

**2013**  
AVA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

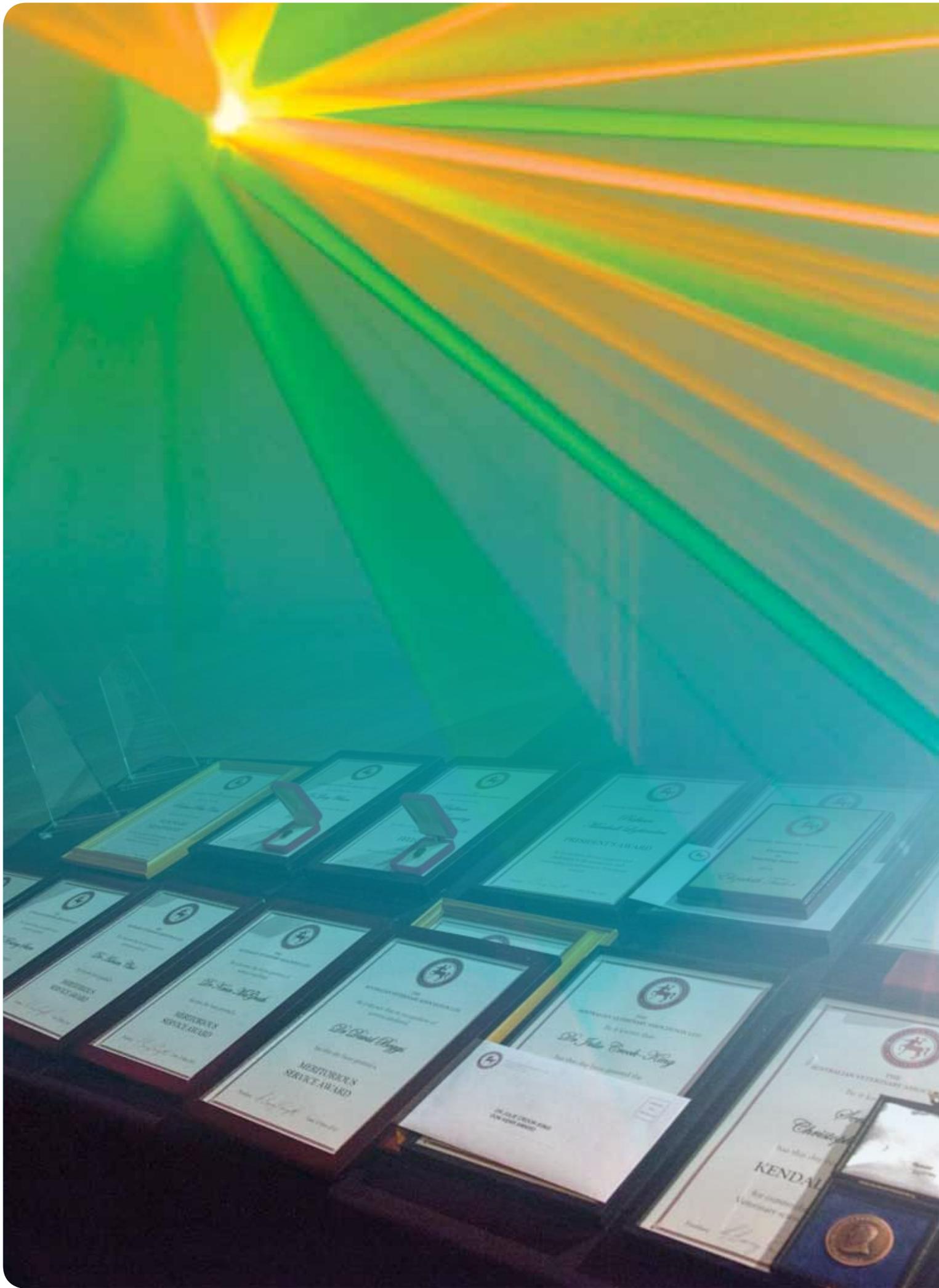
..... INTO THE  
**FUTURE**



## **AVA Awards Ceremony**

Wednesday 29 May 2013, 4.00pm  
Hall A, Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns





