

College Courier

December 2020



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EDITOR'S DESK



Welcome to the final College Courier for 2021!

Despite the interesting year we have had, the College continued to persevere to deliver Fellowship examinations and the Online Scientific Series. We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll see you at The Star, Gold Coast, as we look to deliver an in-person event featuring cutting-edge veterinary education and to celebrate 50 years of ANZCVS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr Zoe Lenard, President



We are heading rapidly to the end of a year that has looked vastly different to all others in the College's 49-year history. Resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and to spring back into shape, and this definition aptly fits the ANZCVS in 2020.

That COVID-19 disrupted the world is old news. ANZCVS fired on its resilience and pivoted quickly to

- Cancel the face-to-face meeting of Science Week on the Gold Coast
- Deferred Membership exams
- Postponed Fellowship exams

I am proud to report that the College responded positively, pivoting to provide an online scientific series.

Members had over 100 hours of quality content from across nine different chapters with a total of 76 presenters. With over 2300 registrations, this series was popular in a world where all face-to-face travel was halted.

Congratulations to staff Stephen Alderman, Rachel Tan, Thy Boskovic, Libby Scharf, Sharon Tinsley and Mary Anne Hiscutt for delivering and to the SW committee (Mandy Burrows, Terry King and Wendy Goodwin) for curating a terrific program at short notice.

I am also proud to announce the Fellowship examinations were successfully deferred till November and were delivered to 18 candidates remotely. This is a true testament to the quality of College processes and exams team, Stephen Alderman, Robyn Pettigrew, Lynda Kennedy and Mary Anne Hiscutt. The Board of Examiners worked diligently to ensure

that our exam quality was maintained, and the candidates were supported and not disadvantaged by lack of travel. Our congratulations go to all candidates who sat Fellowship exams, a huge achievement in a disrupted year. We are proud of your tenacity and resilience. Thanks, also, to the terrific team of volunteer examiners who delivered content and were flexible in their approach.

Chief Examiner, Dr Carolyn Guy, stayed at the helm of the Board of Examiners to see the exams delivered, and now concludes her 9-year term on the Board. She has been remarkably dedicated to delivering quality exams for nearly a decade and has worked tirelessly to ensure quality, including offering examiner workshops to more examiners than ever.

Congratulations on reaching the end of your term in trying circumstances, and all the best, Carolyn.

The Council, your governing board, has been extremely agile and flexible this year. In my five years on Council, I have seen this year's Council stretched more than ever as it grappled with large decisions in an unforeseen and unanticipated landscape.

The seven Councillors, CEO Stephen Alderman and Manager Mary Anne Hiscutt, have also shown remarkable resilience and fortitude, not backing away from hefty decisions with high stakes consequences. Council has worked collaboratively and supportively, via Zoom, for the best interests of the College, and the ANZCVS is very lucky to have such a talented group



Outgoing Chief Examiner, Dr Carolyn Guy

of volunteers elected into this highly important leadership role. It may have been easy to take our eye off the ball and focus on the turmoil in our own worlds, but Council stayed focussed on getting the College through this challenge.

To appropriate a quote from Beau Taplin, Council were unstoppable, not because we didn't have failures or doubts, but because we continued despite of them. I have learnt a great deal in working with these terrific people and thank them for their support of me in a difficult year.

Finally, Council has committed that we should return to a face-to-face meeting for Science Week in July 2021 on the Gold Coast. We are committed to making this happen in the COVID-present landscape, in a way that is safe but that fulfils our sense of community.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a safe summer.



We're not letting the distance come between you and our team.

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CEO REPORT

Stephen Alderman, CEO



As 2020 comes to a close, the staff and I have a very positive resolve and continue to look forward as we navigate any obstacles this persistent health crisis presents.

Member volunteers have assisted us throughout the year in many roles ranging from Council Members to Examination Observers. The culture of volunteering is a foundation of the College, representing a committed and engaged community that I am fortunate to be a part of.

I am mindful that every one of you has had your personal and professional lives impacted either directly or indirectly by uncertainty.

We aim to provide clarity when it comes to the College and its activities. In line with that aim, we want to lock in the examination schedules as soon as possible; please understand at the time of writing, applications have yet to close, so final numbers for applications and disciplines are still unknown and this is key to our delivery planning.

What we can say with certainty is that the College will hold a full range of examinations in 2021. Where and how these will take place is part of a complex planning process. We are committed to providing delivery options that take into account the health and wellbeing of members and candidates

whilst upholding the tradition of quality and consistency our examinations are recognised for.

Another certainty is that we will celebrate our 50th anniversary with an in-person Science Week event on the Gold Coast in July 2021. Council was unanimous in their decision for an in-person event that provides an opportunity to experience and inspire.

As we set our sights on 2021, I am grateful to the staff and community that sustained and advanced the College through a tough 2020.



