia

The Division continued to have good member support with close to the highest member percentage of any Division.

I believe that this is because the local members see good value in their membership, we have a strong local Committee and strong local ties with Industry.

SA Division has focused on member services, social and continuing education. We have also represented the profession and are attempting to raise our profile locally – the Vet Practice Act has now been proclaimed, and we have had strong input over the past three years. We are now representing the Veterinary profession with respect to the review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and have made a strong considered representation.

The New Graduates and Mentors Dinner was held in May. This was an opportunity for us to welcome new members to the profession to SA and for them to meet their mentors.

The Black Tie and Faux Fur Ball was held at the Burnside Ball Room in June. The Flaming Sambucas provided excellent music that got the crowd up and dancing.

Barbara Gill provided plenty of good food. Unfortunately the Champagne and white wine ran out early but there was plenty of beer and red wine to carry on with. (We'll do better next year). Our volunteers did a great job of setting up the ball room with wonderful decorations setting up a fun atmosphere.

With 180 attending, this year's ball was a great success. We even made a small profit of about \$500. We are looking to make this an annual event, self-funding.

Dr Phil Reeve hosted the Presidents Reception in September. We were pleased to have Margaret Conley, the AVA CEO, present Life Memberships to Doug Treharne and Geoff Neumann. (Mike Spanner and John Pumpa were presented in absentia.)

The Division again co-ordinated a range of Continuing Education (CE) within the state – which has been a core aim. Our State Annual Conference was well attended and focused on Ophthalmology. There were many other CE opportunities locally for South Australian veterinarians. Sydney PGF provided speakers to present an interactive program on diagnostic imaging and internal medicine to demonstrate how these disciplines are closely linked and often need to work together. Industry has provided us with excellent educational opportunities. Hills provided interstate and international speakers to discuss nutrition and its involvement and management of joint disease. Virbac made use of local expertise to provide an educational evening on dermatology. Murdoch University brought us Oncology, Hills sponsored Nutrigenomics and Dentistry, Anaesthesia Advanced Anaesthetic Specialists came over to provide Vet and Nurse CE. Small Animal Practitioners Branch had evening speakers on cat population dynamics, stifle surgery while Virbac showcased Alfaxan with a specialist from Murdoch University.

The Hindmarsh Branch was reformed after a hiatus of several years. The Committee worked hard to put together a sensational program of events which started with an evening talk at the zoo from Sonia Kleindorfer discussing baboons, birds and parasites. This was followed by a half day at the Bureau of Meteorology exploring the links between weather patterns and human and animal disease.

A whirlwind tour by American scientist, Dr Mike Samuel, provided an opportunity for a lunchtime seminar where he discussed the complex relationships between ecology, wildlife and disease. Finally, a devoted few made the trek to Farina in the far north of South Australia to soak up the ambience and appreciate the difficulties encountered by our pioneer ancestors in such a remote location.

Henty Branch held a meeting in the Coonawarra where David Hucker gave a presentation on Tranquillising Rams and Mulesing Sheep.

Rural Vet was inactive this year. However, Kevin McGrath as AACV vet had a successful ACV Conference in October in the Barossa Valley.

AVA PetPEP has been a profound success this year, thanks to Pin Needham and Barbara Gill from our Divisional Office. AVA PetPEP had 36 AVA SA members, visited 14 schools and reached 3166 children directly. We have been successful in obtaining sponsorship from The Animal Welfare League of SA, a small amount from The Dog and Cat Management Board, and nothing from any of the Adelaide local councils in spite of repeated approaches. We shall continue to try.

Dr Phil Reeve
President

Australian Capital Territory

The ACT division has had an active year, with a number of well attended local meetings. Sarah Webb presented an update on canine stifle diseases and treatment options. Leo Jeffcott, Dean of Sydney University, presented a great talk discussing his experiences at the Athens Olympics as head of the equine veterinary team. Mike Nunn gave a presentation on avian influenza, which was very well attended by both government and practising veterinarians. This was followed by Christmas drinks, and was a highly successful evening.

The Division's commitment to PetPEP has been ongoing this year, however lack of funding has hampered our efforts. Michael Hayward's commitment has been tireless in an ongoing effort to attract funding. Amy Aspley Davis and Cara McNally have been working to develop the program in the ACT, providing a point of contact for any practices interested in promoting PetPEP.

New and recent graduates were welcomed to the ACT with a dinner and trivia night, which was a very entertaining night, and a great way to get to know the new ACT division members.

The AVA liaised with the Veterinary Surgeons Board, with the VSB now being incorporated into a new Act, allowing access to the Health Complaints tribunal with tighter regulation of competency and compulsory Continuing Professional Development. A review of the guidelines for veterinary premises is planned for 2006, leading to the formation of a working group comprising divisional committee members, Board members and a number of practitioners.

The first intake of veterinary students from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, came to Canberra for a weekend to view some veterinary practices and visit the National Zoo and Aquarium. A number of divisional members are on the Veterinary Program Committee of Charles Sturt University, which is involved in developing the new veterinary curriculum and overseeing the quality of teaching and learning.

Merrell Davis, widow of Ian Davis, has been awarded the OAM in the Australia Day Honours List for many years of volunteering in community service organisations. Ian, who died several years ago, was a long time AVA member and President of ACT Division and MSA recipient.

Thank you to the members of the committee for your input and efforts in 2005, and best wishes to Jill Millan, President Elect for 2006.

Dr Isabelle Resch
President

Northern Territory

Another year has passed with the AVA NT Division continuing to function and slowly work through some issues that affect our members. As a Division we barely represent a branch in terms of members and activities but obviously we can have much greater input with regards to legislation and being out there.

Our prime focus was our Annual Conference with AGM. For the last number of years we have run a concurrent Veterinary Nurse conference and this continued. Our major speakers last year included Dr Andy Sparkes, a world renowned Feline Medicine Specialist and Dr Martyn King, a Specialist Ophthalmologist, both from the United Kingdom. Dr Geoff Niethe, a past President of the AVA, was also a major speaker and was very informative regarding cattle issues in overseas countries. We also welcomed two veterinarians from Timor Leste as delegates. The atmosphere and social interaction over the weekend was fantastic and the Conference was hailed as a raging success, such that many of our sponsors were already committing for the coming year.

Rick Read, Professor of Small Animal Surgery at Murdoch University decided that a journey through the desert would not be complete without arranging for continuing education afternoons in Alice Springs and Darwin. The informal nature of these presentations on The Limping Dog, sat well with the relaxed organisation of them. We must thank Maryanne Culliver at Murdoch University Continuing Education for facilitating these events in conjunction with the AVA NT.

The AVA NT facilitated a visit from the Queensland AVA PetPEP Team for a presentation to the Palmerston City Council. It is good to see at least one Council interested in improving the outcomes for the animals within their jurisdiction.

There are opportunities for the AVA NT Division to expand on our activity level but we need to learn new ways of attracting and maintaining the volunteers within the organisation to achieve these goals. I welcome Dr Graham Thompson as our incoming President to invigorate and inspire all members to participate in our Division of our Association.

Dr Kathy Moylan
President



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Acupuncture

Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Association (AVAA)

Australian veterinarians and animal owners are embracing acupuncture as an important therapeutic tool in practice. Over 250 veterinarians are now qualified in Veterinary Acupuncture, incorporating a year long program of over 120 contact hours, assignments, case reports, culminating in practical and written examination. Likewise a growing body of animal acupuncturists are becoming active offering home visits and treatments. Many weekend and on line courses are available.

At this time there are no restrictions or regulation of non veterinary acupuncturists. This differs widely from the human field where medical acupuncturists and non medical acupuncturists are required to be registered. This issue opens up a huge can of worms.

Dr Chris Robinson is the co-ordinator of the IVAS accredited Acupuncture Course.

Contact crob@ava.com.au for details on the next course.

Veterinary Acupuncturists are required to keep up their continuing education to maintain their certification via IVAS (International Veterinary Acupuncture Association). IVAS has also updated their website with past conference papers now available to members. This is an ideal resource to maintain CE.

The group has been active this year with a regular *To The Point* newsletter hosted by Esther Horten, keeping members abreast of local meetings and cases as well as overseas news.

In 2006, a new Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine Course will be available to Veterinary Acupuncturists and veterinarians interested in using Chinese herbal medicine. Additional modules will be required prior to participating in the course, if not IVAS certified. Contact bfougere@bigpond.net.au for more information.

Overall the group is meeting their strategic planning objectives with improved member services, CE and communications high on the priority list.

*Dr Barbara Fougere
President*

Alpacas

Australian Alpaca Veterinarians (AAV)

The AAV has had a good year with its membership steadily growing to 95 members. The group encourages new members by providing a regular informative newsletter with interesting case studies and the latest news on alpaca veterinary science from around the world.

The 2005 conference in Queenstown, NZ was a great success, with good support not only from NZ members but also with many members making the trip across the Tasman Sea. Overseas guest lecturer Chris Cebra, as well as our local lecturers, Christina and Andrew Dart, Jane Vaughan, Ewen McMillan and Denis Ryan, all gave a series of very educational and enjoyable lectures which were well received. It is good to see that so much research is now being done internationally on alpacas, as in the past often the dose rates of medication were derived from other species. Due to the limited number of expert lecturers within our field and the expense involved in bringing them to Australia, the group has decided that every other year our conference will involve case studies and interesting presentations from within the group. This year's conference will be held in Byron Bay on the long weekend in June.

On behalf of the members I would like to take the opportunity to especially thank Jane Vaughan for her tireless efforts for the group, for without Jane it is doubtful whether the AAV would be so successful.

There is still enormous confusion, both within the alpaca veterinarians and owners, regarding the Q Alpaca scheme. It is important to note that a person on the Q Alpaca scheme does not automatically achieve the status of MM1. I encourage anyone who is not clear on the scheme, to contact either myself or Richard Dixon to clarify the confusion.

The AAV is a fun-loving group who enjoy both the ongoing education but also the camaraderie of coming together at conferences. We welcome any new member to join our special interest group and look forward to a great 2006.

*Dr John Parbery
President*



Avian

Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association (AAVMA)

The Australian Veterinary Association Avian SIG aims to promote the interests of veterinarians in the area of cage and aviary bird health and welfare. It does this through scientific meetings, email discussion groups and the provision of expert advice on avian health and welfare issues when needed.

The main focus of the avian SIG has been scientific conferences to disseminate new avian health information as well as some basic casework to encourage less experienced members. These conferences are run with complementary groups and associations to ensure all membership areas of interest are included.

The general meeting will be held in September at the conference. The central issue addressed at the previous general meeting was strategies to stabilise membership numbers and to encourage younger members to join the avian group and continue their membership. In the past year the added promotion has led to increased membership numbers.

The Avian SIG will co-present with the Unusual Exotic Pets (UEP) at our annual conference in September 2006 in New Zealand. The meeting is to enable the promotion of scientific material on avian health and welfare.

The teaching of wildlife, cage and aviary medicine has been increasing in the Australian university curriculum. The practical clinic experience on recent graduation may however be minimal, leading to a sharp falling away of these newly acquired avian skills. Many students seek guidance in training as undergraduates and as new graduates.

