



Annual Report 2006

Australian Veterinary Association

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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

Surveyed members of the Australian Veterinary Association have identified three main areas of priority:

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

In accordance with these areas of priority, the 2006 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 2006

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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
- approving of the annual budget for AVA as a whole
- considering and approving financial policies
- creating and dissolving committees and task forces
- approving strategies, business plans and operational policies
- establishing delegations
- reviewing and monitoring a Board Code of Conduct.

Monitoring

- ensuring solvency
- the annual budget and related fiscal matters
- achieving strategic direction through the annual business plan
- recommending to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the appointment of the external auditor
- considering reports from both the internal and external auditors
- the employment and performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- 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
- ensuring that AVA 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 (SIGs) 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 AGM 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 and 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 policy development and implementation.

Membership Committee

Membership services and benefits, plus internal communications, are the focus of the Membership Committee, 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, chaired by Dr Sam McMahan.

Board operations

The President is in regular communication with the CEO 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, 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 Board are entitled to seek independent professional advice at AVA's expense, subject to approval from the President.

Annual briefings for new Board members

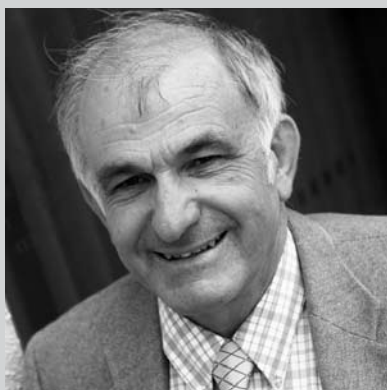
At its first meeting after the AGM each year, committee membership is finalised and new directors are provided with briefing materials. All Board members are invited to formally renew their commitment to the AVA Board Code of Conduct. A planning workshop is held annually, often at the first full meeting 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 managing business risks

In order to meet its strategic goals, AVA develops an annual business plan linked to the budget. A comprehensive risk management strategy for National office has been developed, and in 2006 the larger groups within AVA will be supported to develop and implement risk management plans for their groups that can be monitored by that group, and by the 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 President receives an allowance as modest recompense for the substantial time commitment required. This allowance was increased by a small amount at the 2005 AGM. All allowances are taxable. 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.



AVA BOARD

Kersti Seksel

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

David Clarke

Finance Board Committee (Chair)
Risk Management Board Committee

David Lovell

Membership Services and
Communications Board Committee
Risk Management Board Committee

Derek Major

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

Di Sheehan

Finance Board Committee
Strategy Board Committee

Mark Lawrie

Risk Management Board Committee
Strategy Board Committee

Matt Makin

Finance Board Committee
Strategy Board Committee

Sam McMahon

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

Bruce Cartmill

Strategy Board Committee (Chair)
Membership Services and Communications
Board Committee

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Association celebrated its 85th birthday this year, and what a year it has been! Each year, since 1921, that the AVA has been in existence it has faced new challenges and opportunities. This has ensured that we continue to grow in strength and vitality with 2006 being no exception. Together, the nine members of your Board and the staff of AVA have worked hard on ensuring we are a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession.



As the national organisation that represents the veterinary profession in Australia we serve the interests of our members, act and speak with a single voice on matters that relate to the health and welfare of animals and work to advance veterinary science.

To achieve our mission we focus on three key strategic areas that are underpinned by good governance.

The annual AVA conference continues to be the highlight of our commitment to continuing education (CE). Hobart provided a magnificent backdrop for a very successful event where the new, highly successful scientific program format was implemented. It was concentrated in format, yet carefully constructed to reflect the diversity of our profession by the inclusion of contributions from many of our special interest groups.

It provided the opportunity to learn new information, to meet old friends, to make new ones. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to ensure its success!

The use of AVA VetEd online has also proven popular with members and many have now earned their Chartered Member of the Australian Veterinary Association (CMAVA). I am sure that it will become the benchmark that the community and legislators will expect to see as the continuing education requirement for veterinary registration.

The *Australian Veterinary Journal's* (AVJ) new format has also been well received by our members. Access to previous editions online will also enhance access to CE and increase the recognition of the Australian veterinary profession nationally and internationally.

Our Policy Advisory Council (PAC) continues to serve us well in developing strong, robust and

scientifically sound policies and position statements. It is great to see policy advisory councillors, representing our Divisions AVA, and SIGs, work together to ensure that AVA is heard as the scientific voice of reason in matters relating to the health and welfare of animals. The improved format for the development of policies, as was suggested by one of our PAC members and further developed by staff and PAC, has streamlined the process. The upgrade of the policy compendium by Biotext has ensured that our policies are now presented in a uniform manner.

Having sound policies is essential when we lobby government or deal with potentially controversial media issues such as live transport or mulesing. This provides the backbone for our Association to remain the credible scientific source of information on animal health and welfare.

Animal welfare issues continue to be high on our agenda. The AVA is also well represented on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) with many of our members participating in the six sectoral groups. This ensures the voice of the veterinary profession is heard at the Federal Government level.

National recognition of veterinary registration has moved forward significantly this year and it seems likely that this will finally become a reality in the near future. Our lobbying activities to achieve this included meetings with Federal, State and Territory ministers. This process was greatly assisted by strategically working together with our members and our industry partners. It has only happened because of our concerted effort over several years.

The drought continues to be a major concern and we have met with ministers in several States and at the Federal level to look at ways to assist our members and their clients through this continuing

difficult time. We have also been working with our industry partners to achieve this aim.

As a member-driven not-for-profit organisation we continually strive to provide improved services to our members. As well as providing continuing education through the AVJ, our annual conference and the conferences of Divisions, SIGs and Branches, there are a large number of other benefits that our association provides for its members.

This year we launched a new counselling service, not only for our members but also their families, to help them in times of stress. This Australia-wide service is completely anonymous and available 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

HR Wentworth continues to provide world class human resources services to both our employer and employee members.

AVA New Graduate Friendly Practices continue to be an invaluable service for our new graduates as they make the transition to practice. Each year the number of New Graduate Friendly Practices continues to grow and I encourage all practices to move in this direction to help support our professional colleagues.

AVA Practice Rewards helps demonstrate to our clients that all veterinarians in the practice are AVA members and are committed to the wellbeing of animals and abide by the AVA Code of Professional Conduct.

Our AVA website is continuously being updated and improved. AVA eLine provides up to date information about events, tips and scientific knowledge to members.

Additionally, many other benefits such as competitive rates for professional insurance and

financial services, car hire, health insurance and credit cards are available to our members.

As we move forward good governance of our professional association is increasingly important. All Board directors are encouraged to undertake training regarding their responsibilities as directors. No longer is it acceptable to just meet and decide on issues without a thorough understanding of a director's corporate governance and fiduciary duties. Understanding the financials of our Association and assessing strategy, its implementation, risk management, conflict of interest and legal requirements are now considered the minimum that directors must know and practice. This applies equally to national Board members and all members on an executive committee.

International Veterinary Relations

In these days of internet and global communication it is imperative that our Association has strong ties and relationships with other organisations, veterinary and non-veterinary. The AVA president and CEO meet each year at IVOC (International Veterinary Officers Council) with the President and CEOs of the American, British, Canadian, New Zealand and South African Veterinary Associations to discuss issues important to the veterinary profession, both at a national and international level. This helps not only maintain a strong relationship with these organisations and helps us work together on issues that face us all, such as lack of rural veterinary service, disease control, bioterrorism and how each organisation deals with it, but also develops strong friendships within the international community. By working together and understanding what others are doing we can avoid duplication of effort.

Additionally AVA members participate in many international veterinary forums including World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA), World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) and World Veterinary Association (WVA) to ensure Australian veterinarians have an important role in the world veterinary community.

It has been a pleasure to have shared this year as President with Dr Matt Makin from whom I took over at the end of the Hobart conference. I am indebted to him for his support and guidance through the many issues that have faced me as national President. As many of the issues that the AVA deals with on a national level are production animal issues it has been fantastic to have his support, as well as that of several of the Presidents that preceded him.

I would also like to thank the Board for their support during the course of this year and their ongoing commitment to the AVA. Additionally the contribution of the Presidents and executive committees of the Divisions, SIGs and Branches to our Association is paramount to our cohesion and strength as a professional association.

Our CEO, Margaret Conley, has been instrumental in taking our professional association forward and she has been invaluable in the support and encouragement she has given to me in the presidential role.

The dedication and support of our CEO, the management team and staff of the AVA at National, Divisional and SIG level has been unwavering. Without their enthusiasm and commitment to AVA our Association would not have been able to achieve the outcomes we have over the last few years. I sincerely thank them personally, on behalf of the Board and on behalf of the Association as a whole, for all they do and continue to do.

Finally I would like to thank you, the members, that contribute in various ways to ensure we are a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession of which we are all proud to be part.

Kersti Seksel
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2006 year has seen AVA Ltd continue to strengthen its overall financial position. Dr Diane Sheehan and I shared the Treasury for the year with me taking over the position after the May AGM in Hobart.

The AVA Ltd financial portfolio comprises AVA national, 8 Divisions, 22 SIGs, 40 Branches and 3 Trusts. All groups operate within their own budgetary control but within financial operating guidelines by the Board.



Overall Performance

Total consolidated income for AVA Ltd was \$7,923,782, expenses were \$7,097,198, resulting in a surplus for the year of \$826,584, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$270,224. This compared to a surplus of \$811,472 in 2005. In 2006, AVA National recorded a surplus of \$359,102, the Divisions \$135,139, SIGs \$240,049, Branches \$61,075, and the Trusts \$54,854.

AVA Ltd has a strong balance sheet, with \$3,231,932 as cash, receivables etc., \$3,039,240 in managed funds and \$6,146,480 invested in property. There was \$1,440,644 as total liabilities, giving an overall position in total equity of \$10,977,007, an increase of 21% compared with 2005. The total cash position is substantially lower than the previous year as invoices for memberships were sent out in December instead of September.

Investments

AVA Ltd investment portfolio of \$3 million is currently managed through the Macquarie Bank and BankWest term deposits, and is up from \$2.4 million in 2005, an increase of almost 25 per cent from 2005. The investment in BankWest has almost doubled from 2005.

Property

AVA Ltd, in line with the strategic plan, has the property portfolio valued on a 3-year cycle, which fell due in September 2006. AVA Ltd currently holds property valued at \$6,146,480; located in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The directors were satisfied that the property valuations represented a true and independent value. There were no sales or acquisitions of property in 2006.

Business Units

Overall income was slightly higher than 2005 and substantially higher than budgeted mainly due to membership subscriptions, affinity income, AVJ advertising and interest on managed funds. Expenditure was slightly higher than 2005 but substantially lower than budgeted mainly due to: membership services and database management, salaries and wages, and the AVA conference.

Membership income increased by \$103,114 in line with a 5.6% increase in members. The AVA conference held in Hobart generated a surplus of \$123,185, based on income of \$859,849 and expenditure of \$736,664. Publications, in particular the AVJ, recorded a surplus of \$75,970, based on income of \$873,118 and expenditure of \$797,148, underpinned by strong advertising, above budget by \$213,881.

Funds

There were no successful applications to the communication fund in 2006. The balance of the fund is \$34,701.

Summary

The Treasurer and finance committee have planned the Association budget and reporting around the three strategic pillars of Member Services, Continuing Education and Visibility, acknowledging that there is a substantial resource committed to Governance, Compliance and Administration.

In 2006, the Treasurer and finance committee achieved: property valuations in line with the 3-year cycle; all of the groups (Divisions, Branches and SIGs) providing a budget for 2007; open and transparent disclosure of the finances through publishing quarterly reports in the AVJ; and over

93% of the groups linking their bank accounts to the central banking system. This is an ongoing issue, raised by the auditor, as the five outstanding groups (Central Queensland, Central Victoria, Sunshine Coast, Registered Specialists, and Poultry) who are yet to complete the process, compromise the accurate reporting of AVA Ltd finances to members.

I would like to thank each of the AVA groups' Treasurers for submitting their individual budgets on time. The Board appreciates the work that has been put into compiling each budget, as they are very important to the Board's strategic understanding and positioning of the wider Association. I also would like to thank Dr Sheehan and James Redrup for their help and support when I joined the Board and took on the financial portfolio and role as Treasurer.

David Clarke
Treasurer

CEO'S REPORT



Achievements for 2006:

- Signing of contract with Blackwells to streamline production of *Australian Veterinary Journal*, making AVJ more accessible to members and international readers
- Development and approval of a plan for continuing education
- Numbers growing steadily of members participating in AVA VetEd
- Annual conference achieved a good surplus and overall positive feedback from participants
- High level of involvement from members in commenting on draft policies
- Media mentions of AVA more than doubled in 2006 compared to 2005, including increased representation in national and metropolitan media
- AVA used media function to support lobbying activities, such as leading calls for CSL to reconsider its decision to cease the production of a Q Fever vaccine
- Closer relationships developed with organisations such as RSPCA, MLA and AHA with regular attendance at meetings
- Business continuity and risk management plan is well advanced
- All directors signed a Code of Conduct for the Board
- A new website was revamped and has shown a significant increase in visits
- An increased level of sponsorship support for AVA by our business partners
- Budget outcome positive.

During 2006 AVA continued to advance veterinary science by focusing on three organising principles: 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.

- Continuing Education
- Visibility
- Member Services

Following a restructure of the national office in 2005 to reflect a more strategic approach, 2006 was a year of significant progress.

Each of the groups within the AVA has been encouraged to also adopt this emphasis, and to set for themselves goals in some or all of these areas.

During 2006 advances were made in each of the areas.

Continuing Education (CE)

A plan for the continued delivery of CE for members was signed off by the Board. Steadily increasing numbers of people using the AVA Vet Ed program demonstrated the importance of CE to members seeking to record their achievements. AVA provided a vast amount of CE for members through workshops, presentations and conferences, and also links with the Sydney and Murdoch Postgraduate Foundations. A key part of the plan includes more efficient pathways for delivery of programs to members at a grass roots level.

AVA Conference

The AVA annual conference and conference dinner held at Hobart once again represented the largest gathering of veterinarians in Australia. More than 600 delegates attended, with member surveys showing that the annual conference continues to be well regarded by all who attend.

AVA VetEd

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 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 320 members during 2006 and 41 were awarded CMAVA status, bringing the total awarded to 74. Members may now view their AVA Vet Ed record online.

Visibility

The visibility of both the AVA and the veterinary profession to decision makers and in Australian community debates is an area that members consistently remind us is central to the workings of AVA. AVA made significant strides to improve the visibility of the profession in 2006.

Veterinary Director Dr Kevin Doyle oversees the Policy Implementation Group with input from the CEO, the Board, PAC, SIGs, AVA Advisory Committees and members. The employment of Dr Tim Wilson as Deputy Veterinary Director reflected the greater commitment of the AVA to lobbying, and ultimately, representing the interests of the profession to key decision makers.

CEO'S REPORT cont.

The Group works with veterinary schools, foundations, Veterinary Surgeons Boards and the Australian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC). The Group is managing the joint AVA / AVBC study on rural veterinary practice.

