



AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2007



## ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (AVA®)

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

Members join the AVA to ensure a strong national professional community in order to influence and inform decision makers, government policy-making and lift the visibility of veterinary science in public debates.

The vision of the AVA is for a cohesive, strong and highly respected veterinary profession achieving this through our core objective of advancing veterinary science.

Our mission is to be the national organisation representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession and to act and speak with a single voice on matters relating to the health and welfare of animals.

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

AVA membership is open to veterinarians and students studying a veterinary science degree.

Information about the AVA including member benefits, media releases, publications and AVA policies is available on the website [www.ava.com.au](http://www.ava.com.au)

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Annual Report 2007

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Designed by Southern Design & Print Group

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# GOVERNANCE



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

## **Policy development**

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

## **Monitoring**

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

## **COMPOSITION AND OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD**

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

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

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

The President is in regular communication with the Chief Executive Officer to review issues and construct and agree Board agendas. The Board holds most of its face-to-face meetings at the national office of the AVA, which is at St Leonards in New South Wales.

## **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.

## **DIRECTORS' FEES AND INDEMNIFICATION**

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

# MEMBERS OF THE AVA BOARD



**Di Sheehan**  
AVA President



**Mark Lawrie**  
President Elect



**Kersti Seksel**  
Immediate Past President



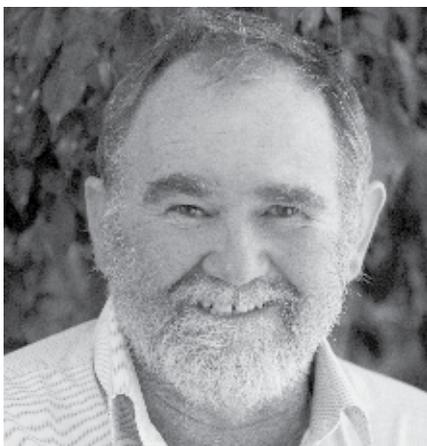
**David Clarke**  
Treasurer



**Bruce Cartmill**



**Sam McMahon**



**Kevin McGrath**



**Steve Atkinson**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This Annual Report attests to our very good performance and major achievements in the key areas of Continuing Education, Visibility, and Member Services including policy development, responsive feedback with equine influenza (EI) and effective business and people management throughout the organisation.

The past year has been one of significant activity for the AVA. We responded to the changing external challenges and expectations associated with the EI outbreak and clearly underscored the need for greater funding, resources, positioning of veterinary expertise and vigilance dedicated to biosecurity and the establishment of a Centre for Disease Control. The AVA made a submission to the then Minister McGauran in July 2007 (Project 500), addressing the need to improve Australia's biosecurity, disease control and public health initiatives.

As the peak body representing veterinarians in Australia we have provided a detailed submission to the Callinan equine influenza inquiry. We are now seen as experts looking to strengthen Australia's biosecurity capabilities. Our many recommendations include instituting world's best practice quarantine protocols and promoting 'One Medicine, One Health, One World'.

There are real benefits to be gained for the organisation by working together. The highly effective communication strategy adopted by EVA (Equine Veterinarians Australia) and AVA during the EI crisis is just one example, as was the joint effort on the submission to the Callinan Inquiry. I have no doubt that our association, Equine Veterinarians Australia and the profession generally will emerge from the outbreak with our community standing and professional integrity not just intact, but significantly enhanced.

Working with our members, in the public sector at DAFF, and the departments of primary industries in all states especially Queensland and New South Wales through the EI crisis, the AVA has helped improve cooperation to provide the best possible up to date information to members.

To "speak with one voice" the AVA addressed ways to improve communication within the organisation and the consistency of our communication with all our stakeholders internally and externally. The AVA can then deliver greater value to members and the profession by enhancing information and contributing to advancing veterinary science locally, nationally and globally.

We recognise the challenges we faced during 2007 and the concerns expressed by our members in relation to streamlining our processes and placed great importance on continually improving our operational performance, reducing duplication throughout the organisation and coordinating our

activities. In line with this core requirement the Board has appointed a National Communications Manager. This is a vital role for the organisation and is testament to the Board's recognition of how critically important a communication strategy is to our member-based organisation.

The Board Committees were expanded to include: Finance, Risk and Audit, Continuing Education, Membership, Visibility, and Special Projects. A great deal of work has taken place, especially in the areas of finance and audit to ensure compliance with the Boards commitment to improving and coordinating the delivery of services to members. The importance of risk management was recognised and an external group provided risk audit and analysis information to the Board. A comprehensive financial audit is undertaken annually and the recommendations aimed at further strengthening performance and building on existing reform initiatives and their implementation until all groups are compliant. We continued to maintain a strong focus on using resources efficiently. In line with the asset management plan, the decision to sell the Perth property was made after extensive consultation with the Perth Division.

A key pillar of the expanded Continuing Education (CE) program for members this year was hosting the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress in Sydney. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Congress Organising Committee, ASAVA Executive and members. It was a successful congress scientifically, socially and financially.

Continuing Education is a core pillar of the AVA and the CE we produce locally nationally and internationally is highly valued by our members. It is a collective resource we should be proud of and aim to make it easier to access and coordinate delivery for members. The uptake of CMAVA (Chartered Member of AVA) and the application and generation of knowledge in the form of CE is expanding and changing and we are committed to coordinating the CE presented to members and expanding the delivery to e-learning in a formal way.

We continue to work closely with our SIGs, Divisions and Branches and provided the leadership workshop in February as a forum for the AVA groups to canvass opportunities for sharing information, working more closely together, and expand their knowledge of the AVA. It was also an opportunity to enhance skills in areas such as leading an executive

team, governance and legal obligations and the roles and responsibilities of Directors and Officers of the AVA.

The special projects committee undertook the Chief Executive Officer appointment and I welcome Graham Catt to the organisation. His background as the CEO of a professional association in the not-for-profit sector is valuable for the AVA and his respect for members is a great asset.

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## The AVA has identified that there is an urgent need to broaden the scope and delivery of veterinary services.

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A significant advance during the year was the recognition that social criteria need to be considered in the AVA's strategic decision making. A strategic approach to corporate social responsibility will provide a framework for our involvement with programs like PetPEP and SPOT, and with regional projects of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, AusAID, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.

We have undertaken a variety of measures throughout the year to enhance our efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with governments at local, state and federal levels. AVA has a primary role in policy development, and we use our unique knowledge and expertise in active policy development relevant to the production sector performance animals, pets and animal welfare. The Policy Advisory Council ratified AVA policies in May and October and these policies have been published.

We maintain our focus on the delivery of quality science to members through grants to the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation and Animal Welfare trusts. During the year we successfully concluded a number of challenging issues as well as advancing work in a number of areas, such as mutual recognition of national registration.

We are also participating in discussions with AVBC looking at the recommendations of the Frawley, Craven, Neuman reports and further work undertaken by Professor Heath. We have called for a future needs study for the profession to ascertain the veterinary requirements for production, performance animals and pets as well as the future needs for pathology, public health and biosecurity in Australia.

The AVA has identified that there is an urgent need to broaden the scope and delivery of veterinary services. With over 70 per cent of infectious diseases being zoonotic it is critical for the protection of the Australian public that Australia's animal health system is also underpinned by appropriate investment in animal health research and development. Failure to address this issue has the potential to threaten the future of livestock production as well as influence community expectations of public health and safety.

Over the past year we have steadily improved the organisational structure, and operational effectiveness while responding to external biosecurity crises and the Callinan Inquiry. Looking forward we will continue to implement changes to build on operational effectiveness with particular emphasis on raising the standard of service to members personally, professionally and in practice, while continuing to engage with members in an open and transparent manner.

The achievements this year are a testament to the strategic guidance of the Board of Directors and the hard work and dedication of our talented staff. This year presented both challenges and opportunities, and I am confident that with the commitment of our staff and support of our members we will continue to have a strong, cohesive and highly respected veterinary profession that speaks with one voice—One AVA.

I also wish to extend my thanks to National Corporate Services Manager, Mr Heindrik Barnard and National Veterinary Director Dr Kevin Doyle, for their achievements in the role of Acting CEO.

In closing I wish to extend my thanks to the Board. They have governed the Association well and added considerable value to addressing operational and strategic matters through their individual perspectives and expertise.

***Diane M Sheehan***  
***President***

# CEO'S REPORT



It was a year of change and achievements for the Australian Veterinary Association in 2007.

The association bade farewell to its Chief Executive Officer of 4 years, Margaret Conley. I would like to thank her on behalf of both members and AVA staff for her great service to the organisation over that time.

2007 posed some significant challenges for the association, most notably the outbreak of equine influenza in NSW and Queensland. Despite this, the AVA continued to build on our core business of advancing veterinary science - through continuing education, making veterinary science visible and providing member services, underpinned by good governance and efficient administration.

During the year, there were a number of key achievements for the AVA.

- ▶ The AVA Vet Ed Continuing Education program grew rapidly with around 800 members actively participating. Vet Ed enables AVA members to record their development both personally and professionally, and allows members to meet and exceed the Veterinary Registration Board's requirements. Members can now view their AVA Vet Ed record on-line.
- ▶ The number of members achieving CMAVA status within the AVA Vet Ed system more than tripled to 110 members. Members who complete 120 hours in a triennium are awarded CMAVA status, presented with a certificate and lapel pin, and are entitled to use the post-nominals 'CMAVA'.
- ▶ The Annual Conference in Melbourne was highly successful once again, attracting over 900 delegates and achieving overwhelming positive feedback from participants.
- ▶ Media monitors counted more than 1600 media items mentioning the AVA, a new record compared to 900 mentions in 2006 and 400 in 2005.
- ▶ The policy development process was streamlined, and the Policy Compendium was substantially improved and made available to the public on the AVA website.
- ▶ There was a large increase in the level of sponsorship support for the AVA, and a strong budget surplus.

## EQUINE INFLUENZA

Some members have suggested the outbreak of equine influenza in NSW and Queensland, may have been the biggest crisis facing AVA members in 60 years.

The association successfully facilitated cooperation and coordination between the many organisations involved, while keeping vets continuously informed. This was also an opportunity for the AVA to position itself as a prominent player in future discussions

about changes to quarantine and biosecurity in Australia.

The EI outbreak also meant that 2007 was a very trying year for many members, and a great deal of staff time and resources were dedicated to helping those affected in the second half of the year. The association's HR Advisory Service was a key resource for members during this time.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Policy Development Implementation Group is overseen by National Veterinary Director, Kevin Doyle. With input from the Chief Executive Officer, the Board, Policy Advisory Council, Special Interest Groups, AVA Advisory Committees and members, this group prepares submissions and reports for ministers, MPs, departments and authorities, the wider profession, community and industry groups, the public and the media. The AVA also provides expert members for committees that advise governments and industry organisations. Dr Bruce Twentyman was appointed in September as Assistant Veterinary Director as successor to Dr Tim Wilson.

Issues addressed by the Policy Development Implementation Group included the equine influenza inquiry and eradication program, emergency animal diseases and AVA shareholder role in Animal Health Australia, and involvement of members with emergency animal disease planning, the Australian Veterinary Reserve (AVR).

The AVA also contributes to the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, of which the AVA is represented on the six sectoral committees, and has input to Animal Health Australia and to the Australian position on international matters managed by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE).

## AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY JOURNAL

The AVJ is an internationally respected peer-reviewed journal, and a key point of interaction between the Australian profession and the international scientific community. As well as being a source of high quality educational material, continuing education points are available for authors, reviewers, Editorial Committee members, clinical advisers, associate editors and for AVA members through the new continuing education quizzes.

There were 303 submissions of articles for peer review in 2007. As only around 100 articles can be published per year, this means that only a third of the submitted articles are accepted, and this is a major factor in maintaining the quality of the articles.

The AVJ is now published by Blackwell Publishing Asia, part of Wiley-Blackwell, the second largest publishing company in the world. Currently, the AVJ is housed on the Blackwell Synergy website, and downloads have increased dramatically over 2007. In January 2007, 2172 abstracts were downloaded by users and this rose to 5574 in October, with a total of 44,236 for the year. Full-text total requests rose from 991 to 2545 in the same time, with a total of 24,145 full papers retrieved. This has markedly improved the visibility and the international recognition of the journal and our authors.

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the AVA's 2007 award recipients.

### **Gilruth Prize:**

Kevin Whithear

### **AVA Fellowships:**

John Gillham and JE (Carl) Peterson

### **Meritorious Service Awards:**

Steve Atkinson, the late Allan Brown, David Clarke, Dr Martin Copland, Jennifer Cumming, James Gilkerson, Peter Holm, Matt Makin, Bernie Mason, Michael Sheedy, Colin Trengove

### **Excellence in Teaching Award:**

Scott Norman

All these achievements occurred before I joined the association, and I want to congratulate the many AVA members, staff, and office holders who contributed to such a successful 2007. In particular I would like to thank our National Corporate Services Manager, Hendrik Barnard, who was Acting Chief Executive Officer for several months, and National Veterinary Director Dr Kevin Doyle, who also took on the CEO role in late 2007. Both Hennie and Kevin did an admirable job at a difficult time and are to be congratulated for their skill and dedication.

*Graham Catt*

*Chief Executive Officer*

# TREASURER'S REPORT



2007 was another record year for the Australian Veterinary Association, with the company once again delivering strong results across every business unit and group. Of particular note is the increase in net consolidated surplus – up 53% to \$1,176,728. This clearly indicates the strength of our investments, the returns delivered by the National office, Divisions, Branches and Special Interest Groups and the commitment to good governance by the Board.

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Total consolidated income for AVA Ltd was \$9,050,725, expenses were \$7,873,997, resulting in a surplus for the year of \$1,176,728. This compared to the budgeted deficit of \$287,104 and surplus in 2005 and 2006 of \$811,472 and \$826,584 respectively. Clearly, the last three years have been successful for the association. In 2007, AVA national recorded a surplus of \$655,683, the Divisions \$104,838, SIGs \$168,387, Branches \$54,631, and the Trusts \$193,189.