NEW MEMBERS

welcome

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2020

The College would like to warmly welcome our new Associate Members:

Dr Marnie Ford
Ophthalmology Chapter

Dr Erica Gee
Animal Reproduction Chapter

Dr Janet van Dyke
Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Chapter

Dr Michael Bell
Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Chapter

Dr Darien Feary
Equine Chapter

Dr Henry Annandale
Animal Reproduction Chapter

Dr Fernando Martinez Taboada
Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia Chapter

Dr Lorna Rasmussen
Medicine and Management of Laboratory Animals Chapter and Pathobiology Chapter

Dr Christopher Elliott
Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Chapter

Dr Babiche Heil
Animal Reproduction Chapter

Dr John House
Cattle Chapter

Dr Liam Donaldson
Emergency & Critical Care Chapter

HONORARY FELLOWS

Associate Professor Rowland Cobbold
Veterinary Public Health Chapter

➔ EXAMINATIONS REPORT

Dr Peter Bennett, Chief Examiner

I am writing this as the incoming Chief Examiner, in this year of great challenges for us all. My focus for this article is to acknowledge the work of Dr Carolyn Guy for her leadership of the Board of Examiners as we have faced the trials of the pandemic. This year has involved a huge effort from all on the Board and the College office to review and adapt planning for both 2020 and 2021.

Unfortunately, the Membership examinations had to be deferred in 2020 and the Fellowship examinations delayed and delivered in an alternative manner. Dr Guy's tenure as Chief Examiner was due to finish at Science Week 2020. With approval of the Council and Board of Examiners, she remained in the role to see the completion of Fellowship examinations. This avoided a change of leadership as well as her stepping down from the Board during the preparation and delivery of the examinations she had already invested so much in preparation. Her work was ably supported by Dr Sharanne Raidal (Assistant Chief Examiner – Examinations), the other members of the Board and the typical massive effort by all the staff in the College office.

The members of the College who volunteered to help and gave their time to assist and allow the examinations to happen are greatly appreciated.

Dr Guy's calm demeanour and leadership has been a major asset, especially during these times and her attention to detail enabling the examination planning for this year, and next, to proceed in a relative smooth fashion despite the ever changing landscape in which all of us are trying to work. Her desire to continually improve and develop the examination process of the College must be acknowledged.

From here we continue the work of developing and planning the examinations at Membership and Fellowship levels for 2021. The situation is still uncertain, and the College will need to adapt to the situation and still provide fair and robust examinations.

Getting to know Dr Peter Bennett

What is your current role?

Associate Professor in Oncology and Small Animal Medicine at the University of Sydney



How many pets do you have and what are they?

Currently no pets ☹️

How long have you volunteered with the College?

I have volunteered within the College either in the Chapters or BoE for 20 years.

What do you think the veterinary industry's biggest challenge is at the moment?

I see the biggest challenge of establishing means for a better work/life balance which has been highlighted in this year of COVID and the increased work and associated pressures that arose.

Finish this sentence: When I am not being a veterinarian, I like to walk in the bush and take photos, or at least hit a ball around a golf course.



➔ UPDATE PROJECT OFFICER

Dr Rachel Tan, Project Officer



MENTOR PROJECT: CENTRALISED ACCESS TO MENTOR RESOURCES FOR CHAPTERS

The College is working towards renewing the website and integrating a customer relationship management (CRM) and learning management system (LMS). Given the recent success of the partnership with the Centre for Veterinary Education in the recently released Veterinary Clinical Pathology Network (vcpn.anzcvcs.org.au/moodle/), the College is keen to support similar endeavours.

The College has sent out an Expressions of Interest (EOI) document to the executives of all Chapters. Some feedback from Chapters has already

been received. If you have an interest in being involved within your Chapter or have ideas on how a resource platform could benefit it, please contact your Executive Committee to add your comments and support. We are still aiming to set up a test platform for trial in the next few months based on the EOI feedback.

ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT OF ASSESSMENT

It has been a trying and uncertain year given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff, Board of Examiners and Council are in negotiation with two key providers which may enable electronic delivery and marking of examinations.

Given that the domestic and international barriers to travel may continue for the foreseeable future there has been significant consideration to ensure that candidates are able to still undertake exams and progress in the profession.

Updates will be provided as they occur but please be assured that the College is doing everything possible to ensure that examinations can occur safely in 2021.

If you have any questions or feedback on any of the above projects, please contact me via email at po@anzcvcs.org.au

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR COLLEGE AWARDS 2021



The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists seeks your assistance (and that of your staff and colleagues) in nominating members of the profession for the College Awards 2021.

The College Prize will be awarded to a veterinarian who has made an outstanding practical contribution

to veterinary science or practice in Australia or New Zealand without the support of an academic environment. The Awards Committee will consider the applicability of the contribution in the broad field of veterinary science.

Among many others, 2021 awards include:

- Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Award
- Meritorious Service Award
- Fellowship Training Scholarship

The closing date for all Awards is **28 February 2021**. Nominations should comply with the relevant criteria, available on the [website](http://www.anzcvcs.org.au), and should be forwarded to the College office cm@anzcvcs.org.au

For assistance, please contact Dr Charlotte Cantley, Chair of the College Awards Committee, via the College office.

