



Australian Veterinary Association

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australian veterinary association
annual report
2004

AVA SUPPORTERS

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about the AVA

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

Many members join the AVA to ensure that there is a strong national professional community of veterinarians. AVA provides the profession with a profile and because of the strength of its membership is also able to influence government policy-making.

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

The Vision of the AVA is to Advance Veterinary Science and to have a strong, united and highly respected veterinary profession across Australia.

Our Mission is to be the national organisation representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession and to act and speak with one voice on veterinary issues.

Membership of the AVA is open to veterinarians and veterinary science students. Information about the AVA including member benefits, media releases, publications and AVA policies is available on the website www.ava.com.au

The AVA's Strategic Plan for 2002-2004 sets out seven objectives;

1. Retain and grow membership
2. Promote members as the providers of best veterinary advice and expertise
3. Promote the value of the AVA contribution to the community
4. Promote AVA leadership and expertise through strategic alliances with other organisations
5. Influence public policy to achieve appropriate outcomes for members and the community
6. Increase professional, educational and personal development opportunities for the membership
7. Manage the AVA to the best practice standards of association management.

The strategies implemented by the AVA to achieve these objectives are outlined in the CEO's Report.

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g o v e r n a n c e

The AVA Board is comprised of nine directors and is accountable to the AVA as a whole for the business of the company, setting and monitoring the strategic direction and delegating responsibility for the management of the company to the Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to ensuring solvency and appointing the CEO, the functions of the Board include:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

MONITORING

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

COMPOSITION AND OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD

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

The term of each director is three years. Directors may stand for a second term of office.

The membership as a whole elects the President-Elect and the Board at its first meeting following each Annual General Meeting elects the Treasurer from amongst its number. The President chairs the Board, and each director has a portfolio of activities under their purview. Some directors also sit on the Finance committee.

The President is in regular communication with the Chief Executive Officer to review issues and construct and agree Board agendas. The Board holds most of its face-to-face meetings at the national office of the AVA, which during 2004 has been at Artarmon. In 2004 the Board reviewed its own work and the contribution of each director to the work of the Board: this review of performance will now take place on an annual basis.

The Company Secretary takes Board minutes and provides advice on legal and constitutional issues as necessary.

For the purposes of proper performance of their duties, members of the AVA Board are entitled to seek independent professional advice at AVA's expense, subject to approval from the AVA Board.

BOARD COMMITTEES

At its first meeting after the AGM each year, directors are elected to the Finance Committee, which is chaired by the Treasurer. During 2005 it is envisaged that the numbers of Board committees will expand and portfolios will be incorporated within their ambit.

To help the Board gain an understanding of the business of the AVA, which is a company limited by guarantee, new directors are provided with briefing materials when they join the Board, and are invited to sign onto the AVA Board Code of Conduct. A planning workshop is held annually, often at the first full meeting of the Board after the AGM. New directors are also encouraged to undertake company director training.

MEETING STRATEGIC GOALS AND THE MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS RISKS

In order to meet its strategic goals, AVA develops an annual business plan linked to budget. Development of a comprehensive risk management strategy has been underway over the past twelve months and continues into 2005. The Board monitors achievement of goals via the business plan and budget, and also monitors issues that may be of significant risk to the association.

DIRECTORS' FEES AND INDEMNIFICATION

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

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES 2004

Item 21.1 of the AVA Constitution stipulates that there shall be a Board of Directors consisting of Nine Members. Each Member is allocated various areas of responsibility on an annual basis and in 2004 the allocations were as follows;

Dr Norm Blackman - President

- Risk Management, Governance, Lobbying, Legislation, Media Liaison, RSPCA Task Force, World Veterinary Association, Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (assisting Bill Darmody)

Also linking with;

- CEO on Policy Council, Division Presidents, Association Management, Annual Report, Strategic Plan and Federal and State Lobbying
- CEO and Financial Controller on Risk Management
- CEO and Past President on the Constitution
- Marketing and Communications Manager on Media

Dr Jo Sillince – Past President

- Constitution Task Force
- Education Advisory Committee
- Australian Capital Territory Division
- Poultry, Industry, Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association - Special Interest Groups

Dr Matt Makin – President-Elect

- RSPCA Task Force, National Farmers Federation, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service,

Chief Veterinary Officer, Rural Veterinary Review, Animal Health Australia (with Sam McMahon)

And linking with Norm Blackman on Risk Management, Governance, Lobbying and Media Liaison

Dr Di Sheehan – Treasurer

- Treasurer (Audit, Budget Review and Finance, properties, Comfund, Sponsorship, Insurance and Benevolent Fund), Affinity Programs (with Derek Major), Sponsorship coordination
- Australian Small Animals Veterinary Association, Camelids, Unusual and Exotic Pets - Special Interest Groups, World Veterinary Association, Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Dr Derek Major

- Membership – non-vets, associates, practice membership, students, new graduates, membership promotions, Affinity Programs (with Di Sheehan), National Velvetting Accreditation Scheme, Awards - national and external
- Equine, Employed Vets, Embryo Transfer - Special Interest Groups
- National Awards Committee

Dr Sam McMahon

- Accredited Programs for Australian Veterinarians (APAV), Rural Vet Review, Australian Veterinary Reserve, Bull testing, Cattle pregnancy testing, Animal Health Australia (with Matt Makin), Membership – non-vets, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare, Accreditation (with Bill Darmody)
- South Australia, Queensland Divisions
- Cattle, Dental - Special Interest Groups

Dr David Lovell

- Professional standards, Professional Associations, Practice Management Education, Conferences, Communications – Australian Veterinary Journal, AVA online
- Victorian, NSW, Tasmanian Divisions
- Conservation Biology, Greyhounds - Special Interest Groups
- Communications Advisory and Ethics and Complaints committees

Dr Bill Darmody

- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Therapeutics, PetPEP (with Lyndy Scott), Accreditation issues - Microchipping, Hip Dysplasia, Australian Small Animals Veterinary Association Hospital Accreditation, New Graduate Friendly Program, Eye Accreditation Scheme
- Northern Territory Division
- History, Public Health, Sheep and Specialists - Special Interest Groups
- Electronic Identification of Animals Committee

Dr Lyndy Scott

- PetPEP, Australian Companion Animal Council, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Animal Welfare Trust, National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare, Urban Animal Management Advisory Group, Vet Nurses Council of Australia, National Industry Advisory Group, Feral Pigs
- West Australia Division
- Acupuncture, Holistic, Animal Welfare and Ethics Special Interest Groups

AVA board portfolio





president's report

The 2004 year was certainly a busy one for AVA. Jo Sillince and I shared the Presidency for the year with me taking over the role at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May.

The successes of the year have been tempered by the need to significantly curb expenditure due the unexpected loss of affinity income from the Commonwealth Bank. In the absence of alternative income sources, this resulted in the need to make some significant cuts to expenditure to ensure the AVA can remain financially secure in the long term.

The lead up to the Annual Conference and the AGM saw the final touches placed on the "Vet Ed" program prior to its launch at the Conference. "Vet-Ed" now provides a great tool for meeting the continuing education needs of AVA members and the uptake by members is very good.

During early 2004 considerable time was also taken to finalise the new constitution endorsed at the AGM. The development of the new constitution involved a comprehensive consultation process using a reference group to bring the final draft to the members at the AGM. Thanks to the efforts of all those involved the AVA is now on a sound constitutional platform.

The AVA magazine "VetLife" was also launched at the Conference. *VetLife* was intended to provide the medium for the important "newsy" information we had all been missing. After 3 editions *VetLife* was discontinued in late 2004, primarily due to budget constraints.

On the policy and lobbying front we were successful in having the majority of our views and recommendations incorporated in Government Response to the Keniry review of the Livestock Export Trade. During the year we have had continuing discussions with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service to ensure the Keniry recommendations were being adopted in an operational sense. I am satisfied that significant progress is being made to ensure the welfare of animals in live export shipments is paramount and is being appropriately monitored.

Our policies in other areas have continued to stand the test when we have needed to portray an AVA perspective. Our policy on mulesing of sheep has proven very useful in presenting the AVA position on the issue during a period of intense international media interest. Examples like this highlight the strength of our robust policy setting process.

We have continued to push for an effective non-bureaucratic national registration scheme for veterinarians. The Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officer and the Chief Veterinary Officers in the States and Territories will be reviewing the issue and I am confident that during 2005 we will see some serious commitment by the State Governments to introduce an effective scheme that allows practising veterinarians to move reasonably freely between States and Territories.

Success in achieving outcomes requiring changes to government policy is very dependent on developing relationships with individuals involved in determining government policy at the various levels of government. AVA has continued to develop and foster these relationships so that we have a greater opportunity to influence policy outcomes over time.

There are of course the many other "not to be forgotten" success stories from previous years that have continued through the year. These include activities like Pet PEP and Urban Animal Management (UAM), our Accreditation programs (eg Veterinary Hospitals, Microchip Centres, Cattle Preg testing, etc), membership services (the HR service, various affinity agreements, etc). Our relationships with the Australian Companion Animal Council and the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists are very important and have been strengthened throughout the year.

During the year we became aware that Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga would be opening a new veterinary school with an intake of 45 students in 2005. Later in the year it became apparent that James Cook University at Townsville would be opening a new veterinary school with an intake of around 60 students

to commence in 2006. Over the coming years the AVA will develop a strategy for inclusion of these additional graduates within the profession. AVA is actively embracing the new students so that they are aware of AVA, our value to them and their importance to us.

On the organisational management front it has been pleasing to see some real progress in improved financial accounting across the groups. The continuing support of Divisions, Interest Groups and Branches in meeting our financial reporting obligations is appreciated. We have also seen the purchase of new premises for our national office.

In a budgetary sense the AVA has been hit hard this year. Two unexpected events have seriously affected the AVA bottom line for 2004. The first of these was the loss of the Commonwealth Bank affinity agreement income. This represented about \$250,000 in a full year. This year it dropped off during July/August and ceased completely in September. AVA was not alone and many other professional associations were affected. The second event was a change to accounting procedures for depreciation expenses. The impact of these events this year is highlighted in the accounts presented in this report. To deal with this in the longer term the Board and Management have already taken measures to rein in the expenditure for 2005.

Overall it has been a very positive year for the Association and I thank the members of the Board, committee members of SIGs, Divisions and Branches, the management team and all of our staff for the contribution they have made during the year. It is the leadership and commitment you have all provided that gives the AVA the sound footing it now enjoys.

Finally I thank the members for their continuing support, without which the AVA could not function to provide the united voice that is so important for the long term survival of our profession.

Norm Blackman
President



treasurer's report

Total income from all sources for AVA Ltd was \$7,001,357 which represents a 7.7% increase compared to the previous year. Total expenses were \$7,043,650, representing a 14.1% increase compared to the previous year. This resulted in a deficit, in overall financial performance for the year, of \$42,293, compared to a surplus of \$324,694 in 2003. Depreciation charges rose significantly during the year, due to the inclusion of depreciation on operating buildings, of \$55,000, for the first year in 2004.

The publications costs for national office publications were reduced by \$71,000. The cost of publications (including Yellow Pages Advertising), for the whole of AVA Ltd, increased significantly, \$330,000 in 2004. This increase is largely attributable to a timing issue related to costs of branch activities, creating a distortion in the results.

The Commonwealth Bank (CBA) withdrew its Gold Card Affinity agreement from the AVA Ltd, and other professional Associations, in 2004, due to changes in the incomes derived by the banks on the operation of credit cards. The termination of this agreement resulted in a loss of \$100,000 in 2004, including a rapid withdrawal of support by AVA Members from the Commonwealth Gold Card following the announcement of the termination. The full year impact of the loss of this income stream is \$250,000, with full impact in 2005.

AVA Ltd has put in place a new agreement with Bendigo Bank/Guild Banking to replace the CBA Agreement. While the Association is positive about the long term benefits, the short term benefits are expected to be more restricted due to a different income base.

AVA's investment portfolio, of \$2.286 million, is currently managed through the Macquarie Bank Limited. The average net return from the portfolio for

the year was 14.9%, including capital growth of more than 6.2%.

The value of the AVA Ltd property assets was not adjusted in 2004. Directors believe that the property valuations are appropriate in the current market.

During 2004 AVA Ltd entered into agreements to sell the existing Sydney property at Artarmon and purchase a property more suited to the long term needs of the Association. The sale of the Artarmon property was finalised in late January 2005 and the St Leonards purchase had not been finalised as at the time of writing, as a result, there has been no changes in the properties on the balance sheet during 2004. The Association paid a deposit on the new property and related stamp duty during 2004, necessitating the draw down of the \$250,000 from the investment portfolio.

Comfund continued operation during 2004, with \$34,200 being allocated to a range of projects including:

- Animal Welfare Trust Brochure – \$6,200
- SMPB Great Big Open Day – \$7,500
- DELTA Society: Frank Ascione Lectures – \$3,000
- National Office Web Site Development (from 2003) – \$10,400

A balance of \$34,300 remains in the Comfund and will continue to be available on application, under the same terms as the fund previously operated.

The decision to terminate the operation of Comfund was taken in the light of very limited financial support from members for the fund (\$3,400 contributions in 2004), high administrative costs and an increasingly non-strategic focus of applications outside of the annual budget process. A decision was taken that consideration of all funding issues in the budget context would better service the long term needs of the Association.

In 2004, the Treasurer continued a review of the financial policies of AVA Ltd. Consideration is being given to the following issues:

- Investment Policy, including definition of the funds available for the investment portfolio (>5 year planning horizon)
- Property Portfolio
- Statutory compliance issues
- AVA trusts

Our objective is to significantly improve the operating efficiency and responsiveness to meet member's needs and cope effectively with changed circumstances such as the withdrawal of the CBA Affinity agreement. Plans continue to more effectively utilise resources involving the consolidation of information technology systems, business processes, elimination of duplication, reduction of costs and improvements in service levels across the organisation.

In summary, the year has been a difficult one to manage in a financial sense; however, 2004 has been a successful year for AVA Ltd. The organisation has undergone significant and rapid change which will position it well for the future. We look forward to building on this change in 2005, working actively with all groups to achieve a strong professional association.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome James Redrup to the position of Corporate Services Manager and to formally thank Lauretta Stace, our previous manager who left the organisation after four years of excellent service to the AVA.

Diane M Sheehan
AVA Treasurer



ceo's report

My report this year encompasses the strategies and accomplishments for 2004, and my thanks go to the team of senior staff – Jim Redrup and Lauretta Stace, Eddie Ripard and Dr Kevin Doyle and all the staff at the AVA who have worked with great commitment to produce the following highlights:

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

- 5% growth in membership
- Three new member benefits – GuildBanking, Manchester Unity and MIMS IVS
- Launch of new lifestyle magazine *VetLife*
- Launch of two electronic newsletters, *eLine* and *student eLine*
- 11 issues of *AVJ*, Volume 82
- Launch of AVA VetEd
- Partnership scheme enhanced
- 161 Media Releases
- PetPEP in two additional states; WA and SA
- Member satisfaction survey completed on-line
- New website
- National ban on tail docking after years of AVA lobbying. National summit on animal abuse next
- New Constitution & Rules
- Sale of the Artarmon property and purchase of a new AVA home at St Leonards.

STRATEGY ONE – ADVANCING VETERINARY SCIENCE

Strategy One is central to the success of the AVA. Without advances in veterinary science the AVA and its members would not be able to embody the professionalism that is so valued by clients and employers in the many spheres in which veterinarians operate.

SCIENTIFIC AND CLINICAL JOURNAL AVJ

The flagship of the AVA has long been the Australian Veterinary Journal. In 2004 the *AVJ* entered its 82nd Volume, and is recognised via the citation index as one of the top five veterinary journals in the world. After 5 years in the role of Scientific Editor, Dr Colin Wilks decided not to renew his contract in 2005, however he will maintain a link to the Journal through the Scientific Editorial Advisory Committee. I know the entire association will join me in thanking Colin for the outstanding contribution he has made to the *AVJ*.

In addition to the excellent editorial input from the three part-time editors and editorial staff, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary voluntary contribution made by the Scientific and Clinical Editorial Advisory Committees. Without these volunteers, it would be difficult to retain the international stellar status of the *AVJ*.

AVA CONFERENCES

In excess of 900 delegates registered to attend the 2004 Annual AVA Conference, this year held in

Canberra, and the Conference Dinner represented the largest social gathering of veterinarians in Australia. The new Events and Education Manager did a sterling job in bringing together the very complex event, and instigated the first conference survey conducted for some years, 87% of delegates rated the Conference good to excellent. In 2005 the Conference will be held on the Gold Coast, and I hope to see you there.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Professional ethics and codes of conduct have been at the centre of considerable debate among professional associations in the past year, with high level of interest shown by the Professional Standards Council and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. It was in light of this broader debate that the AVA Code of Professional Conduct was reviewed. Its original authors had done a solid job, so the new draft has a strong foundation on which to build. After member input, the final draft is due for consideration at the May 2005 meeting of the Policy Advisory Council and it will then go to the Board.

AVA VetED

Since its launch in mid-2004, a total of 91 members have actively participated in the scheme by sending in validation materials to activate their file.

Dr Philip Brain is the first veterinarian to complete 120 hours. He was presented with a certificate and lapel pin at a function held in October. The lapel pin identifies Dr Brain as a Chartered Member of the

AVA and he can use the post-nominals 'CMAVA'. A total of 7 members achieved CMAVA status in 2004, and congratulations go to:

Dr John Aspley Davis
Dr Philip Brain
Dr Zoe Cannon
Dr John Cavalieri
Dr Trudy Hinds
Dr Simmone Mariani
Dr Sally Williams

AVA QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS

The AVA is involved in a number of quality assurance schemes and in 2004 the Policy Development and Implementation Group commenced a review of all of these schemes as part of the AVA's risk management strategy. Schemes currently under review include Deer Velvetting and the Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme.