The Policy Implementation Group is in constant liaison with ministers, MPs, departments and authorities, the wider profession, community and industry groups, the public and the media. AVA provides expert members for committees that advise governments and industry organisations.

Matters managed by the Group in 2006 included: emergency animal diseases planning undertaken by Animal Health Australia and governments; assistance of the Australian Veterinary Reserve (AVR); AVA membership of the Australia and New Zealand Invasive Species Cooperative Research Centre in line with AVA positions on control and eradication of feral pigs.

The AVA also had significant representation on committees for the AAWS, with representation on the Advisory Committee and six sectoral committees. The AVA continued as a Member of the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare that advises the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. AVA participated on the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), providing information on laboratory animals.

AVA made numerous submissions to government inquiries on subjects including rodeos, the welfare of pigs, cytotoxic drugs, dog muzzles, and labelling of drugs.

Liaison continued with community groups such as RSPCA, urban animal management groups and community events.

The Group managed policy development and the AVA Policy Compendium for the PAC and AVA Board. The Group also managed the AVA Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme and the Australian Canine Eye Scheme.

Members of the Group serve on six internal AVA committees and more than a dozen external committees, working groups and expert panels, contributing to strategic planning.

A review of media monitoring statistics reveals that a concerted effort to boost the visibility of the AVA and the veterinary profession has led to the number of mentions of the organisation in the media more than doubling in 2006 compared with the previous year.

The number of times that the AVA was mentioned in major national and metropolitan news stories also climbed considerably, with multiple mentions on ABC national news, 7.30 Report and Radio National, as well as metropolitan television, radio and newspapers. Topics covered ranged from advice about pet care, to advice about drought and dog attacks, and a range of research presented at the AVA annual conference.

Member Services

The Member Services team added value to member benefits by developing new communication systems that allow each member to be heard on issues of strategic importance. The AVA has a toll-free phone number, an electronic newsletter, eLine, and an online member discussion forum, eCommunities.

The AVA revamped both its website and its email discussion forum to improve interactive communications with members and improve the ease of interaction.

In 2006, the needs of members were again surveyed to help in planning the future direction of the organisation.

The *Australian Veterinary Journal* remains Australia's premier veterinary science text and is distributed monthly to over 5,000 AVA members and subscribers. The Journal changed its layout during the year and commenced using an online manuscript handling and tracking system. A landmark agreement with Blackwell Publishing increased the international visibility of AVJ by using Blackwell's global publishing network as well as improving online access to past and present papers.

Editor-in-Chief Dr Anne Jackson and Clinical Editor Dr Maureen Revington are supported by the Editorial Committee and the Clinical Advisory Committee in maintaining the internationally recognised standards of this journal.

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

Calls to the HR Hotline rose 14 per cent for the 2006 year, with an average of 240 calls per month in 2006 compared with 211 calls per month in 2005.

Employment contracts continue to generate the largest number of calls, encompassing 52 per cent of all calls received by the HR Hotline, followed by leave (15 per cent) and workforce management and termination issues, each generate 9 per cent of the calls.

The service held seven workshops throughout the year on contemporary human resource management and industrial relations topics.

Many thanks to AVA's partners and sponsors during 2006, Provet, Guild Insurance and Financial Services, MIMS IVS, Hills Pet Nutrition, GE Money CareCredit and Masterfoods Petcare.

I would also like to record my thanks to the Board for their hard work and guidance, as well as to AVA staff who worked successfully as a team to deliver improved services to members.

2006 Award recipients

Gilruth Prize:

Professor Keith Entwistle

Kesteven Medal:

Dr William Pryor

AVA Fellowships:

Dr Garth McGillvray and Dr Andrew Turner

Meritorious Service Awards:

Mr James Allen, Dr William Frank,
Dr Ray Ferguson, and Dr Alison Gunn

Excellence in Teaching Award:

Dr Paul McGreevy

Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award:

Dr Jillian Kelly

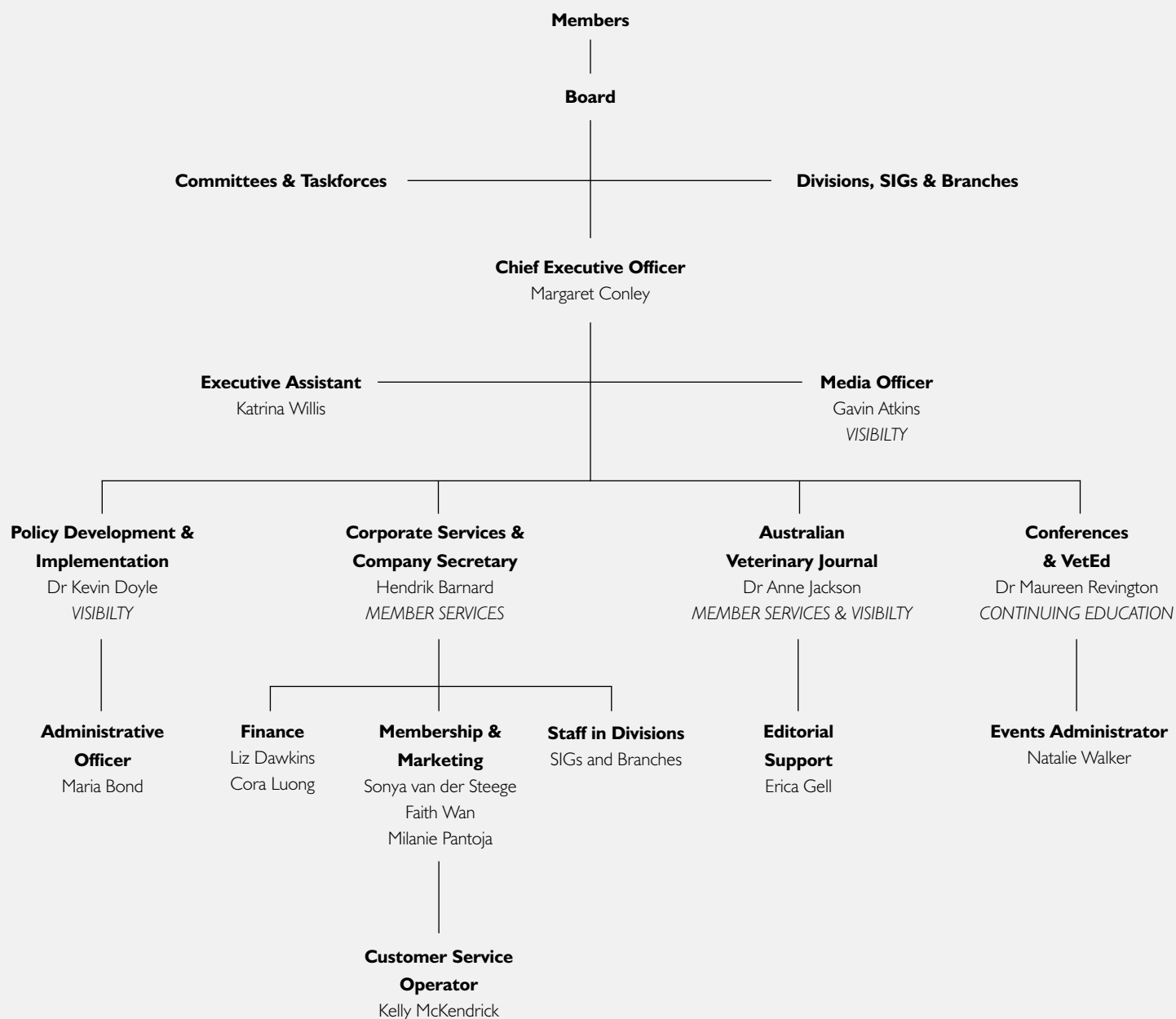
AVA/Pfizer Practice of

Excellence in Customer Service Awards:

Adelaide Animal Hospital, Canberra Equine Hospital, Coreen Avenue Veterinary Clinic, Dandenong Ranges, Veterinary Centre, Torrens Road Veterinary Clinic.



ORGANISATIONAL CHART





STATE DIVISIONS





QUEENSLAND

Queensland Division has had a very busy year raising the profile of AVA as well as fostering good communications with other industry bodies. Some of these contacts have been thrust upon us, as in the Hendra virus case, and others have formed part of our strategic plan.

The Hendra virus 'outbreak' on the Sunshine Coast reinforced the importance of good communication between government departments, AVA and peak industry bodies. Keeping these channels open allows for a quick co-ordinated response especially when dealing with the media. I also see a role for AVA to mediate between its members and the public. The Disputes Resolution Committee has done a great job and it is heartening to see this model taken on at a National level.

Dr Trish Clarke and I met with a delegation from the Queensland Veterinary Surgeons Board in October 2006. There was a good flow of information from both sides during a frank and open discussion. VSB problems with the national registration models, current broad issues with practitioners, legislative changes required for University of Queensland Veterinary Technicians, treating of rabbits and the use of power tools by lay dentists were discussed. Continuing these meetings can only improve outcomes for the veterinary profession in Queensland.

The destruction of unwanted companion animals by pounds and refuges is very topical here. Drs Tony Thelander and Ray Barbero have been meeting with me, the RSPCA and AWL to try to present a uniform solution to this problem. I also attended the National Coalition meeting in Melbourne where different states put forward their experiences in solving the problem. After a meeting with DPI & F Minister Mulherin, Dr Kersti Seksel and Dr Ron Glanville, AVA were invited to submit our stance and possible solutions.

Education has always been a strong ideal in Queensland, and currently our PetPEP co-ordinator Amanda Pollard and Dr Mark Stallwood are putting together a proposal for government funding for the PetPEP program, which continues to grow and as such is beyond the resources of the division. PetPEP is now receiving international interest with the Health Department of Costa Rica requesting access. It would be a sad loss of intellectual property if the program slid under the waves. Congratulations to Amanda for doing a great job this year.

The Divisional conference received a boost with the generous bequest from the Geoffrey Simmons estate. Interest from the bequest can be used for lectures in veterinary science. At the conference in March we will be holding the inaugural Geoffrey Simmons Memorial Lectures. I look forward to seeing many Queensland vets there.

I would like to thank the Executive for their ongoing support through the year and wish Andrew all the best for 2007. Many thanks also to Mary George, our office manager, for her tireless work keeping the machine running.

Craig Pullen
President

NEW SOUTH WALES

This year began with Mark Lawrie and Ilana Mendels organising a Branch resuscitation workshop at the Artarmon Inn for all NSW Branches. This was well attended and received by members. Good, practical information on organising speakers and hassle free meetings, motivating Branch members and succession planning for the Branch! Congratulations to Ilana for her enthusiasm, which she has now transferred to the Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners Branch.

The format of our meetings, implemented by Past President Bruce Cartmill, continued with a teleconference every second month, face to face meetings at St Leonard's and a country meeting at Mudgee with Orana, Central West and New England Branches. There continued to be good discussion by email between committee members. This format is proving successful and cost effective for the Division. The executive structure of the President, Past President and President Elect is also successful and is to be continued. With the experience and diligence of the NSW Division office staff combined with the executive, this is proving to be a workable management format for the Division.

The appointment of Dr Tim Wilson as Assistant Veterinary Director to Dr Kevin Doyle has been of immense value to NSW. Tim has carried out extensive research for the Division on technical matters which has been vital, especially in our meetings with government ministers and advisors. Our main areas of concern have been with regarding the new *Veterinary Practice Regulation* and the *Companion Animal Act*. Tim, President Elect Debbie Neutze and I have established an excellent rapport with ministers and advisors on the above issues.

Bruce Cartmill resigned from committee mid-year to concentrate on national issues. Bruce was instrumental in establishing the streamlining of the NSW Division Committee. He has been a great mentor especially to me in my first two years on Committee. His position was filled by Geoff Tomkins from Lismore, providing Committee with a good link once again from the far north of the State. Janelle McLeod, who has done an outstanding job as E & C coordinator for the past year, has stepped down due to her family and work commitments. She will be sadly missed.

On a national level NSW Division has been instrumental, with our Queensland colleagues, in investigating the formation of a National Complaints Policy. This will, I hope, become national policy at the annual conference. This policy will enable all Divisions to handle complaints against members in a uniform manner. The primary objective of this

policy is to restore the relationship between the veterinarian and the client as painlessly as possible.

Some Branches have been a little quiet, whilst others continue to power on, providing an educational forum for their members as well as a terrific networking environment.

The *Veterinary Practice Regulation* was enacted in September 2006 after extensive consultation between the Division, the Board, NSW DPI and registered veterinarians throughout New South Wales. Eight meetings were held throughout NSW for veterinarians to express their opinion and concerns with regard to the regulations. These meetings were poorly attended overall, however, those who did attend were listened to and their comments noted in the final submission to the minister.

Just prior to the enactment of the regulations, equine dentistry became of paramount importance and, due to representation by the NSW Executive and Equine Vets Australia, equine dentists are only permitted to use power tools under the direct and immediate supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner. The profession must continue to resist the pressures to allow anyone other than a registered veterinary practitioner to administer a sedative to any animal. One major concern is the harm that can be done by allowing this to happen but also the liability for any problems that may arise as a result of such action.

Following representation by the NSW Executive to the Minister for Local Government, NSW veterinarians will soon have access to the Companion Animal Register to trace microchip information. The NSW Executive is also discussing with the relevant authorities the recent motion passed at the Local Government conference, that all cats be desexed.

During the new school year the SPOT program (Safe Pets Out There) will be introduced to all NSW schools in kinder, year 1 and year 2. This will replace the AVA PetPEP program in these years. All NSW members and their staff will be invited to participate. We will, however, continue to underwrite PetPEP

for later years of primary school. Peter McNair, who has provided excellent organisation for PetPEP, will continue in this role. We thank our sponsors and supporters, as well as the Division for underwriting this valuable program in our schools.

Our newsletter has become a regular feature in an electronic format, although members who request a printed copy are supplied with one. During the last six months, I have also written a column for the AVJ, which has also provided a source of Division news to members not able to receive an electronic newsletter.

As President I was invited to speak to the first year Veterinary Science students at Sydney University and the new school at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. This was a valuable experience as I was able to promote student membership of the AVA as well as discuss life in mixed practice.

I would like to thank the Committee Members for their dedication, support and tireless work for our Division. The Committee would not be able to function without the valuable assistance of our dedicated office staff, Julie and Aida. They continue to be the glue that binds the committee.

It is not until you become involved in the administration of AVA that you realise the amount of time and effort involved in the day-to-day running of our AVA. The National and Division staff are totally committed to the future of our AVA and all its members. I urge every member, at some stage in their career, to make it their commitment to become involved in the administration of your association, whether it be at Branch, Division or National level. We all have something valuable to contribute to the running of our AVA.

Finally, the support of my family together with my colleagues at the Yass Veterinary Hospital, have enabled me to carry out my Presidential role. I have enjoyed this truly remarkable year, one in which I have made many new friendships whilst looking after the interests of all our members in NSW. Thank you for your support and friendship.