MEMBERS NEWS



VET NURSE DAY

On Friday 9 October 2020, we celebrated Vet Nurse Day. This annual event marks an important day for the veterinary industry and general public to acknowledge the vital role that vet nurses play within the veterinary team.

Established by the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VCNA), Vet Nurse

Day recognises their contribution and hard work in providing patient care and reinforces the value and professionalism of vet nurses.

Veterinary nurses and technicians are an integral part of the veterinary team and provide expert nursing care for animals receiving treatment within a veterinary practice.

They provide hands on treatment and care and closely monitor hospitalised patients. They carry out essential technical work and are skilled in undertaking a range of diagnostic tests, medical treatments, administration of intravenous fluids, taking radiographs (if licenced) as well as preparation of patients for surgery and monitoring of anaesthetics.

Veterinary nurses and techs play a significant role in liaising with and educating owners on maintaining the health of their pets.

Veterinary nurses and techs are vital to the running of any veterinary practice and to high standard animal care.



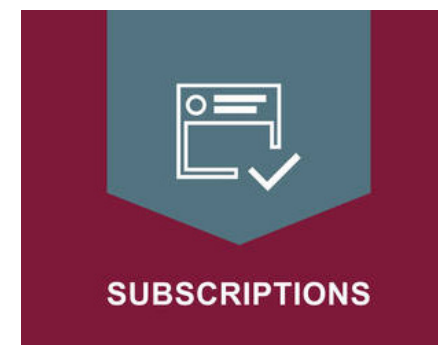
SCIENCE WEEK 2021

With COVID-19 putting a stop to our plans for Science Week 2020, ANZCVS Council are pleased to announce that Science Week 2021 will proceed as an in-person event at The Star, Gold Coast on 8, 9 and 10 July. There will be many challenges ahead as we navigate the uncertainty that the pandemic presents, however we look forward to updating Members and the veterinary profession as our plans come together. Save the date and stay tuned!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ANZCVS

In 2021 we will be celebrating 50 years of ANZCVS! We would greatly appreciate if you could share your stories and images with us. Tag us in your social posts [#ANZCVS50](https://twitter.com/ANZCVS50) or send your images and stories to marketing@anzcv.org.au

Whether they are pics from Science Week or Chapter gatherings, we would love to see them as we take a trip down memory lane to remember our roots and look forward to the next 50 years!



RENEWALS

2021 COLLEGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members will receive an email invoice for their College subscription on 1 March 2021. Members will be able to renew online via their Member Portal. Don't forget to update your contact details and review your Chapter subscriptions when renewing.

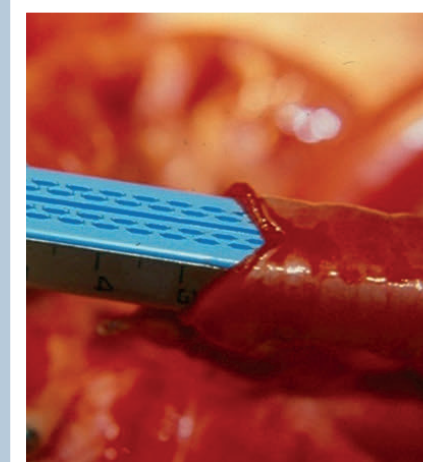


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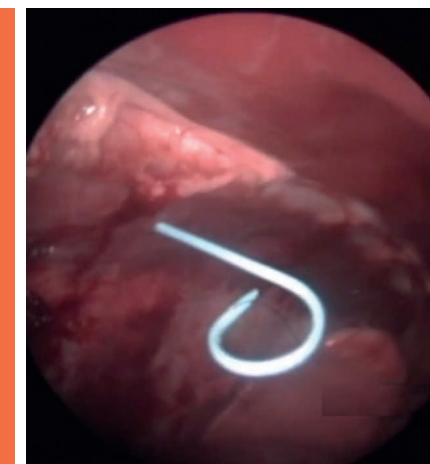
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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE COLLEGE



Share your photos and stories with us by tagging **#ANZCVS50** or email: marketing@anzcv.org.au

FEATURE STORY

MANAGEMENT OF BURN INJURIES IN HORSES

Lessons learned from the 2019-20 Australian Bushfire Crisis



Edwina Wilkes BVSc MPharm FANZCVS DVStud

Senior Lecturer and Registered Specialist in Equine Medicine, Charles Sturt University

This was one of the presentations given as part of the 2020 ANZCVS Online Scientific Series. View Dr Wilke's presentation delivered during the ANZCVS Online Scientific Series in the ANZCVS Member portal [here](#).



Mild soap was used to facilitate softening and removal of dead skin and was generally well tolerated, although some horses required sedation for wound management. Silver sulfadiazine cream, an antibacterial cream, was used on the majority of the burns in these cases. Honey was also used for its antibacterial properties and viscosity which can provide a barrier to cross-infection of wounds.

The cleaning and dressing of the wounds took many hours each day and we were extremely grateful for the help of many CSU staff and student volunteers during this time.