The outstanding performance for the year was the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA Special Interest Group) which produced a surplus of \$138,599.

This was due to a highly successful and well attended World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) conference hosted in Sydney in August. Also contributing to the overall surplus was the sale of the Victorian Division property, which produced a gain of \$518,653.

AVA Ltd has strengthened the position of the balance sheet during the year, with \$3,815,338 as cash, receivables, etc., \$2,927,888 in managed funds and \$6,093,928 invested in property. There was \$1,310,627 total liabilities, giving an overall position in total equity of \$11,526,527, an increase of 11% compared with 2006.

## MANAGED INVESTMENTS

AVA Ltd investment portfolio of \$4,191,827 is managed through Macquarie Bank and Bank West term deposits, and has increased from \$4 million in 2006, an increase of 4.7%.

## PROPERTY

During the year the Victorian Division property, AVA House in Brunswick, was sold for \$810,000 and another office and car parks were purchased in the Docklands precinct, producing a gain of \$518,653. The Board also approved a fit-out and redecoration of the South Australian Division offices.

## FUNDS

There were no successful applications to the communication fund in 2007. The balance of the fund is \$32,491.

## BUSINESS UNITS

The three main income producing business units of membership, sponsorship and marketing, and Continuing Education all resulted in net incomes of \$2,558,820, \$516,253 and \$2,989,024 respectively, net expenditure of \$633,878, \$344,642 and \$2,102,935 respectively, producing surpluses of \$1,924,942, \$171,611 and \$886,089. There were small positive variances in membership and sponsorship compared to budgeted figures, but large variances in conferences. As expected, association governance, communications and management produced a net expenditure of \$2,324,566 representing 25% of association income.

The significant gain in Continuing Education income was associated with the WSAVA conference, but surpluses were also associated with the AVA National Conference (Melbourne) and Equine Veterinarians of Australia conferences. Association management through the sale of the Victorian property and increased income through sponsorships and the Guild insurance and Diners Club Affinity programs were positive, whilst there was a significant increase in expenditure related to the outbreak of equine influenza and the costs associated with governance and payment to outside consultants and specialist advisors. Overall this was contained, and the Board are confident the outcomes were matched to the expenses incurred for the overall benefit to AVA members as well as the EVA.

The AVA Board resolved at the December meeting to allocate \$120,000 from this year's surplus to Continuing Education in 2008, which will be allocated to each Division, Branch and SIG for payment of speakers. The Board also discussed and resolved to fund \$280,000 for research and projects in 2008. These will be finalised in February 2008.

It has been a pleasure working with each of the groups' Treasurers again this year and I would like to thank each of them for their commitment to putting together budgets and submitting documents as due to National Office. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and work of the Board, the Finance sub-committee and the AVA staff who keep the AVA finance department on a sound grounding and the wheels of the treasury well oiled.

*David Clarke*  
*Treasurer*

# ORGANISATIONAL CHART





# STATE DIVISIONS

# QUEENSLAND



It has been interesting and challenging year for the Queensland Division in 2007. This term of office began with the resignation of our long term office manager Mary George after 13 years of devoted service to the Division and its members over that time. Mary fittingly finished her time with the Division at the very successful and educational annual conference and meeting hosted by the South West Branch and held in Toowoomba.

The ongoing success of the branches hosting the annual conference and meeting will continue in the coming year, with the Sunshine Coast Branch playing host in 2008. This movement of the meeting around our large state along with the local branches input allows our regional and rural members to have face to face input into the affairs of their Division.

Hayley Mapri took over the office manager's position for the first 6 months before moving on. The office is currently being looked after by the very competent Gill Arnold who stepped up to the position just prior to the equine influenza outbreak. Gill is currently being supported in the office by Brodie Rees, whose time is split between the office and PetPEP Queensland.

Ongoing sporadic incidences and suspect cases of notifiable diseases (hendra and anthrax) have kept the lines of communication open with Biosecurity Queensland. As veterinarians are major stakeholders in both our production industries and the biosecurity of Queensland the Government had agreed to notify and keep veterinarians informed of these types of incidents via the AVA.

These very open lines of communication were of great importance in August when I received the call informing us that we were in a state of emergency with a suspected exotic disease outbreak and that as a major stakeholder the AVA was invited to participate in an emergency teleconference beginning in 15 minutes' time. After three or four emergency teleconferences over that first weekend as the Minister invoked the emergency state and quarantine state, the first Monday was a marathon seven hour teleconference session as industry came together to both try and understand the implications as well as begin formulating a plan of attack. These meetings continued initially on a daily basis then every second day and eventually weekly as the vaccination programme began to roll out and the disease began to regress. Currently as the emergency moves into the project management phase the industry meetings have slowed to biweekly allowing some time to again concentrate on other Division matters.

For the maintenance of these other matters I have to thank the rest of the executive to which I have had to delegate a number of tasks that would normally have been handled by

the President. Craig Pullen as past president has maintained the Division representation with the issues relating to unwanted cats and dogs and in particular a close relationship with the Minister himself. Sue Fowkes as president elect had to take on a dual role as the Treasurer after the resignation of Norbert Gaulton. Dr Bob Rees has now filled the Treasurer's position and has a keen eye on the future. Dr Robert Hedlefs always diligently looks after us at policy council. Bruce Pott who has been of great support with respect to equine influenza, in the early stages we were talking more to each other than to our wives. A special thanks goes to Allan Baker our Secretary who maintained the office after Mary left and before Hayley arrived. He has been instrumental in maintaining the continuity of the office for the members.

PetPEP continues to provide an education program to schools with the input from councils, RSPCA and the Department of Primary Industries. Amanda Pollard and Mark Stallwood have both been busy as usual with the program which was heavily supported by the membership at the annual meeting at Toowoomba. While the program is rated successful in the delivery of its message to school children, concerns continue to remain over its financial viability. A national forum has been organized to look outside the square to see if this issue can be addressed.

When I took on this role I promised that the Division would uphold the 'One AVA' motto. Throughout the year and especially during the emergency state I believe we have achieved this. I wish Sue Fowkes all the best in the upcoming year and hope the lines of communication remain open and free with the incoming National President, as we are after all 'One AVA'.

*Andrew Easton*  
*President*

# NEW SOUTH WALES



As my year as President of the NSW Division approaches an end, I reflect on a year of challenges, achievements, learning and fun.

Within each of our practices we operate in a very insular world. Stepping out of our comfort zones and taking a role within the association, meeting new people, finding out what is happening in the wider veterinary environment enriches your professional life and I would encourage all members to do this at some stage in their careers.

In 2007, the NSW Division continued to support continuing education in regional NSW. With financial and logistical assistance from the NSW Division, the Far South Coast branch organised a three day conference in Batemans Bay in September. The format of these regional conferences was initiated in 2006 by the Orana branch and they are proving extremely beneficial to members. These conferences are held in large regional towns, often in coastal or rural resorts, offering members continuing education opportunities close to home. Conference and accommodation costs are usually much lower than larger city based equivalents. The smaller, more intimate environment of these conferences means good networking among peers and allows for more interaction between participants and speakers.

In Batemans Bay there were two concurrent streams, one equine and the other

dermatology. The lecturers were of high caliber—Linda Vogelneust on dermatology, Rick Atwell on tick paralysis, John Crowley on digital radiography and Oliver Lijou on equine dentistry. The social agenda included a trivia night with an animal focus. There was also a kid's club or crèche available so that vets with young families could attend. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Far South Coast Branch again, especially Tara and Adam Toyer. Thanks also goes to the sponsors Merial, Royal Canin, Norbrook, Provet Medfin, Radincon and Virbac.

More branches will organise similar functions in 2008, with similar events being planned for Dubbo, Armidale and Wagga.

NSW Division was finally successful in lobbying the NSW Government to allow veterinarians direct access to the Companion Animal Registry. This has taken several years of negotiations but finally veterinarians can check for an injured stray's owner as soon as it is admitted to the hospital.

Late in 2007, independent MP Clover Moore presented a bill to the NSW Parliament under the title of Animal (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2007.

The key points in the bill were:

- ▶ Prohibited the sale of mammals from pet shops or markets
- ▶ Prohibited the advertising of mammals for sale (print or electronic) except by shelters or registered breeders
- ▶ No sales to children under 16 years of age
- ▶ Sales permitted through registered breeders and veterinarians
- ▶ Regulated information to be provided to new owners of animals
- ▶ Required all sold mammals to be microchipped

The intent of the bill was to address impulse buying and prevent the unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals. While some of the proposed bill had merit, there were areas of concern to our members. We addressed some concerns with Clover's policy officer and shared our opinions with the Minister and shadow ministers. We informed the NSW members about the Act, sharing with them our position and requesting feedback. All responses were supportive

of the position that the Division was taking. Clover Moore withdrew the bill.

The main challenge this year has been the equine influenza outbreak. Being a small animal practitioner I now know more about equine influenza than I ever thought I would need to. The first alerts that were made available to distribute to veterinarians were on a Saturday. As the NSW office was shut I endeavored to contact each of the branch presidents or secretaries to ask them to forward the alert emails on to their members. This proved problematic in some cases as the only numbers that we have for many of these individuals are for their practices or workplaces. As it was a Saturday afternoon most were closed making contact difficult. We have now improved our protocols so that the NSW executive can email all members on a weekend remotely from the office.

We are presently expanding the support available to branches. We have employed an administration officer an extra day a week to allow for this support. We have created a branch manual with simple to follow instructions for each branch's executive. Branches are given the opportunity to send a representative to our annual meeting where they meet the administration staff and find out how the division can assist them in their roles.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the NSW Committee. All members have contributed in positive ways in 2007. There has been robust discussion, allowing for different points of view, while still working for common goals. In particular I would like to thank Peter Gibbs, without whose guidance and friendship I would have not survived this year. Nigel Scott now takes on the presidency and I wish him well in his year in the role.

**Debbie Neutze**  
*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 was appointed, composed of 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 Ros Nichol as president, conducted a strategic planning meeting on the 27th September and has since been developing long term strategies for involvement of branches in divisional activities, for communication with members, management of divisional activities, recruitment of new members and political positioning.

The major continuing education 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. A total of 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 was well attended and included 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 helping branches conduct 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 and 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 2006. 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.

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*

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA



This year has proved to be an exciting, active and enjoyable year in South Australia.

The annual South Australian Division conference heralded another huge year for the Division. The conference, held in Adelaide, was a fantastic success with both world leading speakers and a well-supported trade display. Our branches have also been very active with the Small Animal Practitioner Branch, run by Dr Warren Foreman, holding some very successful dinner meetings throughout the year.

The Rural Veterinary Practitioners Branch has become active again and held their first meeting in two years at Murray Bridge under the direction of their new president, Clare Rogers. The Henty branch in the south east of the state also held a dinner meeting earlier in the year on HR matters. The Hindmarsh branch has had some interesting meetings including one at SARDI, another at AQIS and last week we went to Warrawong Sanctuary for a dinner and Twilight Tour. So all in all we have provided some great continuing education for vets in 2007.

In June we held our strategic thinking day at Glenelg. We looked at the vision of the AVA nationally and then evolved it to try and make it more innovative and definitive for South Australia. The day yielded some great new ideas and concepts for the division and challenged the old paradigms of how we do things within the AVA.

One of the most strategically significant parts of our vision is visibility within the community, and a component of this is the PetPEP program. This is growing rapidly at the moment and we are currently seeking accreditation of the program with the Department of Education. We visited almost 10,000 students last year across the state and utilized just under 500 volunteer presenters, so thank you for supporting the PetPEP program. A truly amazing effort.

New graduate veterinarians were welcomed to the state with a Welcome Dinner in February, which was followed by a Mentorship Dinner in April. Support, encouragement and mentorship of new graduates, who are often nervous and not particularly confident in their abilities, is a vital function of the AVA and the help of our supporters in these activities is highly appreciated.

The University of Adelaide School of Veterinary Science is up and running with the first intake of graduates already happening in 2008! The AVA has been actively involved in helping to ensure that the University is well placed to create a successful veterinary school that will help ensure the health and viability of the veterinary profession in South Australia.

The Vet Industry Ball this year was a fantastic success with an unprecedented turnout, thanks to great support provided by vet clinics and sponsors alike. The night was such a success that we will need a bigger venue next year.

In November we held the annual President's Reception at the Hyde Park Tavern - another enjoyable night for all who attended. It was an opportunity for vets across the state to gather and talk through a range of issues, and to also just catch up for a drink. The National President, Di Sheehan, and the acting CEO, Hennie Barnard, also attended giving members a chance to discuss national issues directly with them.

Four issues of the Bulletin were published throughout the year. It is seen by vets across the state as a valuable communication medium, containing information and news pertinent to all veterinarians in South Australia.

Finally, just a word of thanks to all the committee members this year. The South Australian division is only as effective and active as it is due to the dedication of the committee members, and also of the office staff. Barbara Gill is a fantastic asset for the division and I'd like to thank her for all her efforts for the AVA in South Australia.

2008 promises many exciting and new opportunities for the Division, and I look forward to watching the growth and expansion of the profession and the association here in South Australia.

*David Mason*  
*President*

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA



For the WA Division, 2007 was a challenging though rewarding year which kept both the committee and the office on their toes.

A number of important issues were faced with regard to new legislation and these included: amendments to regulations of the Veterinary Surgeons Act; de-regulation of pregnancy in cattle and new accreditation system for non-veterinarians; vet chest; inquiry into SAT; submission by Australian Veterinary Association (WA Division) to proposed amendments to the Dog Act 1976; and lobbying for funding for vet clinical training.

The WA Division continued to run a number of successful continuing education events including practitioner seminars which were well attended this year and fully sponsored. The committee is grateful for the support of David Marshall who, though no longer on the committee, continues to offer valuable support in this and so many other areas. We plan to organise two small regional conferences in 2008 and a state conference in 2009 following extensive surveying of veterinarians and the trade to confirm that we have support for the concept.