Peter Gibbs
President

VICTORIA

Over 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. Our part time Executive Officer Anne McDonald resigned to take up other opportunities early in the year, but our Office Administrator Jenny Cumming very ably ensured that the Divisional office continued to deliver uninterrupted service to members.

In the absence of sufficient nominations for the Executive Committee prior to the annual meeting of the Division, elections were held and a caretaker committee composed of Drs Onn Ben-David, Michael Sheedy, Roger Clarke, Dianne Gibney and John Auty, as well as representatives from the National Board, Dr Kersti Seksel and Margaret Conley.

Following the election the new committee, with Dr Ros Nichol as president, conducted a strategic planning meeting on 27 September and has since been developing long term strategies for involvement of Branches in divisional activities, communication with members, management of divisional activities, recruitment of new members and political positioning.

The major CE exercise conducted by the division over the last 12 months was the delivery of training in the new microchip legislation to veterinarians across the state. 12 training sessions were organised at seven regional centres and in Geelong and Melbourne. In addition the Division's full day annual meeting in March attracted good attendance from members, with seminars on dentistry, the future of dairy practice, genetic testing, microchipping, equine orthopaedics, avian influenza, diabetes in cats, urban animal management, blood transfusions, and financial and stress management.

Jenny Cumming also played an important role in assisting Branches conducting meetings, including assistance in finding speakers.

The division continued to play a significant role in animal welfare, particularly through the animal welfare committee coordinated by Dr David Rendell, and through his representation of the division on the Minister for Primary Industries Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The Division Executive met with the Victorian Veterinary Practitioners' Registration Board in March to discuss issues of mutual concern, including approaches to national registration. The Division continued to interact with government, providing responses to consultations on a variety of acts and regulations including proposed

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemical (Control of Use) Regulations, the Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Sheep (Victoria), the Victorian Gene Technology Review Act 2001 and the Code of Practice for the Husbandry of Captive Emus, the draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and the Regulatory Impact Statement on the Livestock Disease Control Regulations.

Dr Nichol represented the Division at graduations of veterinary students from The University of Melbourne and veterinary nurses from Box Hill College of Technical and Further Education.

The Division also contacted all the major political parties prior to the recent State election, and had an extended conversation about issues of concern with one of the parties prior to the election. A meeting was also held with representatives of the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Dr Onn Ben-David continued his excellent work as our policy councillor, conducting extensive consultation on all policies prior to the Policy Advisory Committee meetings.

Our sponsorship and support of veterinary students continued, with a package of support for discrete events targeted to each year level agreed to by the Division Committee as in 2005. 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.

Dr Trevor Faragher continued as editor of VicVet, but unfortunately has recently stepped down and we are currently seeking a replacement for him, as well as a new part-time executive officer.

In spite of these changes Jenny Cumming has continued to play an invaluable role managing incoming queries from members and the general public.

*Glenn Browning,
Honorary Secretary*



TASMANIA

Overall 2006 has been a successful year for the Tasmanian Division with respect to the major areas of commitment to the AVA strategic plan. The two major events of the year were the hosting of the national AVA conference in Hobart in May, and conducting the second Tasmanian conference at St Helens in November.

The national conference and AVA AGM saw a radical change in style, operating over a 4-day period and with fewer concurrent sessions. However, a wide range of subjects were provided at a standard appreciated by the membership.

Our own Divisional conference was again very successful, with great speakers. While effort has been made to find other locations in the state which meet our conference criteria, to date none have been found. The search will continue. The 2007 conference will also be held in St Helens. It is relevant to point out some of the criteria considered by the three parties which make up our conference (veterinary members, veterinary nurses and trade supporters) to be of importance: location, adequate meeting rooms, trade display area, adequate accommodation on-site, on-site functions and reasonable cost.

Further CE was provided through our March meeting held in conjunction with the Sydney PGF near Hobart. This was also a great success and will be similarly arranged in 2007, this time in Launceston. In addition the seminar series held in the three State regions has been well attended.

Overall, a variety of CE has been made available to the veterinary profession in Tasmania. Due particularly to the success of recent Divisional Conferences the Division finances are sound, which enables the provision of quality education opportunities for the membership.

In cooperation with, and supported by, the National Office a number of press releases were issued on relevant State issues. As a possible consequence of maintaining a public profile, contacts have been initiated by various media outlets to source AVA and general veterinary comment on topical issues.

This year has also seen the acceptance by the minister of AVA's nominated panel of three members for the new five-member Veterinary Board. The new Board's three-year term of office commenced on 6 December 2006. The AVA membership consists of Drs Neale Ward, Chairman, Neil Leighton and Sue Zichy-Woinarski, the new member who replaces retiring member and past-Chairman, Dr Maree Richards, who completed nine years of valued service to the Board.

John Gillham
President



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The South Australian Division had a steady year in 2006 dealing with the usual plethora of state and national veterinary issues, providing ongoing services to members and also achieving a modest profit.

Major issues before the state committee during the last year have included a review of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, soon to be known as the *Animal Welfare Act*, and the proposed new veterinary school to be based at Roseworthy. A subcommittee formulated inputs to the Animal Welfare Act and we await the outcome.

The revised Act is seen as a vast improvement, but a major concern is that animal welfare still remains under the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, rather the Minister of Primary Industries as is the case in most States. Another concern is that fish are not defined as livestock and so fall outside welfare legislation, once again in contrast to most other States. The Divisional committee made input to the feasibility of establishing a new veterinary school in South Australia. The committee did not consider it a realistic or sensible development in SA given the relatively recent commissioning of two veterinary schools in Australia. The eventual decision by the University of Adelaide will be awaited with keen interest.

Membership services included the annual conference held in Clare during April, the annual ball at Burnside in June; and the President's reception at Payneham in November. In addition, several Branch meetings were held by the Small Animal Practitioners Branch and Hindmarsh Branch

on issues ranging from a review of the *Veterinary Practice Act* to vaccination protocols. Additional CE included a one day small animal seminar arranged by Murdoch CVE.

The annual conference is always a popular event and provides one of the less common opportunities at the State level for rural and city-based practitioners plus government and industry veterinarians to gather for both CE and socialising. The Clare Valley proved to be a favourable location enjoyed by all. Gangsters and molls were abundant at the mid-year ball, in keeping with the theme, and provided an ideal opportunity for all veterinary clinic and lab staff and partners to dance and party hard.

A President's reception is held annually to provide all AVA members further benefit from their membership as well as a friendly relaxed occasion to warmly acknowledge our appreciation of the support provided by our Divisional sponsors. This was the usual well-attended event and included several of our less often seen life members.

We are fortunate to have Barbara Gill in our State office – a very hard working and diligent office manager and PetPEP education officer. She has been ably assisted by Hayley Byford in the PetPEP role since July and collectively they have achieved great success in promoting PetPEP across the State.

As well as visits to various metropolitan schools and councils, they have also had great success in promoting PetPEP to their country equivalents. This has created a significant revenue for the program in South Australia.

We are pleased to have a very capable President Elect in David Mason. Together with an enthusiastic committee we look forward to continued vigor in the AVASA in 2007.

Colin Trengove
President

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Western Australian Division is travelling exceedingly well. At the general meeting in March 2006, the members of our state voted overwhelmingly in favour of altering our office structure and replacing the position we had with an Executive Officer (EO).

Much of the middle portion of the year was spent defining the role for the EO and then sourcing the correct person for the job. In October we recruited Allison Lyons as that person, and the committee feels we have found ourselves an extremely capable and competent person for the role. We have little doubt that this redefined position will take us in leaps and bounds towards a more efficient AVA providing better services for our members. It will improve our communications for all members, and more importantly formalise a structure for communication between Division committee and SIG representatives in our State. It will increase the strength of our ties with National office, minimise double handling of material thereby freeing resources, and fit the model of a unified AVA across Australia.

Unfortunately in establishing this position we had to lose a valued staff member in Michelle Marino, and the Division thanks her on behalf of our members for all her years of service.

Our Division Committee this year was as enthusiastic, compatible and able a body of veterinarians as I could hope to have working with me for the AVA. At 35 years of age I found myself among the oldest on the committee, with Dr David Marshall pipping me by one year as the oldest. At times I feel we may have both behaved a little like Statler and Waldorf, the two grumpy old men in the Muppet Show who forever argue over nothing, and I think I should apologise to my committee if that was the case. The remainder of our committee trickled down through their thirties to the baby of 24 years of age, and this youth allows me to think the future of our Division is already learning the ropes. We have a succession plan in action with Dr Mark Hopwood taking over the presidency, and the Division has traditionally struggled over the past decade with replacing presidents. I think the creation of the E.O. will go a long way to solving this by reducing the burden placed on role.

As with previous years, the Division remained active with continuing education through the Practitioner's Seminars. This is done jointly with Dr Maryanne Culliver and the Murdoch University Office of Continuing Education who do a fantastic

job. For 2007 the number of seminars will be cut back due to date clashes with the Bain Fallon congress, the AVA conference and other important events, but the quality of seminars will doubtlessly remain high. Through 2006 we were spoilt for continuing education choice in Western Australia, and there were some issues with having to select a preferred event out of competing courses. Again with the hope of better communications throughout the profession in 2007 we aim to reduce these problems.

The WA Division maintained a number of important activities for the association. Dr Paul Davey continued the New Graduate Mentor Program, and is in the process of handing the program over to Dr Tracey Thornton who will no doubt continue the excellent standards that have been established. Dr Tony Vigano and Mr Cliff Bridle again were involved in the 28th annual AVA-Murdoch University trade fair which continues to grow every year. Dr Peter Adamson continued his role as the AVA representative for Sustainable Living, and Dr Ian Bradshaw was active in representing the AVA to the Western Australian Livestock Reference Group through his role as the state representative for ACV. This group was formed in April 2006 as an industry initiated working group aimed at proactively communicating livestock welfare issues with all major industry stake holders.

The WA Division has ended 2006 in a phase of high energy and forward momentum. It has been a tremendous year for the Division and we hope to continue in a similar positive direction for many years to come.

David Neck
President

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

During 2006, the long-standing achievements and commitment to the AVA and veterinary profession of a number of ACT members were recognised. Drs Kevin Doyle, Patrick Allen and Bill McDonald were awarded Meritorious Service Awards for the special services to the AVA. Congratulations also to Dr John Aspley-Davis on becoming a fellow of the AVA.

The ACT Division will miss Dr Bob Taylor who passed away in March. His son and grandsons are also local veterinarians. Dr Taylor was the historical curator of the AVA collection when it was held at AVA House in Deakin, and he came to Canberra every Friday to maintain the collection.

Divisional meetings have included presentations by Fort Dodge on changes to vaccine protocols and by Dr Sarah Webb on surgical management of patellar luxation in the dog. The 'Welcome to Canberra' trivia night for veterinarians recently arrived in the ACT to meet the Committee and other veterinarians again proved a popular event. At the annual meeting our guest speaker Dr Sandy Hume hosted a wonderful presentation of photographs taken by Carolyn Larcombe during their recent trip to the Antarctic organised by the Veterinary Science Foundation.

The 2006 ACT Division Annual Meeting in March was well attended including guests Dr Kersti Seksel and Margaret Conley.

The ACT Division once again presented a prize to the highest achieving veterinary nurse student at the Canberra Institute of Technology's graduation ceremony.

Veterinary surgeons within the ACT have discussed and provided comments through the ACT Veterinary Surgeons Board on changes to legislation affecting veterinary practices to be covered in the new *Health Professionals Act*. The ACT Division made a submission on the draft *Medicine and Poisons Bill* and a draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats in the ACT.

Jill Millan
President

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Yet again I find myself typing out an annual report when I was hoping that was past me. Unfortunately our President had to resign mid-term and the reins were handed back to me. Those reins have been fairly loosely held while our administrative officer Julia Benfield has maintained some momentum in the Division.

Our major focus over the past few years has been presenting a very full two-day annual conference in mid-March, run concurrently with a veterinary nurse conference. We succeeded again at attracting first class speakers and an eager audience. Dr Kersti Seksel, a Registered Veterinary Specialist in Animal Behaviour, delighted vets and nurses with high energy, highly informative lectures. Dr Brendan Carmel, currently President of the Unusual & Exotic Pet SIG, increased our desire to treat more small

furries appropriately and to grasp reptile medicine and husbandry as another skill we can offer clients. Other speakers included Dr Narelle Ludtke from Intervet, Dr Tarj Mavi from Bayer, Dr Elissa Kadar from Hills and Dr Raphael Zwijnenberg from Fort Dodge. Between them these four industry vets presented a variety of clinically interesting topics.

At our general meeting held during the conference we enjoyed a stirring presentation by one of our longest serving members, Dr Jan Hills. Jan was able to draw on many years of experience in the NT and sought to encourage younger members to take up positions within the Division and to become active if we wanted to see the Territory survive as an entity.

Julia Benfield as our Administrative Officer is a very good contact person. She is well known by everyone within the Division and carries out her duties well in forwarding information to all executives. Her excellent communication skills are an asset to the Division.

With a new President in Dr Peter Trembath waiting in the wings for March to roll on, and a functioning committee, I can only see the AVA NT Division moving forward.

Kathy Moylan
President



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



ACUPUNCTURE

Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Association (AVAA)

Acupuncture has a number of neurophysiological effects, inflammatory, immune modulating and circulatory changes, not all of which are understood. Acupuncture is a valuable treatment for pain in particular, having neuromodulatory effects following stimulation via insertion of an acupuncture needle into precise locations on the body. These acupuncture points have specific histological neurovascular characteristics, with 95% occurring within 1.0 cm of a nerve trunk or nerve branch, and nearly always near blood vessels. It is perhaps the most widely practiced complementary medicine amongst veterinarians worldwide.

In the USA specialty status (Board certification and Diplomate status) for advanced veterinary acupuncture study is underway, recognising this valuable tool in the treatment of numerous conditions from allergies and behavioural problems to musculo-skeletal and immune-mediated diseases. In Australia more than 250 veterinarians have been trained to international standards set by the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society

(IVAS). Certified veterinarians are entitled to use the letters CVA (Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist) and must maintain membership and continuing education credits in acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine to use the letters CVA (IVAS).

Scientific advances in understanding the mechanisms underlying the effectiveness of acupuncture are increasing. Despite limited number of published research on veterinary acupuncture, Murdoch University WA is one of the first universities to undertake a clinical position to offer acupuncture at the veterinary school and to explore research opportunities. AVAA acknowledges this pioneering move to integrate this valuable tool into veterinary science and looks forward to further advances.

From a practical viewpoint, acupuncture can be applied to any condition treated by conventional medicine, however it lends itself to conditions that are unresponsive or poorly responsive to conventional approaches, or where side effects are unwanted. Usually 4 to 8 treatments over several weeks are required, taking from 10 to 30 minutes depending on the condition. Most animals respond

to the first session with improvements observed within 24 to 48 hours usually.