Some of the quality assurance programs that are available for members to participate in include:

AVA Accredited Microchip Centres

The AVA upholds that veterinarians, as the primary providers for the health and welfare of animals, should be the prime implanters of microchips in companion animals.

AVA Accredited Microchip Centres are promoted to State and Local Government and to the community as the preferred location for animal owners to have their companion animals implanted with an identification microchip.

In order to achieve accreditation AVA Accredited Microchip Centres agree to comply with a series of protocols.

In 2004 a second microchip database registry, the Australasian Animal Registry (division of Royal Agricultural Society of NSW) underwent a rigorous audit process and gained accreditation by the AVA.

National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme (NCPD)

The NCPD Scheme has been developed to promote excellence in the skills of pregnancy testing in cattle. All members of the Cattle Special Interest Group are eligible to participate in the scheme.

Hospital Accreditation Scheme (AHC)

The Small Animals Special Interest Group runs the Accredited Veterinary Hospital's Scheme. The scheme is designed to encourage and assist companion animal practices achieve the highest levels of quality healthcare and practice management procedures whilst practising in innovative or "state of the art" hospital facilities.

Participants of the Scheme are required to achieve uncompromisingly high standards and to continually assess, and where necessary, upgrade practices throughout the period of accreditation.

New Graduate Friendly Practice Program (NGFPP)

Their first job can 'make or break' a newly graduated vet. The aim of the AVA guidelines is to increase awareness, amongst both new graduates and employers, of the employment needs of new graduates.

The employment of a new graduate carries certain responsibilities and requires a greater input and support from the practice than employment of an experienced graduate. Not every practice has the resources to employ and appropriately support a new graduate.

In 2004, 10 practices were accredited: In New South Wales, Agnes Banks Equine Clinic, Coolah Veterinary Clinic and Wollongong Veterinary Hospital; in Queensland, the Western Suburbs Veterinary – Kirwan; in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Animal Hospital – Bellerive; in Victoria, Ballarat Veterinary Practice, Horsham Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital, Kilmore Veterinary Practice and the Portland Veterinary Clinic and in Western Australia, Swans Veterinary Services – Esperance.

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY RESERVE

The concept for a Veterinary Reserve is based on the Defence Force Reserve and had its genesis in the participation of private practitioners in the control of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom in 2001. Many Australian veterinarians went to the UK of their own accord, and the AVA sent 37 members.

The UK outbreak demonstrated that government veterinary officers are unlikely to be able to cope with a major disease outbreak in Australia. Government, AVA and industry developed the concept that was accepted and funded by government. It was launched at the AVA Canberra Conference 2004. AVA is represented on the groups developing details of the Reserve.

More than 1000 applications were received for the 100 places available and selection was based on mixed practice experience, location and skills. The first 20 members were trained late in 2004. AVA is seeking to have the Reserve trained in disaster work as well as disease control and surveillance.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Policy Development and Implementation Group led by Dr Kevin Doyle with strong support from Dr Mike Bond is located in Canberra and is involved in liaison with the Commonwealth Government and Members of Parliament, Government Agencies and the national offices of industry groups and a range of other organisations.

The Group coordinates AVA input into national affairs, represents AVA on national bodies and has provided AVA input to many matters at national level. AVA policies form the basis of AVA input. AVA Policies addressed in various fora during 2004 included:

- Mulesing, tail docking and castration of lambs
- Blood collection and supply
- Welfare of calves
- Rodeos
- Livestock exports
- Behaviour modifying collars for dogs
- Dangerous dogs
- Control of feral and pest animals
- Humane slaughter and religious slaughter
- Jumping races
- Codes of practice for safe use of veterinary medicine on farms
- Use of S4 substances in the pig and poultry industries
- Use of antimicrobials, and
- Professional conduct.

The Policy Compendium and many of the policies it contains have been in need of updating for some time, and that task has begun. The group has also been closely involved with a review of the Prescribing and Dispensing guidelines.

Appearing before Committees to provide expert input is part of the role and this year included these Senate Committee Hearings:

- Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee hearings on

"Provisions of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment (Export Control) Bill 2004". This legislation is to give effect to the recommendations of the Keniry Review of livestock exports.

- Senate Committee on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Reference Committee, *Inquiry into Invasive species*. This relates to AVA feral pig interests.

AVA interest in control of feral pigs was heightened by a resolution at the AVA Adelaide Conference in 2002.

This led to strategic alliances with the National Farmers Federation, the appearance before a Senate Committee and participation in symposia and workshops seeking a national action plan to make progress with the control of feral pigs. To date eradication and control efforts have been lost when areas freed or brought under control have been recolonised. AVA put forward the view that a national action plan like those used successfully for disease control is necessary.

The daily work of the Policy Group involves representations to Ministers, Opposition Spokespersons, Departmental Heads, the Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer and government agencies. Recurrent themes this year included a raft of animal welfare issues, livestock exports, feral pig control, national registration, implementation of the Frawley Report recommendations, the Australian Veterinary Reserve including conditions of service, animal husbandry issues and registration, scheduling and use of veterinary chemicals, including virginiamycin,

ketamine, butorphanol and ceftiofur. Written submissions were also lodged on a number of these topics.

Members may be interested to have a window on some of the committees and conferences at which AVA has input through the work of the policy groups:

- OIE Animal Welfare Conference, Paris
- Livestock Export Industry Consultative Committee
- Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee
- National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare
- Australian Veterinary Reserve Non-government Veterinarians Working Group
- AQIS Rural Scholarship Working Group
- MLA Research Assessment Group
- AAHL Security Assessment Group
- AHA EAD Committee
- Special Expert Committee on the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
- ANZCCART Symposium on ethics in animal experimentation
- Ascione seminar on animal welfare and human abuse, and the
- HP Avian Influenza workshop.

The welfare of animals during transport continues as an issue of interest to AVA and to the livestock industries. Moves overseas to set time limits on the length of journeys, largely based on the need for the driver to rest rather than the needs of the animals, would be difficult to implement in Australia. AVA strives to base its contribution to this debate on the best science and expertise available, and so ensured AVA was represented at the Office International des Epizooties Global Conference on Animal Welfare held during the year which included transport matters and featured input from non-government bodies.

AVA is also represented on the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW) and its principal achievement of 2004 has been the finalisation of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, which brings together for the first time the activities of all involved in animal welfare activities.

AVA's input to NCCAW is guided by our own policies. Issues considered by NCCAW in 2004 included: animal welfare advocacy, genetically manipulated organisms, training of inspectors under prevention of

cruelty legislation, livestock exports, welfare of animals at abattoirs, pig welfare, zoos, electronic dog collars, jumps racing and 1080 poison.

The Policy Development and Implementation Group drew heavily on the expertise of members and SIGs and they also provide advice to Divisions on legislation and standards across Australia.

STRATEGY TWO – ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS AND RETAIN MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP

After halting the decline in membership in 2003, membership numbers increased markedly during 2004, due in no small measure to the dedication of the reconstituted Membership team. A net gain of 5% of ordinary members was achieved, equal to an increase of 203 ordinary members. The AVA now represents approximately 55% of registered veterinarians in Australia.

Also as a result of new marketing initiatives, student member numbers increased considerably and a net increase of 39% in student members was recorded. The combined focus of the Membership team and Divisions will be essential for retention and expansion of student member numbers in 2005.

The inaugural member satisfaction survey was undertaken in 2004 and the response was both gratifying and interesting; 24% of the AVA membership base responded and the main results are these:

Overall satisfaction was highest with

- AVA Annual Conference - 76%
- AVA Members HR Advisory Service – 76%
- AVJ - 72%
- AVA overall - 69%

The AVA is perceived to be

- Professional – 80%
- Scientific – 78%
- Relevant – 78%
- Representative of the profession – 73%

I would like to thank Dr Trevor Heath who is undertaking a further analysis of the survey responses, and we plan to introduce such surveys as a regular feature on the AVA landscape.

Matching membership benefits with member needs is a priority and so each benefit is reviewed on an annual basis. In 2004, three new member benefits were introduced:

- 1) Preferential rates with Manchester Unity Health Insurance
- 2) A discount on MIMS IVS, and
- 3) A strategic partnership with Bendigo Bank through GuildBanking, including a co-branded Visa card.

A long-standing member benefit, the Gold Privilege Program (GPP) co-branded Visa card with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) was terminated by the CBA in September 2004. Thirty other professional member-based associations also had their CBA Program terminated.

As the AVA received a trailing commission from the GPP, the resulting impact from the loss of this revenue stream will be considerable for the AVA in 2005 and beyond.

AVA MEMBERS HR ADVISORY SERVICE

This is a dedicated human resource and industrial relations information service where AVA members can tap into the accumulated knowledge and know-how of a team of professionals with expertise in the fields of human resources, industrial relations, employment conditions & law, occupational health and safety, workers compensation and superannuation.

During the year utilisation of service increased by 34%, with an average of 247 calls per month compared to 184 calls per month in 2003.

Employment Contracts continue to generate 47% of all calls received by the HR Hotline with the second most popular topic being Leave, which generated a total of 15% of calls during the period. Third on the list were Termination issues, generating 11%.

Employee contact has increased 4% from last year and we look forward to more and more employees utilising the service in 2005. The HR service also delivered 15 specific HR workshops during the year.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

After a long gestation period, a new website was launched late in 2004. All content was reviewed and out-of-date material was discarded. The new website will be further enhanced in 2005 with the addition of



member-only improvements such as a new bulletin board and a direct link to the database which will allow members to update their details online.

2004 saw the creation and demise of *VetLife*, the lifestyle publication of AVA members, designed to complement the Australian Veterinary Journal. Four issues of *VetLife* were published and the magazine rated well, particularly with younger members. Unfortunately *VetLife* will not be continued in 2005 due to budgetary constraints resulting from the termination of the CBA Gold Privilege Program.

The third edition of the *AVA New Graduate Guide* was produced in 2004. The Guide builds on the work of the Employed Veterinarians group and is designed to assist new and recent graduates with many of the issues they face as they enter veterinary employment. This national publication demonstrates the ongoing commitment and support of the AVA to our new graduates.

In 2004 two new electronic publications were launched, *eLine* and *student eLine*, a monthly and bi-monthly email newsletter. These newsletters are informative and allow members to click through for further website information on most stories. This initiative has been one of the reasons the AVA has increased the recorded number of email addresses in our member database to over 70% of all members.

2004 AVA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year the AVA presents awards to people who have contributed to veterinary science or are outstanding in their particular fields. In 2004, the Gilruth Prize was awarded to Dr Richard Murray who initiated the first Urban Animal Management Conference in 1992.

The Kesteven Medal was awarded to Dr Denis Hoffman for his outstanding contributions to international veterinary science. Dr Hoffman has spent almost 20 years working and living in developing countries focusing on improving animal health and livestock production.

Two members were honoured as Fellows, Dr Michael Lumsden and Dr Geoffrey Reed.

Recipients of the Meritorious Service Award were Dr Richard Chapman, Dr Richard Roe, Dr James Shelton, and Dr Dennis Thomson.

Dr Francesca Kelly received the Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award and Dr Judith Blackshaw was the

recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award.

The AVA, together with Pfizer Animal Health, awarded six practices with the Practices of Excellence in Customer Service Award, these were: Cherside Veterinary Hospital (Qld), Cranbourne Veterinary Hospital (Vic), Horsham Veterinary Clinic (Vic), Kippax Veterinary Hospital (ACT), Ocean Grove Animal Hospital (Vic) and Warragul Veterinary Clinic (Vic).

STRATEGY THREE - BUILD AVA PROFILE; AMONGST VETERINARIANS LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY AND IN THE WIDER GENERAL COMMUNITY

Exposing decision-makers, non-members and the community to the breadth of veterinary expertise resident in the membership of the AVA is at the core of building profile, community confidence and inspiring the next generation of veterinarians.

MEDIA

One of the measures of that commitment to build profile is media activity, and during 2004 more than 160 media releases were issued and spokespersons for the AVA were visible in all States and Territories in both print and electronic media. The President is the main spokesperson for the AVA, and that role can also be delegated as appropriate to the issue at hand.

The AVA employs a media monitoring service that scans print, radio and TV and is able to respond quickly to situations that require a veterinary viewpoint. In 2005, working with the Policy Development and Implementation Group AVA plans to promote some selected policies in addition to the important and necessary reactive work.

National media releases were distributed on the Keniry Report; companion animal issues such as 'dogs in utes', ticks, feeding chocolate to pets, diabetes, dental health, administration of ibuprofen, barking dogs, pets as gifts and pets and fireworks; cattle issues including udder tampering, speed breeding; animal abuse and its link to child abuse, animal abuse by soldiers; Equine dentistry and licensing for equine vets; highlights and issues from

conferences – AVA, UAM, Small Animals, Cattle; Sheep issues such as mulesing and the unnecessary ban on Australian wool plus World Veterinary Day.

To celebrate World Veterinary Day on Saturday, 24 April 2004, the Australian Veterinary Association announced the recipient of its first ever AVA Community Service Award, created to recognise the millions of dollars worth of unpaid work that veterinarians perform for the welfare of animals.

The winner was Dr Barbara Fougere, an AVA member veterinarian from Sydney, who established a very successful cat re-housing program in 1998.

Since the program started it is estimated that 30,000 stray and abandoned cats have been adopted by households that now have a pet to love and is an excellent example of how AVA veterinarians devote their time to benefit the community and the welfare of animals.

PETPEP

The main community relations program of the AVA, PetPEP, continued to expand in 2004. West Australia and South Australia both recruited a PetPEP Coordinator and offer the Program to members in their state. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania all continued with PetPEP in their respective states.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

Lawyers developed a blueprint for national registration for that profession in 1994, and their methodical and determined approach has been an inspiration for a small group with whom I have been working through *Professions Australia*. We are developing a blueprint that details a number of possible options for national registration for professional associations. The blueprint will provide the AVA and other professions with a platform for national action in this area.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The AVA is a member of four international organisations:

World Veterinary Association (WVA) consists of more than 80 national veterinary organisations representing an estimated 500,000 veterinarians. The goal of WVA is to promote the extensive range of veterinary roles so that the public has the



opportunity to see the contribution made by the veterinary profession for the benefit of animals and people.

WVA has a societal obligation to assist in food security and food safety. WVA has working relationships with international organisations including the World Health Organisation (WHO), Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO), Codex Alimentarius Commission, World Trade Organisation and World Bank. Food (bio) safety, animal health, animal welfare and the responsible and sustainable use of our natural resources receive particular attention.

Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)

is made up of national veterinary associations or approved bodies of most Commonwealth countries. Most member associations are in developing countries.

The Mission of the CVA is to promote the veterinary profession within the Commonwealth by encouraging the highest professional standards of education, ethics and service in order to advance animal health, productivity and welfare so as to improve the quality of life of all its peoples.

Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA)

was established in 1978 by the veterinary associations of Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea. There are now 18 members.

FAVA was developed to promote veterinary medical technology, to exchange information and to unite member countries. FAVA Congress is hosted every second year by a different country, and in 2004 that was the Republic of Korea.

International Veterinary Officers Council (IVOC)

comprises the President and Chief Executive Officers of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the British Veterinary Association (BVA), the Canadian Veterinary Association (CVMA), the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) and the AVA. Recently the South African Veterinary Association also joined the group.

The meeting site is rotated among members, and in 2004 the sixth meeting of the Council was held in London with BVA as our hosts. The purpose of IVOC is to promote dialogue and collaboration with a view to harmonise policies and optimise resources.

This is achieved by exchanging information, complementing and sharing resources and where appropriate, taking common positions or action on international matters. This is a valuable forum for mutual learning and for early warning of issues likely to gain political prominence in the near future.

STRATEGY FOUR – OPERATIONAL AND STRUCTURAL EFFECTIVENESS

An Association the size of the AVA requires a substantial amount of secretariat activity to support its ongoing activities. One such activity that consumed member time and staff time last year was finalising the Constitution and Rules for Divisions, SIGs and Branches.

NEW CONSTITUTION & RULES

In 2003 AVA's legal advisor recommended that the Memorandum and Articles be rewritten so that AVA has a Constitution that is in harmony with both legal requirements and current practice. This was achieved with a huge amount of input from the Constitutional Taskforce and many interested members, and it was accepted at the 2004 AGM.

The Rules are linked to the Constitution and provide more detail about operational aspects for the many groups within AVA. The Rules were also subject to extensive consultation, and were adopted for the entire Association by the Board in November.

My thanks to all members who took part in this process.

AVA FINANCES

AVA is one legal entity with some 70 subgroups, and the Board of the AVA has the responsibility at law for the finances and operations of each of these groups. The annual financial statement and audit process provides a consolidated view of the entire AVA, but it is often a huge struggle to collect all the financial information from groups, primarily because members take on the potentially onerous role of being the bookkeeper for the group.

In order to free up volunteer time from bookkeeping and provision of information for BAS statements, AVA has instigated complementary arrangement of the Diamond account and provision of bookkeeping services which leaves the bookkeeping to the

Corporate Services Manager and his team and the management of the account to the group. All groups are strongly encouraged to make use of these facilities.

Risk management planning remains a priority across the AVA and the national plan will be finalised in 2005.

SPONSORSHIP AND AVA PARTNERS

I am delighted to be able to report that AVA has the following partnership arrangements:

AVA's Principal Partner is Provet. This is our top tier of sponsorship, and Provet have again demonstrated their strong commitment to the AVA by increasing the level of their support. I would like to particularly acknowledge the commitment to the veterinary profession from Provet by Dr Bob Menrath and Joe Best.

Business Partners - Guild Insurance and Financial Services (GIFS) have also increased their sponsorship of the AVA and we welcome MIMS IVS as a new sponsor.