The WA division continued the 29 year old tradition of the AVA/Murdoch Trade Fair in September which this year was bigger than ever, so much so that we are looking at new, larger venues to accommodate the event in 2008. This event serves the purpose of providing veterinarians and the trade with the opportunity to network and also provides an avenue for introducing mentors to mentees in the period when it is most important to them. We are fortunate that the work of Paul Davey in developing the Graduate Support Scheme

continues to bear fruit. Thanks also to Tony Vigano who continues to volunteer his time in organising the Trade Fair.

The WA division was also involved in the popular Grads in Practice conference and the new fifth year off campus conference day organised by Murdoch. We had good attendance at the President's Reception with nearly 80 people enjoying fine dining at Chanterelle at Jessica's in March. Representatives of the WA Division together with the VSB and Murdoch visited regional centres north and south of Perth to talk to local veterinarians about issues of importance to them.

In 2008 we are again facing new challenges with the sale of AVA House, the relocation of office premises and the recognition that having an office staffed by one person working two days per week is not enough to relieve the burden on the committee and to significantly improve services to members though we have seen positive changes. With the implantation of our newly-developed three year plan we hope to be able to report on even greater successes in 2008.

*Mark Hopwood*  
*President*

# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

At the start of the year the ACT Government released several changes in legislation that directly affected the veterinary profession. The timing of the releases (over the summer holidays) and the length of the comment period made it difficult to adequately canvass members and provide a representative response before the close of the comment period.

The ACT Division wrote to the relevant government departments expressing concern about the short comment period and then hosted a forum for AVA members. Consolidated AVA submissions were subsequently prepared and presented.

The main issues raised by the ACT Division with respect to the Medicine and Poisons Bill were labelling and the disposal and storage of controlled substances. Comments on the Domestic Animals Amendment Bill covered issues including microchipping and the mandatory early desexing of cats.

The 2007 ACT Division Annual Meeting in March was again attended by Dr Kersti Seksel, AVA National President. Guest speaker this year was Dr Kevin Doyle, who presented an entertaining account of the history of Australian quarantine.

The ACT Division farewelled Maria Bond as the

administrative assistant but we were soon able to welcome Nasreen Hafesjee to the position.

Divisional presentations covered a wide range of topics this year including artificial breeding of grey nurse sharks by Dr Nick Ottway, horse welfare issues in the tropics by Dr Geoff Chubb and an information evening by the Australian Orangutan Project. ACT members of the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia were also invited to attend AVA presentations.

The Division supported ACT veterinary practices participating in the Million Paws Walk and we look forward to raising our profile at this and other events next year.

The ACT Division once again sponsored a prize to the highest achieving veterinary nurse student which was presented at the Canberra Institute of Technology's Awards Night.

*Jill Millan*  
*President*

# NORTHERN TERRITORY

The year 2007 has been a very busy one for most Northern Territory vets. This reflects the robust Northern Territory economy and its general growth. Local vets have been tied up with work and attendance at the 2007 March conference in Darwin was lower than expected. There were a large number of veterinary nurses who attended, however, exhibiting great enthusiasm for the lectures and technical displays.

The drug subcommittee met with the local Department of Primary Industries with reference particularly to "off label drug usage" and this issue is being followed up by interested members. The issues of dog control at local government level have become pertinent, especially in the rural and rapidly growing Darwin fringes, and the committee is pursuing contact with the minister for local government on this issue.

The export of live cattle is very important to the Territory economy and cattle production system. Media reports of a ban on live exports are extremely worrisome to cattle producers, vets and the local economies which are so dependent on this industry. Particularly hard hit by any ban will be the nascent, emerging Aboriginal cattle industry which will utilise aboriginal land for production appropriate

to and inclusive of the local indigenous population. Other employment is scarce in many of these areas.

In addition, rodeos are important in these remote areas as often this is the only sporting and cultural pastime available to isolated residents both indigenous and non-indigenous.

*Peter Trembath*  
*President*

The background of the page is an abstract composition of numerous thin, overlapping, curved lines in various shades of gray. These lines create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a complex, layered structure. A solid black horizontal band runs across the middle of the page, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

# ACUPUNCTURE

## AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE GROUP (AVAG)



The Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Group's (AVAG) main aim is to provide quality continuing education opportunities for its members and in particular for those who are International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) graduates and need to maintain their continuing education for annual IVAS membership and registration.

The annual AVA conference in May in Melbourne provided us with two days of lectures. Jan Still from South Africa presented detailed scientific lectures on topics such as electro-acupuncture, ear acupuncture and acupuncture for musculo-skeletal problems. Dr Ian Gawler gave a wonderful presentation about cancer, lifestyle and chemotherapy. It was virtually standing room only for this outstanding speaker. The conference was followed by a wonderful three day meditation-based stress management retreat with Ian and Ruth Gawler at their property in the Yarra Valley.

July saw the start of the sixth Australian IVAS course in Geelong, Melbourne. More than 50 veterinarians from Australasia are enrolled in this course. Week one was completed in July, week two in September and week three is scheduled for February 2008, followed by exams soon after that.

In August we presented a day of acupuncture lectures at the World Small Animal Veterinarian Association conference in Sydney. Linda Boggie, the immediate past president of IVAS, visited from the Netherlands to speak about the general applications and science of acupuncture. Dr Liz Frank from Perth spoke on myofascial trigger points. Additionally, acupuncture was mentioned at quite a few other lectures, including the surgery, medicine and neurology streams.

November was the month of Chinese veterinary herbal medicine with courses in the east and west. Canadian Steve Marsden presented another intensive eight-day foundation course in Sydney, followed by a two-day master class. And in Perth, American Bruce Ferguson, now a senior lecturer at Murdoch University, started the first two day module of the West Australian herbal course. Bruce is planning to present six of these modules over the next year or so.

The AVAG produces a quarterly journal and has an active email newsletter which is produced every two weeks on average.

The AVAG is pleased to announce its fantastic new website. The website address is: [www.acuvet.com.au](http://www.acuvet.com.au). AVAG Members, who are IVAS certified and available for acupuncture referrals, are able to enter their details for the public referral register. Other veterinarians and the public are now able to easily find suitably qualified veterinary acupuncturists. The website is prominent on web searches and enhances the visibility of the AVAG, its members and the AVA.

Thanks to the AVAG committee members for all their hard work during 2007!

*Esther Horton*  
President

# ALPACAS

## AUSTRALIAN ALPACA VETERINARIANS (AAV)



The AAV is a special interest group that encourages the education of veterinarians about all camelids, but principally alpacas and llamas.

This group currently has an active membership of nearly 100 veterinarians in Australia. It is a relatively small but close-knit and active group of members that always welcomes new member to help cater for the growing group of clients that own these animals.

The AAV meets annually for a short conference over three days in various locations around Australia. The group generally hosts international and local speakers talking about practical veterinary issues that are important to Australian veterinarians. Some conferences also have a practical hands-on component that new veterinarians to this field particularly enjoy.

The 2007 conference was held at Hepburn Springs, Victoria. This year the 2008 conference at Darling Harbour, Sydney will

coincide with the Alpaca Industry's World Alpaca Conference being held at the same location. It is hoped that the 2009 AAV conference will be held in Ireland.

2007 was a sad year for our group as one of our much loved members, Dr Richard Dixon passed away. Richard was highly regarded within our group for his knowledge as a veterinarian and as an alpaca breeder. He was instrumental in developing the Q Alpaca assurance program. Richard was always a gentleman and he will be greatly missed.

*Andrew Paxton-Hall*  
*President*

# CONSERVATION BIOLOGISTS

## AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY CONSERVATION BIOLOGISTS (AAVCB)



After a slow start to the year the group's activities picked up with the election of a new committee in May. The group's objective is to ensure that the AVA has a viable and credible role in the development and implementation of environmental and biodiversity policies at all levels of government. It will do this while also delivering continuing education to members through a range of activities.

The quarterly newsletter, *Wild Side* has been rejuvenated under the energetic new Editor, Bo Raphael, with two editions in the second half of 2007. The newsletter is probably the single most important way in which we can inform and involve our members. The other important asset in this regard is the AAVCB website, and that will come on line in early 2008.

The best way to get people to feel that they are involved in the group is through gatherings of one sort or another. In Sydney we have put in place a program of two monthly evening meetings with a guest speaker following a

barbeque. The first speaker in October was Professor Chris Dickman of the University of Sydney's School of Biological Sciences who gave a very thought-provoking talk on the management of dingoes and wild dogs. This activity was held at the university's new Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre at Camden. The second gathering in November was at Taronga Zoo, with Senior Veterinarian Larry Vogelneest talking about the importation of the five Asian elephants from Thailand – a fascinating story.

The membership of AAVCB now exceeds 100 as the year 2008 begins, with the priority now to double that number in the coming year. There is a plan to establish or support student wildlife groups in all six vet schools.

*Tony English*  
*President*

# AVIAN

## AUSTRALIAN AVIAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AAVMA)



The Australian Veterinary Association Avian group aims to promote the interests of veterinarians in the area of cage and aviary bird health and welfare.

It does this through scientific meetings, email discussion groups and the provision of expert advice on avian health and welfare issues when needed.

The main focus of the avian special interest group 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 central issue addressed at the 2007 annual 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 the export of native birds.

In the past year the added promotion has led to steady membership numbers. The AAVMA annual conference will be with the Unusual and Exotic Pets special interest group in September 2008 in Brisbane. The AAVMA will also co-present with the Unusual and Exotic Pets group at the May 2008 AVA annual conference in Perth.

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. Practical clinic experience on recent graduation may however be minimal, leading to a sharp falling away of these newly acquired avian skills. Many students seek guidance in training as undergraduates and as new graduates. The avian special interest group provides a mentor system for undergraduates and veterinarians who wish to improve their skills or deal with avian cases. As in the previous year, undergraduates are being encouraged to contact and join the association in order to facilitate appropriate placement for undergraduate private clinic training and new graduates can be assisted in finding employment in avian-friendly veterinary clinics.

The avian group is 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 2007 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)



AVBIG has continued with a modest increase in size in 2007. Membership at the end of the year was 206, with students representing about one quarter of our membership.

The highlight of the year was our contribution to the AVA Conference in Melbourne with a behaviour stream, joint sessions, dinner and a field trip to the Australian Equine Behaviour Centre. The total continuing professional development in behaviour was 27 hours over five days. As in previous years, sessions were well attended and resulted in an increase in membership. Our international speaker, Kathy Houpt (Cornell University) and local speakers contributed to joint sessions with Equine Veterinarians Australia and Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics.

AVBIG continues to strive to provide to behavioural information that is of immediate practical relevance to general practice in Australia.

The nine issues to date of the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research* has covered an impressive range of species and topics. These include dog bite, medication, euthanasia, electric shock, temperament, genetic basis of anxiety, and cognitive dysfunction. Although the domestic dog is the most common species considered, there have also been papers on cats, cattle, horses and brown bears. Anecdote suggests AVBIG members who automatically receive the journal consider it a valuable resource. The cost of a personal subscription to this publication alone would be greater than the subscription to AVBIG.

We wish to warmly acknowledge the financial support of Hill's Pet Nutrition that covers the cost of providing the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* to our student members.

We continue to publish an approximately bi-monthly newsletter, BIG News on current news, upcoming events, book reviews, executive activities and articles of interest on behaviour. Members are invited to contribute to the newsletter that is distributed by email or post. The Committee is investigating the feasibility of circulating the newsletter more efficiently using a web-based system.

The AVBIG chat list, to which approximately half the members subscribe, continues to be sporadically active in such matters as cases seen or about to be seen, and treatment protocols.

The current Executive Committee is Robert Holmes (President), Kersti Seksel (Immediate Past-President), Gaille Perry (President-Elect and Policy Councillor), Lisa Henshaw (Secretary), Debbie Calnon (Treasurer), Kim Kendall (Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor), Linda Beer (Discussion Group Coordinator), Andrew O'Shea (Minutes Secretary), and Jenny Palmer.

The Committee was formally enlarged at the AGM from six to nine. This has reduced the workload on some officers and brought in a greater range of talents and interests. An unfortunate consequence of a greater geographical spread has been that face-to-face meetings between AVA Conferences have become unjustifiably expensive. The Committee presently conducts most business by bi-monthly teleconference with email communication between meetings. Much time is taken up with policy development, conference programming, and the development of standard operating procedures in order for this volunteer group to operate more efficiently and effectively on behalf of members. Our aim is to have at least one member of AVBIG in each small or mixed general practice in Australia.

**Robert Holmes**  
*President*

# HISTORY

## AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY (AVHS)



The AVHS has had a successful year. At the Annual AVA Conference in Melbourne in May, the President and Chief Executive Officer of AVA attended an official handover of the Max Henry Memorial Library (MHML) to the custodianship of the Gilruth Library at the Veterinary School University of Melbourne Parkville. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of a plaque and represented years of dedicated work by the former President, Trevor Faragher and former Librarian, Dick Roe, to preserve the library.

At the annual meeting, the following guidelines were agreed for the holding or acquisition of books for the Max Henry Memorial Library:

1. Books written by an Australian veterinarian about a veterinary or related topic;
2. Books reviewers for the AVJ to be encouraged for donation to the library;
3. Veterinary books owned by notable members of the veterinary profession and signed by them or otherwise identified as owned by them; and
4. Old books on farriery, veterinary science or a related scientific topic.

This new arrangement for the collection of books should encourage AVA members to donate or bequeath their book collection to the library now that it has a suitable home. A bank account dedicated to the Max Henry Memorial Library and separate from the AVHS account will be opened for the purpose of purchasing books for the library. Explorations are under way to have such donations eligible for tax deduction.

Nicki Mock, a veterinary graduate working for Melbourne University as a trainee librarian, is in the process of rewriting the booklist that will make the list more readily accessible. The Gilruth Librarian, Ms Tammie Goates, will facilitate the borrowing of books.

If any reader of this report would like to donate books, money or a display cabinet to the library, please contact Dr Tom Hart, PO Box 267, Gisborne 3437, Victoria, phone (03) 5428 3424 or email tomhart@tpg.com.au. It would be helpful if activity associated with the MHML was channelled through Dr Hart. Dr Hart is proposing the purchase of a display cabinet to keep the books of greatest historic value and age that are not currently on view.