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### **Awards**

- 4** Gilruth Prize
- 5** Kesteven Medal
- 6** Excellence in Teaching Award
- 7** President's Award
- 8** Don Kerr Student Award
- 9** Fellowship
- 10** Meritorious Service Awards
- 14** Honorary Member
- 15** AVA Practices of Excellence Awards

## Gilruth Prize

The Gilruth Prize was established in 1953 to commemorate the name of Dr J A Gilruth, who was Professor of Veterinary Pathology and Director of the Veterinary Research Institute at the University of Melbourne from 1908, Administrator of the Northern Territory 1912–1920, later the first Chief of the Division on Animal Health, CSIRO and an outstanding veterinary authority. This award celebrates veterinary scientists whose work has brought great credit to the profession or made a major contribution to veterinary science in Australia over many years. It is the highest ranking award of the Australian Veterinary Association.



**Dr David Wishart**  
BVSc

Dr David Sutcliffe Wishart, is now an elder of the veterinary profession. David was Secretary and President of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Victorian Division in 1944–52 and 1953–54 respectively, and Federal President in 1960–61. His AVA presidential address in 1961 was titled 'Creating the professional man'.

By replacing 'man' with the gender neutral 'veterinarian', the strategies David spoke about 50 years ago for creating the professional veterinarian are still very relevant today. Such was the nature of his visionary leadership.

David entered the second year of the BVSc course at the University of Sydney in 1938 as a mature age student and graduated with honours in June 1941. His first appointment was as a veterinary officer involved with tuberculosis testing of cattle. In 1942 he was located at the State Research Farm at Werribee and commenced a breeding program for dairy cattle using artificial insemination. His report of a nine month overseas tour of animal husbandry research centres formed the basis of a strategic plan for the development of animal husbandry and production research in Victoria, many principles of which are still relevant today. In 1960, he was appointed to the Planning

Committee of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, to develop the facilities necessary to re-establish the veterinary science course that had closed in 1928.

In 1968, David was announced as a Fellow of the AVA in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Association. He was appointed Director of the Department of Agriculture Victoria in 1968, and led an 11 year period of development with the opening of new animal and agricultural science research centres, an influx of graduates who had obtained university degrees while on cadetships, postgraduates who had undertaken research higher degrees while on scholarships, and a network of veterinary diagnostic laboratories. He retired as Director-General in 1979.

## Kesteven Medal

The Kesteven Medal was inaugurated by the late Dr K V L Kesteven and first awarded in 1980. It is conferred on Australian veterinarians in recognition of distinguished contributions to international veterinary science in the fields of technical and scientific assistance to developing countries.

The medal is presented alternatively by the AVA and the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (ACVS).



**Dr Angus Cameron**  
BVSc MVSc PHD MACVSC

Dr Angus Cameron is a dedicated Australian veterinary epidemiologist who works to provide solutions to epidemiological challenges faced by colleagues and institutions around the

world. He has worked in developing countries for many years – strengthening institutions, building human resource capacities, introducing significant efficiencies, providing training and important skills transfer, and offering guidance to decision makers on animal disease control.

Angus graduated from the University of Sydney in 1988, and completed degrees at the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland. After five years in large animal clinical practice, he started his international career working on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) surveillance in Thailand and Laos. He has been a director of AusVet Animal Health Services, a private epidemiology consulting company since 2000.

Angus works with both terrestrial and aquatic animals in numerous developing countries. His work involves strengthening the capacities of veterinary services in a participatory and collaborative manner using carefully targeted interventions. Through his work, Angus has contributed to the improvement of the lives of some of the poorest rural communities, contributed to bringing greater food and financial security, promoting improved frontline health services and reducing disease in livestock populations.

Through his work in Asia and Africa he has established a network of veterinary and epidemiological colleagues as well as many others from related specialist fields. In his work in over 40 countries on six continents, he has forged collaborations, encouraged interdisciplinary linkages and used his connections to great effect. His instigation and chairmanship of the inaugural International Conference on Animal Health Surveillance (Lyon, France, May 2011) was, in large part, responsible for attracting over 280 veterinary epidemiologists from around the world.

As a younger veterinarian, Angus was inspired by a number of other Australian veterinarians with whom he worked, Jakob Malmo and Chris Baldock, in particular. They played important formative mentorship roles and Angus strives to emulate them by providing leadership and guidance to many younger members of the profession, PhD students and other colleagues from a variety of backgrounds.