Strategic Partner - Masterfoods Petcare continue their long association with the AVA.

The AVA gratefully acknowledges the significant contribution made by these organisations.

NEW PREMISES

When I joined the AVA two years ago, the Board was already well-advanced with their investigation to upgrade the office accommodation arrangements for the AVA.

This year the Artarmon building was sold and new premises at St Leonards purchased. The new premises has the same floor size as Artarmon, but it is all useable space. This has meant that the Small Animals SIG has joined AVA national, the NSW Division and the Equine SIG, and there is still space for AVA and its groups to continue to grow. The Hon John Kerin AM, an honorary member of the AVA, will open the new office on 25 February 2005.

In closing, I would like to again thank AVA staff for their commitment to the achievement of the strategy, and for their good humour, particularly during the recent office move. I have also been fortunate to have the support and guidance of two Presidents, Dr Jo Sillince and more recently Dr

Norm Blackman, and my thanks to them and to the AVA Board. The coming year is brim full of challenges, however I firmly believe that together we can handle these and move forward to re-orient and build an AVA that will take the Australian veterinary profession into the future

Margaret Conley
Chief Executive Officer

AVA TRUSTS, ADVISORY GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION (ACAHF)

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt trust of the AVA. The Foundation was established in 1989 to raise and distribute money to support clinical research related to companion animals.

The ACAHF raises money through a variety of avenues including donations from veterinarians, the public, the ACAHF Memorial Donation Scheme and corporate sponsorship.

A Board of trustees, appointed by the AVA and the Small Animal Special Interest Group, administers the daily operations of the ACAHF. The Small Animal SIG provides administrative services, and if you wish to make a tax-deductible donation or bequest, please contact them directly at AVA headquarters.

Applications for grants to aid research are advertised to all the Australian Veterinary Schools and applications are ranked according to merit by an experienced grants committee composed of veterinary academics and practitioners representative of the Australian veterinary community. Research projects with a potential clinical application are usually favoured.

This report would also like to publicly acknowledge the generous support that has been given to the foundation by pet owners, veterinarians and industry.

In 2003, grants to the total of \$31,401 were made to the following projects:

- Comparison of Glargine, PZI and Caninsulin for the treatment of feline diabetes Mellitus in client

owned cats.

Chief investigator - Prof. J. Rand, the University of Queensland.

- Studies into feline infectious peritonitis in Australia.
Chief investigator - Dr. J. Norris, University of Sydney.
- Investigations into the epidemiology and aetiology of chronic renal disease in domestic cats.
Chief investigator - Dr. J. White, University of Sydney.

and the Du Val Memorial bequest grant to:

- Studies of immunohistochemical techniques in tumours of dogs and cats.
Chief investigator - Dr. K. Bosward, University of Sydney.

Dr Roger Clarke
Trustee and Convenor

URBAN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (UAMAG)

Each passing year sees a growing need for reliable and effective tools for those who manage urban animals in Australia. For Local Government, charged with this duty, dogs and cats are a common cause for complaint and yet their officers are often under-resourced. For politicians at State and Local levels, urban animal management (UAM) is a "no win" problem – all too often the community is divided into those who believe animal owners should have more privileges and freedoms, and those want barking biting dogs and pissing caterwauling cats locked away.

In 2004 the Urban Animal Management Advisory Group ran its 14th annual conference, attracting more than 250 delegates to Adelaide. The major theme of the conference, the problem of barking, was of great interest to the animal management officers, managers and planners, elected councillors, veterinary and other animal behaviourists, dog club members, and veterinarians who attended. After the success of the last few conferences, which led to a Position Paper on Dangerous Dogs now being considered by a Federal Government advisory body, a Position Paper on Barking is to be developed. These Position Papers represent the best veterinary, behavioural and practical advice as distilled from the

papers presented and the opinion of conference delegates, and are available on the UAMAG website, along with the proceedings of most of the annual conferences.

It has been exciting this year to see the finalisation and acceptance of the Training Package for Animal Management Officers (AMOs). AMO training is now formally recognised with Australia-wide accreditation. AMOs can now have an Australia-wide career path and expectation of recognition both within Council and within the community in which they work. This accredited training package is largely the work of members of UAMAG over many years.

The highlight of the year for the UAMAG was the recognition of the work by Dick Murray from both the AVA and the wider community for his tireless and expert work in UAM. Dick was awarded the Gilruth Prize, the AVA's highest award, on top of his Membership in the Order of Australia.

Late in the year the group had an in-depth planning weekend in the Blue Mountains NSW. A number of changes and improvements are planned, including a proposed change of name to the "Urban Animal Management Reference Group" in recognition of our consulting and other roles outside and beyond the AVA.

Dr Michael Hayward
Convenor

AVA THERAPEUTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The Committee played a central role in AVA responses to drug reviews and inquiries. It initiated the review of prescribing and dispensing guidelines and guidelines for antibiotics.

The Committee advises the AVA Board and staff on therapeutic matters. The Committee seeks to ensure high standards of therapeutic practice in prescribing and use of veterinary medicines within the profession. It cooperates with Special Interest Groups to provide materials to practitioners and students and expertise for veterinary schools and continuing education.

TAC is currently reviewing AVA guidelines on prescribing and dispensing with the assistance of a working group established for the purpose. The Committee is mindful of the profession's national and international obligations in the use of chemicals.

TAC provided advice and input into the AVA submissions to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) on review of virginiamycin and discussions on the use of ceftiofur and to the Australian Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee on butorphanol and ketamine. AVA is monitoring the current APVMA review of the veterinary use of macrolide antibiotics.

The importance of prudent use of antibiotics, need for special expertise and the workload led to establishment of a Sub-committee on Quality use of Antibiotics to work closely with AVA Special Interest Groups, particularly on prudent use guidelines.

A Reference Advisory Group on Fermentative Acidosis (RAGFA) has also been formed. RAGFA is a joint group with the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists to advise practitioners, which is timely given the impending restrictions on use of virginiamycin and the lack of real alternatives.

Short reports of TAC meetings are available on the AVA website.

*Dr Bill Darmody
Convenor*

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AWAC)

The public profile of animal welfare has been very high during the year, including the national ban on cosmetic tail-docking of dogs (a campaign heavily backed by the AVA), the live sheep export trade and most recently, the campaign by a US animal rights group to stop the use of the mulesing procedure in sheep. All of these issues impact on AVA members and the latter two are of great economic importance to Australia.

The profile of animal welfare within the AVA has also been very high, as reflected in the success of the new Animal Welfare Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance, and initiates policy development and revision, on a wide range of issues related to animal welfare. The AWAC Divisional representatives usually are also members of their respective state/territory AWACs, and thus are able to provide valuable feedback on important welfare matters in the various jurisdictions. In addition to updates from states and territories,

AWAC also considers reports from various standing committees and working groups that are dealing with different aspects of animal welfare at a national level.

The Committee met during the AVA Annual Conference in May, and the AWAC Executive met by teleconference, in March and October. During the year, significant progress was made, in finalising eight welfare-related policies:

- animal abuse
- equine dentistry
- euthanasia of cattle
- live export of sheep and goats
- laparoscopic AI in sheep and goats
- distal limb neurectomy in horses
- urine harvesting in mares
- genetically-modified organisms.

Another significant achievement was the establishment of the AVA Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (AEAC) to provide advice on the use of animals for research, teaching or demonstrations, for example at scientific meetings and workshops. The AEAC also will be available to assist and guide veterinarians who are nominated to animal ethic committees.

There has recently been increasing recognition of the links between violence perpetrated on humans and the abuse of animals. A leader in this field, Professor Frank Ascione of Utah State University, presented a series of seminars that highlighted the significance of this issue. These seminars, together with the successful welfare sessions at the AVA Conference, attracted a wide cross-section of interested stakeholders and stimulated a determination for development of a collaborative action plan to address this escalating social problem. AWAC is giving consideration to the potential contribution from the AVA and the veterinary profession, and also ways in which practitioners might be better informed about the recognition of animal abuse.

During the past year, AWAC discussed a wide range of welfare-related matters, including sow housing, implementation of recommendations from the Government's Livestock Export Review, code of calf welfare and the collection of bovine fetal blood. With its collective expertise and experience, the

Committee is keen to provide input into the development and implementation of animal welfare policies, wherever appropriate.

*Dr Michael Bond
Secretary and AVA Assistant Veterinary Director*

ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST

The purpose of the Animal Welfare Trust is to support the welfare of animals through research, education, promotion and other appropriate activities, utilising the administrative and communication resources of the AVA. After an initial injection of funds transferred from the Australian Foundation for Animal Welfare, veterinarians and members of the community have provided on-going donations.

At the AVA Annual Conference, the first two grants, awarded to post-graduate students at the University of Queensland for animal welfare projects were announced. The research is focusing on the transportation of horses and environmental enrichment for captive squirrel monkeys. These awards represent a significant step forward, and in the future it is hoped to provide modest 'seed' funding for similar projects each year.

With support of the Comfund, the Trust also produced an information brochure and complementary poster for display in veterinarians' waiting rooms. These were posted out to every AVA veterinary practice in Australia, with a gratifying response from people interested in contributing to the Trust.

*Dr Steve Atkinson
Chairman*

AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL COUNCIL (ACAC)

ACAC activities through the last year were broad ranging and included lobbying, publishing and sponsorship. The quarterly ACAC General Meetings continue to provide an excellent forum for the members of the pet care industry to gather, exchange ideas and information and in particular to discuss issues of concern to the industry. Some activities undertaken and issues considered by ACAC through the last year include the following:

Declining Pet Populations

The cat population has declined by over 20% in the last decade and it appears that the dog population may also be in decline. The decline in the cat population is expected to continue, as the current proportion of entire females in the cat population is insufficient to maintain the population size. This will have long term economic consequences for the veterinary profession and pet industries. Activities undertaken by ACAC and members to support pet populations include:

- promotion of the health and social benefits attributable to pet ownership
- school and community education programs teaching responsible pet ownership
- encouragement of best practice in urban animal management by local government
- lobbying all levels of government for fair and rational companion animal legislation.

Pet Industry Report

The development and publication of the BIS Shrapnel Report "Contribution of the Petcare Industry to the Australian Economy" continues to be a major achievement for ACAC. The report is the only document of its type available, providing detailed and accurate information on the pet care industry in Australia and continues to be widely used and quoted in the print and TV media.

The report was circulated to local and state government throughout Australia in an effort to remind key decision makers of the significant financial contribution of the pet industry in Australia.

Dangerous Dogs / Breed Specific Legislation

Dangerous dogs and breed specific legislation continue to be a key issue for State and Local Governments across Australia. Management of dangerous dogs by States and Local Councils ranges from fines and restrictions in some areas through to complete bans of specific dog breeds in others. ACAC is concerned about the inconsistency of approach.

ACAC has developed a sound and useful dangerous dogs/breed specific legislation position statement highlighting the inadequacies of breed specific legislation – principally the inability for anyone to

accurately determine whether an individual dog is a Pit Bull Terrier. This has now been used in lobbying activities and has also been considered by the AVA Policy Council and endorsed.

Other ACAC activities for the year included:

- highlighting the problems associated with breed specific legislation and the benefits of community education
- input to the NSW Companion Animal Act Review undertaken by the NSW Government
- preparing an informative booklet about Australian Human Animal Interaction Organisations.
- responding to media interest in the "Renting with Pets" booklet which continues to provide useful information to the community. The booklet will be updated in the coming year as will the "Power of Pets" brochure that has been widely used.
- continued support for UAMAG including sponsorship of its annual conference.

Dr Kersti Seksel
President

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The profession lost one of the Association's most ardent supporters when Northern Territory representative of the Benevolent Fund, Dr Dennis Thomson died on 3rd January 2004. Dennis mentored many veterinarians during his long career in the Northern Territory, and his family, along with the Northern Territory Division of the Australian Veterinary Association, has established the Dennis Thomson Memorial Science Prize for the top scoring Year 12 Northern Territory student. The initial recipient was a young Sri Lankan man who had escaped the civil war in his country to pursue his academic career in Australia.

Dennis' role as Northern Territory representative of the Fund has been undertaken by Dr Debbie Osbourne.

The year 2004 has been a relatively quiet one for the Fund's Trustees. Some beneficiaries have moved to a less dependent phase of their lives, and have expressed gratitude for the help that was provided at a critical time.

Eight people were assisted during the year, and although there were additional notifications of

colleagues considered to be undergoing some form of distress, enquiries by representatives of the Fund revealed that those identified were managing well. A total of \$14,521 was expended.

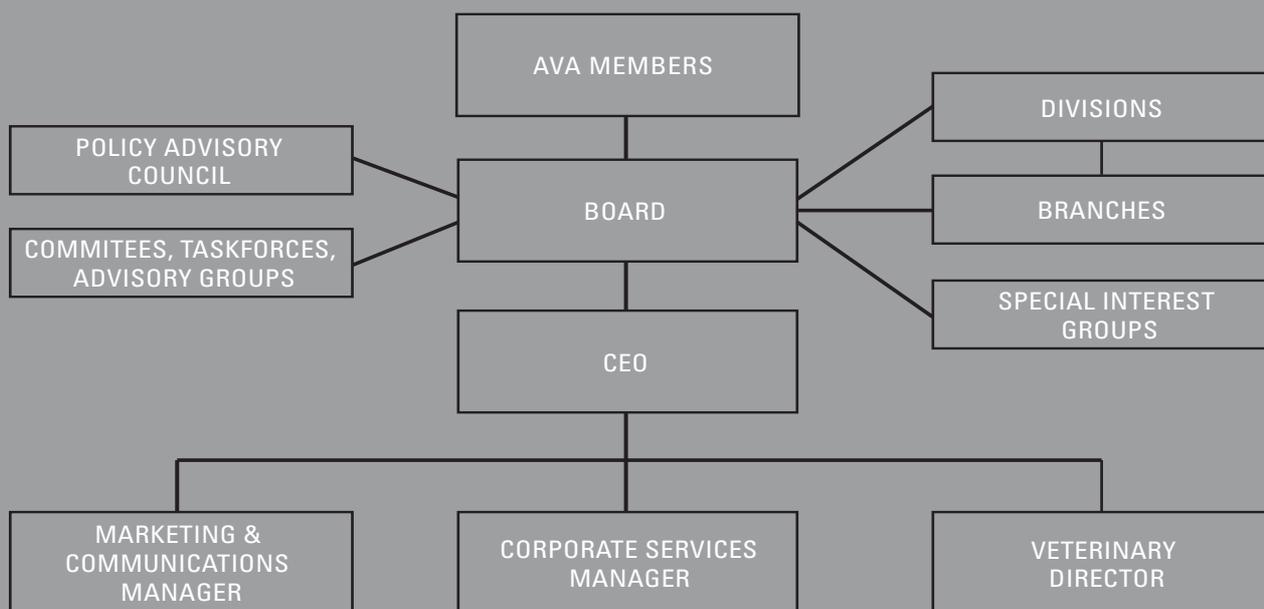
Matters attended to during the year included a review of the legal review of the Trust Deed (satisfactory), discussion at AVA Board level about the interest concessions granted the Fund (maintained) and a move to align the Fund's financial year with that of the Association.

Thanks for support are due to fellow Trustees, relevant staff in the National Office of the AVA, State and Territory representatives of the Fund, individual donors, Divisions, Auxiliaries and my long suffering wife Marjorie who is constantly called upon to assist with issues as diverse as electronic technology and hosting.

Dr Randall Lemin
Secretary and Trustee



organisational chart



AVA STAFF - 2004

Chief Executive Officer - Margaret Conley

Executive Assistant - Lyn Osman

Marketing & Communications Manager -

Eddie Ripard

Membership Marketing Manager -

Jennifer Docherty

Membership Marketing Officer -

Penny Kochanski

Membership Database Officer -

Angela Jackson

Customer Service Officer -

Alannah Skaines

Membership Services Manager -

Annel Singh (to September)

Publications Manager & AVJ Managing

Editor - Mark Thornley

AVJ Scientific Editor -

Dr Colin Wilks

AVJ Clinical Editor -

Dr Maureen Revington

AVJ Desktop Publisher & Editorial Assistant -

Anna Gallo

AVJ Assistant -

Sarina Arcoleo

Media & Information Officer -

Jenny Palmer

NSW PetPEP Education Officer -

Vanessa Barratt

QLD PetPEP Education Officer -

Cait Feldman

QLD PetPEP Assistant -

Kellie Ireland

SA PetPEP Education Officer -

Dr Pin Needham

VIC PetPEP Education Officer -

Linda Lawrie

WA PetPEP Education Officer -

Dr Kate Fuderer

TAS PetPEP Education Officer -

Dr Rowena Bell

Corporate Services Manager -

Lauretta Stace (to April)

James Redrup (from June)

Events & Education Manager -

Josie Hatte

Finance Officer -

Liz Dawkins

Accounts Officer -

Cora Luong

AEVA Admin Officer -

Nicola Rose

ASAVA Admin Officer -

Jenny Wade (to October)

Chris Rolinson (from October)

Cattle, Sheep & Embryo Transfer SIGs

Executive Officer - Anne Cover

Cattle, Sheep & Embryo Transfer SIGs

Admin Assistant - Gay Carey

NSW Division Office Administrator -

Julie Gibling

NSW Division Office Administrator -

Cheryl Knight

QLD Division Office Manager -

Mary George

SA Division Office Manager -

Barbara Gill

VIC Division Executive Officer -

Sue Stanley (to May)

Anne McDonald (from June)

VIC Division Office Administrator -

Jenny Cumming

WA Division Office Administrator -

Michelle Marino

NT Division Office Administrator -

Karen Richardson

Veterinary Director & Manager Policy

Development & Implementation -

Dr Kevin Doyle

Assistant Veterinary Director -

Dr Mike Bond

Administrative Assistant -

Leanne Butler

ASAVA Executive Officer -

Dr Matthew Miles

AEVA Executive Officer -

Dr Bill Howey

NSW Division Executive Officer -

Dr Frank Doughty



d i v i s i o n s



queensland

The Queensland Division completed the first full year of occupation at the Eight Mile Plains premises. On the whole the building works well and has provided an excellent venue for a variety of meetings by AVA and affiliated groups.