The AVHS will be holding its annual meeting at 5pm on Monday 26 May 2008, the first day of the AVA Conference in Perth. A full day of speakers has been arranged from 8.00am and members of AVA are welcome to come to the scientific sessions. There will be an annual dinner at 7.30pm following the annual meeting.

AVHS has commenced discussions about the future of the historical collection formerly collected and curated by Dr Bob Taylor.

*Andrew Turner*  
*President*

# CATTLE

## AUSTRALIAN CATTLE VETS (ACV)

The AVA Annual Conference covered a range of topics including updates on industry programs (including InCalf, Countdown Downunder, Cow Time, extended lactations, MacKinnon project, BJD and greenhouse gas emissions), mastitis, reproductive management, animal welfare and a report on RAGFAR.

An excellent field trip to Ellinbank Research Farm showcased the work of some of these programs. Thanks to our Victorian State Representative, Peter Grant, for his excellent work with AVA to organise the cattle program.

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.

The ACV 2007 conference was extremely successful, attracting over 200 delegates. The theme of bovine surgery and pathology was presented by Dr David Anderson, a leading American speaker, supported by some excellent local speakers. The in-house presentations were supported by a full day of practical rotation at the newly built James Cook University facility. Special thanks to Lee Fitzpatrick for his cooperation and to Rob Hedlefs for his local coordination.

In 2007, ACV invited the Cattle Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists new members who are also ACV members to present on the program in an attempt to strengthen ties between the two organizations. This incentive was welcomed and will be repeated in 2008.

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

We have books available about Pregnancy Testing, Bull Testing, Willis Drop Spaying, and electronic copies of proceedings and videos of the talks at the ACV conference.

We are currently investigating means to bring members electronic access to proceedings.

ACV members have 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 independently been interviewed by journalists 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 Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

In 2007, ACV was involved in the inaugural southern beef event at Dubbo. Local member Scott Parry and a team of willing members spent two days improving the visibility of veterinary science with local practitioners and speaking to producers about the value of animal health in their operations.

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.

We are delighted that AVA member surveys show our special interest group ranks very highly with members when it comes to member services. The greatest member benefit is the most intangible – having a support network of like-minded colleagues and a contact point for more information about any problems.

ACV is very active with students and recent graduates. State ACV representatives organize an event (or two) with students interested in rural or bovine practice at each university each year. With sponsorship assistance from 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 2007 Part A winner was Andrea Boland. Part B winners are provided funding to attend the ACV conference each year. These accredited schemes promote a standard which practitioners must reach and rural producers and breed societies are now looking for veterinarians who 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 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 2007 winner was Scott Parry.

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. A new initiative this year is the formation of the Genetics sub-committee chaired by Brian Burn.

*David Petersen*  
*President*

# DENTAL

## AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY DENTAL SOCIETY (AVDS)



A major effort has gone into the production and distribution of our dental guidelines this year. The first covers a prophylaxis, the second the treatment of periodontal disease and the third the oral examination and treatment of dental problems in horses.

The prophylaxis guidelines formed the basis of our Pet Dental Month last August and were distributed to the profession in that way. In December, they were presented to the State and Territory Veterinary Boards and the AVA via the Policy Advisory Council for consideration.

Although the outbreak of equine influenza has occupied much of their time, our equine practitioner members have expressed concern over and assisted with the equine guidelines. Their concern over substandard lay dentist treatments has driven this document and it attempts to address the standard of care by professional or layperson alike.

A position statement on 'Teeth cleaning in conscious dogs and cats' was included with the guidelines; the reason being that veterinarians come under pressure to clean the teeth of dogs and cats without an intubated anaesthetic.

Of concern to the special interest group is that they have not been consulted for an opinion by the Boards or the profession, especially those in the media, when it would have been appropriate. We are only too happy to assist in this regard.

The AVDS is working on the accreditation of veterinary practices as being dentally friendly or accredited which will become a significant member benefit.

This will have significant benefits to clients and the profession alike.

Continuing education and the promotion of veterinary dentistry and oral surgery has always been at the heart of the AVDS's aims:

Our members continue to assist the universities with undergraduate dental education and are keen to extend this effort as it results in new graduate veterinarians being aware of oral and dental disease and the passion to learn more.

In May 2007, our presentations at the AVA Melbourne conference were very well attended with the wet labs being at capacity, and we are continuing this formula in Perth 2008.

We had a day of lectures in Sydney at the World Small Animals Veterinary Association meeting and set up a wet lab on the preceding Saturday with the assistance of Provet, Sydney and iM3. Our demonstrators came from around the globe: Canada, USA, Argentina as well as Oz of course!

**Wayne Fitzgerald**  
*President*

# EQUINE

## EQUINE VETERINARIANS AUSTRALIA (EVA)

2007 has been a year in two parts; the first eight months were spent providing continuing education for our members, managing our finances and working with various stakeholder groups such as the Australian Racing Board, the Australian Quarterhorse Association and others, to ensure that the views of the equine veterinary profession were considered in their decision making. The last four months and eight days were spent dealing with equine influenza and precious little else.

Continuing education has been a focus of EVA for many years and in recent times we have increased the amount of continuing education delivered to members by increasing our commitment to the AVA conference, as well as providing additional workshops around the country and increasing the number of speakers at state meetings. The 2007 AVA conference in Melbourne was very successful for EVA. Lectures were delivered on a number of topics; behaviour, general medicine, infectious diseases and surgery. The keynote speaker in the equine stream was David Maggs, a University of Melbourne alumnus now working at UC Davis in the USA. Feedback from members was very positive in general, but particularly so regarding David's lectures. These lectures were followed up with a series of very well-attended and popular ophthalmology workshops on the Friday following the conference. Andrew Turner and Simon Hurn, two local ophthalmologists, provided additional specialist guidance to participants at the three workshops. The general ophthalmological examination workshop was well attended by vets from a wide spectrum of different practice types and experience, while the ophthalmic surgery workshops were divided into general and advanced groups.

As with all years, the highlight of our 2007 continuing education was the Bain Fallon memorial lecture series, held this year in Fremantle WA. Sue Beeton was outstanding as the conference convenor and organised what will long be remembered as a fantastic conference in the West. Frank Andrews from Tennessee (medicine), Mike Ross from Pennsylvania (lameness) and Paul McGreevy from Sydney (behaviour) delivered very polished performances as speakers and this was supplemented by the numerous presenters at the twilight tutorial sessions, the clinical panel session and a record number of clinical papers. In 2007 EVA held an equine research session

and was fortunate to have Glenn Browning, Jenni Hodgson, Guy Lester and Angus McKinnon speak about their equine research work. In recognition of the difficulties faced by veterinarians Peter Symons spoke on brain fuel depletion and how to cope with depression and mental health issues. Both of these initiatives were very well received by delegates and will become features of future conferences.

At the 2007 Bain Fallon conference EVA recognised the achievements of two longstanding members, both former presidents. Patricia Ellis was awarded the inaugural EVA Industry Award, for her outstanding and longstanding work across many aspects of the horse industries in Australia. Patricia holds a special place in the EVA and is held in the highest regard by her peers. In hindsight, presenting Patricia with this award prior to the equine influenza outbreak was almost prescient! Derek Major was the 2007 recipient of the Provet Award for excellence. Derek has been a durable and hard working servant of the EVA for many years, as well as contributing to the ongoing education of the profession through his co-authorship of publications and by his unstinting support for veterinary undergraduate students. Congratulations to both of our very deserving award winners.

In continuing the recent commitment by EVA to provide not only top quality lecture content but hands on workshops at the Bain Fallon we were fortunate in 2007 to be able to provide a diagnostic cardiology workshop. A high class group of demonstrators were assembled for this workshop. Guy Lester and his team from Murdoch University, synergistically supplemented by Celia Marr from Newmarket in the UK and Jane Axon from Scone, led participants through a wide range of different cardiac abnormalities and the feedback after the workshop was outstanding.

EVA established a Young Members Group in 2006 in an effort to support recent graduates on their entry to equine veterinary practice. Both recent graduates and undergraduate members can join the group. In 2006 there were 18 young members at our annual conference. In 2007 over 40 young members attended the dinner function at the Little Creatures brewery. Hopefully we can improve on this number in 2008! To support our young members EVA has run several workshops and

practical courses to help these vets hone their clinical skills. Immediately prior to the Bain Fallon in Fremantle we held a Young Members Group workshop in basic equine clinical procedures at Murdoch University, which was very popular with delegates. This workshop at the Bain Fallon will continue in 2008 and will supplement the provision of other workshops throughout the year for recent graduates, as well as the equine dentistry workshops for undergraduates conducted this year for final year students at Murdoch University, the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland and Sydney University.

EVA thought we were busy working on this program for delivery of continuing education, consolidating the good work of previous EVA presidents and their committees until the 24th of August when influenza became part of our lives. It certainly was not the largest part of 2007 chronologically, but the four months and eight days from August 24 certainly accounted for more than 90 per cent of the workload for the year! Many lessons have been learned, many battles fought and many lives changed following this emergency animal disease outbreak. At the time of writing this report EI has been declared eradicated from New South Wales and Queensland is close to achieving this goal. Sincere thanks and congratulations to the hardworking staff of the departments of primary industry in both these (and other uninfected, but not unaffected) states for a terrific job well done. Particular thanks to Bruce Christie and Ron Glanville (Chief Veterinary Officers in New South Wales and Queensland) for their willingness to listen to the concerns and advice of various EVA representations. AVA National President Di Sheehan deserves special mention. In a time of crisis the concept of 'One AVA' became a reality for EVA, and Di's support has been greatly appreciated by all involved.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to the EVA staff, Jane Barry and Ria Tamone, to the EVA executive committee and to those EVA members who helped us fight the good fight (you know who you are!). Without your help and support we would have sunk without trace.

*James Gilkerson*  
*President*

# HOLISTIC

## AUSTRALIAN HOLISTIC VETERINARIANS (AHV)



The Australian Holistic Veterinarians has had a busy year. Welcome to all our new members. Teleconferencing had been used for committee meetings this year. This has proved to be very successful and will be used again next year.

Thank you to all committee members for their work during 2007 and best wishes to everyone.

The AHV recognises the importance of providing its members with continuing education. It facilitates and supports ongoing courses in acupuncture, chiropractic, herbal medicine and homeopathy. Without these courses, pet owners, farmers, and horse owners would only be able to consult non-veterinary qualified health practitioners.

The second Australasian Course in Veterinary Homeopathy finished in May. This is a three-year course and four of our members are preparing to sit the membership examinations for the Faculty of Homeopathy (London). The Australasian Course in Veterinary Homeopathy will be held for the third time, beginning with an introductory module in May 2008.

This year, a very successful conference program was organised by Ulrike Wurth and Carl Muller (and others). This included Dr Jan Still from South Africa who spoke on various acupuncture topics and Dr Ian Gawler from Victoria who covered cancer, lifestyle and chemotherapy. A post-conference retreat was held at the Gawler Foundation afterwards and helped rejuvenate us all!

Conference proceedings are available in CD format. Clare Middle is in the process of arranging the conference program for 2008. The program will include Dr Bruce Ferguson from Murdoch University. Members of the committee have agreed to approach all the veterinary schools and offer to speak to the students about holistic animal care.

An information leaflet is available that 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.

An internet based discussion group has been trialled at the moment and will be available in 2008. The AHV website is maintained online at [www.ahv.com.au](http://www.ahv.com.au). Thank you to all members who contributed to this. Further contributions are welcome.

Members will have the option of having their contact details on the website. This will be a valuable benefit since it will allow people who are browsing the web to find a holistic veterinarian in their area.

*Douglas Wilson*  
*President*

# INDUSTRY

## AUSTRALIAN VETERINARIANS IN INDUSTRY (AVI)



The AVI represents veterinarians who work outside of veterinary practice in allied animal health industries. The majority of members work in the pharmaceutical industry in technical services, regulatory affairs and research and development. There are also members from other industry groups including the Department of Agriculture and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The majority of veterinarians employed in industry are members of AVI.

Representing the interests of this group is a key focus of the AVI. The committee is currently running a survey and one of the key goals is to obtain feedback regarding what issues are relevant to the membership. The survey questions are focusing on what members want from the AVI and the committee will carefully review the responses and establish how it can achieve these goals. We are hoping for a good response to the survey so we can fulfil this goal and improve member service.

The AVI has representatives on the APVMA Industry Technical Committee, which allows for communication with the APVMA as well as input on various APVMA policies. There is AVI representation on the AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee and the AVA Policy Advisory Council. We also have a representative on the AVA conference scientific committee. To ensure appropriate liaison within the AVA of relevant issues the committee has recently appointed a liaison member with each of the other special interest groups.

Continuing education is a major focus of the committee and each year we strive to put together an excellent programme at the national AVA conference. In particular we work with other SIGs to provide relevant combined sessions as well as stand alone sessions on issues highly pertinent to our members.

In June 2007 the AVI hosted a continuing education event, a two-day course on 'Good Clinical and Good Laboratory Practice for Clinical Trials' conducted to support registration of veterinary pharmaceuticals both in Australia and globally. This course was presented by two international speakers as well as three local speakers. The event was a great success and was very well attended, and the committee was complimented by many members in regard to the usefulness of the course. The AVI is planning to run further courses on a regular basis.

The AVI puts out a regular newsletter to ensure communication with our members of our activities and to call for contribution from members. In addition to the newsletter the committee sends out regular emails regarding relevant issues. Fortunately for the committee our members are all highly computer literate which provides for rapid communication and the opportunity for member feedback. Our regular social functions are also well attended and these provide members with frequent networking opportunities.

*Finola McConaghy*  
*President*

# GREYHOUND

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (AGVA)



The years of work which have gone into the preparation of the Official Track Veterinarian's protocol have finally resulted in the commencement of certification of Track Veterinarians by stewards.

The protocol was designed by AGVA members in consultation with racing stewards.

It clearly outlines the Official Track Veterinarian's responsibilities and duties and helps them perform their duties with maximal input into the welfare of the dogs.