Angus now has years of extensive experience at providing relevant, practical and appropriate training courses across the world.

Angus has achieved international respect and his advice and opinion are widely sought. His books and tools, written particularly for developing countries, have been translated into at least five languages and continue to be used widely.

## Excellence in Teaching Award

The AVA Excellence in Teaching Award which recognises and encourages excellence in veterinary undergraduates by AVA members within Australian veterinary schools was instituted in 1997. Nominees are sought from students and staff of the six veterinary schools.



### Dr Rowland Cobbold

BVSc (Hons I) PhD (Microbiology) GCEd (Higher Educ.)

Dr Rowland Cobbold leads curriculum development at the University of Queensland (UQ) School of Veterinary Science. His work includes the development of a new veterinary program. Rowland coordinates the major undergraduate Veterinary Public Health (VPH) course, and the VPH infectious diseases and biosecurity disciplinary theme across the program, integrating material and teaching into related courses. VPH has recently re-invented itself to incorporate a One Health paradigm. As a result, there is a need for revised approaches to teaching in VPH, and Rowland has been an Australian leader in making this change in the veterinary curricula.

Over his eight years of university teaching experience, Rowland has developed a practical, inclusive approach to student training that centres on the creation of a 'community of learning' in the classroom. He is also an accomplished supervisor of research higher degree students.

Rowland contributes to teaching VPH beyond UQ, and leads a number of VPH aligned professional groups. This immersion in the VPH discipline at all levels further drives his teaching, both in terms of technical and practical relevance, and in helping him to enhance student engagement in the discipline.

His outstanding success as a teacher is reflected in two UQ Commendations for Teaching Excellence awarded in 2011 and 2012.

## President's Award

The AVA President's Award was established in 2006 and recognises outstanding practical veterinary science or practice in Australia. This award rewards a continuum of not less than five years outstanding practice.



**Dr Peter Thornber**  
BVSc

Dr Peter Thornber is a University of Queensland veterinary graduate who also has qualifications in agriculture and teaching. After graduation he worked overseas for five years in the Solomon Islands and the United Kingdom.

Peter has extensive animal health and welfare policy experience and has worked closely with international governments and organisations for many years. He is the Director of Animal Welfare Policy for the Australian Government.

He is a specialist animal welfare member of the Australia and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists and a member of the AVA's special interest group on welfare and ethics.

Peter is the animal welfare expert representative for Asia/Oceania on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group that develops international welfare standards. He is also the current Chair of the Australia/New Zealand OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis.

Peter was responsible for the drafting and finalisation of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – a strategy for the entire Australian community.

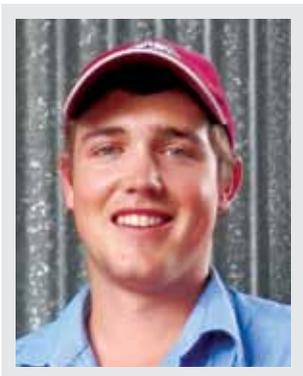
Under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, he is providing leadership and funding current work to develop new Australian standards and guidelines for land transport of livestock, zoo animals, cattle and sheep. His program is also supporting work on national animal welfare guidelines for dogs and cats, rodeos and aquatic animals. He is co-funding work with the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the AVA, RSPCA, Red Cross and governments, to improve plans for animals in natural disasters.

Peter's program has also funded the development of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. He is supporting welfare research, education and training programs, including those for indigenous communities.

Peter is the honorary Treasurer of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) and a CVA Executive Officer.

## Don Kerr Student Award

The Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award commemorates the work of the late Don Kerr who died in 1992 while serving as President of the Association. Don was an enthusiastic cattle practitioner and dedicated educator of veterinary undergraduates. The Award is conferred on a final year veterinary student from one of the veterinary schools for academic achievement and exceptional commitment to cattle medicine.



**Dr Callan Solari**  
BVSc

Due to family business interests, Dr Callan Solari entered the veterinary science course at James Cook University (JCU) in 2008 with an above average level of knowledge and experience in the beef cattle industry. He excelled academically in subjects related to cattle medicine and production and used every opportunity to expand his cattle experience.

