



Australian Veterinary Association Ltd

## 2017 Annual Conference

**The nation's premier veterinary event**

Melbourne 4–9 June

# 2017 Awards Ceremony

**5.00pm**

**Wednesday 7 June 2017**

Melbourne Convention  
and Exhibition Centre  
(MCEC)

Australian Veterinary Association

 **VetEd**  
Professional development  
for Australia's veterinarians

  
**AVA**  
AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION

# AWARDS CEREMONY

**5.00pm**  
**Wednesday 7 June 2017**

Melbourne Convention  
and Exhibition Centre (MCEC)

**3** Gilruth Prize

**4** Kendall Oration

**5** Kesteven Medal

**6** President's Award

**7** Fellowships

**8** Meritorious Service Awards

**10** Honorary Member

**11** Don Kerr Student Award



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# GILRUTH PRIZE

The Gilruth Prize was established in 1953, and 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.



**Professor  
Peter Chenoweth**

BVSc PhD Diplomate, American  
College of Theriogenologists

Professor Peter Chenoweth has enjoyed a long and successful career in veterinary science, working predominantly in academia and specialising in animal (especially male) reproduction. Having worked in veterinary science for more than 40 years in Australia and the US, he is renowned for his knowledge and experience in animal reproduction and education. He has authored over 200 publications (including four textbooks) in animal reproduction, veterinary education and animal welfare.

Professor Chenoweth has served on the Board of the Australian Veterinary Association and the executive committees of Australian Cattle Veterinarians and Australian Reproduction Veterinarians. He is currently Vice-President of the Association for Applied Animal Andrology.

He has played a strong and ongoing role in the development of breeding soundness protocols and criteria both in North America and Australia. Professor Chenoweth's expertise in reproduction has taken him to many parts of the world including Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Japan, where he has delivered major presentations.

Professor Chenoweth has established animal andrology laboratories in the US and Australia. He is also a founding member of the Consortium of Veterinary Andrology Laboratories and the Association of Applied Animal Andrology.

Currently, Professor Chenoweth is Head of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at James Cook University. He also runs ChenoVet Pty Ltd, a provider of specialised breeding services to Australia's animal industries. In August 2013, he was recognised as the Theriogenologist of the Year by the American College of Theriogenologists.

Throughout his career, Professor Chenoweth has made an incredible contribution to Australia's veterinary and livestock industries through research and education. In all aspects of his life and career, he has shown commitment above and beyond to the advancement of veterinary science and to the education of Australia's next generation of veterinarians.

# KENDALL ORATION

The Oration was established in 1930 by the five sons of Dr William Tyson Kendall, who migrated to Australia in 1880 and made a unique contribution to veterinary science in Australia.

The Kendall Orations are presented at the Annual Conference of the AVA when held in Canberra or Melbourne. A medal is presented to commemorate the occasion.



**Professor  
John Charles Milne**

BVetMed MRCVS ARAgS

After studying at the Royal Veterinary College, London Professor Milne worked for two years in mixed practice in Scotland before joining the State Veterinary Service where he gained extensive experience in disease management including BSE, FMD, HPAI and Bluetongue. He was appointed as Chief Veterinary Officer to Scotland in 2003, a position which he held for six years. During this time, he helped to oversee a response to a foot and mouth disease outbreak that occurred in 2007. In 2009, he was appointed as Head of the Food Standards Agency in Scotland with responsibilities for food safety policy and operations.

In 2014, Professor Milne took on the role of Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer and is currently responsible for animal disease and welfare in Victoria. As part of this role, he has made it a priority to develop response plans to pest or disease outbreaks that could occur in the state.

He has been a proactive Chief Veterinary Officer since he began in Victoria and has worked closely with the AVA on many projects. Professor Milne has been instrumental in introducing the AVA to various networks within the State Government. He has also served as the Chief Vet in other countries when disease outbreaks have occurred.

He is working in the area of biosecurity in Australia, which is a field of veterinary science that he is particularly passionate about.

# 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 and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS).



**Professor  
Rick Speare**

BVSc (Hons) MBBS (Hons)  
MANZVS FAFPHM FACTM

With dual degrees in veterinary science and human medicine, the late Professor Rick Speare worked as a clinician in both fields, and was committed to raising awareness of the One Health concept throughout the world.