The wounds on the distal limbs were bandaged, initially with multi-layer bandages, however this was not well tolerated in the hot weather and the horses were also quite pruritic. The use of single layer compression bandages, impregnated with silver (for its antimicrobial properties) was much better tolerated and they also helped to reduce the distal limb oedema and amount of exudation from the wounds.

We were overwhelmed with very generous donations including these silver impregnated compression wraps (Sol Equine®) which were very well tolerated by the horses.



As heat is slow to dissipate from burn wounds, it is often difficult to evaluate the severity of tissue damage accurately in the early phase of injury. Time must elapse to allow further tissue changes and it was a case of 'the worst was yet to come' in all of the cases we treated.

Series of photos showing the progression of the wounds in one case over time. This mare had severe 3rd degree burns on the left side of her face.



We faced a number of challenges while treating these horses and although certain aspects of the treatment and management were consistent between cases, we had to tailor the treatment regimen to each individual case.

Pain management was a primary component of the treatment regimen in each case. In cases with severe tissue injury (as with thermal injuries), physiologic pain can evolve to state of pathologic pain if not appropriately managed. Multimodal pain control was considered to be most appropriate for these cases. As well as twice daily administration of NSAIDs, constant rate infusions of lidocaine, ketamine and morphine were used in the initial period of hospitalisation with very good response. Treatment with gabapentin and paracetamol was also continued throughout hospitalisation.

In one case (yearling QH filly), there were severe burns on the hindlimbs and in the perineal and udder regions. She became intolerant of daily wound cleaning despite heavy sedation. A decision was made to place an indwelling epidural catheter which was in place for 3 weeks with no associated complications. A combination of an $\alpha 2$ agonist (detomidine) and an opioid (morphine) was administered daily. The response was excellent with marked improvement in her tolerance of wound cleaning/dressing and her demeanour also noticeably improved.

Yearling QH filly with severe burns involving her hindlimbs, perineum and udder region. There is an indwelling epidural catheter in place which provided very effective pain control.



Pruritis is a common symptom affecting the majority of human burns patients and this was also noted in the cases we treated. Some of the horses were severely pruritic, resulting in extensive self-trauma. This was managed with an anxiolytic (acepromazine) initially and there was mild improvement. Reserpine, an indole alkaloid used for long term tranquilisation in horses was also used and there was very good response to this treatment.

The mare with severe burns around all four coronary bands developed severe laminitis in her right fore and proposed mechanisms for the development of laminitis in this case included inflammatory (from severe tissue injury involving the distal limbs and systemic inflammation) and insulin dysregulation. In human burns patients, insulin resistance is a common sequelae of thermal injury and the reduction of acute post-traumatic hyperglycaemia is a key element in decreasing mortality and morbidity in these patients.

While this has not been directly investigated in equine patients, this case had many phenotypic characteristics of Equine Metabolic Syndrome and therefore, insulin dysregulation may have played a role in the development of laminitis. The measurement of insulin concentrations throughout hospitalisation and the use of metformin for the management of post-prandial hyperinsulinaemia may be warranted in cases of severe thermal injury.

Photographs showing severe coronary band burns in one of the cases treated at the VCC.



As the wounds healed, there was often marked contraction of the skin and in one case, there was contracture around the lower eyelid on one side and subsequent ectropion. There was concern for the development of exposure keratitis and predisposition to corneal ulceration. 6 months after her initial presentation, the mare re-presented for corrective surgery and a V to Y plasty procedure was performed. There has been ongoing gradual improvement as the healing has progressed.

Deep partial thickness wounds require several months to heal and second-intention healing results in thin and hairless epithelium that is vulnerable to trauma. We faced challenges associated with a general lack of skin compliance which in some cases, resulted in splitting of the skin in multiple areas. Daily application of paraffin-based emollients (eg. Sorbolene® cream) and Vitamin E was helpful in the management of affected areas. It needs to be considered that the delayed healing and poor epithelialisation and complications of 2nd intention healing may limit the return of the animal to its previous use.

Unfortunately, the mare who sustained burns to >25% of her body surface area was subjected to euthanasia due to rapid clinical deterioration within the first 5 days of hospitalisation. She developed severe colic and the management of this was made more complicated by the severity and location of her burns. Exploratory laparotomy was not considered a viable option in this case due to severe burns in the ventral midline region which would have compromised incision healing as well as the systemic status of the patient. The mare with severe laminitis was also subjected to euthanasia due to ongoing deterioration in her condition. The other cases were eventually discharged from hospital and continue to progress well at home. The management of these cases would not have been possible without the help of many staff and student volunteers at CSU as well as other clinicians and support staff at the Veterinary Clinical Centre. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community locally, nationally and internationally! We had numerous donations of many different products to assist with the management of the cases as well as horse feed, bandaging materials and compression suits.

A lot of valuable lessons were learned from the management of these cases and as we approach another hot summer in Australia, it is important that we use these previous experiences to improve our preparedness for other cases if we happen to be faced with them again.

If you have any questions regarding anything discussed in this article or in the presentation which is available online for ANZCVS members, please don't hesitate to contact me: ewilkes@csu.edu.au



→ NZ REPORT

Dr Allen Bryce



NEW ZEALAND NETWORK INAUGURAL MEETING

Our new network held its inaugural meeting in Wellington on 19 November. What a great success! We had over 20 people in the audience and over 120 members join us by Zoom from both New Zealand and Australia.