The avian SIG provides a mentor system for undergraduates and veterinarians who wish to improve their skills or deal with avian cases. As in the previous year, undergraduates are being encouraged to contact and join the association in order to facilitate appropriate placement for undergraduate private clinic training and new graduates can be assisted in finding employment in avian-friendly veterinary clinics.

The Avian SIG is continuing the process of producing a series of information sheets and client handouts for the most common conditions.

Thanks again to all committee members who assisted during 2005 in the mentoring system and helped in formulating policies to increase the desirability of membership of the avian group.

*Dr Alex Rosenwax
President*



Cattle

Australian Cattle Vets (ACV)

Our first major CE opportunity for cattle members was at the Gold Coast conference. The ACV, under the guidance of our conference organiser, Sandi Jephcott embraced this overriding theme and put together an exciting scientific program that addresses the very basic question of "how do you coast to success?". To answer this overriding thought, careful consideration has gone into selecting topics which directly deal with real issues and opportunities for today's cattle veterinarians. Furthermore, speakers have been selected that have undertaken some 'coasting to success' in a particular area, ranging from young achievers to more experienced and recognised leaders in their particular field. The ACV vision for the conference was to tap into that tremendous amount of talent out there in cattle practice, vets who are getting on with their careers and often do not get an opportunity to share this information and give them the chance to be heard. Secondly we hope to attract and inspire a new audience, vets that look inwards at themselves and outwards to the future.

Our field trip was a solid day with a visit to the meatworks at Dinmore and at Pinjarra Hills addressing the important practical issues of bull testing. This provided a great opportunity to showcase the culmination of work that has been completed this year in the development of the ACV Bull Reporter computer software.

ACV ran an extremely successful conference at the Novotel in the Barossa Valley in October. Our keynote speaker expat Peter Constable had an incredible breadth of knowledge and great presenting style. All the supporting speakers did a splendid job especially the pathologists from Gribbles and IDEX who made clinical and field pathology appear easy and not at all messy.

On the Monday after the conference with the support of BCF we had a successful ultrasound workshop. As a result of this and the efforts of Ed Dunn and Anna Gates it appears that both Melbourne and Queensland Universities will get ultrasound units for instructing students. This will be of great benefit and I feel it is going to be easier to get new graduates up to speed with the ultrasound than manually checking.

Mid year Australia was graced with a visit from Dr Albert Bath from Canada. ACV was involved with UQ and Ben Gardiner in organising two excellent days on bull fertility at Goondiwindi and Barrabah.

ACV continues strategic links with industry bodies such as Cattle Council of Australia, Dairy Australia and breed societies.

ACV supported a visit of 'Felix' from East Timor to Australia.

This incentive proved to be a great success. Our members who hosted Felix enjoyed his company and admired his willingness to hop in and help. He was most appreciative of our assistance to him both to attend our conference and to spend time with members in Australian cattle practice.

President Elect Sandi Jephcott has been working with *Australian Farm Journal* to increase visibility of our members within the farming and grazing community. This incentive has seen members write a series of articles for this publication and to introduce a member benefit of a reduced subscription to *Australian Farm Journal* for ACV members.

On a 2005 AVA member survey our SIG was delighted to rank very highly with members who expressed their views on services provided to membership. Often at conferences, we are thanked by members for the service that we provide and the variety of knowledge that our office accesses in response to members' queries.

Apart from the benefits mentioned above, ACV has been involved in a number of awards in 2005. These include the ACV Coopers Rural Practice Scholarship Award which was changed in 2005 to be a 2 part award – both designed to encourage young veterinarians to a career in cattle practice. In conjunction with Elanco, ACV awarded the BRD study tour again in 2005. This award encourages veterinarians to travel overseas and to bring the very latest in trends to the Australian industry and member marketplace. The revamped NCPD scheme has seen posters be distributed to regional sale yards and stock and station agents to assist in recognition of the meaning of the ACV tail tags. In 2005 in response to members' requests we introduced two new tags on a trial basis. One tag for heavily pregnant cows has received excellent take up by members and the other pregnant tag (no aging) has also received moderate uptake.

2005 saw the further embracing by industry of the ACV bull fertility standards. Breed societies and graziers alike are coming to understand the science behind breeding and to recognise that pre-purchase examinations can give an indication of potential fertility in their herds.

Dr Kevin McGrath
President

Behaviour

Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG)

Since its inception less than two years ago the Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG) has been very active and initiated several new innovative benefits for members.

AVBIG has produced regular newsletters for our members and recently set up a chat group for members. Again this year AVBIG has contributed to AVA eLine newsletter with helpful hints with updated information on appropriate medication for animals with noise phobias. AVBIG has also taken an active role in the Policy Council process.

We have run several further education courses together with the Delta Society Australia. Together with AVPMA in 2005 we presented seminars for veterinarians around Australia on the importance of understanding animal behaviour as a key to a successful veterinary practice.

The highlight for us was the 2005 AVA conference at the Gold Coast. As this was our inaugural AVA conference we were delighted that many of our sessions attracted the highest attendance of all the SIGs. We had secured most of the biggest names in animal behaviour from around the globe and Australia to present at our three day meeting which covered many species. We organised a very popular demonstration using dogs from the DPI Queensland and this attracted great media attention. AVBIG is very grateful to the many sponsors that supported us in making our first meeting so very successful and look forward to working with them in the future!

Overall 2005 was a very dynamic time for AVBIG. In 2006 we intend to continue to focus on providing up to date information for the veterinary profession in animal behaviour through our newsletter, journal and the conference.

For 2006 we are planning another great program for the AVA conference in Hobart. We have two great international speakers as well as local speakers. We will be having sessions covering dogs, cats, birds, horses and cattle in several conference streams as well as our own AVBIG stream. In mid 2006 we hope to launch our own peer reviewed Journal in association with Elsevier.

Dr Kersti Seksel
President

Conservation Biologists

Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB)

The AAVCB exists to link veterinarians and allied professionals who have a strong interest in wildlife and conservation.

Its role overlaps with the Wildlife Disease Association, but the potential exists to involve more mainstream veterinarians who are members of the AVA in this exciting and important aspect of the profession.

In my view the greatest benefit of association membership is that the AAVCB can achieve more good collectively than any individual can. For example, in 2005 the association contributed funding to provide vital electric fencing around the elephant breeding herd in Chitwan National Park, Nepal. A long-standing relationship exists between Government wildlife vets in Nepal and the AAVCB established by Tony English.

Members are encouraged to suggest appropriate programs that may require monetary or professional support, for consideration by the executive. The AAVCB also maintains a representation on Policy Council to provide guidance to the AVA on wildlife and conservation related issues.

The conference in 2005 was on the Gold Coast and we had some excellent papers. We are particularly grateful to Banie Penzhorn from the South African Wildlife Veterinary Association who gave a keynote paper on Theileria in wildlife.

Other topics covered included encephalomyocarditis virus in captive tree kangaroos by David Blyde; assessment of reproductive status in a captive population of short-beaked echidnas by Steve Johnston; and monitoring rehabilitated koalas and brushtail possums at release sites in southeast Queensland by Andrew Tribe et al.

Dr Rosie Booth
President

Dental

Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS)

The AVDS executive has been canvassing members in an attempt to try to find ways of increasing member benefits. Several suggestions are currently being acted upon as the executive has decided that the Society needs to provide these in order to attract more members to the AVDS as well as servicing our current members to the best of our abilities. Student membership is actively encouraged and executive members are directly involved in undergraduate education in veterinary dentistry.

Once again, Pet Dental Health Month has been a huge success. The effort some practices put into their displays is outstanding. The tireless work of Tony Caiafa in his capacity as PDHM co-ordinator pays huge dividends for all members as well as to the profession as a whole. I have noticed several large practices 'tagging along' with PDHM for the publicity and increased exposure without becoming members of the AVDS. This is always going to happen but it is disappointing for those who pay their subscriptions every year.

Aaron Forsayeth, the Conference Co-ordinator for the AVDS, is well into the planning for the AVA Conference in Hobart. The AVDS is having a lecture stream and is involved in the ASAVA and AEVA streams as well and will again be running one of our famous wet-workshops. Aaron is also the newsletter editor and, as with his predecessors, works hard for no reward in getting the newsletter to press on time and with current, up-to-date articles.

Remember, keep flipping those lips and make your practice grow!

*Dr Gary Wilson
President*





Equine

Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA)

I have no doubt the membership and executive alike will look upon 2005 as another very productive year for the AEVA. The AEVA was guided throughout the year by an enthusiastic and dedicated executive and ably supported by very capable administrative and executive officers. In addition, AEVA membership enjoyed the benefits of the experienced direction of two previous AEVA Presidents, Derek Major and David Lovell serving on the AVA board.

Providing relevant quality continuing education remains one of the primary functions of our SIG. The equine stream at the AVA Conference, Gold Coast was well attended and remains an important addition to our signature conference, the Bain-Fallon Memorial Lectures. In light of the current restructuring of the AVA Conference, the AEVA executive was instrumental and supportive of the AVA's initiative to revamp the AVA conference to make it more streamlined, relevant and profitable. Providing greater continuing education opportunities for members has been identified as a major goal for the executive in 2006.

The 2005 Bain-Fallon Memorial Lectures held in Queenstown, New Zealand was a major success on all fronts. In affiliation with the New Zealand Equine Veterinary Association (NZEVA), the conference was attended by over 200 delegates who gathered to enjoy the traditions of an excellent educational and social program. The international speakers were of an exceptionally high standard and the program was suitably strengthened by a wealth of Australian clinical and research presenters. Taking our conference offshore also helped strengthen important Trans-Tasman relationships between our associations, which have many common objectives. It was particularly pleasing to see the depth of industry support for this off shore venture and the extent which many companies generously provided sponsorship.

Raising public awareness of the attributes of AEVA members and the professional standards of our association remained an important focus for the AEVA. The AEVA represented members at the bi-annual Australian horse industry exhibition – 'Equitana', held in November in Melbourne. The exhibition represented all aspects of the Australian horse industry from breed societies, sporting organisations, drug companies, horse health, farriers, dental technicians, physiotherapists, retail, horse training and educational and industry bodies such as the Australian Horse Industry Council and Racing Victoria. The AEVA stand and educational presentations on pre-purchase examination, equine dentistry and limb anatomy were all very well attended and went a long way to further public awareness of the expansive role veterinarians play in the horse industry.

The executive invested significant time and energy over the year in strengthening our relationships with key industry partners. Among the many issues addressed in 2005 with varying stakeholders was the concerns raised by the Radiation Health Committee regarding equine radiography. The executive liaised with the Committee and provided valuable exposure data, protocol proposals and practical input, which has culminated in a submission to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). This submission will be considered in a review of the Code of Practice for the Safe use of Radiation in Veterinary Science currently underway.

There was also ongoing concern from some facets of the racing industry regarding adequate self-regulation and enforcement of professional ethics, specifically in relation to breaches of rules of racing by veterinarians and these concerns were extensively addressed by the executive. Concerns of relevant industry bodies were addressed by the AEVA through meetings with state and national racing authorities, communication with state veterinary surgeons boards, independent legal advice, a member awareness drive of AVA codes of conduct and AVA statutory disciplinary procedures.