He worked on a project for the Emerging Pandemic Threats program, which strengthens capacities in developing countries to prevent, detect, and control infectious diseases in animals and people. He helped lead the One Health Workforce project in South East Asia and Africa and travelled the region extensively conducting workshops on the interphase between human, animal and environmental health.

Professor Speare's most recent work was in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea where he facilitated strengthening research capacity in those countries. He also had a long association with James Cook University where he taught and mentored countless masters and doctoral students.

His love of his veterinary degree was paramount to his research challenges which were focused on improving the health of human and animal life. Professor Speare produced 301 publications, including 271 papers in peer reviewed journals, four monographs, and 26 book chapters. In addition to this, he also submitted reports to funding bodies and delivered conference presentations.

Professor Speare was extremely generous with his time. When he lost an eye as a result of a routine surgical procedure, he faced this adversity with further passion to assist many research projects across the world. At his funeral, such was his rapport with those he worked with that many people from the Solomon Islands attended to mourn his passing with traditional ceremonies.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The AVA President's Award was established in 2008. This prize is awarded by the President and the AVA Board to a veterinarian who makes an outstanding practical contribution to veterinary science or practice in Australia.



## Dr Anne Fawcett

BA (Hons) BSc(Vet) (Hons)  
BVSc (Hons) MVSc  
GradCert Ed Studies (Higher Ed)  
Diplomate ECAWBM-AWSEL

Dr Anne Fawcett graduated as a vet from the University of Sydney in 2005 after already completing a Bachelor of Arts and establishing a career as a journalist. She worked with the RSPCA NSW and locumed before settling into small animal practice at Sydney Animal Hospitals Inner West and lecturing in professional practice at the University of Sydney.

Dr Fawcett has been active in the education of veterinary students at the University of Sydney in ethics and professional practice. In 2013, she completed the Master of Veterinary Studies and in 2014 she completed the Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies (Higher Education). In 2016, she became a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in animal welfare.

Her dedication to the veterinary profession, the community and animals is well known through her voluntary work with the AVA, her commitment to improving animal welfare and her work as a journalist. She is a Director of the Sydney University veterinary intern

mentoring program, participant in the AVA's new graduate mentoring program, and founder of The Vet Cook Book - an initiative to promote collegiality in our profession through sharing food and stories.

Always thinking of the bigger issues, she has recently been championing the prioritisation of animal welfare in the strategies of the AVA and the British Veterinary Association (BVA).

Recently, Dr Fawcett co-authored *Veterinary Ethics: Navigating Tough Cases*, which will make a significant contribution to veterinary literature. She was also admitted as a Diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behaviour Medicine Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law based on her body of work in the field of animal ethics and welfare.

# FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship of the AVA is the Association's most senior award for service to the Association and is only given for truly outstanding service that involves a contribution through the AVA Board, division, special interest group or representing the AVA in the local community.

## Dr David Beggs

BVSc MVSc

Dr David Beggs has more than 25 years of experience as a cattle veterinarian, during which time he has been committed to the AVA, the cattle industry and to scientific research.

Dr Beggs grew up on a merino stud in western Victoria and after graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1990, he took a mixed practice job in Smithton, Tasmania. After a year there, he moved closer to home, relocating to Warrnambool.

Building on his interest in computer technology and how this could be integrated into veterinary practice, he completed an MVS degree in dairy medicine and production in 1998, with his major project being, 'A stochastic model to predict fertility in dairy herds'. Dr Beggs is the author of several computer software programs including the widely used 'Dairy Data' and 'Bull Reporter'. Currently, he works part-time in Warrnambool, is Scientific Officer for Australian Cattle Veterinarians and teaches at the University of Melbourne Veterinary School. He is also undertaking a PhD on the topic of ensuring dairy cow welfare with increasing scale of production and is a past convenor of the AVA Conference.

He set up and moderates the ACV ListServ which is widely used and valued by ACV members and, more recently, he has been coordinating the AVA response to the Bovine Johne's Disease review.

## Dr David Johnson

BVSc MRCVS DipMan

Dr David Johnson has been a dynamic and hardworking representative at branch, division, policy council, special interest group and Board level. Dr Johnson has also made a unique contribution to Australia's international sporting success by being the Chief Veterinarian to Equestrian Australia and the London Olympic team and he has been dedicated to disease prevention surveillance.