We were very fortunate to have pre-eminent professors, Professor Michael Baker and Nigel French, speak to us on their work on COVID-19. Michael is Professor of Public Health at the University of Otago and is a regular media commentator about COVID-19. He no stranger to the veterinary profession having previously presented at Science Week and earlier this year the online NZVA annual conference.

Nigel is well known to not only to New Zealand veterinarians, but also globally. He is Distinguished Professor of Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health at Massey University and is the Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre. Both speakers are members of the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group and directors of One Health Aotearoa.

It was a great start and fully embraced the One Health paradigm. Following the presentations there was an opportunity to mingle over a glass of wine and nibbles, with other members and the odd non-members who also attended. The next meeting is mooted for Christchurch in the first quarter of 2021.



The presentations are available on the College website.

[Click here to view presentations](#)



→ CHAPTERS

ANIMAL WELFARE CHAPTER

Although it has been a very challenging year for many, the situation in Australia is turning a corner in a positive way, especially for family and friends to be able to reunite relatively safely as the holiday season approaches. All the best to all College members for the festive season.

Di Evans, President

Chapter member recognition

Prof Paul McGreevy - Huge congratulations to Paul for being the 2020 recipient of this Global Animal Welfare Award (by the World Veterinary Association)! A fantastic achievement and wonderful recognition for Paul's passion, dedication, and enormous contribution to improving the lives of so many animals. Paul's extensive expertise in research and teaching in animal behaviour and welfare is an inspiration.

View the Award presentation [here!](#)



Also, congratulations to Dr Teresa Collins, Murdoch University who has been made Assoc Prof. Teresa's focus is to use science to seek a shared vision about livestock as sentient beings – involving government, industry and society. Her particular areas of interests include developing methodology that reflects affective state (e.g. Qualitative Behavioural Assessment), tools to benchmark welfare between livestock premises and veterinary curricula for teaching welfare and ethics.

New student animal welfare publication award

The Animal Welfare Chapter is offering a new scholarship award, the Veterinary Student Animal Welfare Publication Scholarship Award. The award will recognise four veterinary students (undergraduate or postgraduate) who have published, or have recently submitted a paper, on animal welfare. The Award will provide the successful students with \$250 to be used to attend Science Week to present a poster of their work.

Eligibility: A veterinary student (undergraduate or postgraduate) and the paper will have been accepted for publication within the last two years.

The application form can be downloaded [here](#).

For further information or to submit your completed application form, please email the Chapter Secretary secretaryanimalwelfare@anzcvcs.org.au

The due date for applications is 1 March 2021.

Vets Beyond Borders

Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) works around the world to improve the life of animals. VBB vets and vet nurses volunteer for short periods with collaborating animal welfare groups to provide veterinary care, provide training and improve animal welfare.

The response to COVID-19 had dramatic effects on animal welfare throughout the world. Many, but not all, volunteer placements were cancelled due to the pandemic. Street dogs in India faced starvation as restaurants and meat shops were closed until VBB collaborating programs in India successfully lobbied for dispensation from the lockdown to enable street dog feeding programs to prevent starvation of the dogs.

Before the pandemic, came the Black Summer bushfires in Australia. Over 50 VBB vets and vet nurses volunteered to care for wildlife affected by the fires. And now VBB volunteers are assisting Animal Welfare League NSW clinics to provide medical and surgical care

to shelter animals and those owned by financially disadvantaged owners around NSW.

If you'd like to help animals and have a wonderful experience, VBB are currently recruiting NZ based vets for short-term volunteer and long-term (6 months) paid positions in the beautiful Cook Islands. To learn more, email volunteer@vetsbeyondborders.org



Surgery being performed in Vanuatu.

ANZCCART ComPass Animal Welfare Training

ANZCCART has just announced the launch of the ComPass Animal Welfare Training Course. This free online course covers the Australian Code and NZ Guide and welfare issues relating to animal use in research and teaching. Successful completion of the Phase one of the course and its quiz fulfills the mandated basic training needs of researchers and teachers using animals as well as members of Animal Ethics Committees (AEC) in Australia and NZ.

Check the ANZCCART [website](#) for more details.



EPIDEMIOLOGY CHAPTER

We are reaching the end of what has been an extraordinary year, one where "epidemiology" made the headlines all over the world. It has also reinforced the interest for One Health and turned the spotlight to us, veterinary epidemiologists, and how we can contribute to preventing and controlling emerging diseases. As such, many members of the Epidemiology Chapter were involved in Australia and New Zealand COVID-19 response and research, on top of their usual role.

This was highlighted recently in the New Zealand Biosecurity Awards

by the Eagle Technology Local and Central Government Award attributed to chapter member Dr Mary van Andel for her strategic leadership for Mycoplasma bovis and COVID-19 responses. Chapter Member Dr Petra Muellner was also nominated for the Bio-Protection Research Centre Award for her work on scientific excellence strengthening New Zealand biosecurity and One Health frameworks.

