Greetings to everyone as we all approach another countdown period for Xmas 2011 – no doubt those of us working in the industry have witnessed more significant change in our workplaces and certainly 2011 has not been short of surprises for many – even for me given the events of the last week in my home turf. No doubt the year of 2011 will mean quite different things to everyone but we have almost reached the last month of the year already and I hope everyone had some good reasons to celebrate your successes as we close out another year.

By the time you receive this newsletter I may well be on holiday so please send all feedback on the newsletter and general AVI activities to Vanessa - all comments will be individually responded to! The heady political canvassing in the AVI came to a head at the AVA conference in Adelaide this year and resulted in all of the previous committee who wanted to return to the fray being successfully re-elected. Thanks to everyone who placed their name back in the hat for re-election this year – the roles do take additional time and I certainly have appreciated the continuity of the committee for 2011/12.

One the significant changes this year was the loss of Neil to the committee – Neil as been associated with the group for at least 20 years and certainly since I have been associated with the group, Neil has always been a very active member of every committee. Thanks very much Neil for the continued support and constructive activity over the years – actually come to think of it, Ponting hasn’t retired as yet so maybe there is a chance of a comeback for you?

I think the committee has again worked very well together especially during the conference dinner at the stone grill where the secretary was observed to be in deep discussions with anybody and anything by the end of the night – that was great night! The committee have again managed the additional workload of the roles very well and I thank everyone for their contributions during this year. From my perspective, 2011 has been a successful year for the AVI. I need to really thank the current committee for their efforts this past year – AVI has a great group of people involved on the committee and this certainly makes the role of President much easier. Just to remind everyone the current committee and their roles are:

- **President:** Kim Agnew
- **Secretary/Website Coordinator:** Vanessa Watson
- **Treasurer:** Pete Bracken
- **Social Functions & TAC:** Kasia Hamilton
- **CE Coordinator:** Sally Colgan
- **ILC:** Finola McConaghy
- **Policy Council:** Kelly Graham

Several of the major areas the committee has worked on during the year are listed below:
i) Antibiotic Resistance
We have worked with the AVA on a new antibiotic resistant group established following a key meeting in Sydney University at the start of 2011. This antimicrobial resistance summit carried a very significant focus on human use practices of antibiotics and it was felt that the veterinary side of antibiotic use during this meeting was lacking. The establishment of this committee was seen as response to ensuring the veterinary messages were represented and the correct animal antibiotic practices were reinforced. I was the AVI representative on that committee.

ii) Social
The AVI held a number of very successful social functions during the year (thanks to Kasia for her great choices of venues and the very efficient manner of collecting funds and giving everyone plenty of time to plan for the functions). We hope everyone has enjoyed the opportunities to catch up with colleagues and friends during 2011.

iii) Conference programme
Following the very successful programme at the Adelaide conference (thanks very much Maureen) a new conference organising committee of Sally, Charmaine, Vanessa and Kasia was formed. Charmaine has played a key role as being the AVI conference coordinator contact on the conference organising committee and very effectively has collated the ideas from the ASVI into a sense of organisation and fostered these through the conference organising committee. The 2012 conference in Canberra should cover for all manner of tastes – thanks on behalf of the AVI, to the entire conference team for their efforts to ensure our proposals are given full consideration.

iv) ILC representation
AVI has maintained representation on the new APVMA industry group along with the AVA and Finola has taken on this role for the committee – thanks very much Finola for your efforts in making sure our points are made and in liaising in with the VA on many issues.

v) Policy Committee
The committee has responded to a number of submissions to AVA policy changes/budget changes and more recently to a submission relating to significant concerns around the lack of controls currently placed on compounded products and have requested that compounded products are reviewed against the Agvet code so specific risk areas of concern are assessed e.g. bioequivalence, health and safety of animal patients and human users and risks to trade.

I need to thank Sally for her continued active and energetic (in the midst of training sessions) contributions to the AVI and the constant focus of providing CE options for us to consider and to Pete for managing the treasurer role once again very effectively. Pete has also utilised more assistance from the AVA this year which has helped with budget planning. Last but certainly not least I must thank Vanessa for her prompt responses to all communications that arrive into the committee and the very complete minutes that appear after each meeting – thanks Vanessa for your great secretarial work this year!

I am certainly looking forward to a time to recharge and I trust everyone has an opportunity to enjoy this time of the year with friends and family. I wish everyone a very happy, safe and rewarding festive season and hope we can continue the good fight into 2012 when it arrives.