In 1986, Dr Johnson joined EVA's Executive Committee. On the North Coast, he became an active member of the local branch and joined the NSW Division Executive Committee in 1987. In 1990, he became an AVA Board Director and following this, in 1993 he was elected as President of EVA. After his Presidency, he served as an AVA Policy Councillor for a further 10 years, and more recently, Dr Johnson has served the AVA in the NSW Racing licence court case of 2013–2014.

On the North Coast, Dr Johnson became an active member of the local branch and joined the NSW Division Executive Committee in 1987. In 1986, he joined EVA's executive committee and in 1990 he became an AVA Board Director. Following this, in 1993 he was elected as President of EVA. After the Presidency, he served as an AVA Policy Councillor for a further 10 years and more recently, Dr Johnson has served AVA in the NSW Racing licence court case of 2013–2014.

In 2001, he travelled to the UK to as a volunteer member of the AVA's response team to the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Dr Johnson remains widely admired and respected in AVA circles and the wider veterinary community and has mentored numerous young vets. Within EVA he holds the record for being a delegate at every Bain Fallon conference since 1980 and continues to serve as the Master of Ceremonies at the EVA Awards Night.

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

The Meritorious Service Award is given to members who have rendered special or long-term service to the association, its divisions, branches or special interest groups.

## Dr Nathan Anthony

BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS

Dr Nathan Anthony has delivered great service and achieved high results on behalf of veterinarians in the areas of education, advocacy, public health, and veterinarian defence.

He joined the AVA after graduating from the University of Queensland in 1998 and became an active EVA member. By 2008, he was organising and delivering equine veterinary workshops and in 2012 he joined EVA's Executive Committee and became the AVA's Hendra virus spokesperson. A tireless advocate for the Hendra vaccine, Dr Anthony has authored a horse-owner brochure on the vaccine and has spoken at numerous meetings and events on the subject. Becoming President of EVA in 2014, he used his position to actively promote the public safety benefits of the vaccine.

Dr Anthony has been proactive in educating veterinarians in horse pre-purchase examinations. He wrote, presented and directed a training video on the subject, which he uses during a workshop he runs each year at the AVA Annual Conference.

He was appointed as Equestrian Australia's team veterinarian in 2013 and was the official vet at the 2014 Normandy World Championships and at the 2016 Rio Olympics. He has built a successful practice in Brisbane which includes a hospital at Anstead and a reproduction clinic at Marburg.

## Dr Ian Fulton

BVSc MS FANZCVS

Dr Fulton has provided great service to the equine veterinary profession and is regarded as an industry leader.

Dr Ian Fulton graduated in 1983, commenced work in equine practices and started serving associations involved in the equestrian industry, including racing. Completing a surgical residency in the USA in 1990, Dr Fulton returned to Australia, became a registered specialist and a Fellow of the ANZCVS. He also became active in EVA, eventually joining the Executive Committee. As EVA's Industry Stakeholder Chair, he provided the leadership of AVA's engagement with horse racing and other associations in the equine industry and this leadership continued in his role as EVA President.

In 2013, the veterinary profession's relationship with the racing industry was placed under strain during a dispute with Racing NSW over veterinarian licensing. The issue threatened to explode in 2015 and it was Dr Fulton who helped achieve a resolution with Racing NSW charting a mutually beneficial way forward. He is AVA's nominee to Racing Australia's Veterinary and Analysts Committee and he is also AVA's racing industry spokesperson, providing expert veterinary commentary on behalf of the profession.

## Dr Tanya Stephens (Carter)

BVSc (Sydney) MSc IAWEL (Edinburgh)  
MANZCVS (Animal Welfare)

Dr Tanya Stephens has been a tireless advocate for animal welfare and ethics since she graduated from the University of Sydney in 1972. She has been a stalwart and driving force of the AVA's Animal Welfare and Ethics special interest group for many years and has encouraged and mentored many veterinarians with an interest in these areas as well.

Working within the strategy and policies of the AVA, she has achieved much in the promotion of animal welfare and actively worked to promote improved welfare of Australia's pets, livestock and large animals. She is on the NSW Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel representing the AVA to address welfare concerns around the effective control of kangaroo numbers in certain parts of the state and as Chair of the AVA Animal Welfare Trust has actively promoted the Trust. She is a major contributor to the ACAHF.

As program coordinator of the welfare and ethics stream at the AVA Conference, Dr Stephens was a driving force in inviting Temple Grandin to speak at the AVA Conference in 2013, an event still talked about and referenced by veterinarians today. Her numerous external appointments including the NSW Veterinary Surgeons Board and the NSW NCAT are a testament to the respect with which she is accorded in university and government circles.

