

# AVA

## 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# 2018 Awards Ceremony

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4.00pm  
Monday 14 May 2018  
Brisbane Exhibition  
and Convention Centre

[conference.ava.com.au](http://conference.ava.com.au)  
#AVAConference

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Australian Veterinary Association  
 **VetEd**  
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for Australia's veterinarians



# AWARDS CEREMONY

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**4.00pm**  
**Monday 14 May 2018**

Brisbane Convention  
and Exhibition Centre (BCEC)

- 3 Gilruth Prize
- 4 Kesteven Medal
- 5 President's Award
- 6 Fellowships
- 8 Meritorious Service Awards
- 10 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  
David Hampson**

Professor David Hampson graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1979, after winning four Centenary prizes for academic excellence, together with the Tompson Prize (top aggregate marks in preclinical and paraclinical studies) and the Royal Agricultural Society of England Silver Medal (1st prize, by examination).

After completing his PhD at the University of Bristol, and a short stint at Massey, David was appointed as Lecturer in Veterinary Microbiology at School of Veterinary Science (as it was then) at Murdoch University. There he progressed through the academic ranks, achieving full Professor in 2000.

Professor Hampson's research has focussed on the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases of livestock, and more recently on the development and commercialisation of novel diagnostic tests and vaccines. He has provided the world with definitive studies on bacteria of the genus *Brachyspira*, identifying and improving the understanding of new species that infect animals and people, and publishing the full genomes of the two major pathogenic *Brachyspira* species (*B. hyodysenteriae* and *B. pilosicoli*).

For this work he has been awarded the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Award (ANZCVS), a Doctor of Science (University of London), and Fellowships of the Royal College of Pathologists, the Australian Society of Microbiology, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and the American Academy of Microbiology. He has also been awarded the Normal Hall Gold Medal (RCVS) and had a new species of *Brachyspira* named in his honour (*B. hampsonii*).

Over the last seven years David has been increasingly involved in university administration. He was Head of Department and then Dean of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, and in 2013 he became the Inaugural Dean of the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences.

In summary, David's contribution to the veterinary profession is immense. He has published more than 600 scientific articles, with more than 250 in peer-reviewed journals, he has authored one book and contributed 33 book chapters. His h-index is 56 and his work has been cited over 11,000 times!

# KESTEVEN MEDAL

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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  
John Edwards**

Professor John Edwards has been active on the world stage since his time at CVO in Western Australia. Through his work there, he established an international reputation on disease monitoring and response.

Following this he moved to Thailand for three years where he took on a role as Regional Coordinator for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign. In this role he facilitated countries working together and developed FMD progressive zoning in the region.

After a five-year stint as Dean of the Murdoch Uni School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Prof Edwards returned to the international sphere where he worked extensively with developing countries in the fields of biosecurity, animal health, and one health.

For the past five years (2012-2017) he has been working in China for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation as its Coordinator for the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in China. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the WA Branch of the Australia China Business Council (ACBC) and former Chair of its Education Committee. He is also a member of AustCham in Beijing.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

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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 Sue Beetson**

Dr Sue Beetson will receive her fellowship of the AVA at the 2018 Conference.

Over her career, Dr Beetson has been a dedicated and passionate servant of the veterinary profession and the AVA. In her roles a member of the EVA Executive, WA Division Executive and as Treasurer and Vice President of the AVA, Sue has been instrumental in guiding our profession and our organisation to where it is today.

As an educator and clinical pathologist, Dr Beetson has infected many veterinarians with her love of clinical pathology and has the rare ability to simply even the most complex of problems. Sue has personally impacted the lives of so many veterinarians.

As a clinical pathology consultant, a mentor and a friend, Sue is at the end of the phone providing guidance, a sounding board and assistance to get any problem sorted.

We all owe Sue a debt of gratitude, those of us who are lucky enough to know her well most of all.

# FELLOWSHIPS

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## Dr Peter Reid

Dr Peter Reid's career has been dedicated to the advancement of science particularly in the field of emerging viral zoonotic disease. His lifelong contributions to the AVA and Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA) have been outstanding, as have his contributions to local equine community groups and scientific teams.

Dr Reid is a graduate of the University of Queensland in Agricultural Science, and Veterinary Science with First Class Honours and the University Medal. He has an equine veterinary practice in Brisbane and was the attending clinician who investigated the largest ever recorded outbreak of Hendra virus in racehorses in Brisbane in 1994. Since then, he has maintained an indefatigable commitment to furthering our understanding and approaches to the diagnosis, ecology and threat of emerging viral zoonotic diseases. In 1994 he received the Queensland Racing Achievement Award for those efforts, the first ever awarded to a "non-licensee".