ADVANCING VETERINARY SCIENCE IN QUEENSLAND

Without doubt the single most significant development in Queensland this year has been the Government decision to fund HECS places for veterinary undergraduates at James Cook University in Townsville. The North Queensland branch was very active in their support and lobbying efforts for this initiative. The issues of graduate numbers and quality of training were considered as well as issues arising from the Frawley report.

The University encouraged member input to the proposal, particularly the curriculum and teaching areas. The Division now has a member from both University Veterinary Schools on the education sub-committee.

The Division think tank, "The Future Directions Task Force" has a loose agenda but a strong purpose to facilitate AVA responses from members' opinions on the emerging opportunities and threats to the profession. This group has provided discussion papers on controls on agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Queensland and the Internet sale of prescription animal medicine as well as developing papers on biosecurity threats and radiography by laypersons.

Relationships with Queensland Health and Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries have allowed AVA policy, in relation to access and use of scheduled drugs by lay persons, radiography and biosecurity, to be considered in the process of amending or drafting of new legislation by these departments. An AVA nominee is now included in the Biosecurity and Market Access Liaison Group.

BUILDING AND SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

The strategic plan has numerous activities and plans relating to retention and growth of membership. The difficulty is in reaching out and finding reasons for

lapsed members and non-joined members. The 2003 Tavener report provided some insights and the Division has attempted to implement the recommendations. Membership levels appear to be stable and on par with national participation rates.

Queensland Division supports the University of Queensland Veterinary Students Association to hold a number of functions. The AVA sponsored and organised "Transition to Practice Workshop" and prize for Dux of the school are considered essential elements of attracting and retaining student members of the AVA.

This year the Division also supported two Queensland students who were selected to participate in the Cornell University Leadership Program.

Communication to members is recognised as a major part of promoting the value of the Association to new and potential members. The Division maintains a very well received fortnightly newsletter "Grapevine" which is mainly electronic but is also faxed and mailed to those members who prefer to have their news in hard copy.

The Grapevine is the primary vehicle for advising members on a wide range of topics. Web addresses and links are provided when available but the reliable back up of ringing the division office and speaking to our experienced and reliable Mary is still favoured.

We have to acknowledge that generally vets prefer some level of direct contact when seeking information on most subjects.

The Queensland Veterinary Surgeons Board has made recommendations on professional development and while there is no requirement at present the guidelines are consistent with those of the AVA VetEd program and obviously substantiates the value of this program to Queensland members.

Queensland Health is currently working with the Division to extend the Q Fever testing and vaccination program to veterinarians, their staff and families. The program is an initiative of QHealth to reduce the effects of this disease in the workplace and that veterinarians are in a higher risk category for this zoonotic disease.

ONGOING EDUCATION

The Central Queensland Branch hosted the annual conference for 2004 on Great Keppel Island. Both large and small animal lecture streams were provided and most importantly the lectures were the first to be considered for points under AVA VetEd scheme. The next conference hosted by the Brisbane Veterinary Practitioners Branch will include presentations and discussion on early age desexing and pet population management.

The newsletter has undergone some changes in order to ensure it can continue to provide a forum for members to discuss issues of policy strategic value to the Association. Our own polling indicates that members still appreciate a hard copy with contact names and numbers as well as informative articles.

In December the Division set up a web-based survey to canvass opinion on the issues relating to early age desexing. Only five percent of members responded to this survey but the quality of responses and the potential for this format to quickly gather member opinion will be further explored.

PET PEP PROGRAM

This program in Queensland continues to receive high praise from the external sponsors including Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, RSPCA and local councils. There has been a total change of staff with both Caitlyn Feldman and Kellie Ireland leaving the program. Queensland will no longer provide national coordination of the program with Sarah Thrackray who will begin in January 2005 concentrating on preserving the existing relationships and building new links with the agencies responsible for domestic violence. The Queensland Government is moving to address issues identified in recent research linking animal abuse to potential domestic violence. It is vital that PetPEP showcases the role of the veterinarian in education of children on the care and handling of pets in communities.

*Dr Robert Hedlefs
President*

new south wales



The two main areas of Divisional involvement of most interest to veterinarians are professional practice and animal welfare. In NSW there has been consistent lobbying of the Government with regard to proposed changes to legislation that will profoundly affect our mode of professional practice. There has also been an increase in Continuing Education at Branch level with some branches combining for larger and more productive educational seminars. After many years of slow decline this increased Branch activity has contributed to an increase in membership of the AVA in NSW. It is anticipated this will be a continuing trend.

VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT 2003

The Veterinary Practice Act 2003 gained assent with a 12-month moratorium being placed on clause 14(5)(a). This clause would allow an agribusiness to run a veterinary business within its premises without the veterinarians maintaining a controlling interest. The position of the NSW Division is that clause 14(5)(a) should be removed and the phrase "a controlling interest" should be maintained in the Act. The Division successfully lobbied NSW Farmers Association to support our position. The NSW Council of Professions also supported this. The NSW Division, on a request from the Minister for Primary Industries, has sent a submission to the Minister supporting removal of this contentious clause. At this stage the Minister for Primary Industries in NSW has not replied to the submission.

However this Act, like all Acts in Australia, comes under the scrutiny of the National Competition Council (NCC). The Division has had discussions with members of the NCC. The NCC members made no commitment, but they did request a submission, which was subsequently sent by the Division.

This Act cannot be enacted until the regulations have been written. This process has not started. It appears that clause 14(5)(a) is creating problems. We have approached the AVA solicitors who have expressed "serious concerns about sections of the Act".

Much is yet to be done before this issue is resolved.

THE COMPANION ANIMALS ACT

Since the assent of the Companion Animals Act (CAA) approximately 5 years ago, this act has been fraught with problems. The inadequacies in this act have been the result of poor legislation. We now have to work with an act that is inefficient, unnecessarily expensive, at times impractical and unworkable and possibly in one area illegal. The opportunity to correct these problems existed last year with the review of the act. The NSW Division has been heavily involved in this review. The Department of Local Government (DLG) rejected most recommendations made by the Division, as indicated in a report that has been produced for public comment. The NSW Division wrote to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Tony Kelly, requesting a meeting. This was rejected.

The NSW Government has not yet moved to proclaim any changes, but unless there is a change in attitude from the DLG, the veterinary profession and the public of NSW will have to live with this poor and impractical legislation. The next opportunity for a review will not be until the year 2010.

The AVA is continuing to pursue all options, which includes further lobbying of the DLG.

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Community Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) has been developed as a joint initiative between the AVA and the RSPCA in NSW. This program is run in regional and remote areas of NSW with the involvement of the RSPCA, local AVA practices and AVA PetPEP. It offers subsidised desexing and micro-chipping to low-income households and education on animal care to schools.

CAWS projects will be operating throughout 2005.

ETHICS AND COMPLAINTS

The Ethics and Complaints Subcommittee is a peer review committee established to review complaints brought against veterinarians and ethical issues between veterinarians. This committee has no disciplinary powers but has the ability to refer a case to the VSIC if the committee feels that the complaint is severe enough to warrant this.

The majority of complaints appear to stem from a lack of communication between the veterinarian and

the client. This can be because of poor procedures in place in the practice, excessive client expectations of the treatments involved, costs incurred and outcomes achieved. There is often an apparent unwillingness by one or both parties to discuss the outcome of the case.

Where legal action is pending or cost recovery is being sought, this committee does not handle the case and informs the complainant of this. If you have a possible problem, seek advice from the committee or your professional indemnity insurer.

CONTINUAL DEVELOPMENT OF AVA PETPEP

This year has seen a marked increase in the number of schools taking part in AVA PetPEP. In 2003, 34 schools held an AVA PetPEP function; in 2004, 70 schools were involved. In 2003 approximately 3,400 children were involved and in 2004, approximately 10,500 children. This has stretched our limited resources. The Education Officer is contracted to work three days each week, however we have sufficient work for at least one full-time Education Officer. The problem is funding. The PetPEP subcommittee is working hard to overcome this with some positive results.

AVA PetPEP delivers education on animal welfare to the schools. The benefit is not only an increase in the awareness of animal welfare in the community but a valuable public relations exercise that can only be positive for the profession.

An area that requires improvement is the delivery of the program. Veterinary nurses are usually as capable and in many cases more capable of delivering this program in the schools than veterinarians. Many nurses are involved in puppy preschool and PetPEP is merely an extension of that.

OTHER ISSUES

The Division Committee dealt with many other issues. Some of the more notable were the banning of tail docking of dogs, the Gudair vaccine for Ovine Johne's disease, the Environmental Protection Agency and the licensing of veterinary nurses, and the link between violence to animals and to humans.

Dr Bruce Cartmill
President

In the past 12 months, the Victorian Division has continued to maintain its high level of activity with considerable work and dedication by the Committee and Staff. Early in the year, Sue Stanley resigned as Executive Officer and was replaced with Anne McDonald, who continues to be supported by the Office Administrator Jenny Cumming.

ONGOING EDUCATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the 2nd of April 2004, the Division held a successful Annual General Meeting at Moonee Valley Racecourse. The meeting combined with small and large animal scientific streams was well attended and enjoyed by all in attendance. The meeting also received a presentation from the AVA National President on the Cormo Express incident and the CEO on the future of the Association. An afternoon mock court case pertaining to a veterinarian's apparent misconduct was enjoyable and entertaining but also emphasised the importance of the AVA's code of conduct.

BRANCHES

Many branches continued to hold meetings and short continuing education opportunities throughout the year on a regional or geographic basis. Such events continue to be very popular as they present opportunities for both learning and socialising. Some branches continue to struggle and the Division is attempting to provide support to ensure this situation is reversed.

ADVANCING VETERINARY SCIENCE - POLICY & LOBBYING

The Victorian Government this year pursued an aggressive agenda on issues pertaining to animal health and welfare that kept the Division busy in providing feedback and comment. Fortunately, we have managed to provide input into most of these changes even though the outcome may not have been that which we preferred. It is important that this activity is maintained into the future as Government Policy has great potential to impact on the future of the profession and the animals for which we care.

From a policy perspective, the Victorian Division and its members provided considerable input into the AVA policy council meetings in May and October largely thanks to our representative Dr. Onn Ben-David. Seeking member feedback via email proved popular and greatly assisted the Division in representing our constituents at this important AVA meeting.

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORTING MEMBERS

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

This year with the assistance of the student representatives on the Division Committee, we improved our sponsorship and support of Undergraduate education. Integral to this package was a regular presence by the President at student events, and financial support to maintain the Practitioner in Residence Scheme provided by the Metropolitan Practitioners Branch. This scheme continues to be highly valued by final year students and greatly facilitates their entry into practice.

PETPEP

The PetPEP subcommittee and staff member Linda Lawrie have been grappling in the past year with ensuring the long-term financial security of the program. Much work was undertaken in the pursuit of sponsors and alternative sources of income with little success. Consequently, in November the committee made the difficult decision to suspend the program for the upcoming 12 months. Hopefully this decision is not permanent.

AWAC

Following the resignation of Dr. John Dalziel from the Victorian Government Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, the Division has a new representative Dr. David Rendell who brings experience in livestock production to this important committee. Since his appointment, he has created an email distribution list of those with a particular interest in animal welfare to assist his role in representing the AVA which has proved very successful.

COMMUNICATIONS

One of the most significant challenges facing the Division is its ability to quickly and cheaply contact members on issues of importance. Examples include the appearance of a disease of significance or AVA information or a Government decision. We also have useful information to distribute on behalf of the Government and other groups on a regular basis. Currently the VicVet newsletter is published quarterly but it fails to meet these objectives. In the future the Division will attempt to make greater use of email and the AVA website for this purpose.

FINANCE

The Division in conjunction with AVA National Office, also undertook a complete review and audit of its accounting processes. This revealed areas of potential improvement, and means of increasing accountability and reducing expenditure. The accounts are now maintained by National Office with the Division maintaining control and the ability to make our own financial decisions, which has enabled greater compliance with accounting requirements. The Division continues to face budgetary problems in light of its objective to minimise membership fees and maintain and expand member services.

*Dr Matt Makin
President*



v i c t o r i a

south australia



ONGOING EDUCATION

The rural and small animal veterinarians have been offered some exciting opportunities to upgrade their veterinary skills with some comprehensive continuing education programs.

PIRSA Animal Health, in association with the Office of the Aust Chief Vet Officer and the Aust Animal Health Lab, held an Emergency two day Animal Disease Refresher Course at the end of July, over 50 vets attended.

The annual conference and AGM was held in Penola on 12th & 13th March. The presentations from PIRSA were about business for rural vets and benefits for their clients. The Saturday program comprised presenters of international standing in the fields of anaesthesia and neurology, Dr C Dunlop and Dr G Child. There were 70+ vets who attended the two day programme.

There was a Radiology seminar on the 12th Sept presented by Murdoch Uni & their radiology team, 47 attendees were present.

AVRSC presented a seminar on the 15th of September on Oncology.

On Sept 14th a seminar was presented by the eminent Prof. Jacqui Rand from the University of Queensland.

The AVA SA division is currently working on a program to ensure SA vets can achieve twenty points of CVE each year without having to go interstate.

SAPB – SMALL ANIMAL PRACTITIONERS BRANCH

In July 40 vets attended the dinner meeting on "Transdermal Pharmacology" and in November the dinner meeting topic was "Are we desexing ourselves out of business". There were 40+ vets present.

RVPB – RURAL VETS PRACTITIONERS BRANCH

A meeting was held on Oct 29, the topic was Calf scours – diagnosis, treatment, prevention and calf rearing problems, 44 vets attended.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY

The executive committee of the SA Division held its Strategic Planning Day on Saturday 17 July, we reviewed target results from 2003-2004 and identified new issues for 2005.

RETAIN AND PROMOTE MEMBER

The May/June issue of the Bulletin magazine was sent to all registered vets in the state regardless whether they were members or non-members and we used this issue to promote membership and benefits of belonging to the AVA their professional body.

National office was also invited to write an article for every edition printed during the year. Also at conferences non-members have been approached about joining the AVA.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

We held the New Graduate/Mentors Welcome Dinner on Sat 3rd April at the Directors Hotel. We had 31 attendees, it was partly sponsored by AVA National. The New graduates were handed out bags full of goodies donated by industry reps.

We held a pub night at the Marryatville Hotel on Friday 16th July.

The President's Reception was held in September. Around 106 vets and partners attended. The drinks flowed freely and the evening was conducive to mingling, which allowed members to catch up with colleagues whom they hadn't seen for a while, especially the retired vets.

On 23rd October over 100 members of the veterinary industry attended the Ball in the Bush at Russell's in Willunga.

The November family fun day at Monarto Zoo was a great success, around 60 AVA members, nurses and families enjoyed a great day out despite the heat. The tour took us through the usual free-range exhibits where most of the occupants were resting in the shade.

Special thanks must go to Ian Smith, one of the Monarto Zoo vets, who allowed us a tour of some of the closed areas where we got a peek at the new cheetah cubs, the Bilby and bandicoot breeding colonies and a couple of Colobus monkeys close up.

SA PETPEP REPORT

In 2004 the SA AVA PetPEP education officer, Natalie Olsen resigned, and Office Manager Barbara Gill and Dr Pin Needham between them ran PetPEP.

The committee at the Oct meeting appointed Pin as the temporary Education Officer for the remainder of the year. Pin and Barbara both attended the UAM (Urban Animal Management) conference in Adelaide in Sept. It was a 2 1/2 day conference, they had the AVA PetPEP display stand up and approached council reps to get the message out.

Contact was made with 18 Councils from SA who all spoke positively about the program. So we have started personal contact with these councils to get sponsorship for the program in 2005. We've also successfully signed up five new veterinary practices. Murray Bridge council is the first one to join the program.

In August Barbara Gill also went as the SA rep to a two day seminar on PetPEP held in the QLD offices of the AVA.

Dr Pin Needham has already done several PetPEP presentations to councils and he has met with the Animal Welfare League several times and they have decided to become a sponsor of the program for 2005.

*Dr Phil Reeve
President*



w e s t e r n a u s t r a l i a

ONGOING EDUCATION

There was a somewhat discouraging start to 2004 with the failure to achieve quorum at the Divisional AGM in April. This sat in marked contrast to a rise in membership within the division and many positive comments from members on the activities of the committee in recent times.

My conclusion is that while many veterinarians see value in being members of the AVA they are not so inclined to actively participate within the Association. This must raise questions over the future structure of the division and of our organisation as a whole, however I am in no doubt that effective state-based representation remains essential to the overall health of our association.

Despite the initial hiccup there was ultimately a healthy turnout at the postponed AGM held in May. The committee continued to be extraordinarily active throughout the year in policy development, lobbying, building membership and promoting and providing continuing education.

The annual country visits in the company of VSB registrar Dr Andy Keefe and Dr Maryanne Culliver from Murdoch's Office of Continuing Veterinary Education had a particularly positive outcome this year with a commitment to re-form the South West Branch. This group have subsequently held a very well attended Christmas social function and look to formal election of office bearers early in 2005.

Sadly the activities of the Practitioners Branch had declined to the point where this Branch was formally dissolved late in 2004. However, the very popular monthly educational seminars initiated by the branch will continue and will provide a very tangible member benefit to all AVA members in Perth and surrounding regions. Thanks in particular to Dr Alan Croxford for his efforts as President of the Practitioners Branch for so many years.