The protocol clarifies some of the previous grey areas such as responsibility regarding euthanasia and surgery to be performed on the track, as well as payments for services and goods and materials used.

A successful conference was held as part of the AVA conference in Melbourne with discussions held on breeding and surgery.

At the annual meeting held at the conference, long-serving president John Murray stood down and Chris Doyle from Adelaide was elected. It was noted that Dr Murray received the OA medal in January 2007 for his services to greyhound racing.

The AGVA continues to provide lectures to undergraduates at the University of Melbourne in greyhound medicine and surgery.

*Ray G. Ferguson*  
**Secretary**

# POULTRY

## AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY POULTRY ALLIANCE (AVPA)



Activity for the poultry special interest groups in 2007 involved two scientific meetings. The first was held in Sydney in February, associated with the Australian Poultry Science Symposium as usual and the second in Glenelg South Australia in November.

Sessions were well attended and the membership is enthusiastic and motivated. Topics covered are diverse but have had an emphasis on public health issues recently.

It is with some excitement that we focus now on our contribution to the World's Poultry Convention being held in Brisbane in July 2008.

For our part in this international event, we are responsible for the 6th Asia-Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP6), which constitutes the poultry health section of the Congress. We have a fine lineup of overseas and local speakers that include many of our members.

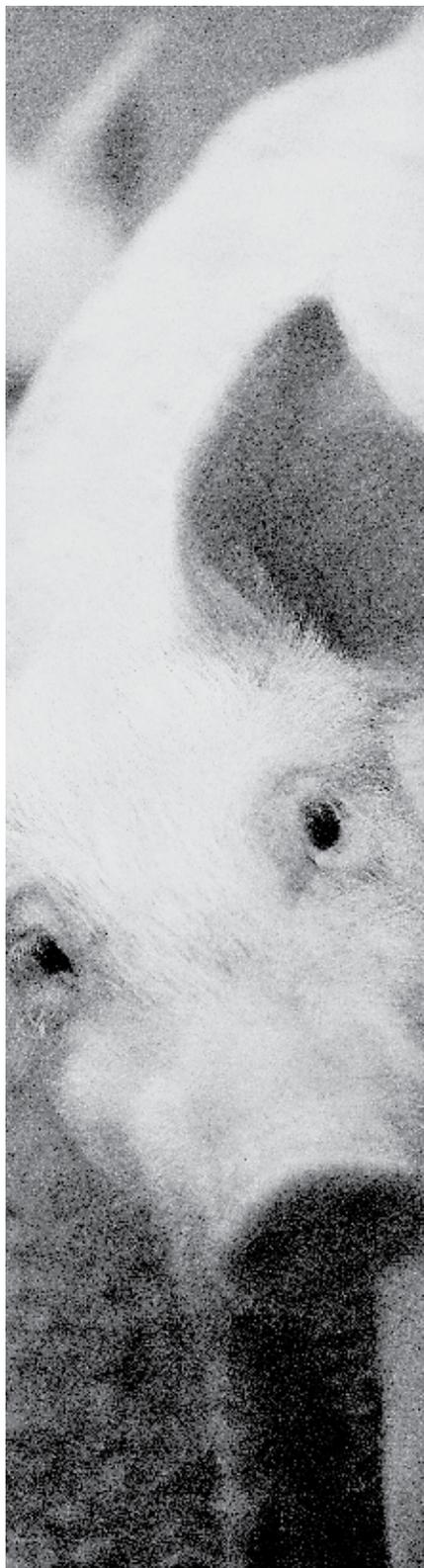
The Congress also encompasses The Poultry Information Exchange (PIX 2008), so caters for information and knowledge transfer for the poultry industry at all levels.

Following this meeting, the 8th International Marek's Disease Symposium will be held in Townsville and, although not being organised by our group, will have a strong scientific input from our members. All in all, a busy and productive year ahead.

*Peter Groves*  
**President**

# PIGS

## AUSTRALIAN PIG VETERINARIANS (APV)



The APV has some 130 members, with a further 20 subscribing to our emailing list. Subscribers receive regular updates of current issues in the industry, but do not have voting rights at the annual conference.

Unlike 2006, the annual conference was held as part of the AVA conference in Melbourne. The 2008 Conference will be at the Bonamanzi Game Reserve in South Africa prior to the IPVS meeting in Durban. This may become a feature of APV meetings every second year, as it allows us to tap into the world's best pig specialists at minimal cost to members. Every other year we will no doubt join with the AVA annual conference. In addition to the annual conference, continuing education for members is by way of a monthly "what is your diagnosis" quiz which is emailed to every member. Those who respond receive one continuing education point.

2007 has turned out to be a fairly quiet year compared with other years where there was much debate over the new code of welfare for pigs and the controversy over what constitutes prudent antibiotic use. 2007 saw the introduction of a national vendor declaration system called PigPass. This was a system imposed upon the pig industry following some residue detections in pork earmarked for export to Asia. APV was closely involved in the discussions leading to the final version of PigPass.

The year also saw the phasing out of Dimetridazole (DMZ) for use in pigs, despite a spirited defence by the APV which wanted to retain its use under permit for swine dysentery eradication. DMZ is now a banned substance on the PigPass national vendor declaration for pigs destined for export. This is somewhat of a double standard as there have been record imports of American pork products even though they use carbadox for the control of swine dysentery and as a growth promotant, yet it is banned for use in Australia.

2007 saw the retirement of Ross Buddle as associate professor in Pig Production from Murdoch University. Ross graduated from Queensland University in 1967 and most of his 40 years as a practitioner was devoted to the pig industry through lecturing and research. He has returned whence he came to the "Land of the Long White Cloud". It behoves us to thank Ross for his contribution to the Australian pig industry and the AVA. He was one of the founding members of the APV and was president for four years.

In 2007 APV has had representation on: Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC), Policy Council, and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC).

*Tony Fahy*  
*President*

# PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AVPMA)



2007 has certainly been an eventful year for the AVPMA. Our focus on continuing education has seen us conduct many highly successful projects, which include:

- ▶ Taking Canadian duo Dr Jim Stowe and Dr Berney Pukay to seven cities around Australia.
- ▶ Putting together the management stream for the Melbourne AVA conference
- ▶ Conducting post AVA conference workshops utilising the expertise of Drake Consulting and Dr Rob White to cater for varied management interests.
- ▶ "Technology - Tools & Tips"- our capacity filled WSAVA pre-congress workshop.
- ▶ A joint seminar with SMPB for new graduates
- ▶ Continued involvement with UNEP to promote the Diploma of Practice Management customised for veterinary practice.

In addition, AVPMA has collaborated with MPV Consulting to conduct a wages and salaries survey, had our own performance evaluated by an outside reviewer and co-ordinated the AVA Pfizer Practices of Excellence in Customer Service Awards. We have seen our newsletter; Practice Management Matters flourish under the editorship of Dr Sue Halloran to become a full colour glossy magazine.

Sadly, we farewelled Carly Harry from the office but welcomed Elisha Paul into the administration role.

Undoubtedly, the major event was the resignation of the entire AVPMA committee. All former committee members of AVPMA are committed AVA members who firmly believe in the value of a professional organisation for veterinarians. Each of us is passionate about the future of the veterinary profession.

Over our years of involvement with Practice Management it became obvious that there are many people other than veterinarians with an interest in and a crucial contribution to make to the management of veterinary businesses.

It was this passionate belief that led the Committee to seek new ways of structuring the AVPMA. When ideas such as having the AVA constitution changed and introducing practice memberships failed we came to the conclusion, after being encouraged by the AVA Board and the then CEO to "think outside the square", that the best solution was for the AVPMA to become an independent, not-for-profit, closely-allied sister to the AVA. We believed this solution would allow veterinarians and non-veterinarians equal access and rights in an organisation providing management and business education without jeopardising the AVA's veterinarian-only policy for voting and office-holders.

Our vision was for two closely allied organisations to stand side by side and work together towards similar goals - one representing veterinarians and the profession, the other representing anyone with an interest in veterinary business and the wider veterinary industry.

The former AVPMA Committee is passionate about sharing management education and information with as wide an audience as possible and has moved on from the AVPMA. We all remain strong AVA members, even if disillusioned, and will continue working towards the achievement of our original vision.

On a personal note I am proud to have worked side by side with all the former staff, advisers and committee of AVPMA: Mark Stallwood, Elisha Paul, Judy Gillespie, Sue Halloran, Lindsay Hay, Andrew Dudgeon, David MacPhail, Jane Bindloss, John Odum, Chris Hibbert, Mark Ethell, Shane Simpson, Jim Allen, Diederik Gelderman and Susan Matthew.

*Debbie Delahunty*  
*Former AVPMA President*

# PUBLIC HEALTH

## AUSTRALIANS IN VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH (AVPH)



AVPH is a group of veterinarians with very diverse interests that can be roughly grouped under the heading of public health. Public health has traditionally dealt with classical animal diseases which can be transferred to humans (zoonoses) such as hydatids, visceral larva migrans, tuberculosis and so on. It has now extended into more general areas from food safety, through those animal disease epidemics which may cross-infect humans, to human-animal interactions and the impact of animal keeping on human psychology.

In terms of zoonotic illness, these days we are more concerned about salmonella and other infections transferred on meat, paratuberculosis, the transfer of antimicrobial resistance from animals to humans and emerging international disease issues such as avian influenza and BSE.

At present, just over 50 per cent of our members are based in government, at both Commonwealth and state or territory levels. A further 20 per cent are in research, in universities and other organisations, while the remainder represent clinical practitioners, and the pharmaceutical industry on the whole. Many members are also members of other AVA special interest groups, particularly Australian Sheep Veterinarians and Australian Cattle Veterinarians.

The executive polled members this year, and found that members are interested particularly in building interpersonal networks, and keeping up to date on veterinary public health issues. We aim to help address these interests through active participation in the AVA conference program, and through the production of a quarterly electronic news bulletin. To date, the first two of these bulletins have been circulated, and have been well received.

2007 was a very busy year for both our executive and our members. Many members were heavily involved in the response to the outbreak of equine influenza. Many Australian and international veterinarians were involved in the response. In New South Wales alone the Department of Primary Industries had approximately 50 vets working at any one time with around 100 veterinarians working a rolling shift. The disease response remains a truly national effort with many people working at both central and regional levels. Due to the sheer magnitude of the disease outbreak, the response effort has required many staff to work greatly extended hours and for prolonged periods away from home, some contributing much unpaid time and effort.

Core business continues for many public practice veterinarians, and the equine influenza response comes in addition to normal workload and deadlines. The response to the equine influenza outbreak demonstrated the importance of cooperation and mutual respect between the various sectors of the veterinary profession. A highly commendable effort has been, and continues to be, made by all involved.

*Alison Small*  
**President**

# REPRODUCTION

## AUSTRALIAN REPRODUCTION VETERINARIANS (ARV)



The Australian Reproduction Veterinarians (ARV) is a small group within the AVA comprising of veterinarians with a special interest in artificial breeding. The group also has a number of associate members—non veterinarians working in the same field.

The annual ARV conference is the main event for the group. Experts in artificial breeding present their latest research findings and this, combined with the exchange of ideas amongst the members, makes the conference a popular event each year.

In 2007 the conference theme was male reproduction generally with an emphasis on semen. Historically most information has related to large animals, cattle sheep and horses but at this conference, to widen the interest, John Newell, a veterinarian with vast experience in canine artificial breeding presented his experiences in that field.

The 2008 conference is to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand in August and the theme is to swing back to the female side with advances in synchronisation for artificial breeding and related issues.

The ARV is a small but active group of dedicated vets providing a high level of specialised services mainly to the livestock industries and would welcome any vets with an interest in animal breeding in all or any species.

*Nigel Scott*  
*President*

# SHEEP

## AUSTRALIAN SHEEP VETERINARIANS (ASV)



The Australian Sheep Veterinarians had another successful year in 2007. The ASV ran a well-attended two days at the AVA Conference in Melbourne, including combined sessions with Welfare and Industry groups, and the production of the proceedings to serve as an excellent resource for members. In addition the combined Cattle and Sheep Dinner at the Conference was well attended and members heard a very informative and thought-provoking address from Dr Hugh Wirth.

The quarterly newsletter remains an important part of ASV activities, and John Plant and Anne Cover continue to ensure it provides members with valuable information and updates on relevant areas of interest. Membership remains strong with approximately 300 members.

2007 was a quieter year in terms of policy issues. Monitoring of mulesing developments, the live sheep trade, SheepMAP and chemicals continue to be the main policy focus for the

ASV. While 2007 was thankfully quiet on the mulesing front, there will no doubt be increased interest as the 2010 industry deadline for phasing out mulesing approaches.

The severe widespread drought in late 2006-07 continued to impact on sheep producers and sheep veterinarians. Thankfully late rains in spring and summer meant a major turnaround for most drought-declared areas, but it will be many months and in some cases years before producers are able to achieve normal production levels.

Considerable effort has been spent this year planning for the 2008 activities. Our second stand-alone conference will be held at Marcus Oldham in Victoria in September 2008, and we are having a strong three-day program at the Perth AVA Conference in May to ensure both members in the west and the east have an opportunity to attend a conference.

*Bruce Allworth*  
*President*

# SMALL ANIMALS

## AUSTRALIAN SMALL ANIMALS VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (ASAVA)



It is with pleasure that I present the President's Report for 2007. The past year has been a hectic one!

New to the Committee this past year has been Adrian Choi and Graham Swinney. Adrian is the new Southern Representative and Graham the Eastern Representative.

High on every agenda up to August was the World Small Animals Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Congress. This Congress took up hundreds of hours of organisation over the past few years. As a member of the WSAVA Congress Organising Committee (COC) since 2005, we have had regular face to face meetings or teleconferences every two months, but as the Congress approached the meetings were monthly. It seems so long ago that we were planning the original budget! Huge thanks needs to go to Di Sheehan for keeping the whole thing under control, along with Roger Clarke (social convener), Liz Walker (sponsorship and promotion), Jill Madison and David Church (for the all important scientific program), and Kersti Seksel (AVA Liaison and Committee member).