Equine Dentistry is an issue that encapsulates the issues of horse welfare and illegal use of prescription animal remedies, both of which continue to be a concern. In the last year the executive and co-opted members made significant inroads in public awareness of the value of detailed comprehensive dental skills possessed by veterinarians and the illegality of lay technicians administering sedatives. This has culminated in the development of a minimum standards protocol for veterinarians performing dental procedures and development of an opt-in register for members with interest and expertise in equine dentistry to be made available to the public.

A major focus of 2005 has been to provide quality tangible member benefits. Our sound financial position allowed the executive to initiate a number of no-cost-to-member benefits, which have been under development and are soon to be delivered to membership. These include implementation of a new more effective and user friendly web-site, access to a state-of-the-art electronic reference source 'SciQuest' – incorporating all Bain-Fallon Proceedings, *Australian Equine Veterinarian* and *New Zealand Equine Veterinary* journals, a comprehensive information Members Handbook and a resource of PowerPoint presentations to assist members presenting information to clients and horse groups. Many of these initiatives arose from feedback received from the 2004 membership survey.

Better communication between the AEVA and membership has been actively encouraged with the introduction of regular information updates 'Equine News' via email. Over 80% of members have registered email addresses, so using electronic surveying in conjunction with fax-stream members voted for the proposed new SIG name 'Equine Veterinarians Australia' (EVA) and logo, which will be adopted at the 2006 Bain-Fallon.

In 2006, the AEVA will continue to focus on providing improved relevant member services and increasing the public and horse industry awareness of the attributes of the AEVA and its members. In addition, the important role of providing quality continuing education for members will continue through the productive workings of the education, finance and membership and stakeholder liaison sub-committee structure.

*Dr Jonathan Lumsden
President*



Greyhound

Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association (AGVA)

Over the past year an impressive amount of work has been done by our secretary Ray Ferguson in fine-tuning the Official Track Veterinarians protocol. This culminated in a November conference at the offices of Greyhound Racing Victoria, which was attended by over twenty veterinarians from the eastern States. It is anticipated that the protocol will be available in 2006 and it is hoped that a video on basic procedures will be attached.

The policy of stewards in Queensland is 'no vet, no racing' and because of the size of NSW, a vet must be on call, but not necessarily present at the track.

The AGVA has been approached by the Society of Greyhound Veterinarians in the UK to provide speakers at a 2006 conference and at the time of writing at least six will be participating. It is a reflection of the esteem in which their Australian colleagues are held.

Due to the excessively hot summer that Australia has experienced some greyhound meetings have been cancelled.

The SIG considers that where the ambient temperature is 38-40C that the meeting should be cancelled or abandoned. It is important to consider our 'duty of care' to the greyhound.

For further information about the track protocol, contact Dr Ferguson on 03 9544 7455

*Dr John Murray
President*

History

Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS)

Members of the AVA, indeed all who are interested in veterinary history, will be glad to know that the AVHS project with the Badham Library of the University of Sydney for digital conversion of all issues of the Australian Vet History Record has been completed. You may now see the result of this work at <http://setis.library.usyd.edu.au/avhs>, where each of the 43 past issues is available for you to download as a pdf file.

A searchable index, which will enable readers to search all issues for their particular topics of interest, is also available on the same website. The project was carried out with the aid of funds from the AVA Communication Fund. We intend to continue cooperation with the Badham Library so that all subsequent issues of the record will be added to this electronic archive as each is published.

On the other hand, both the Max Henry Memorial Library (MHML) and the AVA Veterinary Historical Collection languish in the repository in Fyshwick, ACT. It is not intended that either will stay there.

Arrangements for transfer of the MHML to long-term loan within the University of Melbourne continue. Some items that were part of the AVA Historical Collection have been transferred to the MHML, so that movement will occur as one consignment. Informal agreement with the University has been reached and solicitors for the University are considering the matter. Arrangements for packing and transport will follow formal agreement. Cataloguing the books will be a considerable job after transfer, but the outcome of providing access under excellent conditions and management at the veterinary school at Parkville will make all the work of, particularly, Dick Roe, Honorary Librarian, and Helen Newton at the University of Melbourne finally worthwhile.

The AVA CEO, Margaret Conley, has obtained advice on the AVA Veterinary Historical Collection. The Collection has been independently assessed and deemed valuable and a credit to the care that Bob Taylor, the founder of the Collection and Honorary Curator, devoted to it over many years. As a first step before its removal to the AVA National office in Sydney, the Collection will be assessed for preservation management and for basic remedial treatments. The intention is to move the MHML and the Collection out of the Fyshwick repository concurrently.

Dr Trevor Faragher
President

Holistic

Australian Holistic Veterinarians (AHV)

The Australian Holistic Veterinarians has had a busy year which included a change of name from the AAHV, as requested by the AVA executive.

The AHV recognises the importance of providing its members with continuing education. It facilitates and supports ongoing courses in Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Herbal Medicine and Homeopathy. These courses are important or else pet owners, farmers, and horse owners will only be able to consult non-veterinary qualified health practitioners if training is not provided to members of the veterinary profession.

Congratulations to nine of our members who were successful in passing the Membership Examination of the Faculty of Homeopathy (London). Twelve members were also awarded a Certificate from the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy.

An information leaflet was produced for distribution by the AVA to all Australian veterinary students. This describes the aims, function and services that the AHV provides for its members. Visibility of the AVA and AHV was also achieved throughout the year by several of our members addressing various groups and meetings. This included a presentation at the 15th IFOAM Organic World Conference titled 'Organic Farming – Challenges for the Veterinary Profession'.

Our printed newsletter *Chiron* continues to be produced every quarter. This service will be continued, although options are also being considered for internet-based communication within the group.

The new AHV website is now online at www.ahv.com.au. Thank you to all members who contributed to this. Further contributions are welcome.

The AHV had a full program at the AVA Conference. Conference proceedings are available in CD format.

Thank you to all committee members for their work this year and best wishes to everyone.

Dr Douglas Wilson
President

Industry

Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI)

In 2005 the AVI again achieved its objectives through a variety of activities. Several dinners were held in Sydney, which enabled the majority of our membership who are based in Sydney to attend. It was particularly pleasing to see some of our retired members in attendance. A significant AVI objective is to enable members in industry to meet with colleagues current and retired in a neutral environment.

The other major AVI objective is the provision of a regular program at the AVA Annual Conference. Again a program of interest to not only AVI members, but the profession at large, was provided. Success was evident by the variety of attendees. Cooperation between SIGs in the running of some Conference program has been effective again for the Gold Coast Conference, and has become important in the planning of the 2006 Hobart Conference. AVI has also participated actively through its representative, Dr Davis, in the planning of the new format of the Hobart Conference.

The AVI has continued to participate in liaison with committees of the national drug regulating authority. This is a useful mechanism for both the APVMA, the employees of some of our members as well as the veterinary profession at large.

While the Committee membership is widely dispersed meetings were based at the AVA National Office with other members attending by teleconference, including on most occasions, the Chairman.

It is also pleasing to report an increase in membership of AVI during 2005.

Dr John Gillham
President

Pigs

Australian Pig Veterinarians (APV)

In 2005, AAPV became APV following legal advice from AVA National to drop 'association' from our name. This has had no impact on slowing down membership as numbers have grown from 63 in 2001 to 166 in 2005. This is probably a result of our joining fee being at the right price (no charge for student members), and partly because members perceive they gain some benefit from being an APV member.

Our hard working executive includes representatives from most areas of pork production – private consultants, researchers, academics and administration. This has enabled us to tackle relevant issues facing the pig industry in a well-rounded way. We 'meet' via teleconference approximately every two months – usually on a Friday afternoon which seems to tide us all over work-wise until the weekend.

Given the president is a university lecturer, further education has been an important dot on the radar. This year we continued our 'What's your diagnosis?' – a monthly problem-solving exercise emailed to members. Participation is voluntary and earns 1 AVA further education credit point. Further on the education front, APV hosted its annual conference at the Gold Coast in association with AVA National.

This was attended by a small but significant group of pig-ophiles who each year gather to contribute academically and socially to the conference. APV played host (with assistance from Australian Pork Ltd) to an international speaker – immunologist/virologist Dr Tom Mollitor who presented on issues including PRRS, PMWS and specialised T lymphocytes in sows' milk.

APV has had input into a number of key issues in 2005. Perhaps the major issue was development of a case definition for post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) in Australia. The development of this definition was crucial given the occurrence of two isolated suspect cases of PMWS during the year. Practitioners working at the coal face of these investigations fought an uphill battle to ensure the PMWS label was not wrongly assigned to these cases. APV has also provided input via DAFF for developing a list of critically important antibiotics in veterinary medicine, in conjunction with the OIE.

It seems that APV will host its 2006 annual conference in October – separate from the AVA National Conference in May. This is partly due to changes in AVA National's conference guidelines (fewer small concurrent streams) and partly with the international pig veterinary science conference (IPVS) happening in Copenhagen. We look forward to re-joining AVA National in their annual conference in 2007.

I would like to thank members of the APV executive for their support in 2005.

Dr Trish Holyoake
President



Practice Management

Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association (AVPMA)

The AVPMA aims to enhance the quality of life in Australian Veterinary Practices, by enabling AVPMA members to develop personal skills in veterinary practice management and by providing resources and networks that enhance veterinary practice management.

The 2005 AVA Conference was yet another success with good attendance at all sessions. Sue Halloran and Jim Allen organised a great program with Caroline Jevring and Yannick Poubanne as key speakers.

The Summer Seminar Series saw AVPMA combine with AVBIG and UAM. Dr Tom Catanzaro from the US presented a comprehensive program on bond centred and team based veterinary medicine.

Shane Simpson is leading a sub-committee investigating and developing a tiered hospital accreditation system. This idea, which has in-principle support from AVA and other major SIGs would be designed to encompass all types of veterinary practice.

Our website has been continually improved and developed over the last year. The site has an enormous amount of information available to members.

AVPMA is pleased to be able to offer a scholarship for the Certificate IV in Practice Management Course. Our close involvement with the University of New England in developing the course has enabled the scholarship opportunity. Both the Certificate and Diploma courses are proving to be very popular.

John Odium continues to oversee industrial relations matters. Members are regularly updated with information regarding award changes due to our ongoing relationship with SIAG.

2005 has seen planning underway for our first 'stand-alone' conference, to be held in Caloundra in August 2006. Andrew Dudgeon, new Conference Convenor has organised the program and with highly respected international speaker, Mark Opperman supported by one of Australia's most popular marketing experts, Winston Marsh it promises to be absolutely first class.

We are indebted to our sponsors and advertisers for their ongoing support. In particular, Hills our Conference Patron, Novartis our Summer Seminar Series supporter and Boehringer Ingelheim our Newsletter supporter have all assisted the AVPMA over the long-term.

Sadly, 2005 saw the resignation of two inaugural AVPMA Committee members, Sue Halloran and Jim Allen. Sue and Jim have contributed enormously to AVPMA, including their combined role as Conference Convenors, Sue's role as newsletter editor and Jim's as Treasurer. We will miss them on Committee but wish them many hours of happy travelling, sailing and relaxing in their 'free time'. We are very pleased to have Sue continue in her role as Editor of Practice Management Matters.