The first traditional Chinese veterinary herbal medicine course was delivered in November 2006 to veterinarians in Sydney, broadening and supporting the use of acupuncture. This advanced course for veterinary acupuncturists further explored the principles and practices of Chinese medicine in diagnosis and treatment approaches to include Chinese formulas of value in practice.

AVAA has an active email list for members. Please contact Esther Horton on acupet@optusnet.com.au. For further information on the IVAS Veterinary Acupuncture Course contact Dr Chris Robinson on crob@ava.com.au. For further information on the Chinese veterinary herbal medicine course contact Dr Barbara Fougere on petdoc@ozemail.com.au.

Barbara Fougere
President

ALPACAS

Australian Alpaca Veterinarians (AAV)

The AAV has had a good year with a membership of 95 members. The group is made up primarily of private practitioners with an alpaca clientele and encourages new members by providing a regular and informative newsletter with interesting case studies and the latest news on alpaca veterinary science from around the world. It is good to see that so much research is now being done internationally on alpacas.

The 2006 conference in Byron Bay involved presentations from within the group comprising case studies and presentations about management of a range of problems encountered throughout the year. This is the first time the group has used this format for a conference and as this conference was successful and there are a limited number of expert

lecturers in our field the group has decided to hold a similar conference every other year. This year's conference with invited presenters will be held on 23–24 June in Daylesford, Victoria. The Sunday session will be a practical day allowing participants hands-on experience at a local property.

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

The AAV is a fun-loving group who enjoy the ongoing education and camaraderie of coming together at conferences. We welcome any new members to join our special interest group and look forward to a great 2007.

Nicky Stone
President

AVIAN

Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association (AAVMA)

AAVMA 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 AAVMA 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 annual general meeting will be held in October 2007 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. The other main issue was to consider formulating a policy on cage and aviary birds in the event of an avian exotic

disease outbreak. Also agreed upon was a need to increase the awareness of the ability to microchip cage and aviary birds.

In the past year the added promotion has led to steady membership numbers. AAVMA annual conference will be in October 2007 in Melbourne.

AAVMA will also co-present with the Unusual and Exotic pets SIG at the May 2007 AVA annual conference in Melbourne. These meetings 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.

AAVMA 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.

AAVMA is continuing the process of producing a series of information sheets and client handouts for the most common conditions. In the past year a CD-ROM of our presentations at the past AVA conferences was distributed to all AAVMA members.

Thanks again to all committee members who assisted during 2006 in the mentoring system and helped in formulating policies to increase the desirability of membership of the avian group.

Alex Rosenwax
President

BEHAVIOUR

Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG)

After the initial rapid expansion, AVBIG has entered a period of consolidation. Our membership at the end of 2006 was 197.

We hosted a very successful and popular stream at the 2006 AVA conference. Despite the difficulties posed by a room some distance from the other streams, sessions by Andrew Luescher (Purdue University) and a host of local speakers were very well attended. Andrew also provided lectures for the equine, cattle and avian groups. Particularly interesting and relevant was a session by Paul Baker from Guild Legal, who provided us with information on legal responsibilities of veterinarians on advice to owners of animals with behavioural issues.

Another very significant occurrence and member benefit rich in continuing education has been the arrival of *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour: Clinical Applications and Research*. It is a peer-reviewed international published bi-monthly by Elsevier. Articles on basic research involving normal signalling or social behaviour, welfare and/or housing issues,

molecular or quantitative genetics, and applied behavioural issues (e.g. working dogs) that may have clinical relevance are encouraged. Focus is not restricted to particular species. The cost of a personal subscription to the Journal alone would be greater than the subscription to AVBIG.

We publish a bi-monthly newsletter (*BIG News*) on news, upcoming events, book reviews, executive activities and articles of interest on behaviour. Members are invited to contribute to the newsletter, which is distributed electronically or via post. As the primary means of communication with members it is a cost effective way of keeping in touch, and is enthusiastically received.

The AVBIG chat list provides yet another member benefit, with members being able to ask questions about cases they are seeing in general practice, or discuss ideas or treatment protocols. We hope to further expand and encourage its use by all members of the SIG.

The current Executive Committee is Robert Holmes (President), Linda Beer (President Elect and Chat List Moderator), Kersti Seksel (co-opted Immediate Past President), Gaille Perry (Secretary),

Debbie Calnon (Treasurer), Timothy Adams (Newsletter Editor), and Andrew O'Shea (co-opted Minutes Secretary).

The Executive has been particularly involved in the planning of the AVA conference and development of AVA policies and position statements, as well as reviewing, refining and seeking further continuing education services for members. It has also spent some time trying to establish working procedures in order to operate more effectively.

Robert Holmes
President

CATTLE

Australian Cattle Vets (ACV)

Topics covered at the annual conference in Hobart included 'Pastures from Space – management tools to improve profitability of livestock producers'. This fitted well with the conference theme 'Turning science fiction into science fact'. Other topics included milking systems and using animal welfare to improve productivity. Our keynote animal welfare speaker, Professor Paul Hemsforth spoke at both the sheep and cattle streams. We are looking forward to hearing from more specialists at future conferences.

Being in Tasmania, obviously there was a strong bias towards dairy rather than beef including a visit to a leading Tasmanian dairy producer. ACV social functions such as the dinner and Topsy Tips were extremely successful and well attended. Thank you very much to Craig Dwyer, Ron Harris and the rest of the Tasmanian team for organising the cattle stream and the social events.

In 2005, ACV ran several Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) 'More beef from pastures' and calf rearing workshops in southern Australia.

Following on from this theme, in 2006, in association with Intervet, Nutrition Service Associates and Quirindi Feedlot Services, ACV organized low stress cattle handling and feedlot health workshops in South Australia, NSW and Queensland.

There have been some Ultrasound pregnancy testing and bull breeding soundness accreditation workshops but it is the aim of the ACV executive to increase the number of these workshops to improve the expertise of our members in the face of increasing competition from lay operators.

ACV members have been keynote speakers at several courses organized by Strategic Bovine Services: 'Brains of beef', 'Feedlot and backgrounding', 'Ruminant nutrition', and 'Advanced ruminant nutrition'. ACV has encouraged member attendance at these courses.

The ACV stand alone conference – 'Getting the most out of young females' was extremely successful with nearly 200 delegates, some prominent international speakers in Dr Bob Larson (Kansas State University USA) and Dr Vic Cortese (Kentucky USA), and presentations from leading veterinarians from all over Australia.

Day 1 was a Pfizer-sponsored symposium on pestivirus (BVDV). Day 2 included talks on other reproductive diseases and some practitioner case studies. Heifer management and a trip to a dairy near Wauchope filled in day 3, and Sunday concluded the program with advances in artificial breeding techniques, drought strategies and how to get the most out of your vaccination programs.

The success of the conference was due to a combination of timing, content, and a site with easy access to a lot of ACV members, Port Macquarie. Thank you to Neil Moss, David Peterson and Chris Symmonds for organising the conference.

While the ACV journal is not peer-reviewed, we try to have articles of a high quality and refer our members to peer reviewed journals, other Australian and international bovine organisations and conferences, and generally encourage CE and networking with other practitioners.

We obviously have available, books on pregnancy testing, bull testing, Willis drop spaying, proceedings from AVA and stand alone ACV conference, electronic copies of these proceedings and videos of the talks.

We are currently talking to NZ SciQuest and Livestock Library regarding easier access for members to journals, proceedings and other scientific information.

ACV members has an ongoing partnership with the *Australian Farm Journal* in which we contribute monthly articles. Each edition provides an opportunity for our members to promote their skills while giving sound advice to progressive producers.

Several of our members have been independently interviewed and published on subjects ranging from managing drought to heat stress to improving herd health and fertility.

ACV continues to have strategic links and ongoing dialogue with industry bodies such as Cattle Council of Australia, Dairy Australia, Breed societies, Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA), Beef and Dairy CRCs, and MLAs.

As in previous years, in 2006 ACV had a site in the Pfizer tent at Beef Week in Rockhampton. The site was manned by local and attending executive members. ACV members also presented mini seminars in the Pfizer tent each day and we ran a competition where producers had to answer questions about the new Bull Reporter (electronic recording of the bull breeding soundness examination) in order to get in the draw to win a prize.

ACV also had two slots in the main Beef Week seminar program where ACV members, Sandi Jephcott and Mike McGowan, presented extensive talks on methods to improve female and male fertility. These were well attended by producers. A similar approach will be taken for the Southern Beef week to be held in Dubbo in 2007.

ACV members have access to a range of corporate clothing including Drizabone jackets. Members state that this is a practical way in which they can be proudly identified as part of our organisation by their clients and industry.

ACV NCPD (National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis) posters are now displayed in a number of sale yards and available through livestock agents throughout Australia. This increases understanding of the scheme and at the same time increases visibility of the organisation within the industry we serve.

Our SIG is delighted to rank very highly on AVA member surveys with members who expressed their views on services provided to membership. The greatest member benefit is the most intangible, having a support network of like-minded colleagues and a contact point (ACV office) for more information on any problems.

ACV is very active with student and recent graduates. State ACV representatives organise an 'event' (or two) with students interested in rural or bovine practice at each university each year. With sponsorship assistance (Norbrook), ACV also provides funding for approved bovine activities put forward by students. At all universities, ACV sponsors an award to graduates for the student most likely to enter cattle practice.

The ACV Coopers Rural Practice Scholarship Award is designed to encourage young veterinarians to a career in cattle practice. Applicants present a paper outlining a study project requiring funding. The 2006 Part A winner was Rose Phillipzen. Part B winners are provided funding to attend the ACV conference each year. These accredited schemes promote a standard which practitioners much reach and rural producers and breed societies are now looking for veterinarians which provide this quality service.

The electronic program and its reports, Bull Reporter and the NCPD tags, are physical representatives of these schemes. These schemes also provide producers and veterinarians with a protocol for investigating any complaints.

The Elanco Bovine Respiratory Disease study tour provides ACV members (dairy and beef) with an opportunity to go overseas to study various aspects of this debilitating and costly disease in intensive bovine industries. The 2006 winner was Jim Lloyd.

Obviously the executive positions and sub-committees are created to assist our members with current issues. Current sub-committees include Animal Welfare, Therapeutics, Bull, NCPD, Rural Practice, Overseas Communication, and Awards.

Sandi Jephcott
President

CONSERVATION BIOLOGISTS

Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB)

The Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists 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 established by Tony English exists between Government wildlife vets in Nepal and the AAVCB.

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 2006 was in Tasmania and papers focused on Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease. Thanks to our member in Tasmania, James Harris for his fabulous and enthusiastic efforts in bringing it together.

Unfortunately there have been insufficient member numbers at the conferences in the last two years to have a quorum for an election. As a consequence, the AAVCB has limped along with its old executive for another two years. We are currently endeavouring to solve this problem with a postal vote to revive the SIG.

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.

Student membership is actively encouraged and executive members are directly involved in undergraduate education in veterinary dentistry at the universities in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Pet Dental Health Month (PDHM) continues to be a success with some practices putting in an outstanding effort into their displays. Our suggestion of having free pet dental health checks in the month has been worthwhile; benefits are to the pet's level of health and the practice's participation to this end.

Tony Caiafa has continued in his capacity as PDHM coordinator and has negotiated with Hills and Pfizer to continue their support of our program.

The AVDS is well into the planning for the AVA conference in Melbourne next May. We are having a day of lectures as well as a 'basic' wet-workshop. To add a special touch, we are also running a workshop for more advanced dentistry and oral surgery on the Friday. This must by necessity, be limited in attending numbers.

Continuing education and promotion of veterinary dentistry and oral surgery is, and has always been, of paramount importance to the AVDS.

Aaron Forsayeth, our newsletter editor and web master, is always looking for input in the form of articles, news and benefits to members such as downloadable dental grading charts, material for use within the consulting room etc.

Remember to keep 'flipping those lips!' 'If we don't look, we won't see.'

Wayne Fitzgerald
President



EQUINE

Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA)

2006 saw the introduction of the rebranded, new look EVA. In compliance with the directive from AVA that all SIGs should remove the word 'association' from their name, Australian Equine Veterinary Association members voted to change the name to EVA. The members also voted for a redesigned logo. A new colour scheme for EVA merchandise and stationery was also implemented. These new initiatives were introduced at the annual Bain Fallon Memorial lectures at Coffs Harbour in July.

EVA introduced several additional members' services at Coffs Harbour. A members' handbook containing key contact details and information used daily by EVA members was launched and has been distributed. A fully searchable literature database (E-Library of EVA) containing all proceedings from Bain Fallon Lecture Series and all scientific articles from the *Australian Equine Veterinarian*, as well as proceedings from the New Zealand Equine Veterinary Association was also made available to members. Further, EVA launched a Young Members Group (YMG) to cater specifically for the needs of our undergraduate members and for those in the first three years after graduation. A number of CE events to cater for needs of YMG members have been held in the second half of 2006. Generous support from several of our industry partners enabled these extra services to be introduced at no additional cost to EVA members.

EVA also introduced its revised and updated website at www.eva.org.au. The new website has been developed to assist members with easier navigation and relevant information. Members have access to resources, publications and other benefits. The website is not only a valuable addition to member services, but it provides important information about EVA to the public. It includes a "Find-a-Vet" facility which assists the public to source veterinary services and advertises the benefits of using EVA members.

One of the key roles of EVA is to provide high quality continuing education for members. EVA's major event for the year was the 28th Bain Fallon Memorial Lectures. This year the conference attracted 220 equine vets from across Australia and overseas.

In addition to the Bain Fallon, EVA organises a program of comprehensive seminars at the AVA conference in addition to ongoing regional CE throughout the year. Many EVA members cannot attend the Bain Fallon lectures and so attend other CE events instead. To meet these needs, EVA has increased provision of equine-related lectures at the annual AVA conference, and is more actively promoting regional CE events for members.

EVA State representatives are required to organise at least two CE meetings each year (July to June). These can be in the form of lectures or hands-on workshops. During 2006, these regional CE endeavours have been very well attended in all states.

To address the need for better international interaction and co-operation between equine veterinary associations, EVA sent representatives to the British Equine Veterinary Association and American Association of Equine Practitioners conferences in 2006. EVA extends invitations to several overseas equine veterinary associations to send representatives to the annual Bain Fallon lectures and this year there were representatives from New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia and England in attendance.

A key role of EVA is to monitor and respond to policy and regulation that impacts on members. Ensuring timely input into policy formulation is important to ensure appropriate outcomes are achieved for members. The Executive focused on the commencement of the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2006* in NSW which provides a new framework in which vets practice in NSW. EVA was active in the consultation period prior to the start of the new regulations and lodged a comprehensive submission on aspects affecting equine vets and met with various regulatory and government bodies. One of the more controversial aspects of the regulations is that they authorise lay dental technicians to perform various procedures. In NSW there are now specific guidelines that enable the Veterinary board to regulate and prosecute these individuals if they do not conform to the regulations. Most other States do not have any guidelines for regulation of these equine dental technicians and therefore they are completely unregulated across most of the country.