General promotion for the Congress entailed attendance by committee members at many major veterinary conferences all over the world over the past three to four years. Not only have we had to man our booth and sell the idea to registrants to consider coming to beautiful Sydney, but we had to approach the large wholesale and drug companies to sell sponsorship for our Congress. The end result culminated in the most successful Congress in recent times.

In May 2007, we again provided a small animal stream at the AVA Conference in Melbourne. This year our major guest speakers were David Maggs and Lynelle Johnson. We also held combined streams covering canine reproduction and orthopaedics. This stream was again the most popular stream of the conference. As usual at the AVA Conference, the ASAVA hosted a new graduates dinner. This is a special night for new and recent graduates. The meal and drinks are largely subsidised by the ASAVA and it is a great way for new graduates to meet others from all over the country and share some of their experiences.

We have enhanced the membership magazine, *The Companion*. We are trying to make this a major communications carrier to our members and we will keep you up to date on what is happening in our world. It can also be a way of communicating with fellow ASAVA members. This means that we can keep the *Australian Veterinary Practice* journal focused on scientific content. Professor Rick Atwell continues as Editor of the *AVP* and, for his continued work on providing this fantastic member benefit, we all owe him a great deal. The *AVP* will continue to be our top member benefit.

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) has continued to provide funds for ongoing research. We again ask that all members consider assisting this fund. It has provided grants for many projects throughout the years and to continue to do so we need to build a secure financial base.

We now have two 'Practitioner in Residence' programs running in both Melbourne and Sydney Universities. We are trying to encourage and support all other tertiary faculties to consider similar programs.

We are unfortunate this year to lose Matthew Miles, our executive officer. We suspected that a man of Matt's qualities would probably be snaffled by some larger corporation and so he has been.

Cristina Duarte will provide administration over at the ASAVA office while Ellen Quinn is on maternity leave

**Matthew Retchford**  
*President*

# UNUSUAL & EXOTIC ANIMALS



The Unusual and Exotic Pets (UEP) stream at the AVA National Conference permitted the general membership of the AVA to experience some of the diverse topics covered by the UEP special interest groups. Thanks are due to Robert Johnson for coordinating the excellent program.

In 2007, as part of our commitment to providing education to regional members, we held our UEP annual conference in conjunction with the Far North Queensland division of the AVA in Cairns. The conference was well attended by our members. The UEP would like to acknowledge the fabulous assistance of Adrienne Easton in the coordination of this conference.

With Anne Martin's passing in 2006, the UEP decided to award an annual scholarship in her honour. Anne was passionate about giving students an opportunity to get involved with wildlife and unusual pets. The scholarship is awarded to a current vet student who presents the best student paper for our judges' consideration. Conference fees and airfare to attend the conference are subsidized by the UEP. The first recipient of the Ann Martin Scholarship was Stephanie Hing from the University of Sydney, who spoke on the confused love life of the komodo dragon.

At our annual general meeting, it was also decided to award a scholarship in the memory of Stephen Ross. Stephen was the first newsletter editor for the UEP. He unfortunately died of cancer in 2007. As of 2008, the UEP will also award an annual scholarship to a veterinary practitioner to attend the annual conference and make a presentation.

Robert Johnson has again been proactive at the AVA policy council. This year saw the issues of microchipping pet birds, reptiles and pocket pets raised. Another timely, if not controversial policy, was the humane euthanasia of cane toads.

Mike Cannon and Kim Fryer have done a fantastic job in producing an easy-to-read newsletter for the members throughout the year and the Yahoo discussion list continues to be a well-utilised resource for our members. However, only about half of our members have registered to use it. It is one of the goals of the UEP in 2008 to encourage all of its members to use this helpful learning and teaching tool.

The UEP has an extensive price list of conference proceedings, posters and other educational material available to members of the AVA for purchase.

With Brendan Carmel stepping down as president this last year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for incredible work that he has done to build the UEP into the vibrant interest group that it is today. Fortunately, we do not lose Brendan's expertise as he remains on the committee as the communications officer.

*Anne Fowler*  
*President*

# WELFARE & ETHICS

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARIANS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICS (AVAWE)



Our membership continues to grow and we now have roughly 120 members including a good number of student members. This is very pleasing and illustrates the importance of our special interest group as a vibrant part of the AVA. It is an indication of a healthy interest in welfare and ethics throughout the profession.

Although AVAWE membership has historically been largely made up of members occupationally involved in welfare and ethics, it is very pleasing that the membership has broadened over the years to include vets from all sectors of the profession including many general practitioners with an interest in welfare and ethics.

At the 2007 annual general meeting, Tanya Stephens was elected President and continues in the role of Treasurer/Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Robert Baker as Past President became Vice President and Susan Maastricht was elected President Elect. Miranda Coffey and Lloyd Klump were elected Committee Members. Steve Atkinson continued as Policy Councillor with this role passing to Tanya Stephens when Steve became an AVA Board Member in mid 2007.

At the 2007 AVA Conference, welfare sessions enjoyed a high profile on the program. We had a substantial input with one whole day devoted to welfare. The new conference format of a smaller number of streams lent itself to some good joint sessions with other special interest groups. It was pleasing to have so much cooperation from other groups in organising the program. The highlight of our sessions was a presentation on animals in captivity by Andrew Tribe. The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries' Animal Welfare Science Summit on Pain and Pain Management on the Friday of the conference was well attended and provided an interesting end to the conference program.

The AVAWE conference dinner, held at Melbourne's famous Italian restaurant, Grossi Florentino, was a wonderful and well-attended function enjoyed by all. Our pre-dinner speaker was Judith MacArthur Clarke, former Chairman of the UK Farm Animal Welfare Committee.

The 2008 conference program has built upon the successes of 2007 and promises to be excellent with continuing good joint sessions with other special interest groups and the inclusion of a presentation by philosopher Professor Andrew Brennan on the ethical and welfare costs of competition. Again there is to be an AVAWE conference dinner and this year Professor Brennan will be our pre-dinner speaker.

The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Animal Welfare Chapter continues to grow with a number of AVAWE members sitting for the exams in 2008. The AVAWE enjoys a close relationship with the Chapter.

The AVAWE with the AVA Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners Branch held a Wildlife and Welfare day in November at the Sydney University facility in Camden.

Four AVAWE newsletters were produced in 2007 which were circulated to all our members. In addition newsletters were sent to other special interest group executives, particularly in reference to organising joint AVA conference sessions and to ensure that all members of the AVA are cognisant of our group's expertise and interest. We also produced and distributed a certificate of AVAWE membership to all members.

*Tanya Stephens*  
*President*



AVA TRUSTS & ADVISORY GROUPS

# AVA TRUSTS & ADVISORY GROUPS



## AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) was established in 1989 as a non-profit trust of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).

The major aim of the foundation is to help to fund investigative projects to further our knowledge of the cause, treatment and prevention of the 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, under the Income Tax Assessment Act. Donations for 2007 totaled \$30,731 including \$4,640 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.

Research funded in 2007 included:

- ▶ Investigations into the aetiology of chronic

renal disease in domestic cats. Joanne White. University of Sydney, \$7,500.

- ▶ Global gene expression profiling of canine lymphoma. Ken M Wyatt, Murdoch University, \$7,500.
- ▶ Investigation into susceptibility of selected canine and feline bacterial pathogens to newer antimicrobial agents. Merran Govendir, the University of Sydney, \$7,500.
- ▶ Investigation into the inheritance pattern and molecular genetic cause of atopy in West Highland White Terriers. Caroline O'Leary, University of Queensland, \$3,840.

## AVA ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The AVA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) advises the AVA on the 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, who keep them 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.

## AVA THERAPEUTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee (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.

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

# AVA TRUSTS & ADVISORY GROUPS

(CONTINUED)



## AVA ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST

"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 and Treasurer, Dr Lyndy Scott, Chairman Grants Committee, Dr Robert Baker, Trustee, Dr Roger Clarke, Trustee, Dr Michael Paton, Trustee (since October 2006), Dr Bruce Twentyman 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 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 Australian Tax Office has so far refused Deductible Gift Recipient status for the trust, largely because the stated objectives of the trust are not solely for research. The trustees have been working on the issues identified by the ATO and may put a case to the AVA Board for possible changes to the trust deed, if this can be shown to provide an advantage in the deductibility status of the trust. The costs of achieving this process are also a consideration.

The trustees continue to consider making available 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, masters degrees or to support suitable projects. The trustees accepted the recommendations of the Grants Committee and agreed to award funding to two projects for completion in 2008:

- ▶ 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.

Queensland University

The trustees are awaiting the final reports from each of these projects and are hoping that the reports might be presented to a future AVA conference. Reports on all projects supported by AWT grants will be submitted for publication in the *Australian Veterinary Journal*.

The trustees met in person at the 2007 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 Australian 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*

## BENEVOLENT FUND

The trustees and state representatives of the Benevolent Fund have quietly continued supporting those of our colleagues or their families who have found themselves in difficult circumstances over the year.

Four new cases have come to the attention of the trustees in the last 12 months, and it is likely that most of these will need some ongoing support for several years. The beneficiaries have included recent graduates as well as older members of the profession. So far, even though the AVA has mentioned the role of the Benevolent Fund in dispatches, no assistance has had to be provided to those veterinarians affected by the equine influenza epidemic. The trustees attempt to tailor support for each case, but the most common form of assistance is through educational grants, especially where younger families are involved. Beneficiaries regularly express sincere appreciation for the support the profession provides to them, as do colleagues who have become aware of the assistance that has been provided to their fellow professionals.

Dr John Baguley has agreed to be the NSW

Metropolitan Representative of the Benevolent Fund after the retirement of Dr Robert Ratcliffe. In Victoria, Dr Peter Longmire has indicated a desire to retire from his position as Victorian representative. Dr Randall Lemin as a trustee and Secretary of the Fund has agreed to stand for a further four year term (2007-11), subject to the AVA Board's approval.

The Benevolent Fund account balance as at the 31 October 2007 stood at \$256,860.51. Beneficiaries received a total of \$17,500 during the year. In an attempt to utilise the Fund's financial resources in a proactive rather than a reactive manner, the trustees had voted to financially support the plenary session on depression at the 2008 AVA Conference in Perth. Currently, due to the generosity of the speakers involved, it appears that this will not be a great impost on the Benevolent Fund.

New brochures are being produced for the Benevolent Fund which should be ready for distribution at the Perth Conference.

The trustees would like to thank all those who contribute to the work of the Benevolent Fund, either financially or through their voluntary representative roles.

*Randall Lemin*

## CENTRE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS IN THE COMMUNITY (CCAC)

The Centre for Companion Animals in the Community was established in 2006 to continue some of the work of the AVA's Urban Animal Management Committee. CCAC has had an active year and is starting to have an impact nationally. Membership (all volunteers) comprises 5 veterinarians (Chair, and representatives from the AVA Board, AVBIG, AVPMA, ASAVA), and 4 non-veterinarians (state and local government, industry and/or community groups). The AVA CEO is an ex officio member.

CCAC is active in three main areas:

- ▶ proactively and reactively interacting with state and local government on matters relating to the keeping and management of companion animals
- ▶ developing a website for members and others containing the best possible information on all areas relevant to companion animals in the community
- ▶ a project to help to develop a pet friendly community.

At a state level, we generated detailed comment for several government enquiries including dangerous dogs in Tasmania, unwanted pets and local laws in Queensland, and the sale of animals in pet shops in NSW. Our contribution to this latter debate, as used by AVA and especially NSW Division, engendered significant positive member feedback and (in part) led to the withdrawal of the Bill by Clover Moore. Each of these papers and submissions are available at [www.ava.com.au](http://www.ava.com.au) – click on 'Community' then 'Centre for Companion Animals in the Community'. We also supported Clover Moore's initiative in promoting the development of off-leash and dog-friendly parks in Sydney.

We would be grateful if members who become aware of state or local government reviews or enquiries could let us know so we can assist in contributing the AVA position on relevant issues, and of course we are keen to help members with issues in their local area. Email us at [info@ccac.net.au](mailto:info@ccac.net.au).

The information from which CCAC and AVA positions are developed is being accumulated on an issues based website [www.ccac.net.au](http://www.ccac.net.au).

CCAC is not just about dry policy and responding to government. Members of the CCAC committee are working with the City of Playford (in northern Adelaide) to incorporate pet-friendly design from the beginning of a major urban redevelopment project including both 8,000+ new homes and the refurbishment of about 800 existing homes, leading to a population increase of 27,000. CCAC has been invited to lead a steering committee including national organisations like the Planning Institute of Australia, the National Heart Foundation, the Australian Local Government Association, as well as specific South Australian organisations like Housing SA.

We participated in the October AVA Policy Council meeting, having contributed an entirely new draft of the Policy for Responsible Pet Ownership.

CCAC is represented on and contributes to the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Companion Animals Working Group, and until recently had a member on the Australian and New Zealand Companion Animals Working Group (members are those in charge of companion animal management policy and legislation in each state and territory).

*Michael Hayward*  
*Chair*

# AVA TRUSTS & ADVISORY GROUPS

(CONTINUED)



## AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL COUNCIL (ACAC)

This has been a very positive year for the Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC). A summary of our activities are listed below. As the peak body representing pet ownership and the pet industry in Australia ACAC actively promotes the benefits of socially responsible companion animal ownership to the wider community.

The positive aspects of pets and pet ownership have been actively advanced and resulted in increasing media coverage over the past year. This year has also seen the development of the ACAC website [www.acac.org.au](http://www.acac.org.au). The site includes links to member websites and the SPOT education program site.

The SPOT (Safe Pets Out There) program was developed in 2006 under the umbrella of the Australian Companion Animal Council by the Animal Welfare League NSW, the Australian Veterinary Association, Delta Society Australia and the RSPCA NSW.

Funded for the three years 2007 through 2009 by the New South Wales Department of Local Government, SPOT is a unique schools program about pet care and kindness and respect for all animals. It also incorporates a specific module about safe behaviour to reduce the incidence of serious dog bites in children.