Best wishes

El presidente
AVI Committee Members 2011-2012

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NOTE: details for Vanessa Watson are from 12 Dec 2011.
AVI Newsletter – Update on AVA Conference 2012

The AVA Conference 2012 in Canberra is already drawing near! AVI has a full program lined up for the conference with a wide range of thought-provoking topics and ideas that will give you a fresh perspective on sustainability and the future of the veterinary industry.

The AVI program opens on Monday with critical scientific discussions on clinical studies and literature reviews, followed by updates on the epidemiology of coronavirus in dogs and heartworm in Eastern Australia, updates on the Agvet regulatory reform, a touch of history of vets in industry and most pertinently, an update on Hendra virus vaccine development.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the business and commercial aspects of the veterinary industry is presented. The sessions present on the impacts of the global financial crisis, the evolution of the advertising industry towards digital media, successful marketing and management sustainability strategies for veterinary clinics, an update on compounding medications in small animal practice, and legal and insurance issues for veterinarians in industry.

On Thursday’s closing sessions, there will be updates on live cattle export practices and the sustainability of the beef cattle industry since the controversy raised on live cattle exports to Indonesia. In addition, updates on residue regulations in Australia and the veterinarian’s role in its management, stem cells and gene therapy in veterinary orthopaedics and the contentious issues of antibiotics sales and antibiotic prescribing habits in Australia.

Most importantly, the rambunctious AVI annual dinner will be held on Monday 21st May 2012 with an opportunity to savour exotic French/North-African cuisine at Ardeche Restaurant and network with fellow colleagues in industry. The AVA Conference 2012 will be held from Sunday 20th May to 25th May 2012 in Canberra with the theme of “sustainability”. We look forward to seeing you there.

Charmaine Tham, Maureen Revington, Vanessa Watson and Kasia Hamilton
Your AVI Conference Organising Committee

AVI Social Events

One of the many benefits of being an AVI member is attending the subsidised social events organised by the Committee every year. These events offer a fun and relaxed atmosphere for our members to catch up with old friends and meet new ones in a fun and informal setting.

Each year the Committee hosts a dinner at the AVA Annual Conference. This year’s dinner at the Strathmore Hotel in Adelaide was well attended, with over 40 conference delegates enjoying a delicious 3 course menu, including mouth-watering stone-grill steaks for the carnivores amongst us!
In August, the AVI hosted a dinner at the Spanish Tapas Restaurant in Glebe with more than 20 attendees who enjoyed a scrumptious banquet of Spanish delicacies. Not to mention the restaurant’s signature drink of sangria which was a popular lubricant for the evening’s conversations.

Keep an eye out for upcoming AVI social function invitations in 2012!

**Kasia Hamilton**  
AVI Social Secretary
I caught the old Ghan train from Adelaide to Alice Springs, quite an experience. It enabled me to see Oodnadatta, where my sister had nursed at the old AIM Hospital.
One of the visitors to this first and only AVA AGM and Conference in Alice Springs in 1964 was Dr Juan Figueroa, a Peruvian veterinarian who had earned his degree, and was now working, in USA with Cyanamid. Juan was also a Vice President of the World Veterinary Association, and a later President of that body. Not surprisingly he was also a member of the IVA, so was helpful to our discussions about forming an Australian group. Among those present were Michael Robinson, Sandy Pearson, Arthur Webster, Keith Astill, John Bentley, Richard Boon, Cliff Hall, Harvey Langford, Doug Johns, Arch Sinclair and Bruce Heffer.

The first informal meeting was held on Friday 19 March 1965 at the Journalists Club in Chalmers Street, Sydney. A further meeting on 30 April 1965 discussed a suitable name for the group and considered possible aims and objectives. Sandy Pearson was elected Chairman and Michael Robinson Secretary of the Association of Veterinarians in Industry. Objectives adopted were:

1. Informal social meeting of veterinarians in industry.
2. Consideration of common problems.
3. Act as professional conscience of Industry and seek to improve public image of the Veterinary Chemical Industry.
4. Consult with Governmental Bodies.
5. Seek to improve the image of the industrial veterinarian with other members of the Australian Veterinary Association and seek affiliation as a Group with the AVA at the federal level.

The AVI logo for the letterhead was designed by Harold Whitlock who worked with Sandy Pearson, and was located at the Parke Davis Veterinary Experimental Station at Mittagong. He was a parasitologist extraordinaire who had worked as a laboratory technician with Hugh Gordon for many years, among other things crafting the McMaster Egg Counting Slide, before doing a stint with FAO in South America. He had a rich baritone voice and came second to Joan Sutherland in a Sun Aria competition.