The media campaign by certain dental technicians to lobby for an extension of the procedures they are authorised to perform under the new legislation in NSW was well publicised. EVA Executive spent a considerable amount of time and effort to counteract this media campaign. EVA continues to improve on its media strategy and to deliver timely press releases supporting and promoting the role of equine vets. In the past few months, AVA on behalf of EVA, has regularly distributed media releases on a variety of subjects and these have been well received by the press. The longer term objective is to have the media refer to and acknowledge EVA as the experts on equine veterinary matters.

During the year EVA met with the Australian Racing Board, the NSW, Victorian and Queensland Veterinary Surgeons' Boards, major insurance

representatives, racing regulators, including Racing Victoria and other key stakeholders.

EVA has decided to take a more pro-active approach to involvement with the non-racing sectors of the Australian horse industry. To this end, EVA has become the first sponsor of the Australian Horse Industry Council Inc. (AHIC), the body representing the horse industry at a national level. The EVA logo is prominently displayed on the AHIC website home page and this allows horse owners to access directly the EVA website and its Find-A-Vet function.

A new affiliation has commenced with *Hoofbeats*, one of Australia's leading equestrian magazines. *Hoofbeats* is published bi-monthly and has a readership of 32,000.

Other areas where EVA has been active over the past year include horse welfare, information about the drought, support for members suffering depression or other personal crises, research and State and National Codes of Practice for horses.

In addition EVA continues to enjoy a strong working relationship with the AVA which is important in facilitating our goal to assist members and deliver meaningful member benefits. The EVA has benefited from the expertise and commitment of the AVA and I would like to thank Margaret Conley and her management team for their support and assistance throughout the year.

During the year the Executive has worked hard to represent the membership, elevate the profile of the EVA and its members, strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and improve member benefits and services. For the year ahead, the EVA will continue to successfully build on these important objectives so as to provide members with a strong and effective professional association.

Barry Smyth
President

GREYHOUND

Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association (AGVA)

The main activities of the AGVA in 2006 have been finalising the Official Track Veterinarians (OTV) protocol.

This protocol will provide definitive guidelines for the code of practice for all Veterinarians in Australia and New Zealand. Greyhounds Australia, the national controlling body, will be placing the protocol on their website.

We fully expect the OTV plans to be finalised after the May 2007 AVA conference in readiness for Victoria to commence accreditation on 1 July 2007.

Annual lectures continue to be given at Werribee by Dr Ray Ferguson and Chris Boemo. The accompanying handbook is available to all students and AVA members from Dr. Ferguson.

Richard Conole from Texas, who is well known to greyhound veterinarians throughout Australia for his pioneering work with the development of frozen semen, sadly passed away February 2007. Richard was a great supporter of the AGVA and at the Canberra AVA conference he and wife Sharyn

were presented with an Outstanding Contribution to Knowledge award.

The AGVA has successfully teamed with the ASAVA for the 2007 AVA conference to present sessions on canine reproduction and orthopaedics.

Congratulations to Dr John Murray who was awarded the OAM at the 2007 Australia Day honours for his outstanding contribution to the greyhound racing industry.

John Murray
President

HISTORY

Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS)

After years of slow progress, the Max Henry Memorial Library was moved in 2006 from unsuitable storage in Canberra to the veterinary school in Parkville. The work of, particularly, Dick Roe, Honorary Librarian of the AVHS, and Helen Newton at the University of Melbourne has finally proved worthwhile. The collection is now secure in the capable care of the librarians of the Gilruth Library, where it is accessible to staff and students and members of the AVA. The content of the collection can be seen on the AVHS website www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/avhs/ and will be catalogued by the university librarians. Donations from several members of the AVHS are augmenting the collection. AVA members who have publications of veterinary historical interest that they would like to donate to this library for the benefit of a wider veterinary community should contact the AVHS via addresses on our website.

All issues of the *Aust Vet Hist Record* are archived in perpetuity by the University of Sydney www.ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/222. Other

material published online by the AVHS has not been similarly archived – until now. The National Library of Australia aims to build a comprehensive collection of Australian publications and has traditionally collected items in print. It is also committed to preserving electronic publications of national significance on PANDORA, Australia's Web Archive. During 2006, the National Library sought and was given permission to include some AVHS publications that are published on our web page, into the selective PANDORA Archive. The Library will retain both publications in the Archive and provide public online access to them in perpetuity. The Library will catalogue these publications and add the record to the National Bibliographic Database, which will increase awareness of our publications. The titles are available at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.arc-63330> (Eminent Australian Veterinarians) and www.nla.gov.au/nla.arc-63217 (Milestones in Australian Veterinary History).

The AVHS, having enjoyed and benefited from cooperation in online ventures with the University of Sydney, is very pleased to now extend cooperation to the National Library of Australia.

The repository in Canberra, which housed the Max Henry Memorial Library under totally inadequate conditions, also housed the AVA Veterinary Historical Collection. This collection, which was founded and curated for many years by the late Bob Taylor, was taken over on Dr Taylor's death by the AVA.

The AVHS will hold a meeting with our usual style in Melbourne on the Monday of the AVA conference, 14 May 2007. All members will be welcome at the program of four speakers, who will be followed by an annual meeting and then the traditional convivial dinner.

Trevor Faragher
President

HOLISTIC

Australian Holistic Veterinarians (AHV)

AHV has had a busy year. Welcome to all our new members.

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 because if training is not provided to members of the veterinary profession, pet owners, farmers, and horse owners will only be able to consult non-veterinary qualified health practitioners.

Twenty-six members undertook advanced training in Veterinary Chinese Herbal Medicine. Details of this course are available on www.sitcm.edu.au

A Masterclass in 'passionate veterinary homeopathy' was held at the Gold Coast in May. Two modules of the Australasian course in veterinary homeopathy were also held during the year. Details of these and future courses are on our website www.ahv.com.au

Congratulations to three of our members who were successful in passing the Licentiate Examination of the Faculty of Homeopathy (London).

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.

Our printed newsletter, *Chiron*, continues to be produced every quarter. This service will be continued, although there is also now some 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. Proceedings are available in CD format.

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

Douglas Wilson
President



INDUSTRY

Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI)

AVI is a diverse SIG. Many members provide technical, regulatory and research support for the pharmaceutical industry but many also provide a range of associated services to the animal health industry as a whole or are involved in the bureaucracy or government regulation of the industry. Some members have also progressed into non-veterinary roles within the industry.

THE AVI has been in operation for many years. Its membership now represents a high percentage of those vets employed in industry. It also represents a subset of the profession who have chosen a career path that requires a commitment to the animal health industry that for them is more effectively actioned outside of veterinary practice.

The key challenges for the AVI executive are to make the SIG itself more visible within the profession and to better communicate the contributions its members make to the greater veterinary profession and the animal health industry. Meeting these challenges will ensure more new

or recent graduates consider careers in industry and ensure that the animal health industry remains significantly influenced by veterinary professionals at both operational and policy levels.

Through 2006 the AVI has made significant progress on the key areas within the AVA strategic plan. CE is very important for our membership, not just for maintaining registration status. The AVI has continued to be a strong contributor to the scientific program development for AVA conferences, including for 2007.

We have undertaken to provide a variety of ongoing updates in our newsletter regarding the VetEd program. The updates will include reminders (including calendars of events), basic requirement information as well as examples of how other members are applying CE within their careers. The AVI has initiated an ongoing course program that is designed to become an essential educational component of an industry vet's career. The first of the series is being organised in conjunction with the PGF.

The visibility of the profession and the AVI has been supported by our participation on the AVA

conference scientific committee as well as through AVI representation on numerous regulatory, industry, governmental and other committees.

The AVI has provided input to and feedback from a diverse range of committees that impact on our members. We also have continued to provide an efficient employment information distribution service within industry and have maintained links to the UK AVI group. Of course the regular social events are important for the sharing of experiences as well as for cementing the unity of the SIG. A key focus for the executive in 2007 is to update our knowledge on the current diversity of our membership so we can continue to provide appropriate support for the coming year.

David Homer
President

PIGS

Australian Pig Veterinarians (APV)

APV has 157 members. Our annual conference was held in Melbourne in September. Over 50 members attended the conference, which was regarded as one of our most successful and included an address by Dr Kersti Seksel on the advantages of remaining an AVA SIG. The most common comment made by attendees was that a dedicated pig meeting gave everyone the chance to mingle with veterinarians with a common interest at coffee and lunch breaks, something which is difficult to do at larger conferences with over 800 attendees. However, this year we will be holding our conference as part of the AVA annual conference. In addition to the annual conference, CE for members is by way of a monthly 'what is your diagnosis quiz' that is emailed to every member. Those who respond receive one CE point. General items of interest, which are not confidential, are forwarded to all members to keep them in the loop.

This area has been highlighted for particular attention by the APV executive for the coming year. It seems that for the pig group at least, networking

within AVA has broken down, and we are seen as the last port of call for issues relating to pig matters. In support of this I cite the recent introduction of PigPass by the Australian Pork Limited (APL) which was done without any consultation with APV, even though at the end of the day it is the APV veterinarian who bears the responsibility of ensuring their client has a correct approved medication list, and understands the difference between a domestic WHP and an ESI. APL has promised to rectify this. Similarly with both State and Federal government agencies, there is a concern by some agencies that they are not being informed on disease occurrences by APV members, yet they are the very ones who fail to communicate with APV/AVA about suspect Emergency Disease Investigations. It is important that consulting veterinarians are informed of what is happening first hand rather than by the rumour machine, which is far more damaging than the facts. At least two states have recognised this problem with both Victoria and South Australia setting up a Pig Health And Welfare Liaison Group where government and private veterinarians meet quarterly to discuss emerging and current issues. The main reasons that veterinarians join the AVA is

to network and be informed. If this is not happening it should be no surprise that membership numbers fall off. This communication needs to be a two way street, with members informing AVA of issues as well as AVA informing members.

APV has representation on: Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC), the Policy Council, and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC). It is of interest that when the Welfare Code of Practice for pigs was recently reviewed, APV was not invited to be a member of the working group and had to insist that it be allowed representation.

We will be seeking greater representation in decision making processes within the AVA in the future.

Tony Fahy
President



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association (AVPMA)

AVPMA has always had a strong commitment to providing quality CE for our members and 2006 has seen some exceptional programs presented.

The year started with our Summer Seminar Series multi-city tour by Drs Robb & Chris Heagle. This duo run a highly successful and productive veterinary practice in Hastings, Canada and shared many of their strategies and experiences with us. The format of touring presenters to both capital and regional cities has proved to be very popular and well supported.

Another Canadian, Dr Jim Stowe, led a very successful week at the Hobart AVA conference with attendance high at all presentations. Jim was well supported by Judy Tier (time management) and David Foote (stress management). An innovation this year was the introduction of workshops on the Friday following the conference. Jim & Judy both led one-day workshops that were fully booked. We aim to continue offering this style of delivery in future years.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the inaugural AVPMA stand alone conference. During the three-day conference held at beautiful Caloundra, attendees were treated to dynamic presentations from Winston Marsh, an Australian marketing guru and Mark Opperman, American Certified Practice Manager. Based on the positive feedback received the conference can only be described as a huge success. No stand alone will be held in 2007 due to WSAVA but we aim to repeat this success in 2008!

AVPMA has continued our relationship with The University of New England Partnerships to deliver the Certificate IV & Diploma of Practice Management (Veterinary). This year saw the introduction of a workshop style of learning in addition to the correspondence course. Due to the success of the Sydney and Brisbane workshops this year, 2007 sees the introduction of a Melbourne option as well. Many students find the interaction with other participants in workshops to be a more stimulating way to learn. AVPMA offers an annual scholarship for the Certificate correspondence course each year. The 2006 recipient was Dr Alison Spurgeon of Narooma Veterinary Hospital and applications have been received for the 2007 scholarship.

AVPMA continues to facilitate the Pfizer/AVA Practices of Excellence in Customer Service award on behalf of AVA. This award provides recognition for practices which excel in serving their clients. It also provides an opportunity for us all to learn what our peers are doing well. Each winning practice makes a presentation during the AVA Annual Conference and these sessions are always very popular.

The AVPMA website continues to expand – it is a huge resource for members to access a variety on management related information. The AVPMA Committee has plans to continually expand the site and has much more material, which will continue to be added as resources allow.

The Committee has also been busy investigating a number of projects. The Tiered Practice Accreditation Scheme is continuing to be developed. This is a huge task which will require allocation of funds and other resources to enable completion. This year the committee has also investigated alternative

options for membership of AVPMA to enable us to increase our resource base. We are still in discussion with AVA about the best structure for AVPMA to have to allow us to continue to provide the maximum member benefits.

Our newsletter, Practice Management Matters continues to keep members informed of Committee activities, upcoming CE opportunities, HR/IR issues and many others. Sue Halloran, our newsletter editor, is to be congratulated on the wonderful job she does.

The Committee of John Odium (Vice President/Treasurer), Shane Simpson (Secretary), Andrew Dudgeon (Conference Convenor), Mark Ethell (Policy Councillor), Lindsay Hay, Jane Bindloss, Chris Hibburt and David MacPhail have volunteered an enormous amount of time and effort towards AVPMA and provide the drive and vision for the future.

The staff of Mark Stallwood (Executive Officer) and Carly Harry (Admin) are the backbone of AVPMA and the frontline for members' queries. The committee is extremely grateful for Mark and Carly's tireless work which allowed projects to be completed with minimal impost on volunteer committee time and maximum efficiency.

AVPMA is looking forward to another year of achievement in 2007 and would like to thank members for their support in the past. Personally, I thoroughly enjoy working with such an enthusiastic group which is contributing to the veterinary profession in such a positive way.

Debbie Delahunty
President

POULTRY

Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance (AVPA)

2006 was a busy year for the AVPA. The base of the executive changed from Victoria to New South Wales and the new team has been busy learning much about their roles.

The AVPA has continued to focus on its objectives of organising meetings for studying avian disease and related matters, encouraging research and extension in this field, promoting the exchange of information and material for study between individuals and organisations interested in avian species and acting as an authoritative voice on behalf of the veterinary profession in matters relating to poultry in Australia.

The AVPA held two scientific meetings in 2006. The first of these was in April in association with the Poultry Information Exchange (PIX) on the Gold Coast. This was well attended and covered a diverse program. The second was held in Auckland in October and was an extremely successful conference. Our New Zealand members, especially Dr David Marks, did an excellent job in organising and producing this event. The scientific quality of our meetings is the equal of any of its kind in the world.

One of our members, Professor Kevin Whithear, was honoured with an OAM on Australia Day 2007, for advances in veterinary science and education and the development of poultry vaccines. We extend our congratulations as well. This is highly deserved. Professor Whithear has been the editor of our newsletter, *Dander*, for many years and has been proposed for life membership of the AVPA.

The continuing outbreak of virulent Newcastle Disease in Papua New Guinea has been of concern to our membership and the executive wrote to the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer as well as key ministers urging our government to aid and support PNG in its efforts to control and hopefully eradicate this disease.