The report *Contribution of the Pet Care Industry to the Australian Economy* (6th Ed) was published and it was formally launched at an industry function held at AVA House. The pet care industry contributes \$4.6 billion to the Australian economy and this report published by ACAC and supported by the AVA and the Animal Health Alliance Australia (AHAA) has since its inception been extensively quoted by politicians and the media. The launch was well attended, well received by all and served to increase the profile of both the ACAC and the AVA.

Several members of the ACAC sit on the companion animal working group and the animals used for work, sport, recreation or display working group of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), a federal government initiative administered by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This provides the companion animal sector an opportunity to be at the forefront of animal welfare in Australia.

The ACAC publication *Australian Directory of Human Animal Interaction Organisations* was made available online at the website: [www.humananimalinteraction.org.au](http://www.humananimalinteraction.org.au) enabling new entries to be added online in a timely manner.

Additionally ACAC regularly makes submissions to government on legislative issues that affect companion animal ownership in Australia. The year ahead promises to be exciting for the ACAC and will provide more opportunities to promote socially responsible pet ownership in Australia.

**Kersti Seksel**  
*President*

The image features a complex, abstract background composed of numerous thin, overlapping lines that create a sense of depth and movement. These lines are arranged in a way that suggests a three-dimensional space, with some lines appearing to recede into the distance while others seem to curve towards the viewer. The overall color palette is grayscale, ranging from light grays to dark blacks. A prominent feature is a solid black horizontal band that spans the width of the image, positioned in the lower-middle section. Centered within this band is the word "FINANCIALS" in a white, serif, all-caps font. The font is clean and professional, with a classic, slightly condensed appearance. The background lines continue to flow through the black band, creating a visual connection between the top and bottom portions of the page.

# FINANCIALS

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Your directors present their report on the economic entity for the financial year ended 31 December 2007.

## DIRECTORS

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

Dr Diane Sheehan

Dr Kersti Seksel

Dr Mark Lawrie

Dr Samantha McMahon

Dr Bruce Cartmill

Dr David Clarke

Dr Barry Smyth (Since May 2007)

Dr Kevin Mc Grath (Since May 2007)

Dr Steve Atkinson (Since May 2007)

Dr David Lovell (Resigned May 2007)

Dr Derek Major (Resigned May 2007)

Dr Matt Makin (Resigned May 2007)

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 Resigned 31 August 2007

**H Barnard , B Com (Hons) Acc, MBL**

Company Secretary since 13 August 2007

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

## OPERATING RESULTS

The consolidated surplus from operations for the year was \$ 637,028 (2006: consolidated surplus of \$826,584).

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

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

The Consolidated Entity comprises the Company, including 8 Divisions, 22 SIGs and 40 Branches in addition to the AVA National Group and 3 Trusts. All groups operate within their own budgetary control but within financial operating guidelines promulgated by the Board. Being a not-for-profit entity, the Company does not seek to maximise profits but to provide member services compatible with 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 \$168,387 the Divisions recorded a surplus of \$104,838 the Branches recorded a surplus of \$54,631, the AVA National Group recorded a surplus of \$140,739, the Trusts recorded a surplus of \$ 40,246, and the balance is the result of a surplus in special purpose funds of \$128,187.

## 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 circumstance have arisen since 31 December 2007 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations of the Company or Consolidated Entity;
- (b) the results of those operations; or
- (c) the state of affairs of the Company or Consolidated Entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2007.

## 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

## INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS

Director	Experience
<b>D Sheehan</b> , B.Sc, BVSc, MBA, CMAVA	Director AVA since 2001, President Elect 2006-07, Treasurer 2002-06, President ASAVA 2000-2002, President Qld Division 1994, AVA Member since 1984
<b>K Seksel</b> 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
<b>M Lawrie</b> BVSc, MACVSc (Animal Welfare)	Director AVA Since May 2006, Chair of Visibility Strategy Committee, President NSW Division 2005-2006, NSW Executive 2002- 2007, Chief Veterinarian RSPCA NSW 1993-2008 , Secretary AMRRIC 2003-2007 , AVA Member since 1995. Experience in government, management, animal welfare, food animal, mixed and small animal practice in Australia and overseas..
<b>S McMahon</b> , BVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2004, President NT Division 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 , Chair Risk and Audit Committee 2006-07, AVA Member since 1999
<b>B Cartmill</b> BVSc	Director AVA since May 2005, Chair Continuing Education Strategy Committee 2007-08, 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.
<b>D Clarke</b> BVSc, Diplomate AVDC, Fellow AVD, MACVSc (Dental), Registered Specialist Veterinary Surgery (Dentistry)	Director AVA 2006 - 08; AVA Treasurer 2006 - 08; ASAVA Committee 2004 - present; Adjunct Associate Lecturer Massey University NZ; Consultant Veterinary Dentist Taronga and Western Plains Zoos, Adelaide and Monarto Zoos; Director K9 Gums; Director Dental Care for Pets; AVA Member since 1985
<b>B Smyth</b> BVSc, MBA, PhD, GAICD, FACVSc, Diplomate ACVS. Registered Specialist Equine Surgery.	Director AVA Ltd. since May 2007. President Equine Veterinarians Australia 2006-2007. Secretary AEVA 2004 - 2006. Director Australian Horse Industry Council Inc. 2002 - present. Various Roles. President AHIC 2006 - present. Director private companies. Clinical Veterinary Practice Australia and overseas, Research Australia and USA, University teaching Australia and overseas.
<b>D K McGrath</b> BVSc	Director since May 2007, Cattle Veterinarians Executive member 2000-2007, President Cattle Veterinarians 2005/06
<b>S Atkinson</b> BVSc MACVSc (Animal Welfare) DipContEd CMAVA	Director since May 2007, President / Policy Councillor AVAWE 1997 – 2007, Chair AVA Animal Welfare Trust, Chair AVA AWAC, AVA member (second time) since 1994
<b>D Lovell</b> , BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, Chair Board Risk Committee 2006-07, President AEVA 1999-2000, AVA Member since 1987
<b>D Major</b> , BVSc	Director AVA since 2004, Chair Board Membership Committee 2006-07, President AEVA 2000-2001, AVA Policy Councillor since 2002, AVA Member since 1979
<b>M Makin</b> , 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

## MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

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

	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Dr Diane Sheehan	11	10
Dr Kersti Seksel	11	11
Dr Mark Lawrie	11	10
Dr Samantha McMahon	11	10
Dr Bruce Cartmill	11	10
Dr David Clarke	11	10
Dr Barry Smyth	6	5
Dr Kevin Mc Grath	6	6
Dr Steve Atkinson	6	6
Dr David Lovell	5	2
Dr Derek Major	5	5
Dr Matt Makin	5	5

## INSURANCE FOR COMPANY OFFICERS

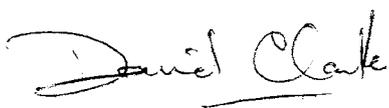
During and since the financial year the Company has paid, or agreed to pay, premiums in respect of contracts insuring persons who are or have been a Company Officer, against certain liabilities incurred in that capacity. Company Officer for this purpose means any Director or Secretary of the Company 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 2007.



*D Clarke*  
Director and Honorary Treasurer



*D Sheehan*  
Director and President

Dated at Sydney this 10th Day of March 2008

# INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2007	2006	2007	2006
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	8,525,445	7,923,782	8,480,632	7,854,358
Revenue from other Non Operating activities	2	9,349	-	9,349	499
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>8,534,794</b>	<b>7,923,782</b>	<b>8,489,981</b>	<b>7,854,857</b>
Service expenses		(688,099)	(552,411)	(640,458)	(552,411)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(339,910)	(270,113)	(339,910)	(270,113)
Conferences and continuing education expenses		(2,322,431)	(2,130,255)	(2,322,431)	(2,130,255)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,274,141)	(1,263,467)	(1,274,141)	(1,263,467)
Occupancy expenses		(180,016)	(143,127)	(180,016)	(143,127)
Administration expenses		(2,126,783)	(2,434,118)	(2,126,783)	(2,434,118)
Interest Expense			-	(43,072)	(25,531)
Other operating expenses		(966,386)	(303,707)	(966,386)	(264,105)
<b>Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense</b>		<b>637,028</b>	<b>826,584</b>	<b>596,784</b>	<b>771,330</b>
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(b)	-	-	-	-
<b>Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after income tax expense</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>637,028</b>	<b>826,584</b>	<b>596,784</b>	<b>771,730</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

# BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash Assets	1(h),14	3,082,666	2,084,093	3,036,599	2,040,803
Receivables	4	538,020	407,747	538,020	407,747
Inventories		96,164	133,906	96,164	133,906
Other current assets	5	160,901	432,179	160,901	432,179
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>3,877,751</b>	<b>3,057,925</b>	<b>3,831,684</b>	<b>3,014,635</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>					
Financial assets	1(e),6	2,789,090	3,039,240	2,789,090	3,039,240
Property and equipment	7	5,793,928	6,146,480	5,793,928	6,146,480
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>8,583,018</b>	<b>9,185,720</b>	<b>8,583,018</b>	<b>9,185,720</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>12,460,769</b>	<b>12,243,645</b>	<b>12,414,702</b>	<b>12,200,355</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Payables	8	219,017	236,034	811,971	791,521
Other liabilities	9	602,507	746,514	602,507	746,514
Provisions	10	92,901	148,075	92,901	148,075
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>914,425</b>	<b>1,130,623</b>	<b>1,507,379</b>	<b>1,686,110</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>					
Payables		64,759	64,759	64,759	64,759
Provisions	10	65,678	71,319	65,678	71,319
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>130,437</b>	<b>136,078</b>	<b>130,437</b>	<b>136,078</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,044,862</b>	<b>1,266,701</b>	<b>1,637,816</b>	<b>1,822,188</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>11,415,907</b>	<b>10,976,944</b>	<b>10,776,886</b>	<b>10,378,167</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Retained earnings	11	8,822,544	7,917,144	8,183,523	7,318,367
Reserves	12	2,593,363	3,059,800	2,593,363	3,059,800
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>11,415,907</b>	<b>10,976,944</b>	<b>10,776,886</b>	<b>10,378,167</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Capital Profits Reserve	Total
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Economic Entity</b>				
<b>Balance at 1 Jan 2006</b>	7,090,560	1,142,905	941,889	9,175,354
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	975,006	-	975,006
Profit attributable to members of the economic entity	826,584	-	-	826,584
<b>Balance at 31 Dec 2006</b>	<b>7,917,144</b>	<b>2,117,911</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>10,976,944</b>
Transfers to/(from) reserves related to fixed asset sold	268,372	(268,372)	-	-
Revaluation of investment	-	(198,065)	-	(198,065)
Profit attributable to members of the economic entity	637,028	-	-	637,028
<b>Balance at 31 December 2007</b>	<b>8,822,544</b>	<b>1,651,474</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>11,415,907</b>

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation	Capital Profits	Total
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Parent Entity</b>				
<b>Balance at 1 Jan 2006</b>	6,546,637	1,142,905	941,889	8,631,431
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	975,006	-	975,006
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	771,730	-	-	771,730
<b>Balance at 31 Dec 2006</b>	<b>7,318,367</b>	<b>2,117,911</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>10,378,167</b>
Transfers to/(from) reserves related to fixed asset sold	268,372	(268,372)	-	-
Revaluation of investment	-	(198,065)	-	(198,065)
Profit attributable to members of the parent entity	596,784	-	-	596,784
<b>Balance at 31 December 2007</b>	<b>8,183,523</b>	<b>1,651,474</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>10,776,886</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# CASHFLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Receipts from members' subscriptions		2,501,848	1,439,967	2,493,664	1,404,753
Receipts from AVA activities		5,911,366	5,335,467	5,874,802	5,314,306
Payments to suppliers and employees		(7,822,391)	(6,958,902)	(7,780,355)	(6,894,077)
Interest received		199,406	239,208	199,341	226,729
<b>Net cash provided by ordinary activities</b>	<b>14b</b>	<b>790,229</b>	<b>55,740</b>	<b>787,452</b>	<b>51,711</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Purchase for investments		-	(466,652)	-	(466,652)
Proceeds from sale of investments		52,088	-	52,088	-
Proceeds from sale of property		721,138	-	721,138	-
Purchase for property		(519,976)	(72,242)	(519,976)	(72,242)
Purchase of equipment		(44,906)	-	(44,906)	-
<b>Net cash provided (used) in investing activities</b>		<b>208,344</b>	<b>(538,894)</b>	<b>208,344</b>	<b>(538,894)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>998,573</b>	<b>(483,154)</b>	<b>995,796</b>	<b>(487,183)</b>
<b>Cash at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<b>2,084,093</b>	<b>2,567,247</b>	<b>2,040,803</b>	<b>2,527,987</b>
<b>Cash at end of the financial year</b>		<b>3,082,666</b>	<b>2,084,093</b>	<b>3,036,599</b>	<b>2,040,803</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, including Australian Accounting Interpretations other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The Financial Report covers the consolidated group of Australian Veterinary Association Limited as an individual parent entity and Australian Veterinary Association Limited and the controlled entities as a consolidated group. Australian Veterinary Association Limited is a unlisted public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

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.

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

#### Basis of preparation

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

#### Accounting Policies

##### (a) Principles of Consolidation

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

The controlled entities are:

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

All controlled entities have a December financial year-end.

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

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

##### (b) Income Tax

No income tax is payable by the Company as it has been advised on 30 October 1981 by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation that it is exempt from income tax under the terms of section 23(e) of the Income Tax Assessment Act. As part of the self assessment regime the Company sought professional advice during 2004 which affirmed that there had been no substantial change in purpose of the Company since October 1981 and that the Company could continue as a tax exempt entity.

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.

Increases in carrying amount arising on revaluation of buildings are credited to asset revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity. All other decreases are charged to income statement. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the income statement and depreciation based on the asset's original cost transferred from the revaluation reserve to equity.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

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.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### *Equipment*

Equipment is measured on the cost basis.