I would like to thank all members of the Committee. Each and every one gives freely of their time and the amount of knowledge and enthusiasm embodied on the Committee is an incredible resource. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Mark Stallwood, our Executive Officer for the efficient and cheerful way he manages the office, with the capable assistance of Carly Harry.

Dr Debbie Delahunty
President



Poultry

Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance (AVPA)

The conclusion of the year 2005 means that the older generation poultry veterinarians are also another year older. I hope that the perch continues to stay strong for us all.

Our concerns for the poultry industry still remain unchanged for this year and include:

- The continued persistence and progression of Avian Influenza in Asia and now into Europe.
- The continued decline in the list of medications that we can use in our poultry livestock. DMZ at the moment may be only maintained for breeders and this is currently being evaluated by the APVMA who have received various submissions from the poultry industry.
- Pricing pressures particularly in the egg industry are impacting on some operators and certainly limiting capital expansion. It is the role of the veterinarian under these conditions to ensure flock health and biosecurity is not compromised.
- Shortages in personnel to take positions as intensive livestock veterinarians, technical roles for biological companies and QA roles continue within the industry. We need though to consider if these shortages are a result of the absence of people or that more attractive alternatives exist for such professionals.

Exercise Eleusis was held at the end of this year to test our preparedness for an outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) using our current Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan. Many members of the AVPA were actively involved in this activity which proved to be successful. Up to 90 international observers were impressed with the way the scenario was developed and the exercise undertaken. While a detailed evaluation has not yet been completed the exercise, as it was designed to do, identified several weaknesses particularly in the areas of people resources and communications. The review will address these areas.

Avian Influenza or 'Bird Flu' as it is known in the media has reinforced within the poultry industry the need for stringent biosecurity programs. The industry with the help of the AVPA has attempted to provide the Australian public with confidence as to the fundamental facts that clinical AI or 'Bird Flu' is not present in the Australian commercial poultry industry, we as an industry are both physically and technically better prepared than most other countries and that the scenario of AI in poultry is distinct from a human influenza pandemic.

It has been difficult to get the media interested in these more positive aspects and this sometimes is not being assisted by scientists with particular research or commercial agendas.

Next year we again link our conference up with PIX and at this meeting transfer control of the AVPA from Victoria to our NSW colleagues. The conference program is shaping up to be of a high quality but again at a low cost thanks to our executive and sponsors.

At this meeting issues related to the structure of the AVPA SIG will be discussed with the specific topics of the handling of financial matters, constitution and the status of members being considered.

Matters related to welfare, therapeutics and importation still remain prominent issues proving the poultry veterinarian with an important advisory and determinant role.

*Dr Peter C. Scott
President*

Public Health

Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH)

The focus of APVH is to bring together and stimulate Australian veterinarians with an interest in the cross-over of animal disease and public health. The interests of most of our members are as diverse as the areas in which they work, and cover public health issues ranging from the 'traditional' zoonoses such as worms and parasites, to more recent concerns such as BSE, SARS and Avian Influenza.

As a group we effectively use email as our primary means of communication.

This is particularly useful for those working in government. We have continued to engage more with veterinarians working in government services and expect to see this relationship develop further.

Our activities in 2005 were again focused at the Annual Conference (held this year at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast). Our program this year was very low-key but we still experienced problems of overlapping interests because of the inability of the many different groups to effectively co-ordinate their programs. We are looking forward to resolution of this problem with the implementation of the new format for the Annual Conference.

We do have some concerns about the proposed new format because in the past we have run programs of two to three days in length and are not sure how we will fit in some of the material we may wish to present with the new structure. We do, however, see real benefits in having formally combined activities as this will allow us to educate other members of the profession on issues which we wish to take to them (for example antimicrobial resistance, an area in which we believe the profession as a whole needs to be challenged).

As a result we are looking forward to the new proposal and how it might work out both for our SIG and for the Association and profession as a whole. Because of the very widespread nature of our constituents the Conference is our main activity. At the same time we try to engage with other SIGs, as we did at Broadbeach, to allow effective cross-pollination of ideas to the wider profession.

Our group is pleased with the proposal that the AVA keeps a master file of (electronic) Conference Proceedings and will be making ours available for this purpose. Proceedings for the last few years can similarly be made available to the AVA in this way.

Dr Lee Cook
President

Reproduction

Australian Reproduction Veterinarians (ARV)

The ARV has undergone some minor changes in the previous 12 months with a name change to concur with the wishes of the AVA. This change is also indicating a change in the focus of ARV and a hope to widen the interests of our members.

Presently the membership is predominantly veterinarians that work in the sheep and cattle industry but our group aims to encourage members who work with other species and the emerging interest in reproductive technologies in these species.

The main event of the ARV was our 'stand alone' conference that was held in Darwin in August.

The keynote speaker was Dr Charles Looney from the USA, and the ARV must thank Dr Looney for his impressive presentations. We must also thank industry sponsors who again spent big to allow us to have a successful conference.

This year the conference is being held in Perth and the ARV has a number of international speakers, with our keynote speaker being Gabriel Bo. We encourage our present members and any potential members to make the trip to sunny Perth to support our SIG and to meet our industry members.

The ARV makes special thanks to our CEO, Anne Cover, for her excellent dedication and organisational skills, and to the industry that supports our SIG with sponsorship and information.

See you all in Perth.

Dr Adrian Veitch
President

Sheep

Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV)

Two thousand and five was a most eventful year for the Australian Sheep Veterinarians. The debate on flystrike control by mulesing which started in 2004 has continued unabated but if there is any good to come out of this, it has considerably sharpened our focus. In a very short space of time much research work has been moved forward to the point where there are now a number of promising alternatives. A post mulesing local anaesthetic was registered last spring and has been used on some properties by a number of sheep veterinarians.

The ASV has been advising the sheep industry over their concerns about OH&S issues that may arise out of shearing temperamental rams of certain breeds. There has been considerable discussion about the merit of different tranquilisers, dose and administration to rams and how this may be done effectively, legally and ethically. This has culminated in the preparation of a position statement by the AVA on this topic. Over the past year a number of sheep veterinarians have tranquilised considerable numbers of rams for their clients and the response from sheep owners and shearers has generally been favourable.

The Gold Coast was the venue for the AVA conference this year and, as in other years, the ASV program ran a very comprehensive program but due to the location, it was impractical to hold the usual field trip.

In early June about 30 Australian veterinarians attended the 6th International Sheep Congress in Crete, Greece. Prior to the congress a party of seven Australian sheep vets and their partners embarked on the European preconference tour and inspected a novel sheep grazing enterprise in Holland and in Germany, Dr Heinz Strobel arranged a most interesting two days at firstly a large sheep property producing cuts of meat for restaurants and secondly a decommissioned military range of some 6000 hectares where 16 sheep producers ran mobs of sheep under the guidance of shepherds.

The tour then travelled to Patras in Greece to join the Greek preconference tour hosted by Dr George Fthenakis. This tour travelled through much of the Greek agricultural areas and visited sheep dairy properties, a large bovine dairy, a regional veterinary laboratory, a government artificial breeding station, a feta cheese factory, an agricultural college and the veterinary school at Kaditsa. The tour participants were all impressed by the Greek hospitality and the opportunity to learn of the health and production issues affecting Greek sheep producers.

The congress itself was held at Hersonnissus on the island of Crete where there were over 650 veterinary registrants and papers were presented by delegates from more than 30 countries. As well as the scientific presentations, there was ample opportunity for social interaction with delegates from many countries who had a wide and varied interest in sheep health and production. A number of papers were presented by Australians and some of those papers such as fly control, mulesing and live sheep export were much appreciated by our northern hemisphere colleagues who have been observing the current debates surrounding these topics.

It has also been pleasing to see our membership grow over the past year and we are now approaching 300 members. No doubt the reason for this growth has been the solid educational background the ASV has maintained by way of cutting edge conference programs, the proceedings of these conferences and our new look newsletter started in 2004.

Dr David Hucker
President





Small Animals

Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA)

The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA) represents the special interests of Australian small animal practitioners on a national basis, urban and country, free from regional bias. The association was formed in 1968 and today has over 1,000 members. The Association is dedicated to the advancement of veterinary science, continuing education for its members and the promotion of high quality companion animal practice.

Membership numbers have increased by an impressive 11 per cent for 2005.

The 32nd Annual Conference in Coffs Harbour was another successful event. Key note speakers were Dr Jane Wardrop from the U.S and Dr Graeme Allan from Australia.

The ASAVA stream of the AVA Conference proved to be a highly entertaining and informative CE opportunity. Dr Dan Brockman (U.K) and Dr Andrew Marchevsky were the key note speakers.

For the first time ever, the ASAVA Committee decided to provide hard copy conference proceedings to all ASAVA members, that did not attend the ASAVA conference and ASAVA stream of the AVA conference, free of charge in 2005.

The ASAVA is the member organisation of the WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association). The WSAVA Congress comes to Australia for the first time in 23 years in 2007. ASAVA Representative to the AVA, Dr Di Sheehan in conjunction with past and present ASAVA Committee members and alumni – Dr Matthew Retchford, Dr Roger Clarke, Dr Kersti Seksel, Dr Jill Maddison, Dr Liz Walker and Prof David Church, form the ASAVA contingent on the WSAVA Organising Committee.

The planning for this historic event is in a very advanced stage and industry and member support has been excellent. The Scientific Program is just getting the final touches before it becomes available.

The ASAVA has agreed to compile the ASAVA E-library. This will incorporate all ASAVA proceedings, AVP articles and small animal articles from other sources and place it on the website (and CD-ROM) as a fully searchable complete library.

The ASAVA website and the AHC Web Locator at www.asava.com.au have been a big success for 2005. Many members have taken the opportunity to advertise their Practices on the site. Also, the general public can now seek out Accredited Practices in their area. This will be of great benefit to the practices that have attained accreditation under the ASAVA Scheme.

The ASAVA is a major supporter of veterinary students and new graduates. The ASAVA continued the 'Transition to practice' events at Queensland and Sydney universities, and held the 'New and Recent Graduate Dinner' at the AVA Conference on the Gold Coast with resounding success. The ASAVA also sponsors the PIR (Practitioner in Residence) programs at Melbourne and Sydney universities. The success of these programs is paramount to the ASAVA and we are proud of our ever-increasing commitment to the young members of our profession.

The ASAVA also took a leadership role in 2005 policies such as 'Animal Vaccination protocols' and this will continue for 2006.

The ASAVA President, Dr Matthew Retchford and the ASAVA Executive Officer, Dr Matthew Miles contributed widely to issues of small animal importance throughout 2005. This included topics such as 'heartworm', 'snail bait poisoning', 'worming in dogs and cats' and 'parvoviral outbreaks'. Contributions were made, mainly in radio interviews but also in local and national newspapers.

2005 saw the ASAVA being represented in many areas of Veterinary Science. UAM (Urban Animal Management), ACAC (Australian Companion Animal Council), Animal Welfare, PAC (Policy Advisory Council), AHC (Accredited Hospitals Committee), ACAHF (Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation), TAC (Therapeutics Advisory Committee) and the AVA Board to name a few as well as those areas previously mentioned.