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORTING MEMBERS

The profile of AVA PetPep in Western Australia has been raised considerably with the appointment of a part-time education officer. Dr Kate Fuderer's passion and commitment remains absolutely inspiring. Kate co-ordinated 5 pet expos in 2004, approached numerous organisations to establish

networks and contacts, hosted booths at the AVA/Murdoch Trade Fair and the "All Creatures Expo" and made formal presentations to local government.

Veterinary practice school visits are on the increase with approximately 12 visits being made by practices within the state. A number of the Pet Expos received media coverage and the approaches to councils have been well received.

The Division continues to have an excellent relationship with veterinary students at Murdoch University, thanks largely to the efforts of our 2004 AVA student representative Ms Elise Spark.

The Consultation Skills tutorials were again conducted by AVA member veterinarians throughout the year. A number of networking events were very successful. "The Great Debate – should Vets eat what they treat" attracted over 300 people and will hopefully become an annual event.

In August the WA Division again joined with the Cattle Vets Special Interest Group to host a presentation and mingling opportunity for students interested in rural practice. The Division was also represented at the first year student's orientation day and the graduating students registration and awards ceremony.

The annual AVA/Murdoch Trade Fair was a great success with very positive responses from exhibitors and attendees alike. Many thanks to Dr Tony Viganò and Mr Cliff Bridle for their continued co-ordination of this event.

Similarly the "All Creatures Expo" co-hosted with the RSPCA proved a very popular event with nearly ten thousand people attending. AVA member veterinarians supervised 4th and 5th year veterinary students in providing free consultations to members of the public.

In October renovations to the front courtyard at AVA house were completed creating a very pleasant and functional outdoor area for functions and social events. The development of this previously under-utilised area has been complemented by the purchase of a BBQ and outdoor furniture.

The Division held a Strategic Planning Day on Sunday the 17th of October. This has given us an ideal framework from which to measure the effectiveness of the Division's activities and help to plan what resources may be required in the future.

We welcome AVJ Managing Editor Mark Thornley who thanks to the marvels of modern technology, will now be working from a small corner of AVA House in South Perth.

ADVANCING VETERINARY SCIENCE – POLICY INITIATIVES AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

The most notable policy proposed by the Division in 2004 was the AVA policy on animal abuse. This initiated a number of presentations and discussion sessions at the Canberra conference and has also led to representation on a state-based working group of relevant government and non-government agencies.

AVA member Dr Peter Adamson identified the need for veterinary input into the Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy and has put considerable effort into developing and preparing submissions on behalf of the WA Division.

The committee made further submissions in relation to legislation to establish the State Administrative Tribunal and assessed the possible impact of other proposed legislation on the veterinary profession including the Cat Welfare Bill. The Western Australian Wild Dog Management Strategy has also been reviewed.

Despite ongoing lobbying the Rural Internship Proposal developed by New Graduate Convenor Dr Paul Davey has received frustratingly little support from both State and Federal Governments. The proposal however was viewed favourably by participants at the recent AVBC workshop on easing the transition of Veterinary Students into the workforce.

In response to concerns raised by the Western Australian Veterinary Surgeons Board, Dr Davey was also responsible for researching and drafting a template for creating clinical records. This was published for discussion in the state newsletter the VAB.

Thank you to all convenors and members of the committee for your efforts throughout the past year and best wishes to President Elect Dr David Neck for 2005/2006.

Dr David Marshall
President

t a s m a n i a



ADVANCING VETERINARY SCIENCE – LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

The review of the Tasmanian Veterinary Surgeons Act has been scheduled for 2005 and so the Division has been active in informing members of the review and encouraging them to become active players in the review. A small working group was formed from divisional committee members and is forwarding a coordinated approach for inputs to the review.

BUILDING & SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

After initially announcing a financial commitment to the PetPep program, the Division has had to reassess its commitment due to a lack of overall project funding. The Division had employed a part-time PetPep Coordinator to provide a focused approach for getting the program established within the state however the logistics of having a coordinator attracting funding as well as running the program was un-workable.

The Division remains a supporter of the PetPep program and is working on ways to further develop the program within the state.

ONGOING EDUCATION

The Tasmanian Division of the AVA has had another active year due to the dedication of small but active group of veterinarians. One focus of activity has been the continuation of our CPD seminar series, which is concentrated in three centres of the state with a regional coordinator.

The range of topics is diverse with support from local and visiting mainland presenters. The series has been running for a number of years and is well supported by local veterinarians.

Approximately 65% of the resident veterinarians are members of the AVA and so the division sees the seminar series as being an important way of providing direct benefits to our members.

The Divisions' year finished with a successful annual conference attracting great support from practitioners from around the state and interstate. The professional trade continued their support of this function with a number of new displays adding colour to the established exhibitors.

We thank all that supported the conference and the Division throughout the year.

Dr Stephen B. Pyecroft
President

n o r t h e r n t e r r i t o r y



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The two-day annual conference and AGM held in March has now become a feature of continuing professional development in the NT, and this year our conference was the first to accrue points for members towards the AVA Vet Ed Program.

All attendees enjoyed the quality presentations by the three key speakers, Dr Geraldine Hunt, Dr Gary Cross and Dr Derek Major. Other presentations were given by Dr Rebecca Halligan, Dr Simon Rushworth and Dr Narelle De Silva.

The social program of the conference was highly successful with a happy hour, gala dinner and an informal pre-conference dinner all centred around the relaxed atmosphere of Cullen Bay.

OTHER CPD IN 2004

With the professional network that being involved in the AVA NT allows, vets in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs were able to participate in the Rounds Around The State (RATS), video conferences held by Murdoch University, School of Veterinary &

Biomedical Sciences, Continuing Veterinary Education.

Also facilitated by Murdoch University was an evening in Alice Springs with Dr Bryden Stanley, specialist surgeon on cutaneous reconstruction.

LEGISLATION ISSUES

The Authorisation for Schedule 4 Drug Use (Veterinary) that exists under the Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act has been a major focus for the year. Initial discussions with the Chief Poisons Officer led to some superficial changes in the guidelines but we feel further work is necessary to ensure the welfare of the animals involved and the legal standing of veterinarians is clear. As such our discussions have extended to AVA National Office and Guild Insurance.

The legislation prohibiting the docking of tails of an animal was introduced but as we suspected there is a loophole to allow veterinarians to perform the procedure if he or she is of the opinion that it is reasonable and necessary to do so. Unfortunately it appears that in Darwin and in Alice Springs some puppies are still having their tails docked.

PETPEP

Debbie Osborne & Alex Burleigh in conjunction with IFAW, facilitated by Mark Lawrie visited Aboriginal communities in the centre and near Katherine. A presentation of PetPEP was given to compliment the dog health program being undertaken.

Thanks to Dr Sam McMahon as immediate Past President and current Vice-President for her continued input and guidance to the Division. Thank you to Karen Richardson as our executive officer for her time and interest in all things veterinary and thank you to all members on the Executive for giving of their time freely.

*Dr Kathy Moylan
President*



On the veterinary front we have supported:

- the new Animal Emergency Centre (assisting with the welfare of patients and practitioners alike and having now completed a full year) which was opened with much publicity by Sir William Deane
- an easy to read Yellow Pages practitioner block advertisement;
- a locum register
- the veterinary nurses in the formation of their ACT Division.

In changes to registration, an Act for other Health Boards with regulations was promulgated. The expectation is that the VSB will be incorporated into

a u s t r a l i a n c a p i t a l t e r r i t o r y

the new Act allowing access to the Health Complaints Tribunal with tighter regulation of competency and compulsory Continuing Professional Development.

There has been dialogue with members of the Physiotherapy, and Chiropractors and Osteopaths Boards to clarify acts of Veterinary Science.

In our community, we have liaised with;

- RSPCA, their clinic, and the one or two colleagues employed
- NSW Division in the delivery of PetPEP
- the local pound in their open day
- Government on two proposals, one for 'dog prohibited' and 'dog exercise' areas (in an attempt to counter apparent 'faecal scare tactics') and the other for a possible cat ban in new suburbs by turning it into a positive position of a cat confinement policy.

Local Meetings have included:

- practice management with Caroline Jevring
- surgical oncology with Charles Kuntz
- the live export industry with Mike Bond
- the future of veterinary practice with Jo Sillince
- pet population trends with Chris Baldock
- and, of course, all the pomp, pageantry and professional proceedings incumbent upon hosting the Annual Conference - 'The Art Of Veterinary Science' - the LAC being chaired by Claire Sharpe, at 23, perhaps the youngest ever.

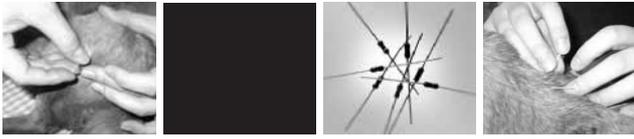
Richard Chapman and Dick Roe were honoured with MSOs. Dick's was tempered soon after by the loss of his darling wife after a long battle with cancer.

The enthusiastic Committee has met monthly under the presidency of Isabelle Resch with brilliant office support of Leanne Butler, Kevin Doyle and Mike Bond.

Dr John Aspley Davis



special interest groups



acupuncture

2004 saw the first full-year for the Australian Veterinary Acupuncturists Association (AVAA) under the energetic Presidency of Dr Barbara Fougere. Priority has been given to the development of a Strategic Plan to deal with –

- Provision and monitoring of continuing education of IVAS trained members
- Promotion of veterinary acupuncture to the mainstream profession and the public at large
- The issue of non-veterinarians practicing acupuncture on animals
- Improving communication between members and between the committee and the membership
- Revenue raising

The year also saw the completion of our fourth veterinary acupuncture training course. Under the umbrella of the International Veterinary Acupuncture Association (IVAS), over 50 veterinarians from Australia, Singapore and Hong

Kong completed the course. While continuing to teach the principles of Chinese Medical Philosophy, there was increased emphasis on the neurophysiological basis of acupuncture. The latest research was presented by noted American veterinary acupuncturists Dr Allen Schoen and Dr Kerry Ridgeway. This year's class brings to over 200 the number of veterinarians trained in acupuncture in this country.

Thank you to Dr Chris Robinson for his tirelessness and good nature as co-ordinator of the IVAS course.

In response to interest shown after the visits of Dr Steve Marsden and Dr Susan Wynne for the Holistic and Acupuncture sessions at the AVA conference over the last two years, Chris has also been doing preliminary research into the association providing a course in Chinese Herbalism. Our aim is to run a course open to IVAS graduates in 2006.

The AVAA will be hosting Dr Allen Schoen at the AVA conference at the Gold Coast in 2005. As well as presenting up-to-date information on veterinary acupuncture, he will be lecturing and providing workshops on his pet subject of 'Mind and Body' and dealing with the emotional stresses of being a veterinarian.

Thank you to Carl Muller for continuing to produce our excellent newsletter. Well written case studies have been presented as well as material on the latest scientific research.

*Dr Alan Sultan
Secretary*



behaviour

The Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG) was formally established less than a year ago at last year's AVA conference in Canberra. AVBIG has been very active since its inception.

We have produced two newsletters for our members, contributed to AVA eLine newsletter with helpful hints about suitable medication for animals with thunderstorm fears and phobias as well as being actively involved in the Policy Council process, especially providing opinion on the dangerous dog issue.

We have run several further education courses together with the Delta Society Australia. These focused on how to deal with anxiety and aggression in dogs. These seminars will continue in 2005. Together with AVPMA in 2005 we will be presenting up-to-date information for veterinarians around Australia on the importance of understanding animal behaviour to a

successful veterinary practice.

At the forthcoming 2005 AVA conference we have secured eight of the biggest names in animal behaviour from around the globe to present at our three day inaugural meeting.

Overall 2004 was a dynamic start for AVBIG. In 2005 we intend to continue to focus on providing up-to-date information for the veterinary profession in animal behaviour.

*Dr Kersti Seksel
President*



cattle

2004 was a busy year for the Cattle Special Interest Group. The executive took the incentive to be the first SIG to comply with the AVA Board's wishes that the term "association" be dropped from its titles and henceforth will be known as the Australian Cattle Vets (ACV or more preferably Cattle Vets for short). This term is widely accepted by members as they feel it better describes their function to industry.

ADVANCING VETERINARY SCIENCE

The ACV has continued to provide a voice for cattle veterinarians to industry and the public through its strategic industry alliances and media activities. ACV has been active in the areas of live animal export, welfare of show cattle, the AVPMA review of virginiamycin, implementation of the recommendations of the Review into Rural Veterinary Services (The Frawley Report) including the development of the Rural Veterinary Reserve and continuing education for cattle veterinarians. Preliminary work has also begun on ways in which the ACV can play a role in supporting the large animal veterinary and livestock industries of developing countries.

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP

The Cattle Vets membership increased over 2004, with a significant increase in the number of student and newer graduate members. In 2004, ACV was extremely active with a revamp of its popular and well known pregnancy diagnosis scheme. The activity included ultrasound accreditation, the launch of the revised publication and scheme with NCPD specific overall and hat badges; and a push for promotion of the scheme to industry. Unfortunately a Comfund application to further this was unsuccessful and because of this, we will have to rely on members to promote the scheme locally rather than through the planned national approach through livestock agents and sale yards.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ACV ran a student function at each of the four universities in 2004. These were extremely well attended by the students and for many the highlight of their Bovine year. In some instances we combined with other AVA groups (WA with the Division and NSW with the sheep SIG). ACV in 2005 allocated money to each of the universities for a special cattle teaching activity. WA used the funds to bring Dr Kev Sullivan to WA to speak to students, Qld for a reproduction weekend, and NSW to assist with a cattle elective.

ONGOING EDUCATION

CANBERRA CONFERENCE

ACV ran a five day program at Canberra with the theme concentrating on issues identified by the Frawley report regarding rural veterinary practice. The group attended a field trip on the Friday and visited a local property as well as the national headquarters of the Animal Health groups.

ACV CONFERENCE IN TASMANIA

Grindwald resort outside Tasmania was the venue for the ACV standalone conference in 2004. The theme was nutrition in a pasture based environment. The keynote speaker took a sustainability approach which was controversial and promoted much discussion among attendees. The social interaction and fellowship of attendees was superb.

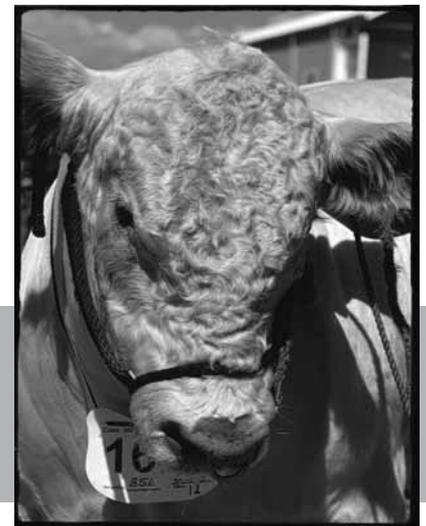
WORKSHOPS

2004 saw the computer program for standardised bull fertility reporting used widely. Despite some teething problems, the system is up and running in many cattle practices now and in the 2005 year the system will make bull fertility reports through Australia more user friendly to producers. We ran two workshops in Goondiwindi (with UQ) and these were oversubscribed.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2004 the executive and NCPD committee undertook a revision of the Pregnancy Diagnosis in cattle book. This task was completed for October Launch. The Quarterly "Australian Cattle Veterinarian" continues to be a quality source of information for members.

Dr Jamie McNeil
President





conservation biologists

The aims of the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB) are:

- To provide a forum for those veterinarians involved in any aspect of conservation biology, in order to enhance the contribution of veterinary science in the field of wildlife studies and resource management, and animal welfare.
- To encourage research and development of veterinary conservation biology.
- To promote co-operation between veterinarians, other biologists, administrators, researchers and research and teaching institutions.
- To provide continuing education programs for veterinarians and others involved in conservation biology.

This year continues a transition period for the AAVCB. Rupert Woods has passed on

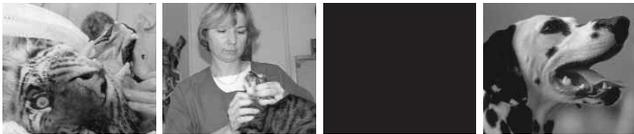
running of the group to Rosie Booth, one of Australia's most experienced wildlife veterinarians and a leader in veterinary conservation biology in Queensland.

The group continues with its very successful conference program with an extremely successful program in Canberra this year (the shark dive was a highlight). The conference proceedings are now being catalogued by the Australian Wildlife Health Network and will form an important part of a grey literature database on publications involving animal health in Australia.

The AAVCB has also been involved in assisting Policy Council with the development of policies on native animals as pets and recreational fishing, both of which have now been endorsed by Policy Council and contribute to our position on these issues.

With the election of Rosemary Booth the AAVCB enters a new phase in its development. We live in a world where conservation biology outcomes are largely driven by policy, politics and legislation. Without the AAVCB, veterinarians will have no direct ability to make and influence policy with the AVA, and through the AVA the National Veterinarian, and Canberra. We need to encourage cohesion and a united front on the conservation issues that face us: united we stand, divided we fall.

*Dr Rupert Woods
Past President*



dental

The Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) executive has been canvassing members in an attempt to try to find ways of increasing member benefits. Several suggestions are currently being acted upon as the executive has decided that the Society needs to provide these in order to attract more members to the AVDS as well as servicing our current members.

Student membership is actively encouraged and executive members are directly involved in undergraduate education in veterinary dentistry.

Once again, Pet Dental Health Month (PDHM) has been a huge success. The effort some practices put into their displays is outstanding.

The tireless work of Tony Caiafa in his capacity as PDHM coordinator pays huge dividends for all members as well as to the profession as a whole. I have noticed several large practices "tagging along" with PDHM for the publicity and increased exposure without becoming members

of the AVDS. This is always going to happen but it is disappointing for those who pay their subs every year.