Dr Reid is a Life Member of the AVA and was awarded the Meritorious Service Award in 2015. He has had a profound influence on the AVA's approach to one of the most important animal health issues to confront the profession in the last 50 years in the Hendra virus. He has represented the AVA and EVA on the Hendra virus Interagency Technical Working Group and provided scientific submissions for the review of Animal Health Australia's AUSVETPLAN Hendra virus Response Policy Brief documents. In 2016, he also represented the EVA and AVA at the Queensland Government Parliamentary Inquiry into Hendra vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland. In addition, he has provided input into Biosecurity Queensland's Guidelines for veterinarians handling potential Hendra virus cases and represents AVA and EVA on the Hendra virus Interagency Technical Working Group and on the Horse Biosecurity Market Access Liaison Group.

In 2010, Dr Reid successfully lobbied the Commonwealth and State Governments to fund the crucial Hendra virus sub-unit horse vaccine challenge trials at the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory. He maintains strong local and international scientific collaborative links with researchers in the field of emerging viral diseases in horses and currently represents AVA in a large collaborative research submission to the Australian Research Council to examine horses as potential sentinels for emerging zoonotic viral infections causing encephalitis. He has also published collaborative scientific papers on Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV), the ecological dynamics of emerging bat virus spillover, and Hendra virus and Nipah virus animal vaccines.

## Dr David Neck

It's hard to overstate Dr Dave Neck's impact on the profession and the AVA.

Graduating from Murdoch University in 1992, Dave has spent the past two decades at his practice, Cottesloe Vet in Perth. From there, he has completed membership examinations at the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in three chapters: Small Animal Surgery, Veterinary Radiology, and Anaesthesia and Critical Care.

There is hardly an AVA committee that Dave hasn't been part of. He joined the AVA WA Division Committee in 2000 and spent 10 years working with the local Division, including three years as Division President. In 2009 he joined the executive committee of the ASAVA, during which time he was a Policy Councillor (2010-2012) and President in 2011-2012. From 2012 - 2015 he was an AVA Board Director and National Vice-President in 2014. More recently, Dave has re-joined the WA Division Committee where he takes an active role in conference and CPD planning.

More broadly, he has been involved in Murdoch University's Veterinary Trust and Animal Ethics Committee. Over the past decade he has sat on the WA Poisons Advisory Committee and the WA Veterinary Surgeons Board. The latter has seen him develop a deep understanding of veterinary legislation.

However, to simply recite Dave's CV risks missing the broader significance of his contribution to the AVA, the profession, and his colleagues. His knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing veterinary practice, along with his experience and friendship have been valued by every committee he has served on.

Dave continues to actively support the AVA through a range of avenue including being a mentor, media spokesperson, and occasional MC.

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 Warwick Vale

Dr Warwick Vale has made an outstanding contribution to the veterinary profession and to the AVA.

Warwick has been a dynamic and hardworking representative at AVA Committee, Division and Special Interest Group level including work as an AVA delegate to numerous organisations. His veterinary contribution to the Australian equestrian community is second to none, including volunteer work in numerous sectors including FEI, Equestrian Australia, Endurance Riding and the Pony Club Association of Australia. Over the last 20 years Warwick has made a volunteer contribution to international equestrian sport with leadership in swabbing, known as medication control and in biosecurity, travelling to work with horses in Thailand, Malaysia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

Dr Vale joined the AVA in 1988 as a student at Murdoch University where in final year, he won the Richard Lee Grey Memorial Prize for the student that was determined to be the most successful general practitioner. Upon graduation Warwick became active in the AVA through engaging with the Western Australia Division. Always a capable horseman, Warwick determined to focus his career as an equine veterinarian. After joining EVA, he became the WA State Representative for a number of years, rising to become Secretary and then Treasurer, where he provided solid leadership on initiatives as diverse as eCommerce for member resources, SIG rebranding, practice management education, strategy, creation of the EVA Young Member Group and as a member of AVA's task force during the highly challenging equine influenza outbreak. As President of EVA in 2012 Warwick helped set the scene for creating horse owner interest and uptake in the soon to be released Hendra virus vaccine.

Both in Australia and abroad, Warwick Vale has provided veterinary leadership in equestrian sport in medication control and biosecurity, fulfilling senior supervisory roles at numerous FEI and EA championships as well as both the Sydney and Beijing Olympic Games. At a governance level, he has contributed as a director of Equestrian Australia and was elected the Board Chair for the 2013-15 term. He has been recognised with numerous awards for his volunteer work in this field.

Dr Vale's contribution has directly resulted in closer ties for AVA with key industry groups, such as Australian Horse Industry Council, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Departments of Primary Industries, racing authorities, universities and key equestrian organisations.