Every year, our impact on Veterinary Science continues to grow and 2005 was no exception. We would lastly like to thank past committee members Dr Gibb MacDonald and Dr Kersti Seksel for services to the ASAVA and congratulate Dr Phil Brain for being granted the 2005 ASAVA 'Distinguished Service Award'.

*Dr Matthew Retchford
President*

Specialists

Association of Registered Veterinary Specialists (ARVS)

The ARVS is a young special interest group that seeks to provide a forum for communication, knowledge sharing and representation for a small and diverse group of veterinarians who are registered as veterinary specialists.

Veterinarians registered as specialists have an exceptionally high level of skill and experience having undergone extensive advanced, formal training followed by rigorous peer assessment and examination. Registration is granted by state veterinary registration authorities following an assessment process administered by the Australian Veterinary Boards Council and implemented through the Advisory Committee on Registration of Veterinary Specialists where applicants must meet stringent requirements relating to qualifications, experience and training. The purpose of specialist registration is to ensure that veterinarians and the public have access to advanced veterinary expertise.

The ARVS is represented on the Advisory Committee on Registration of Veterinary Specialists which is responsible for implementing and reviewing registration standards in Australia and New Zealand. Over the last three years the registration process has undergone extensive review in part to streamline the registration process, such that it is now focused on reviewing and accrediting the assessment and training programs of certifying bodies including the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and the American and European Colleges of veterinary specialties. Although many specialists have been trained within Australia, a larger number have been trained particularly in the UK and USA. With the emergence of new programs resulting in new applicants for registration, particularly from the European Colleges of Veterinary Scientists, changes in the registration process were required to provide a more uniform and timely process.

Future policy issues will focus on reviewing methods of assessment of training programs and maintaining professional standards for currently registered specialists. As formal accreditation for continuing education has become widely embraced by professional bodies, we must ensure that in order for such systems to function, they must be achievable over a reasonable period of time, are quantifiable and therefore functional. The ARVS will need to be actively involved in this process.

The ARVS has participated in the scientific program of the AVA Annual Conference over recent years, usually with a topical one day session showcasing experts in that particular field. In 2005 sessions were presented on clinical pathology with excellent talks from Dr Dennis Denicola and sessions on advances in orthopaedics and wound healing presented by Drs Chris Little, Charles Kuntz and Glen Edwards.

The ARVS is financially sound with funds from continuing education programs being used to develop a website with a goal of improving communication opportunities for this diverse group.

The ARVS with generous support from Provet IT have developed a website to support the organisation. There have been some development and registration issues for this site, particularly in order to make it interactive for ARVS members to permit 'on-line' communication to facilitate activities (egg bulletin boards) and meetings. We anticipate that this site will be fully operational this year.

*Dr Colin Dunlop
President*

Unusual & Exotic

Unusual & Exotic Pets (UEP)

The Unusual & Exotic Pet (UEP) SIG has continued to develop and expand during 2005. The strength and value of the UEP is reflected in the continued increase in membership, with over 190 active members as of December 2005. This places the UEP amongst the largest and most active groups within the AVA. The continued aim of the group is to spread knowledge and information about medicine and surgery of unusual and exotic pets to our members, and to promote the correct care and preventative health of these animals to the general population, pet shops and breeders.

Our Yahoo email discussion list, free to members, continues to be the main contact point for case queries and is the most valuable resource according to most members. In most instances replies to questions are provided within 24 hours, many even within 2-3 hours.

The Yahoo list also provides other benefits such as the ability to post photos of interesting cases, conduct polls, links to other relevant internet sites and a calendar of upcoming events.

The highlight of the year was the UEP conference held in Ventral Melbourne in October. This was attended by around 80 delegates who experienced a stunning variety of information from enthusiastic speakers. A unique social program centred around the annual dinner on the Saturday night will be remembered for years to come! Generous donations by delegates, exhibitors and sponsors enabled the donation of over \$1000 to the Leukaemia Foundation on behalf of member Bob Doneley's daughter Lizzie, who is recovering from her illness. The 2005 AVA Annual Conference held at the Gold Coast was attended by our group with Robert Johnson convening.

The quarterly newsletter continues to grow in size and scope with articles on current topics in exotic pet medicine and surgery together with news on upcoming seminars and order forms for ExoticDVM publications.

We will continue to focus on providing a range of continuing education products for our members. Anne Fowler and Mike Cannon have produced an excellent CD of previous conference papers. We hope to develop an ongoing 'manual' of exotic and unusual pet care containing information from all UEP events integrated into a practical resource for veterinarians.

The 2006 UEP conference will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand in conjunction with the Avian veterinarians in early September.

Many thanks to the committee for their fantastic support and enthusiasm in keeping this SIG vibrant, active and relevant! Special thanks to Robert Johnson, Mark Simpson, Anne Fowler, Mike Cannon and Stephen Ross.

*Dr Brendan Carmel
President*

Welfare & Ethics

Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE)

Membership of this SIG continues to grow, from 36 members in 2001 to 72 members in 2005. This is very positive and reflects the ever-increasing interest in animal welfare by veterinarians. At the Group's 2005 AGM, Simon Bain stepped down as President and was succeeded by Robert Baker. Robert has been Chairman of the AVA's Animal Welfare Committee since 2000 and works in farm animal welfare with the SA Government. Steve Atkinson continues as Policy Councillor and Frank Doughty was elected Treasurer and Secretary, succeeding Susan Maastricht.

The 2005 conference program was interesting and diverse, with all sessions well attended. It included papers on the scientific and ethical definitions of animal welfare, the questions of animal consciousness and cognition and how to measure animal welfare quantitatively and qualitatively. There were contributions from the RSPCA and the animal rights group Voiceless.

It was again pleasing to have many people attending who were not members of AVAWE. This reflects the cross-disciplinary nature of our discipline, a theme which is to be further developed at the 2006 Hobart conference. The change in conference structure will mean that there are fewer concurrent streams and so it will be difficult for smaller SIGs such as AVAWE to have stand-alone papers on the agenda.

Thanks to the assistance of the AVA Program Convenor, there will be a number of major papers at next year's conference which will be co-sponsored by AVAWE and other SIGs. These will include AEVA, ASV and ACV and should result in an increased awareness of welfare issues by members of these major production animal SIGs. These papers will be over the first three days of the conference and should be of real interest to all veterinarians.

The past year has seen the issues of livestock transport and mulesing of sheep assume international significance, as well as ongoing concerns with the intensive animal industries. This can be expected to continue in 2006 and beyond. The finalisation and acceptance by Ministers of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy was a major step forward for Australia. Many AVA members were closely involved in its formulation and it provides a template for a much more co-ordinated and effective response by industry, government, animal welfare groups and the AVA to raising and monitoring animal welfare standards. The challenge is to ensure the implementation of the Strategy. A number of key working parties have been established and AVA members are well represented.

It is also pleasing to see the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' Animal Welfare Chapter continuing to grow. There is a very positive relation between this Chapter and AVAWE and I would encourage all AVAWE members to consider doing their College Membership in Animal Welfare.

Dr Robert Baker
President



A VA TRUSTS AND ADVISORY GROUPS



AVA Trusts and Advisory Groups

Benevolent Fund

In 2005 enquiries to the Benevolent Fund have revolved more around issues of compliance and internal Association matters than they have about potential and existing beneficiaries to the Fund. One internal issue revolved around Trustee liabilities and whether the Fund should be classified as a Special Purpose Entity under new Australian and International Accounting protocols.

The practical outcome of this is that the Fund's financial year will now align with that of the Association, and that rather than have an independent auditor review the finances of the Fund, this will be done in conjunction with the Association's audit.

The Treasurer reported to the Trustees at the AGM on 7th November 2005 that the total assets of the Fund stood at \$236,000. During the past couple of years, donations and interest earned on investments have virtually offset grants to beneficiaries which last year totalled \$17,350.

It is a constant concern of the Trustees that depression and its sometimes tragic consequences continues to bedevil our members. The Western Australian Division has had several forums on this topic, which were well attended by members. With this in mind, a motion was passed at the AGM proposing that the Benevolent Fund act as sponsor of a plenary session on depression and its consequences at a future Association AGM. The proposal has yet to be formally proposed and accepted by Conference co-ordinators, but it would appear that there would be little impediment to including this as a plenary session.

The Trustees were delighted to have Dr Lorna Melville accept the role of Benevolent Fund representative for the Darwin area to complement Dr Debbie Osborne's role in Central Australia. In addition to having more representatives at the grass roots level, the Trustees hope to utilise the Association website more as a means of raising the visibility of the Fund and its work, particularly for more recent graduates.

Although the number of active beneficiaries has declined, the appreciation for the work of the Fund never diminishes in the eyes of the beneficiaries, which hopefully is reward enough for the representatives, trustees and donors who support the work of the AVABF. The Trustees thank all those who make the work of the Fund so much easier by donating their time and financial resources to assist those of our colleagues who are having a difficult time.

*Dr Randall Lemin
Chairman*

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF)

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) is a non-profit, tax-exempt trust of the AVA. 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, corporate sponsorship and through the ACAHF Memorial Donation Scheme.

The daily operations of the ACAHF are administered by a Board of Trustees, nominated by the ASAVA and ratified by the Board of the AVA. The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA), provide administrative services free of charge.

Members of the AVA usually make donations to the ACAHF with their annual subscriptions and we encourage them to give something back to their profession in this way. If you have trouble donating through the on-line subscription, please contact the ASAVA office directly at AVA headquarters if you wish to make a tax deductible donation or bequest. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible for the donor. This report would like to publicly acknowledge the generous support that has been given to the foundation by pet owners, veterinarians and industry.

Veterinarians may obtain free brochures to advertise the ACAHF by applying to the ASAVA. Sympathy cards are available to aid the Memorial Donation Scheme. Any person wishing to make a large donation or make a bequest in their will is advised to contact the ACAHF through the ASAVA.

Applications for grants to aid research are advertised annually to all the Australian Veterinary Schools and applications are ranked according to merit by an experienced grants committee composed of veterinary academics and practitioners representative of the Australian veterinary community. Research projects with a potential clinical application are particularly valuable.

The ACAHF continues to support studies into the seroprevalence of feline coronavirus and the development of immunochemistry for the diagnosis of feline infectious peritonitis, tumours in dogs and cats, and the epidemiology and aetiology of chronic renal disease in domestic cats

*Dr Roger Clarke
Chairman of trustees*

AVA Trusts and Advisory Groups cont.

Animal Welfare Trust (AWT)

The Animal Welfare Trust (AWT) supports animal welfare through research, education, and promotion utilising the resources of the AVA. After initial funding from the Australian Foundation for Animal Welfare, veterinarians and members of the community have provided on-going donations.

The Animal Welfare Trustees feel that the increased donations to the Trust in 2005 could be related to the distribution of our posters and clinic pamphlets to all AVA members late in 2004. There have been several occasions when the Trust has received publicity in the *AVJ* over the past year and this will also enhance the standing of the Trust. The Trustees are hoping that this increased profile will in turn encourage members to promote the Trust to their clients which may in turn result in bequests and other significant donations that will allow the Trust to further its aims.