Early in his degree, Callan completed husbandry placements on a dairy farm on the Atherton Tablelands and on beef properties at Ingham and Rockhampton. During the clinical training years, he completed placements in cattle-orientated veterinary practices at Malanda, Ingham, Charters Towers, Taroom, Clermont and Moranbah in Queensland, in Tenterfield and Barraba in New South Wales, Mt Gambier in South Australia and in Winton, New Zealand.

Feedback to the university from Callan's mentors always contained high praise about his performance while on placement – they commended his knowledge of the cattle industry, his clinical competence, his communication skills, his professionalism, his enthusiasm and his great attitude to clients and colleagues.

While a student member, Callan served as a junior AVA representative in 2009 and a student representative for JCU in 2010 and 2011. He helped organise the rural practice days at JCU between 2010–12, which are aimed at improving students' expectations about rural veterinary practice. He participated in the 2010 AVA National Conference, various JCU Veterinary Students' Association functions, the 2010 PanPac Conference and the 2011 AVA Queensland Division Conference.

Callan owns and operates commercial and stud beef cattle herds in North Queensland and is an active member of the Australian Brahman Breeders' Association.

Callan's qualities of striving for clinical excellence and his commitment to the beef industry, his leadership and communication abilities and his dedication to his profession make him a worthy recipient of the Don Kerr Student Award.

# Fellowship

Fellows of the AVA are members who have rendered outstanding service to the Association.

## Dr Michael Hayward

BVSc

Dr Michael Hayward founded and is a director of a nine veterinarian small animal practice in Canberra. He has been a member of the AVA for over 30 years.

Michael is a member of the small animals, behaviour, and welfare and ethics special interest groups. He serves or has served on the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) and, the Urban Animal Management (now Companion Animals in the Community) Committee.

His service to the ACT Division covered all executive roles on the committee before becoming President in 2000. Michael represented the AVA on the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee from 1996 to 2004, chairing that committee for seven years. During that time ACT AWAC conducted major reviews of the Animal Welfare Act and the Domestic Animals Act.

Michael has been very involved in the area of behaviour of dogs and organised and chaired a seminar on dangerous dogs for the Division in October 2001. In 2012 he was the author of the AVA policy document '*Dangerous Dogs – a sensible solution*'.

He organised the training of Delta Society Dog Safe volunteers in Canberra and assisted with the re-establishment of the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia in the ACT.

In April 2000 Michael completed a review of the position of ACT Government Veterinarian, commissioned by the Government and in 1998 he was a member of the ACT Government Focus Group to advise on the preparation of an 'Urban Cat Management Strategy'.

Since 2006 Michael has represented the AVA on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – Companion Animals Working Group, most recently coordinating the development of the National Standards and Guidelines for the care and ownership of dogs.

Michael has presented papers at various conferences and has published in the media. He is a member of the CSIRO Animal Ethics Committee.

## Dr Malcolm McLennan

BVSc MSc MVSc MACVSc

Dr Malcolm McLennan has been a significant contributor to the veterinary profession, professional association and community.

Malcolm has been an active member of AVA Queensland Division. He was on the executive from 1995 to 2004 and served as President in 2001. He has been the Divisional Historian since 2006 and President of the South East Queensland Branch since 2010.

Malcolm has made outstanding contributions to veterinary education through his roles as Chair of the AVA Education Advisory Committee, Chair of AVA Education Day and as a founding committee member of the newly formed special interest group Veterinarians in Education, Research and Academia (VERA).

Malcolm is an inspirational teacher and leader in veterinary education with a passion for cattle medicine and welfare, and the well-being of graduates.

Malcolm has been the driving force behind AVA Education Day which has become the most effective opportunity for veterinary educators in Australia to collaborate. Held at the AVA Conference each year, the day has become the premier reference point for the profession with respect to veterinary education. Malcolm's approach to this role has similarly promoted the AVA values of collegiality, integrity, knowledge, animal welfare, innovation and excellence in veterinary education among educators from all veterinary fields.

Malcolm has adopted the same enthusiasm and held the same principles when performing his other roles within the profession, the AVA and the community. He is a much valued colleague and friend to many because of these principles and leadership style.

## Meritorious Service Awards

The Meritorious Service Award may be made to members or other persons who are not eligible for membership of the Association who have rendered special or long-term service to the Association, its divisions, branches or special interest groups.