## Dr Sue Beetson

It is entirely fitting that Dr Sue Beetson's involvement with AVA should be recognised with an AVA Fellowship. Since 2012, Dr Beetson has made a contribution to the AVA at the highest level as a member of the Board of Directors. From 2013 to 2015 Sue was the AVA Treasurer and was Vice President of the AVA in 2016 and 2017. During this time Sue has overseen the company's revenue grow from \$10.6 million to in excess of \$13 million.

An active member of AVA for many years, Sue delivered dedicated service to the Western Australian Division of AVA as Committee Member and Treasurer. Then as a member of AVA's Equine Special Interest Group, EVA, first as a WA State Representative, and then as a committee member and as Treasurer and Financial Controller of EVA's annual conference, the Bain Fallon.

It is Sue's dedication to duty and tireless commitment to detail and perfection that are the hallmarks of her involvement with our professional association. As EVA's Treasurer, above budget surpluses were delivered to AVA for many years, and the Bain Fallon Conference is now recognised the world over as a first class equine veterinary conference. Sue has been one of the key drivers of that achievement.

As a clinical veterinary pathologist, Dr Beetson's superior skill and knowledge has been highly sought after for many years, both in private clinical practice and as a respected consultant and researcher. In addition, Dr Beetson is involved in academia as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Murdoch University and a past senior lecture at Charles Sturt University.

As a mentor to many veterinarians in their career development, Sue has always been a good listener, generous with her time and providing wise counsel when requested.

Following her completion of her two terms on the AVA Board Sue will take up the position of Scientific Convenor of the National AVA Conference for 2019.

Sue Beetson has provided superb service to AVA and its members. We thoroughly recommend Dr Sue Beetson receive an AVA Fellowship. Please note that this nomination has been endorsed by, and has the full support of the Executive Committee of AVA's Western Australian Division.

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

## Dr Michael O'Donoghue

Dr Michael O'Donoghue graduated from the University of Queensland with BVSc in 2000 and has practiced as a small animal veterinarian in Australia and the United Kingdom. After spending time at the University of California, Davis Pet Loss Centre, and working with Bonnie Mader, he became aware of the long-term impact of pet loss. Since then, he has championed to help people dealing with pet loss by conducting research in the area of pet loss and the significant impact this can have on people's lives.

Since joining the AVA, Dr O'Donoghue has represented and advocated for AVA Queensland and ASAV and helped to shape future policies and discuss and implement ongoing programmes. He has been a regular attendee, supporter and organiser of AVA's continuing education and conferences, advocated for AVA's PetPep in Queensland and as President of the Queensland Division, he significantly improved relationships between the RSPCA and AVA.

Dr O'Donoghue is a passionate campaigner for desexing of cats to reduce unwanted kittens and unnecessary euthanasia. He is not only an advocate for animals, but also pets-and-people and the importance of the human-animal bond. He is also an advocate for renting with pets and he promotes the importance of mental health for both veterinarians and pet owners, particularly dealing with the loss of a loved pet. He has provided sympathy cards for veterinary clinics and has run a pet-loss and grief-support and counselling service since 2008. Dr O'Donoghue is currently interested in ways to reduce the impact of domestic violence as women's shelters do not accept pets.

In 2016, he co-founded the charity Paws for a Purpose, which helps pets and people in need. He is a regular speaker on the topics of pet loss and grief, euthanasia and end of life decisions and is currently the director of People and Pets which focuses on locum services, pet loss support and veterinary marketing.

Dr O'Donoghue has an impressive record not only on his achievements in promoting an under-realised area of the pet-people relationship, but also from his representation of the AVA on government and industry committees.

## Dr Alison Taylor

Dr Alison Taylor is a dedicated and hard-working veterinarian and mother of two young boys. She has been a practice owner since 2007 and in that time her business interests have expanded to include five small animal practices in the ACT and immediate surrounds.

Despite her busy professional and domestic life, Alison has maintained a strong interest in community service and big picture social issues as well as being very supportive of AVA ACT Division activities.

One of the issues that came to Alison's attention several years ago was that of the health of animals in remote communities in Australia. She became determined to make a contribution in this area. She made contacts with AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) who help to facilitate animal health initiatives and went on a trip to Maningreda led by Victorian veterinary surgeon, Ted Donnelly. Soon an opportunity came up for Alison to build her own team and commit to attending the remote community of Utopia in the Northern Territory on a regular basis. Alison organised a weekend of cultural awareness training for interested Canberra veterinarians and soon she had teamed up with her business partner Michael Archinal to undertake the first trip to Utopia. Since then Alison and Michael have been leading trips on a twice yearly basis and the group has become known as The Canberra Mob. The trips now take in a number of communities in the Barkly and Central Desert shires. The programs entail surgical desexing, treatment for external and internal parasites and other more impromptu veterinary interventions.