At the 2005 Annual Conference the two recipients of grants for 2004 presented short papers outlining the results of their studies. Those who heard the papers agreed that both research programs produced information to further the welfare of animals. The Trustees are in the process of asking for submissions for more grants to be given this year

Dr Stephen Atkinson
Chairman

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC)

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee advises the AVA Board and staff on animal welfare matters. AWAC assists and initiates policy development and revision.

The AWAC Divisional representatives usually are also members of their respective state/territory AWACs, and thus are able to provide valuable feedback on important welfare matters in the various jurisdictions. In addition to updates from states and territories, AWAC also considers reports from various standing committees and working groups that are dealing with different aspects of animal welfare at a national level.

AWAC has assisted AVA input into the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare. Hot topics include livestock exports, non-commercial poultry standards, animal and human abuse, sow housing, dangerous dogs, sheep dentistry, mulesing, ram sedation, reviews of State legislation, animal husbandry and pain, standards for processing establishments and teaching of ethics to veterinary students.

The **AVA Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (AEAC)** provides advice on the use of animals for research, teaching or demonstrations, and at scientific meetings and workshops. The AEAC is also available to assist veterinarians who are members of animal ethic committees.

Dr Kevin Doyle
Secretary

AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Committee advises the AVA Board and staff on therapeutic matters. The Committee seeks to ensure high standards of therapeutic practice in prescribing and use of veterinary medicines within the profession. TAC cooperates with Special Interest Groups to provide materials to practitioners and students and expertise for veterinary schools and continuing education.

The Committee has a role in development of AVA submissions to government agencies on drug reviews and inquiries. TAC monitors contemporary therapeutic issues and initiates and contributes to AVA inputs.

TAC has established a Sub-committee on Quality Use of Antimicrobial Drugs and a Reference Advisory Group on Fermentative Acidosis to address major issues of concern to the veterinary profession. The latter is to advise veterinarians on use of virginiamycin and other measures for control of acidosis in ruminants.

TAC current activities also include labelling of veterinary chemicals, antibiotic resistance monitoring, expanding the AVA prescribing and dispensing guidelines, guidelines for prescribing antimicrobials in aquaculture, scheduling matters and reviews of the macrolide antibiotics.

TAC has also advised on AVA policy development including tranquillisation of rams for shearing, pain and analgesia, dog and cat vaccination and mulesing of sheep.

Dr Bill Darmody
Chairman

Urban Animal Management (UAM)

The Urban Animal Management Reference Group (UAMRG) maintained contact between the veterinary profession and animal management officers, animal shelters, local and state government managers and policy makers in 2005. The groups' main activity was the annual conference, held in Canberra in October. It attracted 186 delegates from all parts of the country, as well as New Zealand and Singapore, who reported that the conference provided practical solutions, useful information for policy formulation and relevant recent research. It also had the largest trade display for many years.

Our keynote speaker was John Snyder from the Humane Society of the US, who had twenty years experience in animal management before joining the HSUS as Director, Companion Animals. He was supported by 31 local speakers including Mark Lawrie (RSPCA NSW), behaviourist Joanne Righetti, and Town Planner Virginia Jackson. Our next conference, with the theme 'Risk and Risk Management in UAM', is in Hobart in August. Details will be available at www.uam.net.au shortly.

During the Conference, the UAM group facilitated a meeting of Registered Training Organisations for the Animal Control and Regulation part of the Animal Care and Management Training Package (RUV 04), leading to an agreement that these providers will share expertise and cooperate to deliver programs. There are now about six RTO's geared to deliver Certificate IV training to animal management officers, with the prospect of professional recognition, enhanced skills and expertise, better delivery of services, and a career path for those who work in this segment of the animal care industry. Through UAM, AVA has had significant input into the development of the training package, and now is contributing to its implementation.

The UAM group works both with the animal management officer on the ground, and tries to influence policy makers for good, pet and pet owner friendly, legislation. In 2005 we produced a detailed submission to NSW Government about Dangerous Dog legislation in which we tried to provide practical solutions to the issues, rather than relying on breed specific legislation. We also provided detailed advice to AVA to assist their submission on the possible introduction of compulsory desexing in Victoria.

During the year, the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare recommended, through the Federal Minister, that States adopt a National Dangerous Dogs Database based upon material developed at UAM conferences. This database is active in Victoria and rolling out in three more States.

Members of the group have been active in their local jurisdictions, working on issues such as dangerous dogs and the national database, urban cat management, compulsory microchipping, and the like. UAM obtained observer status on AVA Policy Council and, we believe, contributed to AVA policy in 2005. UAM is also represented on the Companion Animals Working Group of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy as a link between the development of this national policy, the veterinary profession, and animal management officers throughout the country.

Dr Michael Hayward
Convenor

Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC)

Each year the Australian Companion Animal Council Inc, as the peak body representing the companion animal sector, implements projects that highlight the important role that our companion animals have in the Australian community. 2005 has been no exception.

The launch and distribution of ACAC's new publication, the *Australian Directory of Human and Animal Interaction Programs*, helped emphasise the benefits of companion animals to society. Already many new organisations are seeking inclusion in this important initiative. The current edition of the directory is available on the Internet at www.anthrozoology.com.au

In 2005 ACAC also provided comment on proposed legislative amendments in New South Wales and Victoria and prepared submissions in response to several government reviews. The ACAC was invited by the Director General of the NSW Department of Local Government to participate in Stakeholder Group Meetings.

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy was launched in September 2005. This is a major initiative of the Commonwealth Government to maintain Australia's position as a world leader in animal welfare. The Government has provided funding of \$6 million to develop a national strategy for the entire Australian community. Six sectoral working groups were formed one of which covers the companion animal sector. I am the ACAC representative on this group and have been appointed as the Chair of the Group. This highlights the important role ACAC has to play in developing national policies and strategies for companion animal welfare.

Preparation for an updated edition of the BIS Shrapnel Report 'Contribution of the Petcare Industry to the Australian Economy 2006' was commenced. Initial research has been undertaken and a draft version of the report completed. It is intended the report will be released at an industry function in 2006. This report continues to be the only document of its type available and is a vital resource providing detailed and accurate information on the pet care industry in Australia. It continues to be widely used and quoted in the print and TV media.

Together with the fact that ACAC has been frequently quoted in the media on a wide range of pet related articles, these activities have helped raise the profile of the organisation. The quarterly ACAC General Meetings plus an additional Strategic Planning Meeting have combined to provide an excellent forum for the members of the pet care industry to exchange ideas and information and plan activities to address issues of concern to the industry.

Dr Kersti Seksel
President



FINANCIALS

Directors' Report

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2005.

Directors

The names of directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Dr Matthew Makin	Dr David Lovell
Dr Kersti Seksel (appointed May 05)	Dr Samantha McMahon
Dr Norman Blackman	Dr Derek Major
Dr Diane Sheehan	Dr Bruce Cartmill (appointed May 05)
Dr William Darmody	Dr Jo Sillince (retired May 05)
Dy Lyndy Scott (retired May 05)	

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited during the financial year focused on the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences and included:

- operation as an association representing veterinary professionals in Australia,
- promotion of the value of the profession to the community, industry and government,
- providing a forum for veterinarians to exchange ideas and access member services,
- assisting members to strive for professional excellence,
- providing high standards of continuing education and professional development,
- providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production,
- stimulating informed debate on issues within the areas of professional competence, and
- developing technical policy on animal health and welfare issues.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Company's principal activities during the financial year.

Operating Results

The consolidated surplus for the year was \$811,472. (2004: consolidated deficit of \$24,171).

Review of Operations

A review of the operations of the Australian Veterinary Association during the financial year are contained in the Report of the National President.

The Consolidated Entity comprises the Company, including 8 Divisions, 22 SIGs and 40 Branches in addition to the AVA National Group and 3 Trusts. 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 deficits in some years (representing the expenditure of past or future surpluses).

The SIGs recorded a surplus of \$145,036 the Divisions recorded a surplus of \$89,666, the Branches recorded a surplus of \$50,496, the AVA National Group recorded a surplus of \$403,839 (including \$217,948 net gain on disposal of Artarmon offices) and the Trusts recorded a surplus of \$33,447. The balance, of \$88,989, reflects receipt of a significant bequest, and movements in other special purpose funds during the year.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No matters or circumstance have arisen since 31 December 2005 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations of the Company or Consolidated Entity;
- (b) the results of those operations; or
- (c) the state of affairs of the Company or Consolidated Entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2005.

Directors' Benefits

Since 31 December 2004 no director has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related corporation with the director or with a firm of which he/she is a member, or with a Company in which he/she has a substantial financial interest. However the President and Directors' who serve in an honorary capacity are entitled to receive an allowance for the expenses incurred in their capacity as the directors of the Company.

Directors' Report

Information on Directors

Director	Experience
M Makin BVSc, MAICD	Director AVA since 2004, President Elect 2004-05, President Victorian Division 2002-05, President EVA 2003-2004, AVA Member since 1998
NL Blackman BVSc, Dip Tech (Biotech) FAICD	Director AVA since 1999, President 2004-2005, President-Elect 2003-2004, Treasurer 2001-2003, President ACT Div. 1994, AVA Member since 1978
K Seksel BVSc(Hons), MRCVS MA(Hons), Dipl ACVB, FACVS (Animal Behaviour)	Director AVA 1999-2002 and since May 2005, President Elect 2005-2006, President AVBIG 2004 to present, President SMPB 1996-1997, Director ACVSc 2004 to present. Vice President ACAC 2002-2004, President ACAC 2004 to present, ASAVA Committee 1999 to 2005, AVA Member since 1986
D Sheehan B.Sc, BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President ASAVA 2000-2002, President Qld Division 1994, AVA Member since 1984
B Cartmill BVSc	Director AVA since May 2005, President NSW Division 2003-2005, NSW Executive 1998-present, ASAVA Accredited Veterinary Hospital Committee 1997-2002. AVA Member since 1965.
D Lovell BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AEVA 1999-2000, AVA Member since 1987
W Darmody BVMS(Hons), MACVS, FAICD, AFAIM, MRCVS, Dip Ag. Sci.	Director AVA since 2003, President AACV 1995, President Vic Division 1994, AVA Member since 1977
S McMahan BVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2004, President NT Division 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 , AVA Member since 1999
D Major BVSc	Director AVA since 2004, President AEVA 2000-2001, AVA Policy Councillor since 2002, AVA Member since 1979
JL Sillince BVSc, MBA, FAICD	Director AVA 1999 to 2005, President 2003-2004, President-Elect 2002-2003, President NSW Div. 1994-95, AVA Member since 1983
L Scott BSc, BVMS, MBA, MACVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2002, President ACT Division 1997, AVA Member since 1981

Information on Company Secretary

J Redrup BSc in Agr, BA (Mathematical Studies), Grad Dip in Professional Accounting, CPA	Company Secretary since June 2004, Chief Finance Officer MTM Funds Management Pty Ltd and Worlds Biggest Screens Pty Ltd 2000-2004, Management Accountant Employment National 1996-2000, various senior management and policy roles within Australian Public Sector relating to aviation, education, employment, IT and auditing 1982-1996.
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Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 11 meetings of directors were held. Attendances were:

	Directors' Meetings		Finance Committee Meetings (All Board may attend)	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
N.L. Blackman	11	9	7	7
B. Cartmill	7	6	-	2
W. Darmody	11	8	-	2
D. Lovell	11	9	-	-
D. Major	11	10	-	-
M. Makin	11	9	7	6
S. McMahan	11	9	-	1
L. Scott	4	4	-	-
K. Seksel	7	6	3	2
D. Sheehan	11	10	7	6
J. Sillince	4	4	4	4

Directors' Report

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, including Trustees of the three (3) AVA Trusts [Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund (AVABF), Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) and Animal Welfare Fund (AWF)].