### Dr Jane Axon

BVSc, MACVSc (Equine)

Dr Jane Axon has been an active participant and presenter at both the AVA and EVA's annual conferences. However, it is not only in Australia where Jane's knowledge and experience has been in demand, she has also been presenting internationally since 1995.

Jane is a registered specialist in equine medicine and is an author of both high level academic books and scientific articles, with over 30 works in her name individually, or in collaboration with others.

As a clinician, Jane's skills and knowledge have been highly sought. Since 1999, Jane has been the Director of Scone Equine Hospital's Clovelly Intensive Care Unit, where she provides leadership to a team that is responsible for the care of some of the most valuable bloodstock in the world.

Jane joined the EVA Executive Committee in 2004 as the South Australian state representative. She was President Elect during the Equine Influenza (EI) epidemic in 2007 and she worked to support the membership of the organisation. In 2008, when Jane was President, along with continuing EI related issues to attend to, the teaching of equine dentistry at TAFE colleges became a topic of concern. In the same year there was also the increasing awareness of the challenges of the devastating effects of Hendra virus on the veterinary profession. Jane provided great leadership on these issues.

In more recent times delegates at the EVA Bain Fallon Conference and the AVA national conference equine stream have been the beneficiaries of Jane's insight, skill and judgement. She has been able to call upon her long list of prestigious and influential international colleagues as keynote speakers. Jane has helped make Bain Fallon famous as an international equine veterinary conference. It is for good reason that in EVA circles, Jane is known as a rock star.

### Mr Philip Bloom

Philip Bloom, a bush engineer and entrepreneur, has been involved with veterinary practice since 1957 as the first veterinary 'sales rep' with Glaxo Pharmaceuticals. He started Cenvet, a wholesale business in 1960 with his wife and a second-hand mini bus.

Initially focusing on the east coast of Australia and later expanding to the whole of Australia, Philip brought novel equipment and instruments to the practitioner. He designed and built the first veterinary operating table, weight platforms (50gm–500kg), and pioneered gas anaesthesia with the widely used Stephens Anaesthetic machine with over four thousand being sold worldwide.

With the help of human anaesthetist Dr Phillip Jobson, Philip built an anaesthetic unit with a self-inflating bag (anaesthetic bag filled with rubber foam). Produced for the School of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Sydney, this unit enabled full anaesthesia in the remote regions of Asia where there was no oxygen or electricity.

There are a lot of firsts – Polaroid x-ray unit, underwater breathing set for the frogman commandoes of the Australian Navy, and the first relative analgesia unit for human dentistry to be built in Australia. In all, Philip has performed over 400 human anaesthetics, many in the company of professors of anaesthesia.

Some twenty years ago Philip moved out of Cenvet and with his son Lehman, started iM3. iM3 has done over thirty wet teaching labs all over the world in the last twelve months and developed a full range of dental equipment and instruments. He has sponsored and provided equipment for these labs at universities and veterinary groups developing enormous expertise amongst the profession and working very closely with the Australian Veterinary Dental Society.

# Meritorious Service Awards

## Dr Patricia Clarke

BVSc

Dr Trish Clarke joined the AVA in 2003 and became a member of the executive committee of the Queensland Division in 2004. She remained on the committee until 2012.

During this time she served on the Standing Committee for Veterinary Education from 2004–2012 and represented the Division on the Animal Care and Management Committee, the Rural Industry Training Council and the Queensland Industry Advisory Group for Veterinary Nursing. Trish has also assisted the AVA Queensland Division in providing input into continuous improvement of the Veterinary Nursing Training package.

During her time at the University of Queensland (UQ) School of Veterinary Science, Trish assumed responsibility for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Veterinary Technology) Degree, Year 3. In 2009 she was successful in bringing about the introduction of the dual qualification of the Bachelor of Applied Science (Veterinary Technology) program and the Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing. UQ was the first higher education institution in Australia to deliver this dual model qualification.

During the January 2011 floods in south-east Queensland, Trish went out of her way to seek support for flood-affected veterinary practices in the area immediately surrounding the UQ campuses at Gatton and in Brisbane. This support included contacting flood affected veterinary practices in the Brisbane and Lockyer Valley areas, promoting AVA support during the crisis. In addition, Trish visited these veterinary practices, providing ongoing membership support as part of an AVA representation.