We have found it useful to link our scientific meetings with other quality scientific or poultry industry conferences as this allows us to access many Australian poultry specialists from other fields. In line with this approach, we intend to hold two meetings in 2007. Our next meeting is in Sydney, following on from the Australian Poultry Science Symposium at the University of Sydney in February 2007. A general theme for this meeting will be food safety/public health. We will hold a second scientific meeting later in the year in Adelaide. We are in the early phases of planning towards a major scientific meeting, the 6th Asia-Pacific Poultry Health Conference, to be linked with the World's Poultry Science Convention in Brisbane in July 2008 and our sessions cover the poultry health interests of that meeting. This is a major world poultry event and gives us a chance to promote our local expertise and draw on the presence of several overseas specialists.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH)

The interests of the members of AVPH 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. AVPH aims to bring together and stimulate Australian veterinarians with an interest in the crossover of animal disease and public health.

As a group we generally use e-mail 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.

Because of the very widespread nature of our constituents the annual conference is our main

activity. At the same time we try to engage with other SIGs to allow effective cross-pollination of ideas to the wider profession.

Thus the major SIG activity for the year was the annual conference in Hobart. The new format was considered very satisfactory in that it provided longer times for the presentations than has often been the case in the past. The bringing together of different groups (we ran two items in conjunction with ACV) also appeared to be positive in engaging additional attendees.

Our group is pleased with the AVA producing a master file of (electronic) conference proceedings which extends the benefits of the conference significantly.

Lee Cook
President

REPRODUCTION

Australian Reproduction Veterinarians (ARV)

Having just started my term as President I am looking forward to the next two years being involved in the group to a greater degree. I'm still wondering about my election though – something along the lines of a stunned rabbit caught in the headlights springs to mind! However I'm starting to see again and as I said, looking forward to it.

For those of you who don't know me I am a practitioner in a mixed practice at Armidale in NSW. In my veterinary career I spent my early years as an equine practitioner in a specialist equine breeding practice in the Hunter Valley, then a few years as a sheep and cattle farmer before moving to Armidale where my interest in the field of sheep breeding led to involvement in the ARV.

Our stand alone conference, this year in Fremantle, was again a success. The numbers in attendance were not that high but the content, as usual was. There was a comprehensive presentation on artificial breeding in South America, with experiments on a scale that seem enormous to me.

Even the numbers in one treatment in one of his experiments represents a large herd in my part of the world. We had some interesting comparisons and contrasts with presentations on the state of assisted reproduction in the human field, along with well received advice on financial management and planning.

We need to remember the two commitments we made at the conference. The first was to partake in the reporting of the numbers of transfers performed. The second was to set some standards for Biosecurity Australia. A subcommittee has been formed to this end and I will report on its' progress in the next report.

Planning is underway for next year's conference at Coffs Harbour. Semen is developing as the theme and a great nucleus of speakers, local and international, around that topic, are being enticed and cajoled into coming. We are looking at the possibility of attracting people from a wider field and hoping that small animal practitioners will find that the information we can provide on semen will be of relevance and interest to them.

I should mention now that the plan for the next year is to go forward with the idea of going to New Zealand. As well as the Australians I have indications that we will be able to get a reasonable contingent of New Zealanders to come along (and provide healthy competition for any football match that just might be on at the time).

In NSW we have just had the regulations of the new *Veterinary Practices Act* come into force. There were a number of concerns and the ARV was one of a number of groups to put in a submission regarding these. We were pleased to see that virtually all of these were accommodated in the final draft of the regulations that was eventually enacted.

I hope this booming economy we are in is trickling down to some of you.

Nigel Scott
President

SMALL ANIMALS

Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA)

2006 has been a busy year for all committee members. The ASAVA conference was held in Alice Springs. The theme, emergency and critical care, was highly successful and a popular choice.

The location was fantastic. We had over 300 hundred attendees (175 conference delegates and 125 industry delegates). Our speakers were Dr Dez Hughes from the Royal College UK, Dr Steve Haskins (University of Davis) and our own Drs Terry King and Sarah Haldane.

The quality of the lecturers was superb, and the feedback highly appreciative of a great conference and venue. The ASAVA Executive Committee would like to thank the industry for their continued enthusiastic support.

The small animal stream at the AVA conference in Hobart was again a highly successful and attracted a large number of delegates with joint sessions shared with AVBIG, AVPMA, and others. Our theme was 'geriatrics'.

2006 also saw us continue with the buildup to the WSAVA Congress to be held in Sydney in

2007. There has been continued activity all year; with sponsorship talks to industry, social program organisation, representing and promoting the Sydney congress internationally and finalising the lecture program.

The WSAVA Conference Organizing Committee (COC) comprises of Dr Di Sheehan (Chair), Drs Roger Clarke, Jill Maddison, Liz Walker and Kersti Seksel, myself and members of the team at the meeting planners.

Drs Sheehan and Clarke, with the help of Dr Seksel, have visited several major international conference to promote our Congress.

We are well ahead of schedule with sponsorship. Industry display booth sales are well advanced. Thanks to Dr Clarke, the social program is well advanced and a huge congratulations must go to Dr Jill Maddison for bring together a superlative scientific program. We have expert speakers from all over the world coming to our Congress.

On the political agenda have been discussions on the future of the Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme (CHEDS). The current scheme has problems and there have been discussions with all the major stakeholders, including the radiology

chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, on ways of improving the scheme.

The ASAVA has produced or help produce many draft policies for consideration at Policy Council. The ASAVA has made a commitment to proactively try to draft or suggest important policies to Policy Council as it is important that the AVA is aware of up and coming potential issues and has policies in place.

The ASAVA Executive has held several strategy meetings in the past year. We are in the process of developing a strategy for the next 3 to 5 years to improve our exposure to the public and improve our member benefits and subscription base. We have several exciting projects ahead of us in 2007 as a result.

I would like to thank the executive committee, the WSAVA committee and our office staff for their support during the year. I would also like to thank Hill's and our other major sponsors for continued support for many of our ongoing programs.

Dr Matthew Retchford
President

WELFARE & ETHICS

Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE)

Membership of this SIG has grown from 36 members in 2001 to 101 members in 2006. This is very pleasing and reflects increasing interest in animal welfare and ethics by veterinarians. At the 2006 AGM, Robert Baker was elected President for a second year, Simon Bain continues as Vice President and Steve Atkinson as Policy Councillor. Tanya Stephens was elected Treasurer and Secretary, succeeding Frank Doughty. As there were no nominees for President-elect, this position remained vacant at the AGM. However, Tanya Stephens subsequently accepted nomination by the Executive as President Elect, that was endorsed by members through email.

Robert Baker and Steve Atkinson have been closely involved with the development of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), as has the AVA President and many other members, and both attended the second national Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Workshop in Melbourne in October. Development of AAWS was a major step forward for Australia and provides a template for a much more co-ordinated and effective response

by industry, government, animal welfare groups and the AVA for raising and monitoring animal welfare standards. The challenge is to ensure ongoing support from governments and industry stakeholders to ensure its implementation.

The change in the 2006 conference program structure meant that there were fewer concurrent streams and so it was difficult for smaller SIGs such as AVAWE to have stand alone papers on the agenda. Welfare-related sessions were held in conjunction with the equine, sheep and cattle SIGs. AVAWE will have quite a high profile at the 2007 conference. With a program of special stand alone sessions and combined sessions with other SIGs, one full day of the conference will be devoted to issues related to welfare and ethics. The line up of conference speakers on these issues is formidable and not to be missed. There will be an AVAWE dinner during the conference and it is hoped that more AVAWE members will attend this conference in Melbourne.

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) will host an Animal Welfare Science Summit on Pain and Pain Management on Friday 18 May 2007, the day after the conference,

at the Melbourne Convention Centre. This is part of the implementation of the AAWS and should attract a good attendance from AVAWE members and other interested veterinarians.

In the past year the issues of livestock transport and mulesing of sheep have continued to attract much public and media interest, together with layer hen housing and the use of sow stalls. This can be expected to continue.

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

Tanya Stephens, as the incoming President, will attend the weekend workshop held by the AVA for incoming Division and SIG Presidents next February, which will give her a good introduction to AVA organisational structure and function.

Robert Baker
AVAWE President

SHEEP

Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV)

The Australian Sheep Veterinarians had another successful year in 2006. The highlight of the year was for the inaugural stand alone conference held in September at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. The conference was held from Saturday to Monday with over 100 members attending. Papers covered a wide range of topics, from broad-ranging industry issues to specific disease syndromes. There was strong support from those present to continue with the stand alone conferences on a biennial basis.

The ASV also ran a strong program at the AVA conference in Hobart. Papers from both conferences were combined into a single proceedings which will serve as an excellent resource for members. The quarterly newsletter also provides members with valuable information and updates as well as relevant references, and is well received by members.

Membership remains strong with approximately 300 members. This year saw the change over of Presidents, with David Hucker completing his two-year term. David provided strong leadership, and ensured the ASV was particularly involved in the key sheep industry issues of mulesing, OH&S and the use of diazinon.

The other main activities for the ASV in 2006 involved:

- further consultations with industry on mulesing
- monitoring OH&S issues in the sheep industry
- participating in the review on diazinon
- information sessions for vet students
- further discussions on the SheepMAP.

The severe widespread drought in late 2006 will have a major impact on the sheep industry and sheep veterinarians. The decreased incomes in the rural sector will place additional stress on those servicing this sector. However, it is often at these times when producers gain the most value from professional consultations. The rise in wool prices at the end of the year was a bright note in an otherwise poor outlook for sheep producers. Let's hope 2007 brings a better season.

Bruce Allworth
President





UNUSUAL & EXOTIC ANIMALS

Unusual & Exotic Pets (UEP)

The UEP member numbers continued to climb again this year, making it one of the larger SIGs. We strongly believe this is due to the excellent value provided by membership of the UEP SIG with the ongoing aim of providing high quality practical advice on veterinary care of unusual and exotic pets in a friendly collegiate atmosphere.

This year the UEP combined again with the fish vets and AVMA to present a varied program at the AVA conference in Hobart. The UEP also set up a table and fielded many enquiries. The UEP is planning a one-day program at the 2007 AVA conference in Melbourne.

This was the first time the UEP held an overseas conference – in New Zealand. The conference was held immediately prior to the AAVAC (avian vet) conference held in Wellington. A highlight was the pre-conference dinner at the Wellington Zoo including a walk with the cheetahs. The zoo tour also allowed an opportunity to see the Kea with the leg prosthesis developed by the special effects people who made the Hobbit feet in the Lord of the Rings movies.

The conference had a fantastic diverse program of speakers with the theme of Diagnostics in Exotics – everything from blood biochemistry, radiology and ultrasonography to CT imaging. Our international keynote speaker, Dr Karen Rosenthal from the University of Pennsylvania provided some fascinating topics on rabbit and ferret diagnostics. Karen was presented with some Aboriginal art pieces from Darwin in gratitude for her presentations. The illustrious Toady Award for

Best Speaker was closely contested, with Robert Johnson just pipping Karen at the post to take out this highly coveted award.

At the annual AGM, a subcommittee was formed to investigate the possibility of the UEP forming a chapter in the Australian College of Veterinary Science.

The Veterinary Information Network not only continues to be a major supporting of the UEP but will provide the conference proceedings on their website (www.vin.com) for veterinarians to access. The UEP is also approaching the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians for their interest in our proceedings. This involvement will promote the UEP to sister organisations internationally.

The 2007 UEP conference is already being planned. It will be held in conjunction with the North Queensland Branch of the AVA at Cairns in mid-September. So mark the date, pack your bags, towel and sunscreen to join us at the friendliest and most informative conference for 2007.

At Policy Council, Robert Johnson presented a policy on the feeding of live vertebrates to reptiles. Anne Fowler commented on the policy presented by ASAVA on guidelines for veterinarians handling bats.

The daily discussions between members on tricky cases at our Yahoo discussion list continue to be a strong focus of the membership benefits. What is also encouraging is that some our 'list lurkers' are gaining confidence and asking some very challenging questions. This reveals that our membership is becoming more confident in treating the Unusual and Exotic pets that they are presented with in practice.

As Stephen Ross, the original newsletter editor, was unwell this year, Mike Cannon and Kim Fryer have taken on this role. The newsletter continues to offer information to members on upcoming conferences and helpful websites, and provides relevant book reviews.

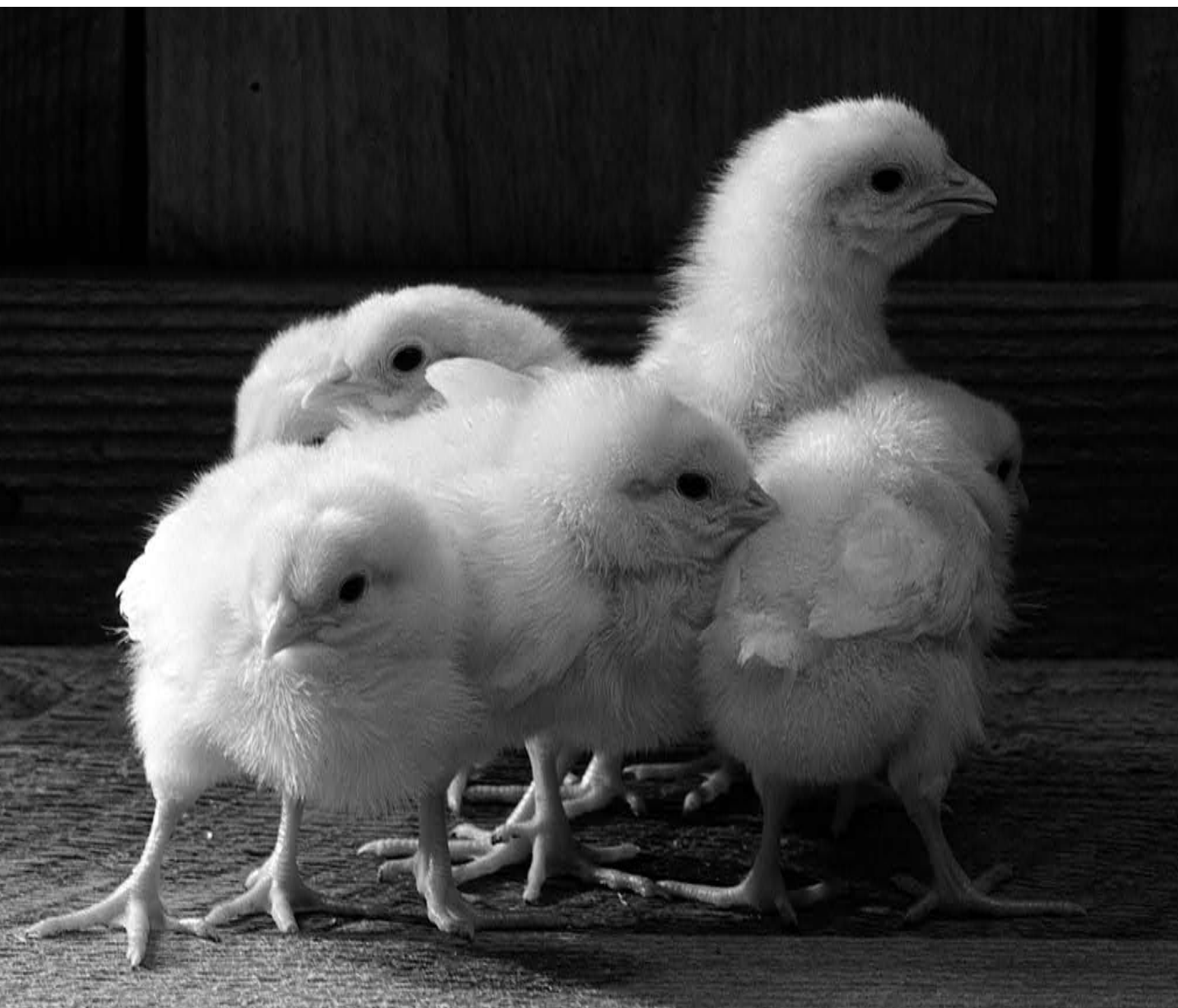
The UEP is continuing adding to the library of CE material for use in practice. We have a large range of CD's, posters, care sheets, journal articles and other printed matter to help you deal with unusual and exotic pet care in your practice. The range and value of these products is fantastic.