I chaired a Committee on Specialist Groups and the AVA. We consulted with the BVA and the AVMA, both of which regretted not having taken earlier action to include these groups within their structure. The result was that a number of established groups decided to remain outside the national veterinary association.

At the AVA AGM in 1966 in Adelaide the AVI met with representatives of the Committees on Constitution and Administration, and it was hoped that machinery would be set up whereby it and similar groups could be affiliated with the AVA. At the next AGM, in Melbourne in 1967, the Committee on Specialist Groups recommended, inter alia, that the Association of Veterinarians in Industry and the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association be approved as Specialist Groups in the terms outlined. The meeting approved in principle of the incorporation of Specialist Groups within the AVA and trusted that they would continue to operate as at present until any administrative and other difficulties had been resolved; and further, that the subject of the incorporation of Specialist Groups within the AVA be referred to Council for early consideration. [Aust Vet J 1967;43:334-5]

We could no longer be an “association”, so it was as Australian Veterinarians in Industry (keeping our same logo) that the group was adopted by AVA. At this stage we had 55 members and 32 companies were represented. The new AVI elected Michael Robinson as Chairman, and the aims and objectives of the Group were amended as follows:

1. To provide meeting facilities for Veterinarians engaged in this branch of the profession for mutual guidance and assistance.
2. To ensure the maintenance of high standards in the Veterinary Chemicals Industry especially as regards ethical behaviour, advertising and relationship with management.
3. The production and dissemination of technical material such as guidelines for laboratory and field trials and guides to the use of chemicals in the livestock industry.
4. The education of the profession generally in the use of Veterinary Chemicals.
5. To associate closely with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association and other organisations of mutual interest.
6. To ensure, where possible, that salaries and working conditions of members are adequate and appropriate.

These amended aims and objectives did not mean that social meetings had been abandoned! For some years many meetings were held in the Vintage Room of the Royal Automobile Club of Australia in Macquarie Street, Sydney. The AVI worked closely with Jack Snelson, first Pesticides Coordinator in Canberra and the subsequent Technical Committee on Veterinary Drugs in an attempt to gain consensus on design and subsequent reporting of laboratory and field trials, and information required for Clearance and Registration.

Australian Veterinarians in Industry has been a successful SIG, adapting to changed conditions and requirements over the years, and working with other SIGs when joint conference sessions are appropriate for the benefit of the general AVA membership. And it seems to have maintained its social life!

04 October 2011

AVA Policy Advisory Council Report

At the PAC meeting prior to the AVA conference in May of this year, the AVA proposed a revision to the format for the PAC. The AVA Board had reviewed the current development process and decided to trial a changed format. Currently the PAC meets twice a year, once prior to the AVA Annual conference in May and a second time in Canberra during October. These meetings each cost approx $45,000 so a decision was made by the Board to cancel the October PAC meeting and replaced it with an on-line meeting format instead. This process is now currently on trial.

The policy development process was also discussed during this May meeting. For AVI member clarity a brief description of this process is given below. The PAC’s role is to prepare both Policies and Position Statements. A Policy is an agreed viewpoint/suggested action. A Position Statement is a majority decision about an issue where there is significant disagreement among members, or the situation or knowledge is rapidly changing. Any group or member can propose a Policy, ask for changes to an existing Policy, or make a request for a Policy to be deleted. Suggested Policies are sent initially to a PAC meeting for discussion and then a working group is set up to prepare the initial draft. Once the initial draft is prepared, the paper is discussed at a second PAC meeting and assuming the wording is approved, the draft Policy is published in the AVJ for member comment. After AVA member comments are received and reviewed a final draft is approved at another PAC meeting and the Policy is sent to the Board for ratification.

In 2011, a large number of Policies have been discussed with the one creating the most member discussion being the Vaccination Policy. After much debate within the AVI and at the PAC meeting, the Vaccination Policy was not change substantially however there was no agreed consensus and thus the Policy was changed to a Position Statement. A Position Statement regarding Live Animal Export (replacing the old one) and a Policy regarding Humane Slaughter (replacing the old one) were also ratified in 2011.

Kelly Graham
AVI Treasurer's Report  
January 1 to December 31, 2011

Income

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Operating result YTD $2,639

- 2011 is shaping up to be a good year financially for the AVI. Our main source of income as usual is from subscriptions
- AVA conference expenditure includes speaker costs and subsidisation of the AVI dinner at the conference
- We continue to subsidise AVI dinners (meetings and seminars) for members - AVI covers cost of drinks and some of the meal cost to keep the dinners affordable
- Various other expenses include teleconference costs for committee meetings, travel to meetings for AVI representatives, policy council, etc.

Peter Bracken  
Treasurer AVI  
2nd December 2011