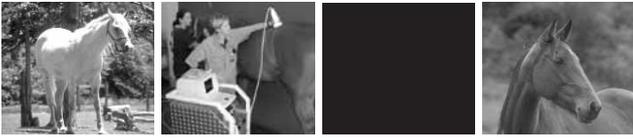
Aaron Forsayeth, the Conference Coordinator for the AVDS, is well into the planning for the AVA Conference on the Gold Coast. The AVDS is again having a full lecture stream as well as one of our famous wet-workshops. Aaron is also the newsletter editor and, as with his predecessors, works hard for no reward in getting the newsletter to press on time and with current, up-to-date articles.

Remember, keep flipping those lips and make your practice grow!

*Dr Gary Wilson
President*

conservation
biologists

dental



e q u i n e

The Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA) had a challenging and very rewarding year in 2004.

The equine group has continued to represent members on many issues that impact veterinarians practicing in the Australian horse industry. The AEVA has liaised with key stakeholders on issues including the rules of racing, licensing of veterinarians, EIA in Queensland, Hendra Virus, studbook, microchipping and equine dentistry. This included addressing several very sensitive ethical issues.

Another very successful Bain Fallon conference was held at the MGM Grand Casino in Darwin, Northern Territory, with over 200 delegates attending. The conference featured a program theme of 'Equine Reproduction and Soft Tissue Infection' and several memorable social occasions, including the Nature Vet BBQ and a spectacular Bain Fallon Dinner set on the lawns of the casino in the midst of a Northern Territory sunset and followed by a sky of stars.

The AEVA also hosted another very successful Farriers Conference in Scone in April 2004 and would like to once again thank Lionel Richards and Bill Howey, along with all the other members based in Scone that assisted in the organising of what was a well attended and well received event.

The AEVA also presented an excellent equine program at the annual AVA conference in Canberra and would like to thank Dr Nick Kannegieter, the AEVA Education Convener for putting together a comprehensive series of lectures, which proved very popular with delegates.

As part of the AEVA's reassessment of the group and its service to members, we undertook an effective membership survey that has given the executive an insight into members' issues. The AEVA would like to thank Warwick Vale and Jenny Docherty for their work on this project.

The AEVA also liaised with the AVA in the drafting of the AVA constitutional changes and development of the SIG and Divisional rules. We look forward to working more closely with AVA National.

Financially, the AEVA is in a strong position, with a healthy surplus for the year that will be directed back into additional member benefits in 2005.

I would like to thank sub-committee chairs in Jonathan Lumsden in Stakeholder; Warwick Vale in Membership and Finance; and James Gilkerson in Education. These people have done most of the work for the AEVA and we are indebted to them for their efforts and success.

Finally, the AEVA would like to extend a special thanks to Dr Bill Howey, who has recently resigned as Executive Officer. Bill's most important achievement as our first EO was to direct change within the organisation. He has done that very successfully by assisting us to develop our strategic plan and helping us put that plan into action.

Dr Ken Jacobs
President



e q u i n e

Photo by Caitlyn Feldman



Photo courtesy of WSPA



Photo courtesy of Camden Vet School



Photo by Mark Thornley



Photo by Mark Thornley

Photo by Mark Thornley



Photo courtesy of the Australian Antarctic Division



Photo courtesy of Prospect Road Veterinary Hospital



Photo by Mark Thornley



Photo by Jenny Palmer



embryo transfer

2004 was a busy year for the Australian Embryo Transfer Society (AETS). Discussion continues on the AVA Board's wishes that the term "society" be dropped from its title.

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the AETS increased slightly in 2004, mainly due to the increase in younger memberships.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The group offered assistance for four interested students to attend the conference in Dubbo. It was a most rewarding experience for members and students alike.

ONGOING EDUCATION

AETS ran their fourth annual standalone conference program in Dubbo in 2004. We were fortunate to have Gareth Evans and his team from Sydney University address members. The highlight of the program was a behind the scenes look at the Dubbo Zoo. The social program came a close second in the popularity stakes with dinners at a winery and the zoo and a casual welcome meal. The conference was again a resounding success and a forum for the national industry to discuss common interests.

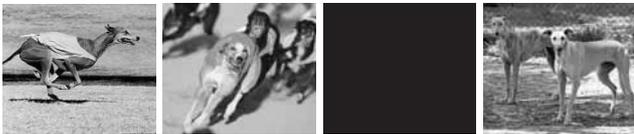
PUBLICATIONS

The AETS newsletter is sent to all members and provides a link for them in their activities which see many kilometres travelled annually.

This year AETS took the lead and produced an electronic proceedings of the conference. This CD took the format of PowerPoints with a voice over and has been well received by the membership.

Dr Greg McCann

Immediate Past President



greyhounds

The Canberra conference was arguably the best the SIG has had for years. So successful that the venue had to be moved to a larger room to accommodate interested delegates from other SIGs. Texan visitors were Richard and Sharyn Conole, pioneers in the development of expanders for frozen semen. Friends from New Zealand were also present.

A fascinating video on transcervical insemination by John Newell demonstrated an alternative to surgical insemination of frozen semen. Des Fegan was welcomed back from the UK. He now writes a most informative column in the National Greyhound Form, well worth reading!

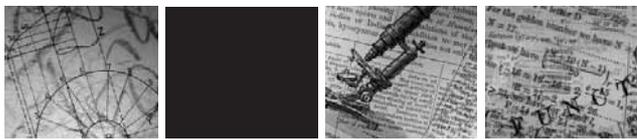
The OTV pilot survey was presented at the AGM and gives valuable guidelines for veterinarians officiating at racetracks.

Advice from the SIG was sought from veterinarians in Macau and Vietnam which confirms our position at the forefront of

greyhound medicine and surgery.

Sadly, the SIG's efforts to expand that knowledge into the veterinary course have met with a lukewarm response. Rather than spread our resources too thinly the decision has been made to concentrate on Hobart in 2006, so till then.

Dr John W. Murray
President



history

At the AVA conference in Canberra in May 2004, the Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS) convened a day of interesting papers on veterinary history, followed by an annual general meeting and a convivial dinner. Members also traveled to the industrial suburb of Fyshwick where, neglected and deteriorating, three assets of the AVA have languished in cheap but unsuitable storage. These are:

- AVA Max Henry Memorial Library
- AVA Veterinary Historical Collection
- Archives of the AVA.

The members of the AVA Board have responsibilities as custodians to preserve and augment these valuable assets of the AVA. This society has prodded the current Board to rectify the actions of previous Boards, with prospects of successful outcomes.

With the continuing help of the AVA CEO, Ms Margaret Conley, negotiations have advanced to have the Library transferred on extended loan to

the Melbourne University Library. Ms Conley has set aside a room for the Historical Collection in the new AVA premises in St Leonards, where the archives will also be housed. We look forward to an outcome where these irreplaceable parts of our heritage can be appreciated and will be safeguarded for all AVA members.

Three issues of the Australian Veterinary History Record were published this year. A project with the Badham Library of the University of Sydney to reformat all 41 published issues of the Record as searchable, archived digital files is underway. The outcome will be to preserve the AVHRecord and to make its contents more accessible via the AVHS web page <www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/avhs> to all AVA members and beyond to those interested in Australian veterinary history. As future issues of the AVHRecord are now prepared as digital files for publication, they will be added to this archive.

The society will meet next at the AVA National

Conference on the Gold Coast on Monday 16 May 2005. A day's programme is being arranged, followed by the annual general meeting and a dinner. For this meeting, we have invited five speakers to address different aspects of a theme – Lessons from History. These are the practice of veterinary science, veterinary research, the control of animal diseases, veterinary education, and animal welfare. AVA members who have visited the US Archives building in Washington DC have read an epigram of the Spanish-American philosopher, George Santayana, chiselled over the main entrance: *Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.* Santayana described this as the condition of "children and barbarians, in which instinct has learned nothing from experience". To ensure that this is not the condition of AVA members is the goal of the AVHS.

*Dr Trevor Faragher
President*



holistic

The year for the Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians (AAHV) has been quite a dynamic one. Membership has risen by around 15% and there have been some very interesting and provocative discussions on some key issues, most notably the AVA small animal vaccination policy.

The main focus for the group has been the collection of data regarding titre results and adverse reactions with regard to standard manufacturers recommendation vaccination protocols.

Members have been very busy liaising on this topic with the main aim being to increase veterinary and public awareness as to the efficacy and physiology of vaccination and thus take steps to further the objective science in the matter.

Two members were present at the AVA policy council meeting in 2004 and the result was the

redrafting of the previous policy into one that could generally be viewed as more scientifically justifiable based on current evidence.

The AAHV is committed to furthering the knowledge base and science behind this issue.

The AAHV has also discussed a myriad of other topics among these the lay therapists issue. We maintain that veterinarians are the people best qualified to treat animals.

Most people in society look for holistic therapies for both themselves and their animals and who better than vets that are both trained and skilled in these therapies to treat these animals rather than a lay therapist without a sound knowledge base.

We are not against the lay therapist working on animals so long as they are suitably trained for the task at hand, competent and professional in their conduct as well as willing to liaise with the vet who we see as the first person that should

be consulted by the public when initiating the treatment process.

As a flow on from this, the AAHV is seeking to educate the public through local media and internet forums as to the existence of vets and the locations of practices that offer these services.

Progress for the AAHV continues to be made along these lines. As a whole we wish to embrace science and keep evolving the medicine we practice to thus make us better clinicians.

Again in this regard and others, I feel it has been quite a fruitful and dynamic year for the AAHV.

*Dr Mark Curtis
President*



industry

The Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI) has enjoyed another successful year in 2004. We are in a strong financial position and our membership has remained constant with over 120 members.

Following a successful annual conference in Canberra, planning is well advanced for the AVI sessions at the upcoming AVA Annual Conference at the Gold Coast.

We have scheduled at least three joint sessions with other Special Interest Groups for this meeting, as we have found joint sessions to be very successful at previous conferences.

A first for the AVI will be a joint session with the newly created Unusual and Exotic Pets SIG in which we plan to present and discuss issues related to the off-label use of veterinary vaccines and pharmaceuticals in a minor species kept as pets. We hope to present issues from both the practising veterinarian and industry veterinarian point of view and perhaps from an APVMA compliance perspective as well.

AVI has been active over the past year in government liaison, particularly with the APVMA, the regulator of veterinary medicines in Australia. AVI is represented on the APVMA's Industry Technical Committee and several of its working groups. AVI also sits on the AVA's Therapeutics Advisory Committee.

AVI has been represented by Dr David Homer at each of the three student networking events organised by the AVA for Year 5 vet students at Sydney University providing insight into a career in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry for the senior students who have enjoyed these events. We look forward to a continued involvement with these functions in 2005.

In 2004 the AVI executive committee decided to commission a salary survey of our membership to provide our group with benchmarks for salaries in a range of different job descriptions within veterinary pharmaceutical and nutritional industries. The survey is planned for early 2005

and will be conducted on-line by the AVA. AVI is grateful for the assistance provided by Jennifer Docherty in the development of this survey.

The AVI executive has met regularly every 6 weeks at AVA House in Artarmon with our interstate committee members participating by teleconference. Three issues of our newsletter AVI News have been published and distributed electronically to our membership during the year. AVI has continued to be a very social SIG with regular dinner functions being held throughout the year in Sydney, where the majority of our members are located. Functions were also held in conjunction with the Canberra AVA annual conference in May and for our Melbourne members in October. These social events provide an important networking function for our members.

Dr Ruth Davis
President



pigs

In 2004, the Australian Association of Pig Veterinarians (AAPV) had a "changing of the guard", as the executive's responsibilities moved from the West to the Eastern states. For the first time, the AAPV executive has consisted of members from three states - New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. The executive "meets" on a monthly basis via teleconferencing, as well as face-to-face at our AGM. Executive members are: Dr Tony Fahy (Secretary), Dr Ross Cutler (Treasurer), Dr Bill Hall and Dr Graeme Eamens. Probably the most important issue that AAPV has been involved with in 2004 was development of a revised policy for Sow Housing. This revision was timely, in light of current activities by Animal Liberationists and the re-write of the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs.

AAPV has also had direct input on welfare issues with industry via Trish Holyoake's membership on Australian Pork Ltd's "Animal Welfare Advisory Committee". Special credit should go to Dr Tony

Fahy for his representation at AVA Policy Council and on the Model Code Writing Group. Tony has also represented AAPV on the development of the AVA's "Prescribing and Dispensing Guidelines".

Our membership is growing - at last count we were at 144 members, up from just over 100 at the start of the year. This is a great achievement, given the tough road that pig producers have had during the past few years. AAPV has been represented at veterinary student networking events at the University of Sydney organised by AVA National.

Finally, AAPV has been busy providing opportunities for continuing education for its members. The 4 day AAPV conference held in Canberra was a success, judging by our ability to get "derrières on seats" in our sessions. We were also able to team up with the "Vets in Industry" and "Public Health" to achieve synergy and discuss the broader industry/professional perspectives.

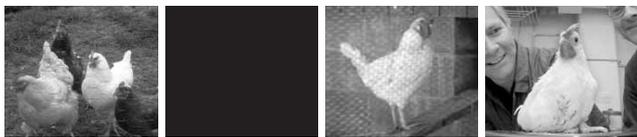
Our monthly "What's your diagnosis?" quiz, where

an AAPV member donates a clinical scenario and sets relevant questions, has had a good response, with participants receiving 1 credit point towards AVA Continuing Education.

AAPV has also been co-sponsor with Australian Pork Ltd, University of Sydney, Melbourne University, Murdoch University and the University of Queensland to develop resources for a National "Pig Health and Production" course in Australia.

Course coordinators from all participating veterinary schools have donated their time and pooled resources to develop an excellent set of materials to support defined learning outcomes for our veterinary students. These materials will soon be posted on the AVA website to provide revision for graduate veterinarians. Trish Holyoake will also be promoting this initiative next year as an invitee to the US Swine Educator's course to be held in Indiana next May.

Dr Trish Holyoake
President



p o u l t r y

The Australian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA) aims to represent the interests of its members who include not only Veterinarians but specialist scientists working in poultry research, service providers and those from the various regulatory bodies and government departments.

The occurrence of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza over the past year in Asia has brought attention to the poultry industry. We are fortunate in this country to not only have a disciplined and professional industry but some of the leading international avian research centres. This is further complemented by the recent establishment of the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). The CRC will guarantee that Australian poultry research will maintain its international high standing. Importantly this not only involved the classical areas of health but also welfare, environment, food safety and education and training.

The future role for the commercial poultry veterinarian is changing with much less emphasis

on traditional veterinary practice and much more on the expanding needs related to best management practices, welfare, quality assurance and food safety.

The AVPA has a number of subcommittees including welfare, therapeutics and importation. These subcommittees have been particularly busy with the need for the various members to provide technical information to many sections of the community and government.

Every year the AVPA has two conferences. In April 2004 the 5th Asia Pacific Poultry Health conference was held in Queensland and the other in Melbourne in October. Conferences are invariably well attended and supported by numerous sponsors who assist to keep the cost of the conferences low allowing a wide spectrum of membership participation. The quality of the papers and presentations is of a very high standard and often exceeds that of the larger international conferences.

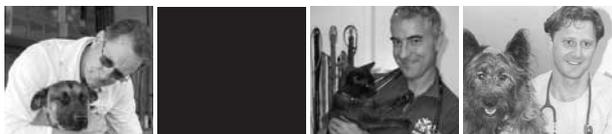
In addition to the conferences the AVPA

maintains its own website and publishes its newsletter, *Dander*, 4 times a year. This allows our members to be kept informed of key matters affecting the industry and items of interest involving individual members.

While the actual numbers of practising poultry field veterinarians is decreasing, the AVPA membership continues to grow through the involvement of those in scientific research or simply those non-veterinarian members who serve an integral role in the industry supplemented with their passion for the uniqueness of the poultry industry and the challenges it provides.

The success of a Special Interest Group is dependent on the efforts of its executive in these times of a few doing a lot. I thank the AVPA executive, subcommittees, the editor of *Dander* and the organisers of the scientific programs for their input in 2004.

Dr Peter C. Scott
President



p r a c t i c e m a n a g e r s

The Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association (AVPMA) aims to enhance quality of life in Australian Veterinary Practices by enabling AVPMA members to develop personal skills in veterinary practice management and by providing resources and networks that enhance veterinary practice management through knowledge sharing and knowledge creation and through the fostering of relationships and personal support that comes from belonging to the association.

The 2004 conference continued the success of previous years with excellent attendance figures. Dr Jim Stowe struck a chord with the audience and entertained, as well as educated many in his own laid back style.

The AVA/Pfizer "Practice of Excellence in Customer Service Award" was once again coordinated by the AVPMA.

Winners of the 2004 Award are:

- Epping Veterinary Clinic, Epping
- Macarthur Veterinary Group, Camden
- Timboon Veterinary Group, Timboon
- Greenhills Veterinary Hospital, Greenhills East Maitland

- Family Vet Centre, Albury
- Northern Suburbs Veterinary Hospitals, Greensborough

The February summer seminar series with Caroline Jevring was a great success. The level of support shown by the profession and Novartis will ensure that the summer series becomes a regular feature of our continuing education calendar.

The AVPMA has successfully launched the Certificate IV in Practice Management, delivered by UNEP, the training arm of the University of New England. This is the first step in providing a career path for those people involved in veterinary practice management at any level.

The AVPMA website was launched in May 2004 and provides public information in addition to member's only resources. Interest levels have been high, with members accessing information on legal compliance, financial management and human resources. Development of the site will be ongoing with new resources added regularly. "Practice Management Matters" is the AVPMA's quarterly newsletter, which is put together by Dr

Sue Halloran. This year due to the support of Boehringer Ingelheim and Metacam® the newsletter was reformatted into a twelve page publication, allowing for a significant increase in content.