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

Indemnity and Insurance of Directors and Officers

The Company has, to the extent permitted by law, entered into agreements to indemnify its directors and officers for all losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of the Company or a related company. This includes losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of a company where such office is held for the benefit of the Company.

No claim has been made against or by the Company in relation to any such indemnities or insurance policies during the financial year ending 31 December 2005.

Proceedings on Behalf of Company

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the financial year.

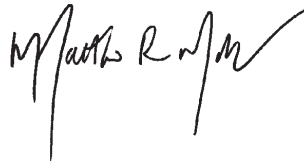
Auditors' Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditors' Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on page 63.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



D. Sheehan
Director and Treasurer



M. Makin
Director and President

Dated this 4th Day of April 2006

Income Statement

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	Note	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	7,216,280	7,261,520	6,903,051	6,985,774
Revenue from other Non Operating activities	2	232,100	232,100	98,306	98,306
Total Revenue		7,448,380	7,493,620	7,001,357	7,084,080
Service expenses		(727,237)	(727,237)	(626,203)	(626,203)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(271,514)	(271,514)	(374,715)	(374,715)
Conferences and continuing education expenses		(1,800,286)	(1,800,286)	(1,663,316)	(1,663,316)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,106,316)	(1,106,316)	(1,640,665)	(1,640,665)
Occupancy expenses		(188,542)	(188,542)	(128,432)	(128,432)
Administration expenses		(1,829,066)	(1,829,091)	(2,187,285)	(2,187,285)
Interest Expense		(32,853)	-	-	-
Other operating expenses		(714,541)	(759,162)	(423,034)	(487,635)
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities before income tax expense		778,025	811,472	(42,293)	(24,171)
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(b)	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax expense	11	778,025	811,472	(42,293)	(24,171)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	Note	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Current Assets					
Cash Assets	1(g),14	2,527,987	2,567,247	1,696,871	1,727,431
Receivables	4	422,809	422,809	307,453	307,453
Inventories		127,193	127,193	150,408	150,408
Other Assets	5	241,457	241,457	913,722	913,722
Total current assets		3,319,446	3,358,706	3,068,454	3,099,014
Non-Current Assets					
Financial Assets	1(e),6	2,403,450	2,403,450	2,194,494	2,194,494
Property and equipment	7	5,519,046	5,519,046	4,593,516	4,593,516
Total non-current assets		7,922,496	7,922,496	6,788,010	6,788,010
Total Assets		11,241,942	11,281,202	9,856,464	9,887,024
Current Liabilities					
Payables	8	938,162	433,497	905,196	425,281
Other liabilities	9	1,390,433	1,390,435	890,904	890,904
Provisions	10	189,767	189,767	202,525	202,525
Total current liabilities		2,518,362	2,013,699	1,998,625	1,518,710
Non-Current Liabilities					
Payables		75,759	75,759	-	-
Provisions	10	16,390	16,390	6,838	6,838
Total non-current liabilities		92,149	92,149	6,838	6,838
Total Liabilities		2,610,511	2,105,848	2,005,463	1,525,548
Net Assets		8,631,431	9,175,354	7,851,001	8,361,476
Retained surplus	11	6,546,637	7,090,560	4,430,229	4,940,704
Reserves	12	2,084,794	2,084,794	3,420,772	3,420,772
Total Members' Funds		8,631,431	9,175,354	7,851,001	8,361,476

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	Note	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Cash flows from operating activities					
Receipts from members' subscriptions		2,647,713	2,647,715	2,287,337	2,299,176
Receipts from AVA activities		5,250,362	5,301,869	5,278,400	5,322,644
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,871,357)	(6,915,470)	(7,352,191)	(7,416,791)
Interest received		204,545	205,850	151,571	158,164
Net cash used in ordinary activities	14	1,231,263	1,239,964	365,117	363,193
Cash flows from investing activities					
Payments for investments		(107,630)	(107,630)	(89,236)	(89,236)
Proceeds on sale of investments		111,997	111,997	6,406	6,406
Proceeds on sale of property		2,495,956	2,495,956	-	-
Payments for property and equipment		(2,900,471)	(2,900,471)	(703,047)	(703,047)
Net cash used in investing activities		(400,148)	(400,148)	(785,877)	(785,877)
Net increase in cash held		831,116	839,816	(420,760)	(422,684)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		1,696,871	1,727,431	2,117,631	2,150,114
		2,527,987	2,567,247	1,696,871	1,727,430

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	Retained Earnings \$	Revaluation Reserve \$	Capital Profit Reserve \$	Total \$
Economic Entity				
Balance at 1 Jan 2004	4,964,876	2,489,430	941,889	8,396,195
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	(10,546)	-	(10,546)
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	(24,171)	-	-	(24,171)
Balance at 31 Dec 2004	4,940,705	2,478,884	941,889	8,361,478
Transfers to/(from) reserves related to fixed asset sold	1,338,383	(1,338,383)	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	2,404	-	2,404
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	811,472	-	-	811,472
Balance at 31 December 2005	7,090,560	1,142,905	941,889	9,175,354
Parent Entity				
Balance at 1 Jan 2004	4,472,522	2,489,430	941,889	7,903,841
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	(10,546)	-	(10,546)
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	(42,293)	-	-	(42,293)
Balance at 31 Dec 2004	4,430,229	2,478,884	941,889	7,851,002
Transfers to/(from) reserves related to fixed asset sold	1,338,383	(1,338,383)	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	2,404	-	2,404
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	778,025	-	-	778,025
Balance at 31 December 2005	6,546,637	1,142,905	941,889	8,631,431

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

I. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards (including first time implementation of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards), Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

Australian Veterinary Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Australian Veterinary Association Limited in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

The Australian Veterinary Association Limited and the controlled entities, and the Australian Veterinary Association Limited as an individual parent entity have prepared financial statements in accordance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) from 1 January 2005.

In accordance with the requirements of AASB 1: First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards, adjustments to the parent entity and consolidated entity accounts resulting from the introduction of AIFRS have been applied retrospectively to 2004 comparatives. These consolidated accounts are the first financial statements of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited to be prepared in accordance with the AIFRS.

The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented.

No reconciliation of the transition from previous GAAP to AIFRS have been included in the notes to this report, as the transition has not affected the figures as presented.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting Policies

(a) Principles of Consolidation

A controlled entity is an entity the Australian Veterinary Association Limited has the power to control the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefit from its activities. All controlled entities operate on a 'set and forget' structure, and hence the Association does not have any voting rights.

The controlled entities are:

- Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF);
- Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund (AVABF); and
- Australian Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Trust (AVAAWT).

All controlled entities have a December financial year-end.

All inter-company (Company-Trust) balance and transactions between entities in the economic entity, including any unrealised profits or losses, have been eliminated on consolidation. Accounting policies of the trusts have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with those policies applied by the parent entity.

Where controlled entities have entered or left the economic entity during the year, their operating results have been included/excluded from the date control was obtained or until the date control ceased.

(b) Income Tax

No income tax is payable by the Company 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. As part of the self assessment regime the Company sought professional advice during 2004 which affirmed that there had been no substantial change in purpose of the Company since October 1981 and that the Company could continue as a tax exempt entity.

(c) Inventories

Inventories comprise primarily of forms, publications, clothing 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.

(d) Property and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction. It is the policy of the Australian Veterinary Association to have an independent valuation every three years, with annual appraisals being made by the directors. Newly acquired properties are valued at cost, in the period preceding the next round of external valuations.

The buildings, which are a component of the total valuation of each property, are isolated from the land component and depreciated over expected life of 40 years, consistent with AASB 116 – Property, Plant and Equipment.

Equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives to the Australian Veterinary Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Furniture & fittings	5-10%
Equipment	25%
Buildings	2.5%
Leasehold improvements	10%

(e) Financial Instruments

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include financial assets not included in the following categories:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss;
- Loans and receivables;
- Held-to-maturity investments.

Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity.

(f) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on-costs. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the Australian Veterinary Association to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(g) Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than three months and net of bank overdrafts.

(h) Revenue

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.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

(i) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

(j) Change in Accounting Policy

The Australian Veterinary Association changed its accounting policy in the financial year ending 31 December 2005 relating to:

- The accounts of Controlled Special Purpose Entities, namely the Animal Welfare Trust (AWT), Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund (AVABF) and the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) have been consolidated with the accounts of the parent entity, the Australian Veterinary Association Limited.
- Funds held for defined purposes and classified as 'Non Current Liabilities Provisions' in the past have been de-classified. These related to funds which have been allocated internally for defined purposes (Comfund, Urban Animal Management, etc) but do not reflect liabilities of the Association due to past events.
- Consistent with AASB 1, First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), all comparative data, including those relating to changes in Accounting Policy, have been aligned with the 2005 data.

(k) Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS)

These accounts have been prepared consistent with AIFRS. The implementation of AIFRS has required de-recognition of the 'Provision for Bad Debt' of \$3,000 and the recognition of impairment of the 'Current Asset Receivables' of \$3,000. At the AIFRS transition date of 1 January 2004, these changes exactly offset each other and did not change the Statements at transition or at 31 December 2004. As noted above, Other Accounting Policies have changed and the comparative data has been revised, consistent with AASB 1.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Note 2. Revenue from ordinary activities				
Operating activities				
- Subscriptions	2,088,383	2,102,037	1,999,007	2,010,846
- Interest	204,545	205,850	151,571	178,211
- Affinity commissions	1,056,494	1,056,494	945,633	945,633
- Other revenue (incl. Conferences and publications)	3,866,858	3,897,139	3,806,840	3,851,084
	7,216,280	7,261,520	6,903,051	6,985,774
Non Operating Activities				
- Gain on disposal of fixed asset	217,948	217,948	-	-
- Gain from the disposal of Investments	14,152	14,152	98,306	98,306
	232,100	232,100	98,306	98,306
Total Revenue	7,448,380	7,493,620	7,001,357	7,084,080
Note 3. Surplus from ordinary activities				
Surplus from ordinary activities has been determined after:				
Expenses				
Depreciation of equipment and buildings	140,918	140,918	162,673	162,673
Provision for employee entitlements	9,552	9,552	4,153	4,153
Unrealised loss on investments	-	-	-	-
Realised loss on investments	-	-	-	-
Note 4. Receivables				
Current				
Trade receivables	348,827	348,827	176,898	176,898
Commissions receivable	73,982	73,982	83,820	83,820
Other receivables	-	-	46,735	46,735
	422,809	422,809	307,453	307,453
Note 5. Other assets				
Current				
Prepayments	203,965	203,965	819,832	819,832
Other assets	37,492	37,492	93,890	93,890
	241,457	241,457	913,722	913,722

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Note 6. Financial assets l(e)				
Non-Current				
Managed funds	2,403,450	2,403,450	2,194,494	2,194,494
Note 7. Property, plant and equipment				
Land and buildings				
Freehold land at:				
- Independent valuation December 2003	1,463,350	1,463,350	2,245,000	2,245,000
Buildings at				
- Independent valuation December 2003	3,502,056	3,502,056	2,183,939	2,183,939
Less accumulated depreciation	(88,756)	(88,756)	(54,599)	(54,599)
	4,876,650	4,876,650	4,374,340	4,374,340
Office furniture & equipment – at cost	994,461	994,461	1,181,168	1,181,168
Less accumulated depreciation	(352,065)	(352,065)	(961,992)	(961,992)
	642,396	642,396	219,176	219,176
Leasehold improvements – at cost	33,982	33,982	33,982	33,982
Less accumulated amortisation	(33,982)	(33,982)	(33,982)	(33,982)
	-	-	-	-
Total property and equipment	5,519,046	5,519,046	4,593,516	4,593,516

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 equity (Revaluation Reserve). In the event of a disposal of an asset, realised gains and losses are recognised in the income statement, while the revaluation balances related to the asset disposed of, are transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to Retained Surplus.