We thank all continuing members for their ongoing support and welcome all new members to our vibrant group.

Brendan Carmel
President



AVA TRUSTS AND ADVISORY GROUPS



AVA TRUSTS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF)

ACAHF was established in 1989 as a non-profit trust of AVA.

The major aim of the Foundation is to help fund investigative projects to further our knowledge of the cause, treatment and prevention of clinical diseases of companion animals, mainly dogs and cats.

The foundation raises money through donations from veterinarians and companies associated with the pet industry, pet owners and other concerned members of the public.

All gifts and donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the donor. Donations for 2006 totalled \$41,330 including \$4,440 from condolence cards. This money will be used to fund research grants for 2007. The Trustees would like to thank all those people who donated so generously.

Honorary Trustees oversee the operation of the ACAHF and funds donated to the ACAHF are distributed to clinical research projects after careful assessment by a Research Committee, consisting of eminent veterinarians from veterinary schools and private practices around Australia.

The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA), a Special Interest Group of the AVA, generously donates office space and administrative support for the Foundation. This helps to keep administrative costs to a minimum and allows virtually all the money donated to the Foundation to be used for the benefit of companion animals.

The type of research funded is wide ranging, but it must be for the direct benefit of companion animal species. Some examples would be investigation into arthritis, heart disease, diabetes and cancer, that focus on a better understanding of the basic

disorder, and thus lead to improved methods of treatment and prevention.

We publicly acknowledge the generous support that has been given to the foundation by pet owners, veterinarians and industry. In addition, the foundation is pleased to provide progress reports on funded projects continuing or commencing in 2005–2006.

Research funded in 2006 included the following grants:

Characterisation of gastrointestinal lymphosarcoma in cats – Dr Vanessa Barrs, University of Sydney

Susceptibilities of canine and feline bacterial pathogens of fluoroquinolones and other selected antimicrobial agents – Dr Merran Govendir, University of Sydney

Development of practical guidelines for the use of insulin glargine to treat diabetic cats – Professor Jacquie Rand, University of Queensland

Investigations into the pathophysiology of canine osteochondrosis – Professor Eleanor Mackie and Dr Merrin Hicks

Methicillin resistance in Staphylococci isolated from dogs and cats – Professor Mary Barton, University of South Australia.

*Roger Clarke
Chairman Trustees*

Animal Welfare Trust (AWT)

The AVA Animal Welfare Trust's mission is to support the welfare of animals through an institution engaged in the utilisation of veterinary and other knowledge and expertise through research, education, promotion and action.

The current Trustees appointed by the AVA Board are: Dr Stephen Atkinson, Chairman, Dr Pam Scanlon, Deputy Chairman & Treasurer, Dr Lyndy Scott, Chairman Grants Committee, Dr Robert Baker, Trustee, Dr Roger Clarke, Trustee, Dr Michael Paton, Trustee (since October 2006). Dr Tim Wilson is the secretary for the Trust.

In the past 12 months, the financial position of the Trust has increased by just over \$5,000 to \$55,461.33, due to small donations from AVA members and the interest earned from invested capital.

The Trust has been given exemption as an income tax exempt charity but, the ATO has refused Deductible Gift Recipient status to the Trust, largely because the stated objectives of the Trust are not solely for research.

Allocation of funds

In the past year, letters were sent to the Deans of the six Australian veterinary faculties and to principals of other animal welfare research organisations in Australia, advising them of the availability of a small allocation of funds to assist students and post-graduate students undertaking projects and studies such as BSc(Vet) or BVMS degrees, honours degrees and masters degrees or to support suitable projects. Nine applications for research grants were received and considered by a duly appointed Grants Committee. The Trustees accepted the recommendations of the Grants



Committee and has agreed to award funding to two projects:

- Western Ringtail Possum, preference for nest boxes and nest box use after translocation — Trish Fleming, Murdoch University
- Behavioural lateralisation and stress management in cattle — Andrew Robbins, University of Queensland.

The Trustees are hoping that Papers presented to the AVA conference in 2005 representing completed projects previously supported by AWT grants will be published in the AVJ.

The trustees met in person at the 2006 AVA conference and by teleconference to discuss recommendations from the Grants Committee. Proposed activities are to review the Trust Deed in the light of the Taxation Office ruling, the setting of strategic, business and financial plans and to update the guidelines for the Grants Committee in the light of experience gained through this round of applications. The Trustees will also be considering future approaches for seeking support from AVA members and their clients for the work of the Trust and to improve financial support for the Trust.

Steve Atkinson
Chair

Benevolent Fund

During 2006, the Benevolent Fund has provided support for eleven colleagues who have encountered personal difficulties, generally through illness but also through some other form of trauma.

In some cases the support is on a continuing basis, and in others it has been of a short term nature. Generally direct financial assistance is provided, but the Trustees are more concerned about providing the most appropriate support for the individual circumstances, and this flexibility is appreciated by the beneficiaries.

At the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Benevolent Fund, the Trustees indicated their desire to pursue the concept of having a Plenary on Depression at the 2008 AVA conference in Perth. The Western Australian Division has been very active in this field, as has the Equine Veterinary Association, and the plan is to collaborate with them in bringing this project to fruition.

The Trustees were delighted to learn of the AVA Board's decision to provide a Counselling Service to members. Previously there had been a loose arrangement with some Divisions to work with the local Doctors Advisory Health Service, but this arrangement appeared to be poorly understood and had deficiencies. The provision of a professional arrangement should result in much better outcomes, which is of critical importance to people when they are at such a vulnerable point in their lives.

Currently, the Fund's financial situation is such that donations and interest on investments is matching annual outgoings. The Trustees are indebted to those who support its work, and can assure donors that the personal nature of the assistance and the confidentiality associated with the support are appreciated by the beneficiaries.

Randall Lemin
Secretary/Trustee

AVA TRUSTS AND ADVISORY GROUPS cont.

AVA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC)

Animal welfare is central to the AVA Mission and is addressed in most of its activities such as its annual conference and AVA publications and by the AVA Animal Welfare Trust.

AWAC has the skills required to advise the AVA on diverse matters relating to animal welfare. AWAC members with special interests and skills in animal welfare are complemented by the AVA representatives on state and territory AWACs, which keeps it in touch with contemporary issues and standards. AWAC members also provide information and advice to the AVA Animal Ethics Advisory Committee which in turn supports AVA members on institutional animal ethics committees.

Through the year AWAC has provided advice to the AVA Policy Advisory Committee on the welfare aspects of policies under development, for AVA input into enquiries and consultations and in response to member or external requests.

Matters considered in meetings, teleconferences and out of session addressed legislative, policy and operational matters. These included animal fighting, rodeos, animals as prizes, exhibition of animals livestock production beak trimming of poultry, animal training, aggressive dogs, euthanasia, use of animals in teaching, mulesing, animal abuse, equine dentistry and injured and stray animals.

AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC provides advice to the Board on therapeutics issues and seeks to ensure effective networking among the AVA members with specific expertise and interest in therapeutics.

A major activity during the year has been prudent use of antimicrobial drugs by veterinarians to minimize risks of development of antibiotic resistance. TAC has formed two groups with specific skills in this field. The Sub-committee on Quality Use of Antimicrobial Drugs (QUAD) is looking to develop guidelines for veterinarians and the Reference Advisory Group on Fermentative Acidosis of Ruminants (RAGFAR) is developing guidelines and will provide advice to the profession on this condition. Both comprised of experts in their fields.

Other matters addressed by TAC in its meeting and consultations have included, registration and use of veterinary drugs such as dimetridazole, virginiamycin, the macrolide antibiotics, micotil, diazinon and trisolfen, chemicals of security concern, chemicals and prescribing guidelines for aquaculture, labelling of drugs, residues in foods and vaccines.

TAC advice is used by the AVA Policy Advisory Committee in the development of AVA policies for AVA input into public policy and to assist members.

Kevin Doyle
Veterinary Director



FINANCIALS



DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2006.

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

Dr Samantha McMahon

Dr Mark Lawrie

Dr Derek Major

Dr Diane Sheehan

Dr Bruce Cartmill

Dr David Clarke

Dr Norm Blackman (retired 30 April 2006)

Dr William Darmody (retired 30 April 2006)

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

Information on Company Secretary

M Conley, BA (Hons), Grad Cert Mgmt, FAICD, FASE, AFAIM

Company Secretary since October 2006, Chief Executive Officer since 2003

J Redrup, BSc in Agr, BA (Mathematical Studies), Grad Dip in Professional Accounting, CPA

Company Secretary since June 2004, resigned 31 October 2006

Principal Activities

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

- operating as an association representing veterinary professionals in Australia,
- promoting 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 \$826,584 (2005: consolidated surplus of \$811,472).

Review of Operations

A review of the operations of AVA during the financial year is 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 possible income. 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 \$240,049, the Divisions recorded a surplus of \$135,139, the Branches recorded a surplus of \$61,075, the AVA National Group recorded a surplus of \$359,102, the Trusts recorded a surplus of \$54,854, and the balance is the result of a loss in special purpose funds of (\$23,635)

Significant Changes In State Of Affairs

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

Events Subsequent To Reporting Date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since 31 December 2006 that have significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- the operations of the Company or Consolidated Entity;
- the results of those operations; or
- the state of affairs of the Company or Consolidated Entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2006.

Likely Developments

No information is included in this report as it is the opinion of the directors that the disclosure of this information would prejudice the interests of the company.

Likely developments in the activities of the Company are noted elsewhere in the Annual Report, with the Company continuing to work towards the achievement of its objectives.

Dividends

The company's constitution precludes the payment of dividends. Accordingly, the Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend. No dividend has been paid or declared since the commencement of the financial year.

Directors' Benefits

Since 31 December 2005 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 a reimbursement for actual expenses incurred as well as an honorarium for their services as directors of the company.

DIRECTORS' REPORT cont.

Information on Directors

Director	Experience
K Seksel BVSc (Hons), MRCVS MA (Hons), Dipl ACVB, FACVS (Animal Behaviour)	Director AVA 1999–2002 and since May 2005, President 2006–07, 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, MBA	Director AVA since 2001, President Elect 2006–07, Treasurer 2002–06, President ASAVA 2000–2002, President Qld Division 1994, AVA member since 1984.
M Makin , BVSc, GAICD	Director AVA since 2004, Past President 2006–07, President 2005–06, President Elect 2004–05, President Victorian Division 2002–05, President EVA 2003–2004, AVA Member since 1998.
D Clarke BVSc, Diplomate AVDC, Fellow AVD, MACVSc (Dental), MRCVS, Registered Specialist Veterinary Surgery (Dentistry)	Director AVA Since May 2006, Treasurer 2006–07, ASAVA Committee 2004–present, Adjunct Associate Lecturer Massey University NZ, Consultant Veterinary Dentist Taronga and Western Plains Zoos, Director K9 Gums, Director Animal Dental Training Centre, AVA member since 1985.
B Cartmill BVSc	Director AVA since May 2005, Chair Board Strategy Committee 2006–07, President NSW Division 2003–2005, NSW Executive 1998–2006, ASAVA Accredited Veterinary Hospital Committee 1997–2002. AVA member since 1965.
M Lawrie BVSc, MACVSc (Animal Welfare), Grad Cert Mgmt	Director AVA Since May 2006, President NSW Division 2005–2006, NSW Executive 2002–present, Chief Veterinarian RSPCA NSW, Secretary AMRRIC, AVA member since 1995.
D Lovell , BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AEVA 1999–2000, AVA member since 1987.
S McMahan , BVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2004, Chair Board Risk Committee 2006–07, President NT Division 2002–2003 and 2003–2004, AVA member since 1999.
D Major , BVSc	Director AVA since 2004, Chair Board Membership Committee 2006–07, President AEVA 2000–2001, AVA Policy Councillor since 2002, AVA member since 1979.

Meetings of Directors

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

	DIRECTORS' MEETINGS	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
B. Cartmill	9	9
D. Lovell	9	9
D. Major	9	8
M. Makin	9	9
N. Blackman [retired]	5	5
W. Darmody [retired]	5	5
S. McMahan	9	7
K. Seksel	9	9
D. Sheehan	9	8
D. Clarke	4	4
M. Lawrie	4	3

DIRECTORS' REPORT cont.

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 (AWT)].

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 2006.

Environmental Issues

The Company's operations are not subject to significant environmental regulation under the law of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory.

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 58.

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



D Clarke

Director and Honorary Treasurer



K Seksel

Director and President

Dated at Sydney this th Day of March 2007.