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

### *Depreciation*

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

The depreciation rates used for each class of assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Furniture & fittings	5-10%
Equipment	25-33%
Buildings	2.5%
Leasehold improvements	10%

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to the asset are transferred to retained earnings.

### *Impairment of Assets*

At each reporting date, the group reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

### **(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.

### *Loans and Receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

### *Financial liabilities*

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost comprising original cost less principal payments and amortisation.

### *Impairment of Financial Instruments*

At each reporting date the group assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

### **(f) Employee Benefits**

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

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

### **(g) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when group has legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

### **(h) 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.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### (i) 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.

#### (j) 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.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis except that the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

#### (k) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

#### (l) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data obtained both externally and within the group.

The group assess impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists the recoverable amount of the assets is determined. Value in use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

The financial report was authorised for issue on 10 March 2008 by the Board of Directors.

#### (m) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations Not Yet Adopted

There are no impending new accounting standards that will result in any material change in relation to the financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2. REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Operating activities</b>				
- Subscriptions	2,501,848	2,205,151	2,493,664	2,169,937
- Interest	199,406	239,208	199,341	226,729
- Affinity commissions	976,509	966,005	976,509	966,004
- Other revenue (incl. Conferences and publications)	4,847,682	4,513,418	4,811,118	4,491,688
	<b>8,525,445</b>	<b>7,923,782</b>	<b>8,480,632</b>	<b>7,854,358</b>
<b>Non operating activities</b>				
- Gain on disposal of fixed asset	9,349	-	9,349	499
- Gain from the disposal of Investments		-		-
	<b>9,349</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,349</b>	<b>499</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>8,534,794</b>	<b>7,923,782</b>	<b>8,489,981</b>	<b>7,854,857</b>

### NOTE 3. PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Profit from ordinary activities has been determined after:

#### Expenses

Depreciation of equipment and buildings	205,645	213,728	205,645	213,728
Provision for employee entitlements	71,056	13,237	71,056	13,237

### NOTE 4. RECEIVABLES

#### Current

Trade receivables	425,950	313,069	425,950	313,069
Commissions receivable	112,070	94,678	112,070	94,678
Other receivables	-	-	-	-
	<b>538,020</b>	<b>407,747</b>	<b>538,020</b>	<b>407,747</b>

### NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS

#### Current

Prepayments	113,717	298,449	113,717	298,449
Other assets	47,184	133,730	47,184	133,730
	<b>160,901</b>	<b>432,179</b>	<b>160,901</b>	<b>432,179</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 6. FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>				
<b>Non-Current</b>				
Managed funds	2,433,387	2,666,196	2,433,387	2,666,196
Listed Shares	355,703	373,044	355,703	373,044
	<b>2,789,090</b>	<b>3,039,240</b>	<b>2,789,090</b>	<b>3,039,240</b>

Financial assets consists of investments folios which are composed of listed securities, managed funds and listed trusts, the fair value of managed funds are based on the latest available market price which may be different to the Balance Sheet date.

## NOTE 7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Land and buildings

Freehold land at:

- Independent valuation December 2003	1,843,350	1,463,350	1,843,350	1,463,350
- Independent valuation October 2006	-	680,000	-	680,000

Buildings at

- Independent valuation December 2003	3,157,941	3,502,056	3,157,941	3,502,056
Independent valuation October 2006	-	90,819	-	90,819
Purchased June 2007	519,976		519,976	
Less accumulated depreciation	(237,001)	(173,684)	(237,001)	(173,684)
	<b>5,284,266</b>	<b>5,562,541</b>	<b>5,284,266</b>	<b>5,562,541</b>

Office furniture & equipment

At cost	1,128,919	1,097,024	1,128,919	1,097,024
Less accumulated depreciation	(619,257)	(513,085)	(619,257)	(513,085)
	<b>509,662</b>	<b>583,939</b>	<b>509,662</b>	<b>583,939</b>

<b>Total property and equipment</b>	<b>5,793,928</b>	<b>6,146,480</b>	<b>5,793,928</b>	<b>6,146,480</b>
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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 2007

### 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	2,143,350	3,419,191	583,939	6,146,480
Additions	-	519,976	44,906	564,882
Disposals	(300,000)	(411,789)	-	(711,789)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(86,462)	(119,183)	(205,645)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b>	<b>1,843,350</b>	<b>3,440,916</b>	<b>509,662</b>	<b>5,793,928</b>

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current				
Sundry creditors	219,017	236,034	219,015	236,034
Funds held on trust				
AVA Animal Welfare Trust	-	-	50,549	55,461
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	-	-	243,031	225,866
Australia Companion Animal Health Foundation	-	-	299,376	274,160
	<b>219,017</b>	<b>236,034</b>	<b>811,971</b>	<b>791,521</b>

### NOTE 9. OTHER LIABILITIES

Current				
Income received in advance				
Membership subscriptions	83,802	429,287	83,802	429,287
Publications subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Annual conference income	518,705	317,227	518,705	317,227
	<b>602,507</b>	<b>746,514</b>	<b>602,507</b>	<b>746,514</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Note	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 10. PROVISIONS</b>					
<b>Current</b>					
Employee benefits		92,901	148,075	92,901	148,075
<b>Non-Current</b>					
Employee benefits		65,678	71,319	65,678	71,319
<b>Total (Current and non-current)</b>		<b>158,579</b>	<b>219,394</b>	<b>158,579</b>	<b>219,394</b>
<b>Number of employees at year end</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>		

## NOTE 11. RETAINED EARNINGS

Balance at the beginning of the year	7,917,144	7,090,560	7,318,367	6,546,637
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve	268,372	-	268,372	-
Operating surplus for the current year	637,028	826,584	596,784	771,730
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>8,822,544</b>	<b>7,917,144</b>	<b>8,183,523</b>	<b>7,318,367</b>

## NOTE 12. RESERVES

<b>Capital Profit Reserve</b>				
Balance 1 January	941,889	941,889	941,889	941,889
Movement	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance 31 December</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>941,889</b>	<b>941,889</b>
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>				
Balance 1 January	2,117,911	1,142,905	2,117,911	1,142,905
Transfer to/from Retained Earnings	(268,372)		(268,372)	
Revaluations of Investments	(198,065)	975,006	(198,065)	975,006
<b>Balance 31 December</b>	<b>2,593,363</b>	<b>3,059,800</b>	<b>2,593,363</b>	<b>3,059,800</b>

## NOTE 13. CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

### Capital Commitments

As at 31 December 2007 the company did not have any capital commitments

### Lease Commitments

The long term lease commitment was terminated during the year since the company is planning to acquire their own office space for one of its divisions.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### ECONOMIC ENTITY

### PARENT ENTITY

2007                      2006                      2007                      2006  
\$                              \$                              \$                              \$

## 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 and cash in Bank	1,732,612	822,816	1,686,545	779,526
Short term placements	1,350,054	1,261,277	1,350,054	1,261,277
	<b>3,082,666</b>	<b>2,084,093</b>	<b>3,036,599</b>	<b>2,040,803</b>

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

<b>Profit from ordinary activities</b>	637,028	826,584	596,784	771,730
Non-cash transactions				
Depreciation	205,645	213,728	205,645	213,728
Write-off of inventory	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of fixed assets	-	35,051	-	35,051
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(9,349)	1,899	(9,349)	1,899
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	(177,457)	(158,945)	(177,457)	(158,945)
Decrease / (Increase) in inventories	37,742	(6,713)	37,742	(6,713)
Decrease / (Increase) in other assets (exc Property and equipment related)	226,890	119,742	226,890	119,742
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	68,091	-	105,558	-
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	(54,354)	77,996	(54,354)	77,996
Increase / (Decrease) in other liabilities	(144,007)	(1,053,602)	(144,007)	(1,002,777)
<b>Cash flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>790,229</b>	<b>55,740</b>	<b>787,452</b>	<b>51,711</b>

## 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 2007 the number of members was 4877 (2006: 4,498).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### ECONOMIC ENTITY

### PARENT ENTITY

2007                      2006                      2007                      2006  
\$                              \$                              \$                              \$

## NOTE 16. REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR

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

Audit of the financial statements	19,200	18,000	19,200	18,000
Other services	-	4,500	-	4,500
	<b>19,200</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>22,500</b>

## NOTE 17. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

### Directors

Dr Diane Sheehan ( Non-Executive President - Chair)  
 Dr Kersti Seksel (Non-Executive Past President)  
 Dr Mark Lawrie (Non-Executive President Elect)  
 Dr Samantha McMahon (Non-Executive)  
 Dr Bruce Cartmill (Non-Executive)  
 Dr David Clarke (Non-Executive Treasurer)  
 Dr Barry Smyth (Non-Executive)  
 Dr Kevin McGrath (Non-Executive)  
 Dr Steve Atkinson (Non-Executive)  
 Dr David Lovell (Non-Executive)  
 Dr Derek Major (Non-Executive)  
 Dr Matt Makin (Non-Executive)

### Other Key Management Personnel

Margaret Conley (Chief Executive Officer) Resigned August 2007  
 Hennie Barnard (Corporate Services Manager)  
 Dr Kevin Doyle (Veterinary Director)  
 Sonya van der Steege (Membership and Marketing Manager)  
 Dr Matthew Miles (Executive Officer ASAVA)  
 Resigned December 2007  
 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	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2007</b>							
Total Compensation	596,154	78,791	-	-	-	-	674,945
<b>2006</b>							
Total Compensation	562,705	100,136	-	-	-	-	662,841

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### NOTE 18. RELATED PARTIES

Directors: The names of persons who were directors at any time during the year are set out in the "Directors' Report" on page 42.

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.

2007	Floating Interest \$	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing \$	Total \$
		<1 year \$	1 to 5 years \$	> 5 years \$		
<b>Financial Asset</b>						
Cash and deposits	1,732,612	1,350,054	-	-	-	3,082,666
Receivables			-	-	538,020	538,020
	<b>1,732,612</b>	<b>1,350,054</b>			<b>538,020</b>	<b>3,620,686</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	219,017	219,017
	<b>1,732,612</b>	<b>1,350,054</b>	-	-	<b>319,003</b>	<b>3,401,669</b>
<b>2006</b>						
2006	Floating Interest \$	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing \$	Total \$
		<1 year \$	1 to 5 years \$	> 5 years \$		
<b>Financial Asset</b>						
Cash and deposits	822,816	1,261,277	-	-	-	2,084,093
Receivables	-	-	-	-	407,747	407,747
	822,816	1,261,277	-	-	407,747	2,491,840
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	236,034	236,034
<b>Net Financial Assets</b>	<b>822,816</b>	<b>1,261,277</b>	-	-	<b>171,713</b>	<b>2,255,806</b>



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### NOTE 19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### (c) Net Fair Value

The net fair value of:

- Listed investments have been valued at the quoted market price at balance date, adjusted for transaction costs expected to be incurred. For unlisted investments where there is no organised financial market the net fair value has been based on a reasonable estimation of the underlying net assets or discounted cash flows of the investment.
- Other assets and other liabilities approximate their carrying values.

### NOTE 20. RECLASSIFICATIONS

In 2006 a portion of income received in advance totalling \$317,227 was presented as part of sundry creditors and portion of Long Service Leave provision totalling \$54,929 was presented as part of the current portion. Long Service leave is classified as other long term employee benefits and is required to be presented under non-current liabilities.

### NOTE 21. COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office of the company is:

Unit 40 Technopark  
6-8 Herbert Street  
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

### NOTE 22. SEGMENT REPORTING

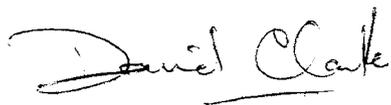
The company and the economic entity is engaged in the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences, including providing high standards of continuing education and professional development; providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production; and stimulating informed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

# DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

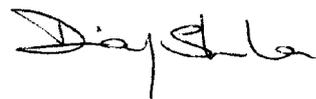
The directors of the company declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes as set out on pages 45-59, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2007 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company and economic entity; and
2. in the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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



*D Clarke*  
*Director and Honorary Treasurer*



*D Sheehan*  
*Director and President*

Dated at Sydney this 10th Day of March 2008

# AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

PARTNERS:

Howard Badger CA  
Andrew Blackwell CA  
Chris Chandran CA  
Martin Fowler CA  
Stephen Humphrys FCA  
Garry Leyshon FCA  
Allan Mortel CA  
Wayne Morton FCA  
Joe Shannon CA  
Robert Southwell CA  
Spiro Tzannes FCA  
Charlie Viola (Affiliate ICAA)  
Scott Whiddett CA

CONSULTANTS:

Anja Dorrell CA  
Brett Sato CA  
Bob Webster FCA

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, as lead auditor for the audit of Australian Veterinary Association and its Consolidated Entities for the year ended 31 December 2007, 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 and its Consolidated Entities during the period.



S. M. WHIDDETT  
Partner

Moore Stephens Sydney  
Chartered Accountants

Dated in Sydney this 10th day of March 2008.

Moore Stephens Sydney ABN 90 773 984 843  
Level 7, 20 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 473, Sydney NSW 2001  
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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australian Veterinary Association Limited ("the Company"), and its Controlled Entities ("the consolidated entity") which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2007, and the income statement, the statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, accompanying notes to the financial statements and the directors' declaration of the consolidated entity comprising the Company and the entities it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

### Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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CONSULTANTS:  
Anja Dorrell CA  
Brett Sato CA  
Bob Webster FCA

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**CONSULTANTS:**

Anja Dorrell CA  
Brett Sato CA  
Bob Webster FCA

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical requirements 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 in page 61 of the financial report has not changed as at the date of providing our opinion.

**Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Veterinary Association Limited is in accordance with 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 2007 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

S. M. WHIDDETT  
Partner

Moore Stephens Sydney  
Chartered Accountants

Dated in Sydney, this 17th day of March 2008

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## **Australian Veterinary Association**

ABN 63 008 522 852

6 Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

Phone: 02 9431 5000 • Freecall: 1300 137 309 • Facsimile: 02 9437 9068

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