The AVPMA is once again indebted to those companies that have continued to support its initiatives throughout the year:

- Hills as principal supporter for the AVPMA National Conference stream
- Novartis as supporter for the Summer seminar series
- Boehringer Ingelheim as supporter of "Practice Management Matters" our Newsletter
- Vets Own as supporter of our weekly practice management tip
- Idexx for communication support

2004 was once again a busy year for the AVPMA and this will continue in 2005. I would like to thank office staff, Mark Stallwood and Megan Livingston for their hard work.

Dr John Odium
President



public health

The focus of Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH) is to bring together and educate Australian veterinarians with an interest in public health and related issues.

Because of the diverse nature of the work most members are engaged in, their interests are equally diverse, and cover public health issues ranging from the "traditional" zoonoses such as worms and parasites, to more recent concerns such as BSE, SARS and Avian Influenza. With the ongoing international interest in the transference of antimicrobial resistant organisms from animals to people our group has directed a lot of attention to this issue in an attempt to challenge the profession as a whole to consider their responsibility to use antibiotics in as prudent a manner as possible.

Our activities in 2004 were focused at the Annual Conference in Canberra where we ran a typically varied program. Because of the very

widespread nature of our constituents this is our main activity. At the same time we try to engage with other SIGs, as they present at the Conference, to allow effective cross-pollination of ideas to the wider profession.

We combined with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association to present three very interesting sessions on livestock production in the Pacific with an emphasis on PNG and dolphin harvesting in the Solomon Islands. Further co-operative sessions with the Sheep and Pig groups focussed on antibiotic use issues, and our more general "public health" areas dealt with meat safety and export, raw milk and cheese safety, SARS and an extensive session with the Poultry group on trade issues and Avian Influenza – an ongoing concern.

Our group is pleased with the proposal that the AVA keeps a master file of (electronic) Conference Proceedings and will be making ours

available for this purpose. Proceedings for the last few years will be made available to the AVA in this way.

Part of our communication strategy is to use e-mail as a primary means of keeping in touch and this year we produced our first electronic newsletter. This is particularly useful for those working in government. We have engaged more with veterinarians working in government services as time goes by and expect to see this relationship develop further.

Dr Lee Cook
President



sheep

2004 was a busy year for the Sheep Special Interest Group. A significant factor was the changing of the groups name to comply with the AVA constitution - the group will now be known as the Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV) and the logo will incorporate the AVA logo.

The ASV has been actively involved in formulating a number of policies with the AVA over the past year.

The draft policy on sheep dentistry is currently out for comment. Members have been actively involved with issues surrounding mulesing and export of live sheep. Late in 2004 the ASV was asked to provide information regarding tranquillisation of rams for shearing. It is expected the ASV will be drafting a policy to put to the AVA on this issue.

Membership of the ASV has remained steady despite a significant down turn in the sheep industry over the past few years. The ASV has combined with the cattle SIG to host a wine and cheese evening at the University of Sydney and

has also participated in the informal lunchtime discussions hosted by the AVA at the University of Sydney.

The ASV ran a four day program at the Canberra conference of which the live export sessions were particularly well attended as was the field trip to review recent advances in feral animal control on a large sheep property.

At the annual sheep and cattle vets dinner during the annual conference, Caroline Bath was announced as the winner of the Hugh Gordon Scholarship for her work on internal parasite research.

ASV combined with the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney to run a week-long sheep medicine course in May 2004. Practical sessions were particularly well received by the 50 attendees, especially the younger participants, and there was more hands-on experience during the day trip to the University of Sydney property near Goulburn.

The ASVS newsletter changed format mid year. The AGM agreed to take advertising and we approached companies for advertising in the publication. This resulted in a "new look" publication which incorporates a new colour cover and the size of the newsletter has now grown to more than 32 pages.

The conference proceedings from the ASV section of the annual conference are a highly sought after reference for recent advances in sheep health and production and the Proceedings of the sheep medicine course held at Camden contains a wealth of current information and techniques indispensable to any veterinarian involved in sheep practice.

Dr David Hucker
President



small animals

OVERVIEW

The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA) represents the special interests of Australian small animal practitioners on a national basis, urban and country, free from regional bias. The association was formed in 1968 and today has over 1,000 members. The Association is dedicated to the advancement of veterinary science, continuing education for its members and the promotion of high quality companion animal practice.

CONFERENCES

It has been a great year for the ASAVA with a very successful ASAVA conference in Internal Medicine (with David Church and Jill Maddison) and a successful, well-attended stream at the AVA Conference in Canberra, where the topic was Gastroenterology. The speakers included Prof Grant Guildford, Dr Michael Matz, and Australia's own Dr Andrew Markevsky.

The feedback from the ASAVA Conference at Surfers Paradise was extraordinary. We thank all the attendees and look forward to seeing you at the 2005 conference in Coffs Harbour.

WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (WSAVA)

Committee member and Past President, Dr Di Sheehan, in conjunction with Drs Seksel, Clarke, Osborne, Walker and Maddison have been hard at work already as part of the WSAVA Organising Committee for Sydney 2007. Over 2000 delegates are expected, in what will be one of the biggest small animal conferences in Australia's history.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have remained steady for 2004. We hope that our initiatives of improved graduate workshops and mentor facilities, a "cutting edge" website where all ASAVA brochures, manuals and proceedings can be purchased online, and revamped member benefits will ensure numbers rise.

Committee members, Drs Debbie Osborne, Mat Retchford, Phillip Brain, Kersti Seksel, Bruce Parry, Gibb Macdonald, Di Sheehan and Simon Hobson, have all been extremely active this year.

Your President, Dr Debbie Osborne has been dedicated to Urban Animal Management and organising and overseeing the ASAVA. Publicity Officer, Kersti Seksel has been active in producing new brochures for the ASAVA, media work and WSAVA organising activities. ASAVA representative to the Veterinary Nurses, Phil Brain was instrumental in the overhaul of the Veterinary Nurses Course for the start of 2005.

ACCREDITED HOSPITAL COMMITTEE (AHC)

President Elect, Matt Retchford and the hospital inspectors have been working hard (in conjunction with all of the Accredited Hospital Committee) to see many more ASAVA Accredited Hospitals successful for 2004. Dr Retchford has been also looking at ways of streamlining the operation to improve efficiency.

AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION (ACAHF)

In 2004, the ASAVA has continued its support for research through the ACAHF, a fund which finances many important research projects at university level. The ASAVA donates office space and considerable administrative support to the Foundation acknowledging all donations received. This helps to keep the Foundation's costs to a minimum and allows virtually all money donated to be used for the benefit of companion animals via research grants.

AWARDS

We have also continued our focus on students and undergraduates with achievement awards for excellence in numerous fields and ASAVA representatives speaking at many 4th and 5th year functions.

POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

ASAVA have also continued our active role in policy initiatives and we continue to be a major force in determining policy directives in small animal matters. This year's topics include; vaccinations, S4 drug policy, animal harnesses and pet shops.

After more than 25 years in service, Jenny Wade retired from the Association in September this year. Jenny will be sadly missed and we wish her good luck for the future. Ms Chris Rolinson takes over the administrative role and comes with a wealth of experience in administration and conference organisation.

ASAVA also welcomes Dr Matthew Miles, in a newly created role as Executive Officer. Matthew has had 13 years small animal experience in Australia, Asia and Europe and has branched into many areas of veterinary science – primarily media and teaching.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our major sponsors – Macquarie Bank, Hills Pet Nutrition and Provet.

We look forward to 2005 with our main goals being:

1. to increase member numbers and benefits
2. to improve our media presence
3. to continue to provide excellence to our members with a non-city bias approach
4. provide an active and powerful lobbying and policy role.

Dr Debbie Osborne
President



unusual & exotic pets

2004 has been a fantastic year for the Unusual & Exotic Pet Special Interest Group with a large increase in our membership. Our membership currently stands at over 110 – and continues to grow, mainly via word-of-mouth from existing members.

Our email discussion list continues to be the main contact point for members with over 1,100 messages posted throughout 2004! I am continually amazed at the speed & depth of the responses provided – with many detailed replies within six hours of posting.

The 2004 AVA annual conference held in Canberra enabled our group to present a two day program in conjunction with the Avian veterinarians. Attendance was excellent with over 50 delegates at most sessions.

The highlight of the year was our inaugural conference held in Sydney in November. This was well attended with approximately 40

delegates experiencing a wealth of practical advice and discussion on topics such as pet fish medicine and surgery, common reptile diseases and rabbit nutrition and dental disease. The 2005 conference will most likely be held in Melbourne in November.

The quarterly newsletter continues to grow in size & scope with articles on current topics in exotic pet medicine & surgery together with news on upcoming seminars and order forms for ExoticDVM publications.

In 2005 we aim to become more active in the area of policies applicable to unusual & exotic pets, develop closer education ties with the pet industry, continue to grow our membership (with an attractive package to target student members) and provide an increasing amount of continuing education opportunities for our members.

Our close association with ExoticDVM

magazine & the Veterinary Information Network (VIN) enables us to access a wealth of educational resources. Many members have taken the opportunity to avail themselves of discounted ExoticDVM publications in 2004.

Interest in unusual & exotic animals as pets continues to grow rapidly. An increasing number of clients seek advice from veterinarians for the care & treatment of these animals.

We thank all those who have joined our active group and encourage all practitioners to join the most vibrant and relevant SIG of the AVA! We hope to see many of you at our 2005 annual conference in Melbourne in November or at the Gold Coast in June.

*Dr Brendan Carmel
President*



welfare & ethics

A primary aim for the Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE) Special Interest Group is to act as the principal forum for the scientific debate on matters pertaining to animal welfare and ethics, and as such the 2004 AVAWE three day program within the AVA Conference again had some extremely interesting topics.

Joint sessions with the sheep veterinarians concerning the live sheep export trade, in the wake of the Cormo Express incident, provided a rounded and lively debate to a packed audience.

The second day involved the acute societal problem, the animal cruelty human abuse link. The topic proved an extremely interesting one with members of the profession filling the theatre. Speakers included researchers in the field, animal welfarists, a speaker relating the Canadian Veterinary experience in this field, and a Commonwealth Senator. The AVA and its members will undoubtedly have a role to play in this area in the future.

The third day saw AVAWE hold joint sessions with the Australian New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART). A diverse range of topics were discussed relevant to the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

Members were responsible for an Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching article relevant to the role of the veterinarian in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, and are contributing to a National Health and Medical Research Council document "Way's of Minimising Pain and Distress in Research Animals".

AVAWE welcomes the AVAs formation of an Animal Ethics Advisory Committee and members of the SIG have contributed significantly to its terms of reference and initial membership. AVAWE members gave animal welfare and ethics presentations to veterinary students at the University of Sydney and the

University of Queensland and these were very well received. The SIG also contributed to the AVA New Graduate Guide.

Through Steve Atkinson the SIG continues to have input to Policy Advisory Council and current issues in this regard are policy and guidelines on euthanasia and policy for the AVA on advanced breeding technologies.

Animal Welfare and Ethics has enjoyed a close interaction with New Zealand colleagues and received considerable input from them in the past and lobbied for reciprocal membership for them during 2004. Sadly for the SIG such reciprocity was not forthcoming.

2004 saw AVAWE with a presence on the AVA website and this will be of considerable benefit to AVAWE's activities in the future.

*Dr Simon Bain
President*

unusual & exotic pets
welfare & ethics

financials



directors' report

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2004.

DIRECTORS

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

Dr Norman Blackman	Dr David Lovell
Dr Matthew Makin (appointed August 04)	Dr Lyndy Scott
Dr Joanne Sillince	Dr Samantha McMahon (appointed May 04)
Dr Diane Sheehan	Dr Derek Major (appointed May 04)
Dr William Darmody	Dr Johanna Toia (retired May 04)
Dr Robert Rheinberger (retired May 04)	Dr Malcolm McLennan (retired May 04)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited during the financial year were to:

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

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

OPERATING RESULTS

The consolidated deficit for the year was \$42,293 (2003: consolidated surplus of \$324,693).

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

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

The Company comprises 8 Divisions, 23 SIGs and 42 Branches in addition to the AVA National Group. All groups operate within their own budgetary control but within financial operating guidelines promulgated by the Board. Being a not-for-profit entity, the Company does not seek to maximise profits but to provide member services compatible with income achievable. On the foregoing basis, it is expected that constituent groups will generate surpluses in some years (to be carried forward for future use) and losses in some years (representing the expenditure of past or future surpluses).

The SIGs recorded a surplus of \$234,553 the Divisions recorded a surplus of \$51,795 the Branches recorded a deficit of \$95,454, whilst the AVA National Group recorded a deficit of \$233,187.

MATTERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The following matters or circumstance have arisen since 31 December 2004 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations of the Company;
 - (b) the results of those operations; or
 - (c) the state of affairs of the Company in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2004.
- The sale of the Artarmon property was settled on 27 January 2005 and all proceeds from the sale have been received;
 - The Company has relocated its offices to 2a Herbert Street, St Leonards, under licence from the vendor of the property. The Association is paying rent on the property pending settlement of the purchase and completed the fitout of the property to its specifications.

DIRECTORS' BENEFITS

Since 31 December 2003 no director has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related corporation with the director or with a firm of which he/she is a member, or with an Association in which he/she has a substantial financial interest. However the President and Directors' who serve in an honorary capacity are entitled to receive an allowance for the expenses incurred in their capacity as the directors of the Company.

directors' report

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS

Director	Experience
NL Blackman , BVSc, Dip Tech (Biotech) FAICD	Director AVA since 1999, President-Elect 2003-2004, Treasurer 2001-2003, President ACT Div. 1994, AVA Member since 1978
JL Sillince , BVSc, MBA, FAICD	Director AVA since 1999, President 2003-2004, President Elect 2003-04, President NSW Div. 1994-95, AVA Member since 1983
M Makin , BVSc	Director AVA since 2004, President Elect 2004-05, President Victorian Division 2002-05, President EVA 2003-2004, AVA Member since 1998
D Sheehan , B.Sc, BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President ASAVA 2000-2002, President Qld Division 1994, AVA Member since 1984
D Lovell , BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AEVA 1999-2000, AVA Member since 1987
L Scott , BSc, BVMS, MBA, MACVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2002, President ACT Division 1997, AVA Member since 1981
W Darmody , BVMS (Hons), MACVS, FAICD,	Director AVA since 2003, President AACV 1995, President Vic Division 1994, AVA Member since 1977 AFAIM, MRCVS, Dip Ag. Sci.
S McMahan , BVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2004, President NT Division 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, AVA Member since 1999
D Major , BVSc	Director AVA since 2004, President AEVA 2000-2001, AVA Policy Councillor since 2002, AVA Member since 1979
J Toia , BVSc, DipEd, B.Ed.Stud.	Director AVA since 1998, Vice President 2003-2004, President 2002-2003, President Qld Div. 1997, AVA Member since 1993
M McLennan , BVSc, MSc, MVSc, MACVSc, GCEd	Director AVA since 2002, President Qld Division 2001-2002, AVA Member since 1964
RJ Rheinberger , BVSc	Director AVA since 2001, President AACV 1998, AVA Member since 1974

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

During the financial year, 13 meetings of directors were held. Attendances were:

	Directors' Meetings		Finance Committee Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
N.L. Blackman	13	13	6	5
W. Darmody	13	13	-	1
D. Lovell	13	11	-	1
D. Major	8	7	-	1
M. Makin	5	5	3	3
M. McLennan	5	5	-	1
S. McMahan	8	8	-	1
R. Rheinberger	5	4	-	-
L. Scott	13	13	-	2
D. Sheehan	13	11	6	6
J. Sillince	13	11	6	6
J. Toia	5	5	2	2

directors' report

INSURANCE FOR COMPANY OFFICERS

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

The insurance contracts prohibit disclosure of the nature of the liabilities insured by the contracts and the amount of the premiums.

INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The Company has, to the extent permitted by law, entered into agreements to indemnify its directors and officers for all losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of the Company or a related company. This includes losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of a company where such office is held for the benefit of the Company.

No claim has been made against or by the Company in relation to any such indemnities or insurance policies during the financial year ending 31 December 2004.

PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF COMPANY

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the financial year.

AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the Auditors' Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on page 56.