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2006 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	2005 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	7,923,782	7,261,520	7,854,358	7,216,280
Revenue from other non operating activities	2	-	232,100	499	232,100
Total Revenue		7,923,782	7,493,620	7,854,857	7,448,380
Service expenses		(552,411)	(727,237)	(552,411)	(727,237)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(270,113)	(271,514)	(270,113)	(271,514)
Conferences and continuing education expenses		(2,130,255)	(1,800,286)	(2,130,255)	(1,800,286)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,263,467)	(1,106,316)	(1,263,467)	(1,106,316)
Occupancy expenses		(143,127)	(188,542)	(143,127)	(188,542)
Administration expenses		(2,434,118)	(1,829,091)	(2,434,118)	(1,829,066)
Interest expense		-	-	(25,531)	(32,853)
Other operating expenses		(303,707)	(759,162)	(264,105)	(714,541)
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense		826,584	811,472	771,330	778,025
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(b)	-	-	-	-
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense	11	826,584	811,472	771,730	778,025

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2006 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	2005 \$
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash assets	1(g),14	2,084,093	2,567,247	2,040,803	2,527,987
Receivables	4	581,754	422,809	581,754	422,809
Inventories		133,906	127,193	133,906	127,193
Other current assets	5	432,179	241,457	432,179	241,457
Total current assets		3,231,932	3,358,706	3,188,642	3,319,446
Non-Current Assets					
Financial assets	1(e),6	3,039,240	2,403,450	3,039,240	2,403,450
Property and equipment	7	6,146,480	5,519,046	6,146,480	5,519,046
Total non-current assets		9,185,720	7,922,496	9,185,720	7,922,496
TOTAL ASSETS		12,417,652	11,281,202	12,374,362	11,241,942
Current Liabilities					
Payables	8	553,261	433,497	1,108,748	983,162
Other liabilities	9	603,294	1,390,435	603,294	1,390,433
Provisions	10	203,004	189,767	203,004	189,767
Total current liabilities		1,359,559	2,013,699	1,915,046	2,518,362
Non-Current Liabilities					
Payables		64,759	75,759	64,759	75,759
Provisions	10	16,390	16,390	16,390	16,390
Total non-current liabilities		81,149	92,149	81,149	92,149
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,440,708	2,105,848	1,996,195	2,610,511
NET ASSETS		10,976,944	9,175,354	10,378,167	8,631,431
EQUITY					
Retained earnings	11	7,917,144	7,090,560	7,318,367	6,546,637
Reserves	12	3,059,800	2,084,794	3,059,800	2,084,794
TOTAL EQUITY		10,976,944	9,175,354	10,378,167	8,631,431

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Capital Profits Reserve	Total
Economic Entity	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 Jan 2005	4,940,705	2,478,884	941,889	8,361,478
Transfers to/(from) reserves	1,338,383	(1,338,383)	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	2,404	-	2,404
Profit attributable to members of the economic entity	811,472	-	-	811,472
Balance at 31 Dec 2005	7,090,560	1,142,905	941,889	9,175,354

Revaluation increment	-	975,006	-	975,006
Profit attributable to members of the economic entity	826,584	-	-	826,584
Balance at 31 December 2006	7,917,144	2,117,911	941,889	10,976,944

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Capital Profits Reserve	Total
Parent Entity	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 Jan 2005	4,430,229	2,478,884	941,889	7,851,002
Transfers to/(from) reserves	1,338,383	(1,338,383)	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	2,404	-	2,404
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	778,025	-	-	778,025
Balance at 31 Dec 2005	6,546,637	1,142,905	941,889	8,631,431

Revaluation increment	-	975,006	-	975,006
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	771,730	-	-	771,730
Balance at 31 December 2006	7,318,367	2,117,911	941,889	10,378,167

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2006	2005	2006	2005
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities					
Receipts from members' subscriptions		1,439,967	2,647,713	1,404,753	2,647,713
Receipts from AVA activities		5,335,467	5,301,869	5,314,306	5,250,362
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,958,902)	(6,915,470)	(6,894,077)	(6,871,357)
Interest received		239,208	205,850	226,729	204,545
Net cash provided by operating activities	14b	55,740	1,239,964	51,711	1,231,263
Cash flows from investing activities					
Purchase of investments		(466,652)	(107,630)	(466,652)	(107,630)
Proceeds on sale of investments		-	111,997	-	111,997
Proceeds from sale of property		-	2,495,956	-	2,495,956
Purchase of property and equipment		(72,242)	(2,900,471)	(72,242)	(2,900,471)
Net cash used in investing activities		(538,894)	(400,148)	(538,894)	(400,148)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(483,154)	839,816	(487,183)	831,116
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		2,567,247	1,727,431	2,527,987	1,696,871
Cash at end of the financial year		2,084,093	2,567,247	2,040,803	2,527,987

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards and 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

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.

Statement of Compliance

The financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards which include Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS). A statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made due to the Australian Veterinary Association applying the not for profit sector specific requirements contained in the AIFRS.

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 of which the Australian Veterinary Association Limited has the power to control the financial and operating policies 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 1997*. 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.

In assessing its income tax liability, the Australian Veterinary Association Limited applies the principles of mutuality to its revenues and expenses. Revenue in the form of members' receipts represents mutual income and is not subject to income tax. Expenses associated with such mutual activities are not tax deductible for income tax purposes. All other receipts and payments of the Australian Veterinary Association are classified for income tax purposes in accordance with income tax legislation.

(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 that 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 ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

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 and fittings	5–10%
Equipment	25–33%
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 that 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 and Cash Equivalents

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
NOTE 2. REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating activities				
- Subscriptions	2,205,151	2,102,037	2,169,937	2,088,383
- Interest	239,208	205,850	226,729	204,545
- Affinity commissions	966,005	1,056,494	966,004	1,056,494
- Other revenue (incl. conferences and publications)	4,513,418	3,897,139	4,491,688	3,866,858
	7,923,782	7,261,520	7,854,358	7,216,280
Non operating activities				
- Gain on disposal of fixed asset	-	217,948	499	217,948
- Gain from the disposal of Investments	-	14,152	-	14,152
	-	232,100	499	232,100
Total Revenue	7,923,782	7,493,620	7,854,857	7,448,380

NOTE 3. PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Profit from ordinary activities has been determined after:

Expenses

Depreciation of equipment and buildings	213,728	140,918	213,728	140,918
Provision for employee entitlements	13,237	9,552	13,237	9,552

NOTE 4. RECEIVABLES

Current

Trade receivables	487,076	348,827	487,076	348,827
Commissions receivable	94,678	73,982	94,678	73,982
Other receivables	-	-	-	-
	581,754	422,809	581,754	422,809

NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS

Current

Prepayments	298,449	203,965	298,449	203,965
Other assets	133,730	37,492	133,730	37,492
	432,179	241,457	432,179	241,457

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2006	2005	2006	2005
NOTE 6. FINANCIAL ASSETS					
	1(e)				
Non-current					
Managed funds		3,039,240	2,403,450	3,039,240	2,403,450
NOTE 7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT					
Land and buildings					
Freehold land:					
- Independent valuation December 2003		1,463,350	1,463,350	1,463,350	1,463,350
Buildings					
- Independent valuation December 2003		3,502,056	3,502,056	3,502,056	3,502,056
- Independent valuation October 2006		770,819	-	770,819	-
Less accumulated depreciation		(173,684)	(88,756)	(173,684)	(88,756)
		5,562,541	4,876,650	5,562,541	4,876,650
Office furniture and equipment					
At cost		1,097,024	994,461	1,097,024	994,461
Less accumulated depreciation		(513,085)	(352,065)	(513,085)	(352,065)
		583,939	642,396	583,939	642,396
Leasehold improvements					
At cost		-	33,982	-	33,982
Less accumulated amortisation		-	(33,982)	-	(33,982)
		-	-	-	-
Total property and equipment		6,146,480	5,519,046	6,146,480	5,519,046

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 Profits.

Independent valuations of all properties were carried out in October 2006 by registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

NOTE 7. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (CONT'D)

(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	1,463,350	3,413,300	642,396	5,519,046
Additions	-	-	72,242	72,242
Disposals	-	-	(1,899)	(1,899)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	770,819	-	770,819
Depreciation expense	-	(84, 928)	(128,800)	(213,728)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	1,463,350	4,099,191	583,939	6,146,480

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
NOTE 8. PAYABLES				
Current				
Sundry creditors	553,261	433,497	553,261	433,497
Funds held on trust				
AVA Animal Welfare Trust	-	-	55,461	50,371
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	-	-	225,866	214,911
Australia Companion Animal Health Foundation	-	-	274,160	239,405
	553, 261	433,497	1,108,748	938,162

NOTE 9. OTHER LIABILITIES

Current				
Income received in advance				
Membership subscriptions	603,294	1,209,533	603,294	1,209,533
Publications subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Annual conference income	-	180,900	-	180,900
	603,294	1,390,433	603,294	1,390,433

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
NOTE 10. PROVISIONS				
Current				
Employee benefits	203,004	189,767	203,004	189,767
Non-current				
Employee benefits	16,390	16,390	16,390	16,390
Total (current and non-current)	219,394	206,157	219,394	206,157
Number of employees at year end	35	33		

NOTE 11. RETAINED EARNINGS

Balance at the beginning of the year	7,090,560	4,940,705	6,546,637	4,430,229
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	1,338,383	-	1,338,383
Operating surplus for the current year	826,584	811,472	771,730	778,025
Balance at the end of the year	7,917,144	7,090,560	7,318,367	6,546,637

NOTE 12. RESERVES

Capital Profit Reserve

Balance 1 January	941,889	941,889	941,889	941,889
Movement	-	-	-	-
Balance 31 December	941,889	941,889	941,889	941,889

Asset Revaluation Reserve

Balance 1 January	1,142,905	2,478,884	1,142,905	2,478,884
Realised gains on the sale of property/ revaluations	975,006	(1,335,979)	975,006	(1,335,979)
Balance 31 December	3,059,800	2,084,794	3,059,800	2,084,794

NOTE 13. CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

(a) Capital Commitments

As at 31 December 2006 the company did not have any capital commitments.

(b) Operating Lease Commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements.

Payable				
- Not later than 1 year	19,700	44,350	19,700	44,350
- Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	42,529	63,868	42,529	63,868

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2006	2005	2006	2005

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	761,264	678,460	717,974	639,201
At call deposits with financial institutions	1,322,829	1,888,786	1,322,829	1,888,787
	2,084,093	2,567,247	2,040,803	2,527,987

(b) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operating Activities with Profit from Ordinary Activities

Profit from ordinary activities	826,584	811,472	771,730	778,025
Non-cash transactions				
Depreciation	213,728	140,918	213,728	140,918
Write-off of inventory	-	42,649	-	42,649
Industrial relations fund	-	(75,759)	-	(75,759)
Revaluation of fixed assets	35,051	2,409	35,051	2,409
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	1,899	(217,948)	1,899	(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	-	-	-	-
Net loss on write of fixed asset	-	-	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities	-	-	-	-
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	(158,945)	(115,356)	(158,945)	(115,356)
Decrease / (Increase) in inventories	(6,713)	23,215	(6,713)	23,215
Decrease / (Increase) in other assets (excl. property and equipment related)		79,201		79,201
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	119,742	83,975	119,742	108,725
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	77,996	(3,206)	77,996	(3,206)
Increase / (Decrease) in other liabilities	(1,053,602)	499,529	(1,002,777)	499,533
Cash Flows from Operating Activities	55,740	1,239,964	51,711	1,231,263

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 2006 the number of members was 4,498 (2005: 4,470).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

ECONOMIC ENTITY

PARENT ENTITY

2006 2005 2006 2005

NOTE 16. REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR

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

Audit of the financial statements	18,000	16,500	18,000	16,500
Other services	4,500	12,887	4,500	12,887
	22,500	29,387	22,500	29,387

NOTE 17. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Directors

Dr Kersti Seksel (Non-Executive President - Chair)

Dr Diane Sheehan (Non-Executive President Elect)

Dr Matthew Makin (Non-Executive Past President)

Dr David Clarke (Non-Executive Treasurer)

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 Mark Lawrie (Non-Executive)

Other Key Management Personnel

Margaret Conley (Chief Executive Officer)

James Redrup (Corporate Services Manager) Resigned October 2006

Hennie Barnard (Corporate Services Manager) Appointed 1 December 2006

Dr Kevin Doyle (Veterinary Director)

Sonya van der Steege (Marketing and Communications Manager)

Dr Matthew Miles (Executive Officer ASAVA)

Jane Barry (Executive Officer EVA)

Anne Cover (Executive Officer ACV, ASV & ARV)

Allison Lyons (Executive Officer West Australia Division)

	Short-term Benefits of Directors and Key Personnel				Post Employment Benefit		Total
	Salary & fees	Super-annuation contribution	Bonus	Non-cash benefits	Super-annuation	Long-term benefits long service leave	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2006							
Total Compensation	562,705	100,136	-	-	-	-	662,841
2005							
Total Compensation	531,000	44,000	-	-	-	-	575,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

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 41.

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.

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.

2006	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		< 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	717,975	1,322,829	-	-	-	2,040,804
Receivables	-	-	-	-	581,754	581,754
	717,975	1,322,829			581,754	2,622,558
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	520,415	520,415
Net Financial Assets	717,975	1,322,829			61,339	2,102,143

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
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	426,139	426,139
Net Financial Assets	603,902	1,888,786	-	-	(3,330)	2,489,358

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

NOTE 20. COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office of the company is:

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:

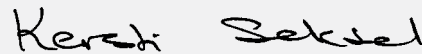
1. the financial statements and notes as set out on pages 43-56, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the company and economic entity as at 31 December 2006 and of their performance, as represented by the results of their operations and their cash flows, for the year ended on that date; 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 Clarke
Director and Honorary Treasurer



K Seksel
Director and President

Dated at Sydney this th Day of March 2007

MOORE STEPHENS**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE
DECLARATION**

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT

PARTNERS:

Andrew Blackwell CA
Chris Chandran CA
Stephen Humphrys FCA
Garry Leyshon FCA
Wayne Morton FCA
Joe Shannon CA
Robert Southwell CA
Spiro Tzannes FCA
Charlie Viola (Affiliate ICAA)
Bob Webster FCA
Scott Whiddett CA

CONSULTANTS:

Pat Bugden FCA
Anja Dorrell CA

As lead auditor for the audit of Australian Veterinary Association Limited and its Consolidated Entities for the year ended 31 December 2006, 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 Australian Veterinary Association Limited and its Consolidated Entities during the period.

**S. M. Whiddett**

Partner

Moore Stephens Sydney

Dated at Sydney this th Day of March 2007

Moore Stephens Sydney ABN 90 773 984 843
Level 7, 20 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000
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Liability limited
by a scheme
approved under
Professional
Standards
Legislation



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

PARTNERS:

Andrew Blackwell CA
Chris Chandran CA
Stephen Humphrys FCA
Garry Leyshon FCA
Wayne Morton FCA
Joe Shannon CA
Robert Southwell CA
Spiro Tzannes FCA
Charlie Viola (Affiliate ICAA)
Bob Webster FCA
Scott Whiddett CA

CONSULTANTS:

Pat Bugden FCA
Anja Dorrell CA

Scope

The financial report and directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement, Statement of Changes 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 2006. 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 58 of the financial report has not changed as at the date of providing our audit opinion.

MOORE STEPHENS**INDEPENDENT
AUDITOR'S REPORT cont.**

PARTNERS:

Andrew Blackwell CA
Chris Chandran CA
Stephen Humphrys FCA
Garry Leyshon FCA
Wayne Morton FCA
Joe Shannon CA
Robert Southwell CA
Spiro Tzannes FCA
Charlie Viola (Affiliate ICAA)
Bob Webster FCA
Scott Whiddett CA

CONSULTANTS:

Pat Bugden FCA
Anja Dorrell CA

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 2006 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


Moore Stephens Sydney

Sydney

Dated at Sydney this *th* Day of March 2007

AVA SUPPORTERS

Gold supporters

Platinum affinity partner

Bronze supporter

Sponsor





Australian Veterinary Association

ABN 63 008 522 852

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Email: members@ava.com.au Website: www.ava.com.au