Alison has also developed an interest in the effort to combat antimicrobial resistance. She has played a lead role in the development of a stewardship trial among private practitioners in the ACT. The trial involves surveying local vets to gauge their antimicrobial prescribing habits, providing the practitioners with education on antimicrobial use, and later re-surveying to assess for alterations in prescribing. This program turned out to be a world first and the initiative led to Alison speaking recently at an international conference on this topic in The Hague.

Much of Alison's best work is done in her day to day role as Director and Senior Veterinarian at Kippax and Kaleen Veterinary Hospitals, as well as the other practices in which she is involved. She has an important role as a senior clinician and spends a great deal of time helping junior vets with their cases. She is also greatly respected as a leader in the practice. In this capacity, she demonstrates a unique ability to nurture and mentor her team.

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 Meredith Flash

Dr Meredith Flash creates history. Her habit is to be the first person to achieve a noteworthy goal and her involvement with AVA attests to that. A Texan by birth, Meredith was attracted to move to Australia to study veterinary science at the University of Melbourne. Upon graduation Meredith joined the AVA and was the first Texan to become a member of EVA and win the President's Prize.

A natural leader, Meredith became the President of the EVA Young Member Group and after eight years of dedicated hard work at Committee level, became the first President of EVA who had also been the Young Member Group President. A legacy of Meredith's work with EVA is the creation of the 'Withdrawal Time Medication Survey' publication, which is itself a first in the veterinary history of Australian racing. Meredith is currently a PhD candidate and her research project involves scientifically dispelling some negative myths associated with horse health and welfare in racing.

Once again, another first-time achievement in this important and at times controversial field. Meredith is the mother of two young girls, and as such was the first working mother who also became an EVA President.

Acutely aware of the mental health pressures that the profession faces, Meredith is an inspirational member of the AVA and is a solid and supportive mentor to a number of young veterinarians. She was the project sponsor of the AVA Mental Health Webinar "Building Your Resilience." She works hard at any endeavour she embraces and it is no wonder she has created so many 'firsts' in her involvement with AVA and EVA.

Meredith has provided great service to the organisation. She is regarded as a leader in the profession and it is entirely appropriate that her service and contribution to the AVA should be recognised with a Meritorious Service Award.

## Professor Richard Read

Professor Richard Read graduated from Sydney University in 1975, and following a couple of years in private practice, he embarked upon a long and distinguished career in research and teaching in Small Animal Surgery to students throughout Australia.

This was predominantly at Murdoch University, where he spent 26 years teaching veterinary surgery. During that time, Prof. Read conducted research into osteoarthritis and other orthopaedic problems. He also managed the teaching hospital where he developed the veterinary specialist and emergency services.

2010 saw Prof. Read establish a consultancy and spend five years as an Adjunct Prof. at JCU. More recently, he has taken on roles at the Royal Perth Hospital as a Pastoral Care Coordinator and Junior Doctors Wellbeing Officer.

Rick has held numerous roles within the AVA and the profession. He has sat on both the Western Australia and Queensland veterinary surgeons boards and is a past president of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Sciences.

In 2013 he joined the AVA WA Division Committee and took on the role of Division President. On stepping down from the President role in 2015, he continued as vice president until 2017. He assists with the Division's conference program and continues to share his expertise in small animal surgery at AVA CPD events.

Prof. Read is a dedicated mentor to new vets – a role that highlights one of his most valued roles. Throughout his career, whether it be managing and mentoring staff at Murdoch, JCU, Royal Perth Hospital, or the AVA, Rick has an ability to help people learn about themselves and navigate difficult times. It is a skill that he has shared in the AVA and his wise counsel is deeply appreciated by vets, committee members, and staff.

# DON KERR STUDENT AWARD

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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.



**Sinead Phillips**

Sinead's passion for working with cattle originated from living in South Gippsland and Tasmania, surrounded by dairy farms. This didn't change when she was accepted into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Melbourne University, where she immediately became involved with the Bovine Appreciation Group, and in her third year, served as its president. She organised dinners, film screenings and workshops for students, and liaised with ACV, Dairy Australia and the Gardiner Foundation to sponsor these events. Sinead spent most of her final year placements in dairy practices in Tasmania and Gippsland, and was able to learn so much under the guidance of experienced cattle vets.

In the final year of her studies she completed a research project analysing bull breeding soundness results collected in Tasmania which further strengthened the existing literature on the importance of performing pre-mating BBSEs, and encouraging clients to invest more in bull management.



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