During her time at UQ, Trish has tirelessly promoted the AVA and AVA PetPEP to staff, veterinary students and veterinary technology students and strongly advocated the benefits of AVA membership to these groups.

## Dr Katharine Haines

BVSc GradDip (Animal Chiropractic) MChiroSc (Animal Chiropractic) DipPractM

Dr Katharine Haines joined the AVA as a student in 1984. She has been active in the South Gippsland Branch of the Victorian Division, holding Secretary and Treasurer positions of the Branch for more than a decade.

After graduation, Katharine worked in mixed practice for several years before travelling and working in the UK from 1987–1989. On her return to Australia she purchased a practice in Morwell in 1990 and opened a second clinic in Traralgon in 1994. In 1999 she completed a Graduate Diploma in Animal Chiropractic at RMIT University and a Master of Chiropractic Science (Animal Chiro) in 2001, in addition to completing a Diploma in Practice Management.

Her professional activities include companion animal medicine, equine – especially chiropractic/endurance, avian and practice management. Her two practices in the Latrobe Valley currently employ five veterinary associates.

Katharine was one of the first female veterinary practitioners appointed as an Academic Associate in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne.

Katharine was also the first female Melbourne BVSc graduate to be appointed as an Academic Associate (Senior Fellow) by the University. She has supervised the extramural clinical training of veterinary students and has been an external examiner of final year students at the Veterinary Clinical Centre.

Katharine is an outstanding role model for female members of the AVA, particularly those whose career plans are to specialise in her areas of interest or to become a practice principal.

Katharine is an active contributor to the Victorian Division Animal Welfare internet discussion group and the Animal Behaviour Group forum.

# Meritorious Service Awards

## Dr Deborah Middleton

BVSc MVSc PHD VetPath

Dr Deborah Middleton is a registered specialist in veterinary pathology and leads projects within the Transforming Animal Biosecurity research area at CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, Victoria.

Deborah joined CSIRO in 1998 as Senior Veterinary Pathologist in the Diagnostic Sciences research program at AAHL. This includes a Level Four Biosecurity Laboratory, the only facility in the world that can perform research work on the particularly challenging subjects, live horses.

Deborah's career highlights include positions as Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Pathology at the University of London, and at the University of Melbourne. She undertook postdoctoral research at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

The overall goal of her research area is to develop and apply advanced technologies to provide solutions to livestock disease problems, and to minimise the risks associated with new and emerging pathogens, particularly animal and zoonotic diseases.

In 2011, as the Team Leader at CSIRO responsible for the research in zoonotic diseases, Deborah led the team that successfully created a vaccine for the Hendra virus. Hendra virus has killed four people, including two veterinarians, and scores of horses. In collaboration with Pfizer Animal Health, The Henry Jackson Foundation (USA) and the AVA and EVA, Deborah worked to commercialise the Hendra virus vaccine, and it was released to the market in November 2012.

## Dr David Rendell

BVSc MACVSc (sheep) MBA

Dr David Rendell has been a member of the AVA since graduation in 1978. He has been the Victorian Division representative on the Victorian Ministerial Animal Welfare Advisory Committee since 2004.

David was a committee member of the Victorian Division Executive from 2004 to 2008.

David has also represented the Victorian Division on a national level in the field of animal welfare.

In 2001 he was Deputy Leader of the AVA group assisting with the foot-and-mouth disease Eradication Program in the UK.

He has been involved in eradicating Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) and acted as the Deputy Chair of the Victorian OJD Ministerial Advisory Committee and was on the National OJD Industry Advisory Committee.

David has been a tireless worker for the AVA at division level, particularly in the area of animal welfare. Through the email forum introduced in Victoria he has engaged members of the Division in discussion to ensure that the majority views of the members are presented at the Ministerial Animal Welfare Advisory Committee meetings.

# Meritorious Service Awards

## Dr Maureen Revington

BVSc

Since January 2010, Dr Maureen Revington has been a Technical Services Veterinarian for Hill's Pet Nutrition Pty Ltd. Prior to this, Maureen was employed by the AVA, commencing in December 2000, as the Clinical Editor of the Australian Veterinary Journal and held this position until 2007. She worked closely with authors to produce good quality and well-edited clinical papers, giving particular assistance to young and first time authors.