Independent valuations of all properties, excluding the St Leonards, NSW property, were carried out in December 2003 by registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use.

The names of the valuers in each State and Territory were:

QLD	Knight Frank Valuations (QLD)
SA	Knight Frank Valuations (SA)
VIC	Jones Lang LaSalle
WA	JJ Le-Fevre & Co

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

Note 7. Property and equipment (continued)

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Freehold Land \$	Buildings \$	Equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	2,245,000	2,129,340	219,176	4,593,516
Additions	493,350	2,160,104	576,401	3,229,855
Disposals	(1,275,000)	(825,000)	(46,420)	(2,146,420)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	(16,987)	-	(16,987)
Depreciation expense	-	(34,157)	(106,761)	(140,918)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	1,463,350	3,413,300	642,396	5,519,046

	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Note 8. Payables				
Current				
Sundry creditors	433,519	433,497	425,278	425,281
Funds held on trust				
AVA Animal Welfare Trust	50,371	-	47,192	-
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	214,911	-	206,351	-
Australia Companion Animal Health Foundation	239,405	-	226,375	-
	938,162	433,497	905,196	425,281
Note 9. Other liabilities				
Current				
Income received in advance				
Membership subscriptions	1,209,533	1,209,533	890,904	890,904
Publications subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Annual conference income	180,900	180,900	-	-
	1,390,433	1,390,433	890,904	890,904

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Note 10. Provisions				
Current				
Employee benefits	189,767	189,767	202,525	202,525
Non-Current				
Employee benefits	16,390	16,390	6,838 6,838	6,838 6,838
Total (Current and non-current)	206,157	206,157	209,363	209,363
Number of employees at year end				
(Number)	35			
(Full-time Equivalent)	25.3			
Note 11. Retained surplus				
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,430,229	4,940,705	4,472,522	4,964,875
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,338,383	1,338,383	-	-
Operating surplus for the current year	778,025	811,472	(42,293)	(24,171)
Balance at the end of the year	6,546,637	7,090,560	4,430,229	4,940,704
Note 12. Reserves				
Capital Profit Reserve				
Balance 1 January	941,889	941,889	941,889	941,889
Balance 31 December	941,889	941,889	941,889	941,889
Asset Revaluation Reserve				
Balance 1 January	2,478,884	2,478,884	2,489,429	2,489,429
Realised gains on the sale of property/ revaluations	(1,335,979)	(1,335,979)	(10,546)	(10,546)
Balance 31 December	1,142,905	1,142,905	2,478,883	2,478,883
	2,084,794	2,084,794	3,420,772	3,420,772
Note 13. Capital and Leasing Commitments				
(a) Capital Commitments				
At 31 December 2005, the company did not have any capital commitments. As at December 2004 the company had commitments related to the acquisition of land, buildings and related fitout.	NA	NA	2,601,701	2,601,701
(b) Operating Lease Commitments				
Non-cancelable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements.				
Payable				
- not later than 1 year	44,350	44,350	29,708	29,708
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	63,868	63,868	51,119	51,119
- later than 5 years	-	-	-	-

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

	2005 \$ Parent	2005 \$ Consolidated	2004 \$ Parent	2004 \$ Consolidated
Note 14. Cash Flow Information				
(a) Reconciliation of Cash				
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:				
Cash on hand	639,201	678,460	824,827	855,387
At call deposits with financial institutions	1,888,786	1,888,787	872,044	872,044
	2,527,987	2,567,247	1,696,871	1,727,431
(b) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operating Activities with Profit from Ordinary Activities				
Profit from ordinary activities	778,025	811,472	(42,293)	(24,171)
Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities				
Depreciation	140,918	140,918	162,673	162,673
Write-off of inventory	42,649	42,649		
Industrial relations fund	(75,759)	(75,759)		
Revaluation of fixed assets	2,409	2,409		
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(217,948)	(217,948)		
Devaluation of fixed assets	(16,987)	(16,987)		
Profit on disposal of investments	(14,152)	(14,152)		
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	-	-	30,988	30,988
Net loss on write of fixed asset	-	-	(10,546)	(10,546)
Changes in assets and liabilities				
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	(115,356)	(115,356)	5,445	5,445
Decrease / (Increase) in inventories	23,215	23,215	(40,629)	(40,629)
Decrease / (Increase) in other assets (exc Property and equipment related)	79,201	79,201	(113,989)	(113,989)
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	108,725	83,975	179,264	159,218
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	(3,206)	(3,206)	(37,826)	(37,826)
Increase in other liabilities	499,529	499,533	232,030	232,030
Cash flows from Operating Activities	1,231,263	1,239,964	365,117	363,193
Note 15. Members Guarantee				
The Company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 December 2005 the number of members was 4,470 (2004: 4,218).				
Note 16. Remuneration of Auditor				
Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditor of the Company:				
Audit of the financial statements	16,500	16,500	16,277	16,277
Other services	12,887	12,887	5,832	5,832
	29,387	29,387	22,109	22,109

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

Note 17. Key Management Personnel Compensation

Directors

Dr Matthew Makin (Non-Executive President -Chair)
 Dr Kersti Seksel (Non-Executive President Elect)
 Dr Norm Blackman (Non-Executive Past President)
 Dr Diane Sheehan (Non-Executive Treasurer)
 Dr William Darmody (Non-Executive Chair Strategy Committee)
 Dr Samantha McMahon (Non-Executive Chair Risk Committee)
 Dr Derek Major (Non-Executive Chair Membership Committee)
 Dr David Lovell (Non-Executive)
 Dr Bruce Cartmill (Non-Executive)
 Dr Jo Sillince (Non-Executive – retired May 05)
 Dr Lyndy Scott (Non-Executive – retired May 05)

Other Key Management Personnel

Margaret Conley (Chief Executive Officer)
 James Redrup (Corporate Services Manager)
 Dr Kevin Doyle (Veterinary Director)
 Eddie Ripard (Marketing and Communications Manager)
 Dr Matthew Miles (Executive Officer ASAVA)
 Jane Barry (Executive Officer AEVA)
 Anne Cover (Executive Officer ACV, ASV & ARV)
 Anne McDonald (Executive Officer Victorian Division)
 Peter Russell (Executive Officer AEVA resigned June 05)

	Short-term Benefits			Post Employment Benefits		Long-term Benefits Long Service Leave	Total
	Salary & Fees	Super-annuation Contribution	Bonus	Non-Cash Benefits	Super-annuation		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2005							
Total Compensation	531,000	44,000	-	-	-	-	575,000
2004							
Total Compensation	475,000	38,000	-	-	-	-	513,000

Note 18. Related Parties

Special Interest Groups, Divisions, and 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 'Directors' Report' on page 46. Information relating to the remuneration of directors is set out in Note 17. There were no other transactions between directors and the Company during the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

Note 19. Financial Instruments

(a) Credit Risk Exposures

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

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposures

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

2005	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non Interest Bearing	Total
		<1 year	1 to 5 years	>5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	603,902	1,888,786	-	-	-	2,492,688
Receivables	-	-	-	-	422,809	422,809
	603,902	1,888,786	-	-	422,809	2,915,497
Weighted Average Interest Rate	3.94%	5.49%	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	426,139	426,139
Funds held on Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	426,139	426,139
Net Financial Assets	603,902	1,888,786	-	-	(3,330)	2,489,358

2004	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non Interest Bearing	Total
		<1 year	1 to 5 years	>5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	824,827	872,044	-	-	-	1,696,871
Receivables	-	-	-	-	307,452	307,452
	824,827	872,044	-	-	307,452	2,004,323
Weighted Average Interest Rate	4.30%	5.60%				
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	1,398,155	1,398,155
Funds held on Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	1,398,155	1,398,155
Net Financial Assets	824,827	872,044	-	-	(1,090,703)	606,168

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2005

Note 20. Company Details

The registered office of the company is:
The Australian Veterinary Association Limited
Unit 40 Technopark
2a Herbert Street
St LEONARDS NSW 2065

Note 21. Segment Reporting

The company and the economic entity is engaged in the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences, including providing high standards of continuing education and professional development; providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production; and stimulating informed debate on issues within the areas of professional competence.

Their activities are conducted in Australia and revenue is derived from the members.

Directors' Declaration

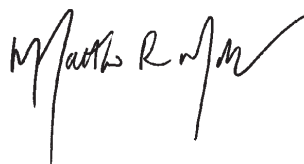
The directors of the company declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes as set out on pages 48-61, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2005 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company and economic entity; and
2. in the directors' opinion 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.



D. Sheehan
Director and Treasurer



M. Makin
Director and President

Dated this 1st Day of April 2006

Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the Australian Veterinary Association Limited for the year ended 31 December 2005, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited.



S.M. Whiddett

Partner

Moore Stephens Sydney

Dated this 4th Day of April 2006

Independent Auditors Report

Scope

The financial report and directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement, Statement of Change in Equity, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the directors' declaration for Australian Veterinary Association Ltd ('the Company') and its Consolidated Entities ('the consolidated entity'), for the year ended 31 December 2005. The consolidated entity comprises both the company and the entities it controlled during that year.

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the Company. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including compliance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's and consolidated entity's financial position, and of their performance as represented by the results of their operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

In accordance with ASIC Class Order 05/83, we declare to the best of our knowledge and belief that the auditor's independence declaration set out on page 63 of the financial report has not changed as at the date of providing our audit opinion.

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of the Australian Veterinary Association Ltd is in accordance with:

- a. the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the company's and consolidated entity's financial position as at 31 December 2005 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- b. other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.



S M Whiddett
Partner

Dated this 4th Day of April 2006



Moore Stephens Sydney
Sydney

AVA SUPPORTERS

Principal Partner

Business Partners

Strategic Partner





Australian Veterinary Association

Unit 40, 2a Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

Phone: 1300 137 309 · **Fax:** 02 9437 9068

Email: members@ava.com.au · **Web:** www.ava.com.au

ABN 63 008 522 852