## Dr Geoffrey Tomkins

BVSc

Dr Geoffrey Tomkins has been an indefatigable supporter of the AVA and its activities, most notably for the NSW Division.

Throughout his career, Dr Tomkins has spoken publicly about the need to promote mental health within the veterinary profession and the wider community via Rotary. He was President of the NSW Division from 2009 to 2011, during which time he campaigned heavily for increased awareness of mental health issues in the profession. This led to mental health sessions being held at every NSW Division Conference from 2011.

Dr Tomkins joined the AVA as a student member in 1966 and has maintained membership ever since. Based in the Lismore area, as an AVA member he has given generously of his time to support AVA activities, particularly those associated with the Far North Coast Branch in NSW, serving several years as Secretary/Treasurer and as Branch President.

He was also an active member of the AVA's Practice Management special interest group, in its early iteration as an AVA SIG.

# HONORARY

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 or to the veterinary profession. They enjoy all the privileges of membership, except those of voting and holding office.

## Senior Officer Anthony Hatch

NM HOSM

Senior Firefighter (SF) Anthony Hatch is a Senior Rescue Instructor with Fire and Rescue NSW. Known as 'Hatchy', he has over 30 years of experience in rescue, with highlights including the successful rescue of Stuart Diver in the Thredbo landslide and the 2013 Fukushima tsunami in Japan, for which he was awarded a Humanitarian Medal.

After identifying deficiencies in Australia's approach to large animal rescues, SF Hatch began reviewing and improving the equipment and procedures for this specialised work. He was awarded a prestigious Winston Churchill Fellowship, enabling him to travel to the USA, Europe and the UK to research best practice in Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER).

During his Fellowship, SF Hatch worked with rescue units in large animal rescue incidents, was an associate lecturer at Cambridge University and studied exotic animals handling methods at San Diego Zoo.

After returning to Australia, he developed large animal rescue training packages, with an emphasis on horses, for many rescue agencies around Australia. He has lectured at universities and he has trained the NSW and Victorian Mounted Police Units, horse racing personnel, RSPCA inspectors, equestrian organisations and State Emergency Services personnel.

In 2011, EVA invested in a life-size rescue mannequin horse to facilitate the training of horse rescue techniques. SF Hatch joined EVA volunteers in the training of veterinarians and vet science students in TLAER. His efforts have resulted in over 400 veterinarians and countless more emergency personnel being trained to safely manage equine emergency rescues in Australia. He continues to provide training in safe horse rescue techniques to veterinarians in practice, veterinary students at universities and to SES personnel.

# 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 Nell Wharton**

BVSc

Dr Nell Wharton started her veterinary science degree in 2012, after completing two years of an Animal and Veterinary Bioscience degree at the University of Sydney. In learning the agricultural aspects involved in both dairy and beef production systems, she became fascinated by the epidemiology, pathophysiology and treatment of common bovine diseases and applied to transfer to a Bachelor of Veterinary Science to begin her education in large animal health and production.

Through her drive, dedication and subsequent academic achievements, Dr Wharton was awarded the 'Dr Jenna Donley Prize for Large Animal Health and Production' and the 'NPH Graham Prize in Sheep Medicine' at the end of 4th year.

She was involved in many extra-curricular large animal activities during her university studies, including being co-president of the Bovine Appreciation Group. She organised extra-curricular student lectures and helped to co-

ordinate a volunteer teaching day at the University of Sydney Camden campus. The 'BAGs' day was extraordinarily successful, with 13 experienced veterinarians and five staff members teaching students foot trimming and hoof care, teat management and surgery, umbilical hernia repairs, eye ablations, reproductive management and ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis.

Over the course of her final year, she tailored her rotating internships to clinics that had a cattle medicine focus, including a month spent working in a progressive dairy and beef practice in the UK and a month spent in Casino.

Dr Wharton has a keen interest in advanced reproductive technologies such as in-vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer and wishes to further her knowledge and expertise in both these fields.



Australian Veterinary Association Ltd

# 2018 Annual Conference

**The nation's premier veterinary event**

Brisbane 13–18 May

## See you in Brisbane at the 2018 Annual Conference

Brisbane Convention and  
Exhibition Centre, Queensland