It has also changed the way we are working, with the example of Science Week turning into the Scientific Online Series. A huge thank you to the convenor team who planned for both a face-to-face and online programme.



THE DAVE HANLON MEMORIAL TRAINING TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

The Dave Hanlon Memorial Training Travel Scholarship was created to support veterinarians preparing to sit their College Membership or Fellowship exams in Animal Reproduction.

The Animal Reproduction Chapter welcomes and encourages donations from anyone to this worthwhile cause.

DONATE NOW

The session on pandemics attracted 136 registrations and the session on COVID-19 148 registrations. The abstract session with its 15 speakers was attended by 178 people. This demonstrates how attractive these sessions were.

As you may know by now, the College will be hosting the International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) in 2024 in Sydney. During 2020, planning for this major event has been progressing quietly.

A steering committee of Chapter members was formed – Michael Ward (Chair), Evan Sergeant (Treasurer), Marta Hernandez-Jover and Petra Muellner (Sponsorship and Marketing), and Mark Stevenson (Scientific).

This committee has met twice during the year and the major achievement has been the finalisation of an agreement between the College and Arinex.

Arinex is a professional conference organiser with a long history of engagement with the veterinary profession. They are based in Sydney and had strong relationships with key venues (such as the International Conference Centre) and providers. I

n 2021 the steering committee will be progressing some of the key decisions regarding management and structure of ISVEE 2024, prior to involvement of the entire organising committee.

Since a face-to-face meeting in 2021 is still uncertain, we are keen to explore ways to stay connected, increase member engagement and support membership candidates. If you have any suggestion please get in touch with Emilie presidentepi@anzcv.org.au. We hope you will get a well-deserved break this summer and we look forward to more epidemiology in 2021!

Sincerely,
Epidemiology Chapter Executive

EQUINE CHAPTER

The Equine Chapter are now distributing an e-newsletter biannually. The first edition is available to read [here](#) and features a Member spotlight, wrap up of the Online Scientific Series, Neonatal Encephalopathy Case Study and information on a couple of research studies to participate in.



ONCOLOGY CHAPTER

The Oncology Chapter welcomes two new Fellows in 2020; Drs Elizabeth Morgan and Sonya Yu were both successful in passing their examinations.

We warmly congratulate them on this achievement and for remaining patient and focussed throughout such an uncertain time during COVID. We are pleased the Zoom platform worked well for the oral examination and we were able to proceed with the Fellowship examinations, albeit later than usual in 2020.

Thank you to all of the Chapter members who contributed their time over the last 12 months.

Once again, in 2020 the development of the Fellowship examinations was a collaborative effort within the Chapter with the examination development meeting in November 2019.

A special thank you to Drs Ken Wyatt (Head subject examiner), Claire Cannon (Subject examination committee Chair) and Sandra Nguyen (Subject examination committee) for their hard work in the preparation of the examination.

Thank you also to my fellow Chapter Executive members, the College Council Members, the Board of Examiners and College office team for meeting the challenge that COVID presented in delivering the 2020 examinations.



I would also like to thank Drs Kathleen O'Connell and Penny Brown for their tireless efforts in bringing us the Science week program online this year which was very successful.

In October many of our Chapter members participated in the US Veterinary Cancer Society's 2020 online virtual conference. It was an excellent meeting featuring a combination of keynote speakers; clinical updates; resident abstracts and posters; along with a technician stream.

It was fabulous to be able to access such high-quality scientific information from the comfort of our homes and/or offices and the content will continue to be available online for 12 months.

Congratulations to our Chapter member, Dr Selvi Jegatheeson, who won a VCS resident award for her poster presentation entitled "Response to radioactive iodine (I131) administration in dogs with thyroid carcinoma".

For those interesting in accessing the VCS Virtual conference, registrations remain open until October 2021 with all content accessible via recorded video sessions. Any ANZCVS Oncology Chapter members who are not VCS members, are entitled to a \$100 discount with proof of registration without our chapter.

Prior to registering, send proof of your membership to VCS (vetcancersociety@yahoo.com) and a special code will be emailed providing you with the discount (see <http://vetcancersociety.org/conference/registrations/> for full details).

We look forward to the year ahead and wish you all a safe and enjoyable festive season from all the office bearers for 2020/2021. Please don't hesitate to contact us regarding chapter matters and if you would like to be involved in chapter activities.

Laura Brockley
(presidentvetonco@anzcv.org.au)

PHARMACOLOGY CHAPTER

I think that this year (more than most) everyone is quietly relieved that Christmas is fast approaching, signalling the end of 2020. It has been a challenging year for many, bringing new hurdles and mental health challenges with it.

I hope that 2021 will allow us to get back to a new sort of normal, and that, in particular, College examinations and Science Week will go ahead, although possibly in a different format to what we are used to. We will have to "watch this space" for now.

The Pharmacology Chapter did not provide material for the online version of Science Week this year. This was a decision not taken lightly by the scientific committee. The committee felt that as so much work had gone into developing an exciting program for the Chapter, that we would like to try and offer that program (with a few exciting additions) in a face-to-face format for 2021.

