

President's Annual Report 2021/22

This was an important year for the Small Ruminant Chapter as it was our first ever Science Week participation. It was done jointly with the Animal Welfare chapter. I was the Small Ruminant Chapter convenor and by doing it jointly with a more experienced chapter, it made my life a lot easier. Also as health concerns made it too risky to take part in a face to face conference, I had to rely on the Animal Welfare chapter to chair the sessions. Thanks must also go to the College staff member Rachel Tan who ran excellent Zoom meeting for Convenors to keep us all on track and who helped preview all the pre-recorded speaker talks and ensured the PowerPoint notes were uploaded. We had an excellent range of speakers including Rob Gregory from New Zealand on deer welfare and Jane Vaughan spoke on the welfare of camelids. I gave a presentation on "How and Why I Disbud Goat Kids". There were also sheep talks by Peter Howe, Matt Playford and Angela Lees. All our speakers did their talks for free and without travel expenses so I extend my thanks to them all.

While Covid meant there were no face to face FAMACHA courses, I ran a number of Zoom webinars and if sheep, goats or alpaca owners took part then did the written exam and sent a video of checking the eye mucous membranes for anaemia, then they could purchase a card. Vets were offered places in these webinars at no cost. I also ran one just for vets as well. Sales of these cards are the only other source of income for the chapter besides membership fees. I manage these sales and post off cards when paid (\$30 plus postage at cost).

Most of our members have been dealing with internal parasites with very high worm egg counts all summer and lasting into winter. Many committee members have ramped up extension efforts to promote multiple strategies for worm control. Examples of my extension efforts include webinar for the Victorian Farmers Federation, Miniature Goat Breeders Association, Small Farms network-Capital region and article on goat worms in the Meat and Livestock Australia's Feedback magazine. The heavy rains also has meant seasonal flooding and I wrote a Fact-sheet on dealing with post flood goat health issues which is on my website at the bottom of this page for free download- <https://goatveto.com.au/blog>.

Next year (2023) will be an exam year for our chapter as exams are only held every second year. Please consider volunteering as an examiner or encouraging younger vets to do their membership exams in either sheep or goats. We also need new committee members.