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



D Sheehan
Director and Honorary Treasurer



N Blackman
Director and President

Dated this 23rd Day of March 2005

statement of financial performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Note	2004	2003
		\$	\$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	6,607,649	6,497,970
Correction of Fundamental Error	4	88,429	-
Revenue from Non-operating activities	2	305,279	-
Total Revenue		<hr/> 7,001,357	6,497,970
Service expenses		(626,203)	(505,615)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(374,715)	(261,157)
Conferences and continuing education expenses		(1,663,316)	(1,651,624)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,476,743)	(1,137,376)
Occupancy expenses		(128,432)	(134,097)
Administration expenses		(2,187,285)	(2,085,437)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(423,034)	(397,970)
Correction of Fundamental Error	4	(163,922)	-
(Deficit)/Surplus from ordinary activities before income tax expense	3	<hr/> (42,293)	324,693
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(a)	<hr/> -	-
(Deficit)/Surplus from ordinary activities after income tax expense	13	(42,293)	324,693
Net (decrease) increase in asset revaluation reserve	12	<hr/> (10,546)	-
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		<hr/> (52,839)	324,693

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

statement of financial position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	1(i), 16	1,696,871	2,117,631
Receivables	5	307,453	312,898
Inventories		150,408	109,779
Other Assets	6	913,722	121,317
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>3,068,454</u>	<u>2,661,625</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	1(i), 7	2,194,494	2,105,258
Property and equipment	8	4,593,516	4,654,617
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>6,788,010</u>	<u>6,759,875</u>
Total Assets		<u>9,856,464</u>	<u>9,421,500</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	910,316	616,718
Other liabilities	10	896,030	664,000
Provisions	11	327,653	334,414
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>2,133,999</u>	<u>1,615,132</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	11	6,838	37,902
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		<u>6,838</u>	<u>37,902</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>2,140,837</u>	<u>1,653,034</u>
Net Assets		<u>7,715,627</u>	<u>7,768,466</u>
Retained surplus	13	4,294,855	4,337,148
Reserves	12	3,402,772	3,431,318
Total Members' Funds		<u>7,715,627</u>	<u>7,768,466</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from members' subscriptions		2,287,337	1,886,123
Receipts from AVA activities		5,278,400	4,535,992
Payments to suppliers and employees		(7,352,191)	(5,668,204)
Interest received		151,571	69,673
Net cash provided by operating activities	16	365,117	823,584
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for non-current assets – Investments		(100,264)	(660,000)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets – Investments		6,407	137,806
Payments for non-current assets – Property and equipment		(703,047)	(1,080,509)
Proceeds on sale of non-current assets – Property and equipment		-	1,476,211
Change in Accounting Policy	1(i)	11,028	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(785,877)	(126,492)
Net increase in cash held		(420,760)	587,695
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		2,117,631	1,529,936
Cash at the end of the financial year	16	1,696,871	2,117,631

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

notes to the financial statements

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Australian Veterinary Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

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

a) Income Tax

No income tax is payable by the Association as it has been advised on 30 October 1981 by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation that it is exempt from income tax under the terms of section 23(e) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*.

b) Inventories

Inventories comprise primarily forms and membership insignia which have been included in the accounts at cost on a first in first out basis. All inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction. It is the policy of the Australian Veterinary Association to have an independent valuation every three years, with annual appraisals being made by the directors.

The buildings, which are component of the total valuation of each property, are isolated from the land component and depreciated over expected life of 40 years, consistent with AASB 1021 - Depreciation.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

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

Depreciation

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

The depreciation rates used for each class of assets are:

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

d) Investments

Investments are valued at yearly intervals at the current market rate. Revaluation increments (decrements) are credited (debited) directly to the statement of financial performance. Investment in Australian Listed Shares is disclosed at the market value as at 31 December 2003.

notes to the financial statements

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

e) Employee Benefits

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

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

f) Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than two months and net of bank overdrafts.

g) Revenue

Membership subscriptions are brought to account as income at the time they are received except that where members' subscriptions are received in respect of a future financial period, the income is deferred and subsequently recognised in that future period.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

i) Change in Accounting Policy

The Australian Veterinary Association changed its accounting policy in the financial year ending 31 December 2004 relating to:

- Depreciation on buildings in order to comply with Accounting Standard AASB 1021 - Depreciation. The financial effect of this change has been to recognise \$54,599 as expense for depreciation on operating buildings.
- Investment funds held as 'direct cash' has been transferred to Current Assets - Cash Assets from Non-Current Assets - Investments. The cash involved in 2003 and 2004 respectively is \$77,969 and \$11,028.

j) Adoption of Australian Equivalents to international Financial reporting Standards

Australian is currently preparing for the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) effective for financial years commencing 1 January 2005. This requires the production of accounting data for future comparative purposes at the beginning of the next financial year.

The Australian Veterinary Association's management, along with its auditors, are assessing the significance of these changes and preparing for their implementation. The directors are of the opinion that there are no key differences in the Australian Veterinary Association's accounting policies, which will arise from the adoption of IFRS. Support for the view is offered under the following headings:

- Research and Development Expenditure – the Australian Veterinary Association does not undertake Research and Development in its own right. The limit of involvement in research is the making of grants to institutions to assist them to undertake research.
- Impairment of Assets – the entity currently determines the recoverable amount on the basis of historic cost, or valuation of properties against results being achieved in the market place for comparative properties. These valuations are validated by independent valuations every 3 years.
- Non-current investments – current policy is to classify financial instruments as available for sale instruments and to carry them at fair value. Unrealised Gains and losses to are recognised either as income or directly to equity.
- Income Tax – the entity is tax exempt as a "scientific institution", see note 1(a).

k) Revaluation of Non-Current Assets

Land and buildings are revalued at three yearly intervals. Independent assessments are obtained from registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use and such assessments are used as a guide when revaluations are made. Revaluation increments (decrements) are credited (debited) directly to the statement of financial performance. In the event of a disposal of an asset which has been revalued, the revaluation in respect of that asset is transferred from the historic revaluation reserve to Members' Funds. Investment in Managed Funds is disclosed at the year-end market values.

notes to the financial statements

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
2. Revenue from ordinary activities		
Operating activities		
Subscriptions	1,999,007	1,886,123
Interest	151,571	69,673
Affinity commissions	945,633	935,048
Other revenue (incl. Conferences and publications)	3,599,867	3,607,126
	<hr/> 6,696,078	<hr/> 6,497,970
Non-Operating activities		
Proceeds from the disposal of Investments	305,279	-
Total Revenue	<hr/> 7,001,357	<hr/> 6,497,970
3. Surplus from ordinary activities		
Surplus from ordinary activities has been determined after:		
Revenue		
Net gain on disposal of investments	93,572	-
Unrealised gain on Managed Funds and Listed Shares	28,584	53,650
Expenses		
Depreciation of equipment	162,673	99,681
Provision for employee entitlements	4,153	31,762
Unrealised loss on Managed Funds and Listed Shares	-	8,900
Realised loss on Managed Funds	-	38,819

notes to the financial statements

4. Fundamental Error in Revenue and Expenses

Revenue from ordinary activities for the year ended 31 December 2003 excludes \$88,429 of revenue which was incorrectly eliminated from cash. These errors had the effect of understating cash assets and understating revenue by \$88,429 and understating expenses by \$163,922 resulting in surplus from ordinary activities before income tax expense being overstated by \$75,493. Restated financial information for 2004 and 2003 is presented below as if the error had not been made.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 (RESTATED FOR FUNDAMENTAL ERROR)

	Note	2004 \$ restated	2003 \$ restated
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	6,912,928	6,586,399
Service expenses		(626,203)	(505,615)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(374,715)	(261,157)
Conferences and continuing education expenses		(1,663,316)	(1,651,624)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,476,743)	(1,301,298)
Occupancy expenses		(128,432)	(134,097)
Administration expenses		(2,187,285)	(2,085,437)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(423,034)	(397,970)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus from ordinary activities before income tax expense		33,200	249,201
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(a)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus from ordinary activities after income tax expense		33,200	249,201
Net increases (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners	14	33,200	249,201
		<hr/>	<hr/>

notes to the financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

(RESTATED FOR FUNDAMENTAL ERROR)

4. Fundamental Error in Revenue and Expenses cont.

Current Assets

Cash Assets	1(i), 16	1,696,871	2,206,060
Receivables	5	307,453	312,898
Inventories		150,408	109,779
Other Assets	6	913,722	121,317
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>3,068,454</u>	<u>2,750,054</u>

Non-Current Assets

Investments	7	2,194,494	2,105,258
Property and equipment	8	4,593,516	4,654,617
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>6,788,010</u>	<u>6,759,875</u>

Total Assets

<u>9,853,464</u>	<u>9,509,929</u>
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Current Liabilities

Payables	9	910,316	780,640
Other liabilities	10	896,030	664,000
Provisions	11	327,653	334,414
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>2,133,999</u>	<u>1,779,054</u>

Non-Current Liabilities

Provisions	11	6,838	37,902
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		<u>6,838</u>	<u>37,902</u>

Total Liabilities

<u>2,140,837</u>	<u>1,816,956</u>
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Net Assets

<u>7,715,627</u>	<u>7,692,973</u>
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Retained surplus	13	4,294,855	4,337,148
Correction of Fundamental Error		-	(75,493)
Reserves	12	3,420,772	3,431,318

Total Members' Funds

<u>7,715,627</u>	<u>7,692,973</u>
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notes to the financial statements

5. Receivables

Current

Trade receivables	179,898	139,044
Provision for doubtful debts	(3,000)	(3,000)
Commissions receivable	83,820	117,325
Other receivables	46,735	59,529
	<u>307,453</u>	<u>312,898</u>

6. Other assets

Current

Prepayments	819,832	121,317
Other	93,890	-
	<u>913,722</u>	<u>121,317</u>

7. Investments

Non-Current

Managed funds	2,194,494	2,100,658
Listed shares	-	4,600
	<u>2,194,494</u>	<u>2,105,258</u>

8. Property, plant and equipment

Non-Current

Land and buildings		
Freehold land at:		
- Independent valuation December 2003	2,245,000	2,245,000
Buildings at:		
- Independent valuation December 2003	2,183,939	2,161,794
Less accumulated depreciation	(54,599)	
	<u>4,374,340</u>	<u>4,406,794</u>
Office furniture & equipment – at cost	1,181,168	1,122,769
Less accumulated depreciation	(961,992)	(874,946)
	<u>219,176</u>	<u>247,823</u>
Leasehold improvements – at cost	33,982	33,982
Less accumulated amortisation	(33,982)	(33,982)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total property and equipment	<u>4,593,516</u>	<u>4,654,617</u>

Independent valuations of all properties were carried out in December 2003 by registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use.

The names of the valuers in each State and Territory were:

NSW	Knight Frank Valuations (NSW)
QLD	Knight Frank Valuations (QLD)
SA	Knight Frank Valuations (SA)
VIC	Jones Lang LaSalle
WA	JJ Le-Fevre & Co

notes to the financial statements

8. Property, plant and equipment cont.

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Freehold Land	Buildings	Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	2,245,000	2,161,794	247,823	4,645,618
Additions	-	22,145	91,796	113,941
Disposals	-	-	(1,823)	(1,823)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	-	(10,546)	(10,546)
Depreciation expense	-	(54,599)	(108,074)	(162,673)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	2,245,000	2,129,340	219,177	4,593,517

(b) Capital Commitments

As at 31 December 2004, Australian Veterinary Association Ltd had committed to \$2,286,900 related to the acquisition of land and buildings \$2,500,000 related to the sale of land and buildings (Refer Note 14) and \$314,801.15 relate to the office fitout (See note 14).

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
9. Payables		
Current		
Sundry creditors	430,398	156,854
Funds held on trust		
AVA Animal Welfare Trust	47,192	46,733
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	206,351	196,501
Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation	226,375	216,630
	<u>910,316</u>	<u>616,718</u>
10. Other liabilities		
Current		
Income received in advance		
Membership subscriptions	896,030	598,195
Publications subscriptions	-	54,485
Annual conference income	-	11,320
	<u>896,030</u>	<u>664,000</u>

notes to the financial statements

		2004	2003
		\$	\$
11. Provisions			
Current			
Funds held:			
Comfund		34,301	66,367
Urban Animal Management		44,581	64,400
PetPEP		40,489	30,583
Other		5,756	5,756
Employee benefits		202,525	167,308
		<hr/> 327,653	<hr/> 334,414
Non-Current			
Employee benefits		6,838	37,902
		<hr/> 6,838	<hr/> 37,902
Total (Current and non-current)		<hr/> 334,491	<hr/> 372,316
Number of employees at year end	(Number)	37	38
	(Full-time equivalent)	26.3	28.0
12. Reserves			
Capital Profit Reserve			
Balance 1 January		941,889	-
Realised gains on the sale of property		-	941,889
Balance 31 December		<hr/> 941,889	<hr/> 941,889
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance 1 January		2,489,429	2,489,429
Realised gains on the sale of property		(10,546)	-
Balance 31 December		<hr/> 2,478,883	<hr/> 2,489,429
Total		<hr/> 3,420,727	<hr/> 3,431,318
13. Retained surplus			
Balance at the beginning of the year		4,337,148	4,012,455
Operating surplus for the current year		(42,293)	324,693
Balance at the end of the year		<hr/> 4,294,855	<hr/> 4,337,148
14. Capital and Leasing Commitments			
(a) Capital Commitments			
As at 31 December 2004, Australian Veterinary Association had committed \$2,286,900 related to acquisition of land and buildings and \$314,801 related to the office fitout.			
(b) Operating Lease Commitments			
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements.			
Payable			
- no later than 1 year		29,708	27,740
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years		54,119	83,827
- later than 5 years		-	-

notes to the financial statements

15. Events Susequent to Reprting Date

Since the end of the financial year the entity has:

- Settled the sale of the Hampden Road, Artarmon property and all proceeds of the sale have been received.
- Relocated Sydney offices to Herbert Street property, under licence from the Vendor. The entity is liable for rent on the Herbert Street property for a maximum of eight weeks from 20 January 2005. Settlement is pending finalisation of documentation by the vendor and is likely to occur on or about 5 April 2005.

16. Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2004 \$	2003 \$
Cash on hand	824,827	1,475,891
At call deposits with financial institutions	872,044	641,740
	1,696,871	2,117,631

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

Profit from ordinary activities	(42,293)	324,693
Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities		
Depreciation	162,673	99,681
Net unrealised gain on investments	30,988	(44,750)
Net realised loss on investments	-	38,819
Net loss on write of fixed asset	(10,546)	-
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	5,445	(6,182)
Decrease / (Increase) in inventories	(40,629)	(77,647)
Decrease / (Increase) in prepayments (ex property and equipment related)	(113,989)	(28,870)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors and accruals	179,264	(49,296)
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	(37,826)	31,762
Increase / (Decrease) in membership subscriptions in advance	232,030	535,374
Cash flows from Operating Activities	365,117	823,584

notes to the financial statements

17. Members Guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 December 2004 the number of members was 4,218 (2003: 4,129).

18. Remuneration of Auditor

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditor of the Association:		
Audit of the financial statements	16,277	14,500
Other services	5,832	9,350
	22,109	23,850

19. Remuneration of Directors

Allowance received or due and receivable by the President of the Association	30,000	30,000
Directors' Honorarium	15,900	15,900
	45,900	45,900

The number of Directors whose income was within the following bands:

	2004	2003
\$0 - \$9,999	10	8
\$10,000 - \$19,999	2	1
\$20,000 - \$29,999	-	1

20. Related Parties

Special Interest Groups, Divisions, Branches:

Income, expenditure, assets and liabilities are consolidated with National Group data in the financial statements.

Directors: The names of persons who were directors at any time during the year are set out in the "Directors' Report" on page 39. Information relating to the remuneration of directors is set out in Note 19. There were no other transactions between directors and the Company during the year.

21. Financial Instruments

(a) Credit Risk Exposures

The credit risk on financial assets of the entity which have been recognised on the statement of financial position is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts.

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The company's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out below. Exposures arise predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the company intends to hold fixed rate liabilities to maturity.

notes to the financial statements

2004	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		<1 year	1 to 5 5 years	> 5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	824,827	872,044	-	-	-	1,696,871
Receivables	-	-	-	-	307,452	307,452
	824,827	872,044	-	-	307,452	2,004,323
Weighted Average Interest Rate	4.30%	5.6%				
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	1,398,155	1,398,155
Funds held on Trust	605,044	-	-	-	-	605,044
	605,044	-	-	-	1,398,155	2,003,199
Weighted Average Interest Rate	5.50%	-	-	-	-	-
Net Financial Assets	219,783	872,044	-	-	(1,090,703)	1,124

2003	Floating Interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
		<1 year	1 to 5 5 years	> 5 years		
Financial Asset						
Cash and deposits	1,475,891	641,740	-	-	-	2,117,631
Receivables	-	-	-	-	312,898	312,898
	1,475,891	641,740	-	-	312,898	2,430,529
Weighted Average Interest Rate	3.00%	3.30%	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities						
Sundry and other creditors	-	-	-	-	820,854	820,854
Funds held on Trust	626,970	-	-	-	-	626,970
	626,970	-	-	-	820,854	1,447,824
Weighted Average Interest Rate	4.00%	-	-	-	-	-
Net Financial Assets	848,921	641,740	-	-	(507,956)	982,705

22. Company details

The registered office of the company is:

The Australian Veterinary Association Limited

Unit 40 Technopark

2a Herbert Street

ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

directors' declaration

The directors of the company declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 41-54, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act* 2001, and:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2004 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
2. in the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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



D Sheehan
Director and Honorary Treasurer



N Blackman
Director and President

Dated this 23rd Day of March 2005

auditor's independence declaration

As lead auditor for Australian Veterinary Association Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2004, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Australian Veterinary Association Ltd.



S M Whiddett

Partner

Dated this 23rd Day of March 2005

independent auditors report

SCOPE

The financial report and directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the directors' declaration for Australian Veterinary Association Ltd ("the Company"), for the year ended 31 December 2004.

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the Company. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including compliance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, and of their performance as represented by the results of their operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report of Australian Veterinary Association Limited is in accordance with:

a) The Corporations Act 2001, including:

- i) Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2004 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date;

and

- ii) Complying with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and

b) Other mandatory professional reporting requirements



S M Whiddett

Partner



Moore Stephens WI

Sydney

Dated this 23rd Day of March 2005

Imagery Acknowledgments

Main photography - Mark Thornley

Cover: Dogs playing - Photo by Mark Thornley, Dr Karen Thompson operating on a dog - Photo courtesy of WSPA,
Dr Richmond Loh fish veterinarian in the lab - Photo courtesy of Mount Pleasant Animal Health Laboratories, Tasmania.

Page 9: Sri Lankan elephant orphanage - Photo by Mark Thornley

Page 10: Wombat Snowy Mountains NSW - Photo by Mark Thornley

Page 15: Vet nurse with lion - Photo courtesy of Perth Zoo, Vet conducting skin examination - Photo by Mark Thornley

Page 23: Dr Sam McMahon and crocodile and Dr Philip Brain with cat - Photo by Jenny Docherty/Josie Hatte

Page 25: Prize Charolais bull - Photo by Mark Thornley