The committee are working hard on providing us with a fun and dynamic program for next year, so I encourage you all to pencil science week into your diaries. Further improvements and updates to our pharmacology study course for examination candidates continue to be made and I sincerely thank everyone involved for their tireless work upgrading the modules.

The examinations may take a slightly different form in 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions are likely to continue to create challenges around social distancing at examination venues. I encourage all candidates sitting in 2021 to be prepared and flexible when it comes to how the examinations might be delivered. We will do everything we can as a Chapter to support you.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Chapter secretary, Gail Versluis and Treasurer, Richard L'Estrange, for their tireless work in 2020 under challenging circumstances.

They are the backbone of our chapter and on behalf of the chapter executive I would like to thank them for everything they have done in the past year (and all of the years before that!!). I hope that everyone can take some time to relax over the Christmas and New Year break and try to recharge their batteries ready for a new year. Merry Christmas and Happy New year!

Melody de Laat

MEDICINE AND MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS CHAPTER

Activities over the past 3 months have been limited. Members have been asked to express their interest in the establishment of an online forum similar to a journal club.

It was felt this could provide a networking opportunity for members, a support structure for those studying for their membership examinations and a forum for those needing help with, or wanting to discuss, a challenging diagnostic problem. Currently our secretary, Yvette Ellen, is working with the College to set up a platform through which we can hold such meetings.

ANZCCART has announced the launch of the ComPass animal welfare training.

This free online course covers the Australian Code and NZ Guide and welfare issues relating to animal use in research and teaching. It is a "free online interactive and resource-rich course to all who need this training". For further information contact:

ANZCCART
anzccart@adelaide.edu.au

The very best wishes for Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021.

Julie Ferguson (President)
presidentlabanimals@anzcv.org.au

Yvette Ellen (Secretary)
secretarylabanimals@anzcv.org.au

SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE CHAPTER

Whilst 2020 didn't play out like anyone expected, we have still had opportunities to progress and advance. The SAM chapter successfully participated in the College Online Scientific Series and abstract presentations with analytics demonstrating an encouraging participation from members within Australia and internationally.

Our Science Week Convenors, Drs Kate Heading and Linda Freeman, worked tirelessly with our dedicated speakers and the college to deliver some very interesting and topical presentations – thank you!

A big thank you also to Drs Mary Thompson and Boyd Jones for co-ordinating and hosting the SAM abstract presentations. The online format and question time were very effective and well received.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 Fellowship examinations were postponed until November 2020 and successfully completed. This required adaption, dedication and resilience shown by the Fellowship candidates, examination team and college.

The Subject Examination Committee and chapter as a whole are delighted to announce our new fellows: Drs Madeleine Roberts, Thomas Fluen, Olutunbi Idowu and Ingrid Goodman. Congratulations!

I would like to acknowledge and thank the SAM Fellowship examination team including Drs Sharman (HSE), Swinney (Chair), Coleman, Collins, Brown and Cattin. As always, examiners and SEC members require appointing for next year and we would like to receive nominations as soon as possible.

This is going to be a big pressure point for the Chapter and therefore please expect further correspondence regarding the needs of the Chapter to support our Fellowship candidates and consider donating your time.

Thank you also to the Subject Standards Committee Drs Stickney (Chair), Haynes and Prakash. This team is also looking for additional members so please consider a role on this committee.

Work is progressing for finalizing the delivery of Membership exams in 2021 also and we would like to thank Dr Joanna White (HSE) for coordinating the delivery of these examinations to a very large cohort of candidates due to the combination of delayed 2020 and new 2021 registrations.

In other news, the College is in the process of designing a learning management system (LMS) resource platform which I understand that Dr Tan will be informing members about in this Courier edition.

I encourage you to read this and contribute to feedback or comments that can then be compiled into an expression of interest document to the College.

As 2020 draws to an end, your SAM Chapter Executives Drs Guy Wolfenden (Secretary), Amanda Taylor (Treasurer), and I, would like to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable festive season.

All the best,

Fleur James (President)
presidentsam@anzcvcs.org.au

UNUSUAL PETS CHAPTER

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year, particularly for our Victorian based members. We do not currently have a fellowship program so didn't have any examinations undertaken this year.

We look forward to getting back into the swing of things in 2021 which is a normal examination year for us. To all of our members and the wider college community, have a safe and wonderful festive season.

VETERINARY ANAESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA - SCIENTIFIC SERIES 2020

Well perhaps not quite a series, but we had a great couple of presentations and an interesting discussion on 12 August, generously supported by Boehringer Ingelheim. Professor Craig Johnson and Dr Polly Taylor joined a good number of both anaesthetists, general practitioners and other specialist practitioners for a great few hours of animal welfare, ethical considerations and the potential for over-treatment in veterinary practice.

Craig gave a great introduction and overview of ethical principles and how they apply to animal welfare. Indeed what is the right thing to do?