In 2005, she also took on the role of Manager of Continuing Education at the AVA. This position incorporated being the Scientific Convenor of the AVA National Conference. In this role Maureen was instrumental in ensuring that the national conference was the highlight of the AVA year. She was responsible for reorganising the conference program into streams in which different specific interest groups came together to discuss topics of mutual interest, rather than having multiple separated streams. This made for a broader base and more interesting program for generalist veterinarians, and was one of the main drivers of the 'One AVA' concept we have today. She made sure all the presenters were high quality and engaging speakers. Under Maureen's guidance, the program became more scientific and relevant to all attendees and returned sound financial outcomes for the AVA.

Maureen was jointly responsible for establishing the Continuing Education and Events Unit at the AVA and developed the Vet Ed Program amongst many other initiatives in the area of continuing education. She also prepared the content and corrected the quizzes contained in the Australian Veterinary Journal.

Maureen continues to serve on the scientific program committee which oversees the programming of the AVA National Conference and continues to advocate for all veterinarians to be members of the AVA.

## Dr Bruce Twentyman

BVSc(Hons)

Dr Bruce Twentyman is the Veterinary Policy Manager for the AVA and has been an AVA member since 1981. He currently works in policy development and implementation for the AVA, based in Canberra, and interacts with a vast array of industry peak bodies, government and semi-government departments.

Bruce began his veterinary career as an associate in small animal and pleasure horse practice and after four years set up practice in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. In 2000, a move to mixed practice in WA rounded off a long held desire to broaden his practice experience.

Bruce became an inaugural member of Australian Veterinary Reserve as he developed an interest in Emergency Animal Diseases (EAD's) and their management while working in mixed practice.

Since 2009, he has had been involved with national and AVA groups working on equine dentistry and helped achieve a positive outcome on the role of para-professionals. His role includes managing, providing secretariat services and participating in various AVA committees and working groups and helps to develop and communicate policies of the AVA. He was been a member of the ACT Division Committee from 2007 until 2012 as well as being a member of a number of AVA special interest groups.

Bruce has been on a number of advisory committees and reference groups where his support and advice has been invaluable.

Bruce has served with the Australian Veterinary Reserve since 2004, and is due to complete a Master of Veterinary Public Health Management this year.

## Honorary Member

Honorary Members are eminent persons (non- veterinarians) who have been appointed to that position as a token of respect for their services to the Association in particular or to the veterinary profession in general. They enjoy all the privileges of membership in the Association and the divisions, except those of voting and holding office.

### Ms Margaret Wilson

Margaret Wilson's tenure of 20 years as Registrar of the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria saw radical change and innovation occur over this time. Margaret's assistance with, and oversight of the implementation of major advances at the state and national levels is appreciated by the veterinary profession. There were huge changes to be accommodated during this period including changes to the legislation involving veterinary surgeons and practitioners, the relocation of the Board's office from Brunswick to Collins Street and supporting and encouraging the lay members of the Board who had had little previous experience with registered veterinary practitioners.

The Victorian Board – which initiated the Australasian Veterinary Boards – played a crucial role in the development of the Australian Veterinary Board Council and Margaret followed on the tradition and enhanced the part played by the previous Registrar.

Consultation with the registrars of other health professions enabled Margaret to ensure her Board was always kept informed of the latest developments regarding the regulation of these professions. Margaret also consulted with these registrars of the veterinary surgeons boards in other states and territories to keep abreast of professional regulatory requirements in other jurisdictions. This work placed the Victorian Board in an ideal position to be able to implement national registration in 2011.

The dedicated work that Margaret has performed over the past 20 years and her willingness to adapt to change has been of great benefit to the veterinary profession and Honorary Membership of the AVA is recognition of her commitment and assistance to the profession.

## AVA Practices of Excellence Awards

The AVA and Hill's have developed an annual award to recognise veterinary practices that provide outstanding service to their clients. This award will reward and encourage veterinary practices Australia – wide to improve their customer service techniques and overall practice management.

### The winners for 2013 are:

**Animal Referral Hospital** – Homebush, New South Wales  
Best small animal veterinary practice

**Don Crosby Veterinary Surgeons** – Dubbo, New South Wales  
Best large animal veterinary practice



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