Polly then followed with a current topic of discussion amongst some practitioners, the potential for over-treatment, discussing where, and indeed how, we draw that line. What are the best interests of the animal? How do we start these conversations with colleagues and owners? Polly gave some fascinating insight into this subject, an area I personally think needs to be wholly embraced in all veterinary practices, general and referral alike. 'Now that we often can, should we?' is a question that needs to be asked in many cases.

An extended Q & A session followed with some intriguing questions and thought-provoking answers. Some of the questions included "Would it be suitable to have an owner present at induction of anaesthesia given it may be the animals last period of consciousness?", "How do you balance the multiple tableting of an animal versus a one-off lasting injection, as in the case of Convenia, with antibiotic stewardship components?" and the potentially curly "How do we approach this concept (of questioning clinical decision making processes) both diplomatically and practically with our colleagues?".

Polly referenced one of the few articles on over-treatment in veterinary practice, which contains the Veterinary Ethics Tool (V.E.T.), an aide that can assist the veterinary care team when deciding on the ethical cost of opting for a particular treatment. The article is open-access.

Grimm, Herwig, Alessandra Bergadano, Gabrielle C Musk, Klaus Otto, Polly M Taylor, and Juliet Clare Duncan. "Drawing the Line in Clinical Treatment of Companion Animals: Recommendations from an Ethics Working Party." *Veterinary Record*, 2018, [vetrec-2017-104559](https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.104559). <https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.104559>.

When we are all back on the Gold Coast this is a discussion I would like to continue, so please keep an ear out for cases / considerations and questions you might have.

Thank you,
Heidi Lehmann



VAA Online Scientific Series Presenter,
Dr Polly Taylor.



VAA Members at Science Week 2019

VETERINARY SPORTS MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION CHAPTER

In this inaugural Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (VSMR) Chapter update, I would like to start by thanking the ANZCVS College, and especially Rachel Tan, Project Officer for their support and assistance in getting this Chapter established.

I would also like to thank the team of veterinarians who have helped build the foundations for this chapter: Dr Janet Van Dyke Dip ACVSMR, Dr Michael Bell Dip ACVSMR, Dr Stephen Fearnside FANZCVS Dip ACVSMR, Dr Ben Ahern MANZCVS Dip ACVS and Dip ACVSMR and Dr Samantha Franklin Dip ACVSMR.

Further, I would like to welcome Drs Van Dyke and Bell as Associate Members to the ANZCVS, and everyone who has elected to join the Chapter as inaugural members.

I look forward to the growth of this Chapter and achieving our goals of fostering interest amongst veterinarians and promoting excellence in the science and art of veterinary science as it relates specifically to VSMR for both canine and equine patients.

Our next step will be to hold our first AGM, where we will formalise the VSMR committee and teams developing our Subject Standards and then Subject Examinations with the goal of having the first VSMR canine examinations in 2022, and the first equine examinations in 2023. Additionally, I look forward to developing and sharing with you our first ANZCVS conference stream in 2021.

Dr Yoko Clinch
Interim President
ANZCVS VSMR Chapter

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH CHAPTER

As the eventful year of 2020 enters its final weeks we will, no doubt, all be reflecting on what was achieved, and what could not be realised, during this pandemic year.

Perhaps one of the more pleasing outcomes for the Veterinary Public Health Chapter was our successful webinar in the College seminar series. It covered a number of contemporary topics, including aspects relating to COVID-19 and the evolving African swine fever epidemic.

The webinar was a joint exercise with the Epidemiology Chapter and was well attended. Our particular thanks are extended to our past Science Week co-ordinator, Dr Tristan Ingle, who worked closely with College officers in organising this event.

It is also pleasing to note the contribution of VPH Chapter members to various Australian government and New Zealand government COVID-19 initiatives, with several members addressing divisional AVA, NZVA and College audiences on their activities.

A particular highlight for the Chapter in 2020 was the admission of Associate Professor Rowland Cobbold to Honorary Fellowship of the College. The Chapter congratulates Rowland on this notable attainment. Rowland is Assoc. Prof-Veterinary Public Health in the Veterinary School, University of Queensland.

In addition to being an accomplished VPH researcher he has developed a peer-acknowledged skill set in tertiary teaching, curriculum development and the establishment of professional qualifications pertinent to VPH, clinical medicine and other aspects of the veterinary sciences.

The Chapter is planning to contribute to Science Week 2021, working in conjunction with other chapters as appropriate.

The exact format of the coming Science Week remains to be determined and may, or may not, involve face to face meetings.

The intention for the Chapter AGM is that it again be conducted in conjunction with Science Week, with details yet to be finalised. However, membership examinations will be conducted, in a COVID-safe manner, by the College in 2021.

While feedback from some prospective VPH membership examination candidates is that they will defer their 2021 scheduled examinations, it is understood that some candidates are still likely to present for examinations.

Clearly, COVID-19 is having diverse impacts on so many different aspects of our lives. These aspects notwithstanding, our Chapter's



Associate Professor Rowland Cobbold

Standards and Examination Committees have been hard at work in preparation for the membership examination rounds in 2021 and 2022.

We no doubt all look forward to smoother sailing in 2021 for the Chapter.



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