

ANZCVS

December 2023 edition

College Courier





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Editor's Note

Unbelievably, we're just about to close off 2023, it feels like just yesterday we were getting ready for 2023. 2024 is shaping up to be the biggest year yet for the College, if candidate numbers are anything to go by.

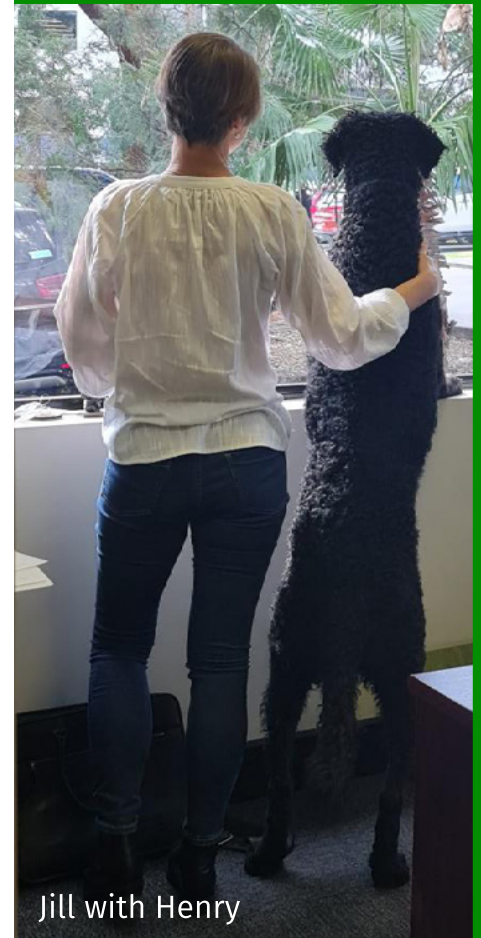
We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Assistant Examinations Officer, Jill Meatheringham, for her dedication and hard work to the Examinations Team. Jill will be stepping away from the College and preparing for early retirement. Her meticulous eye for detail and her humour will be missed.

If you would like the chance to share in the College Courier, please reach out to us (admin@anzcvs.org.au).



CEO REPORT

Stephen Alderman



Jill with Henry

We have arrived at the end of another year, and it is so gratifying to see the growth and evolution across all aspects of the organisation. The College community thrives through your knowledge, commitment and desire to give back to the veterinary sector.

In a remarkable achievement for our College, a new record has been set with a surge in the number of veterinarians applying to sit membership examinations. Over 450 veterinarians have registered for the upcoming examination cycle, which marks an unprecedented level of interest among veterinarians seeking to advance their professional qualifications through the College. This milestone reflects the continued recognition of College standards and the value placed on its membership within the veterinary profession.

Examinations in 2024 are already at the forefront of Chapters' minds as they plan and create their examination components.

Thank you to the examination and subject committees for volunteering their expertise and time to the College and the broader veterinary community.

Vet Science Week 2024 will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on July 25-27. Chapters are already planning workshops and sessions to ensure everyone has a great experience with their peers and Colleagues, so save the date in your calendar. There is more on this later in this edition of the College Courier.

The College gratefully acknowledges the continued contribution of all our dedicated volunteers. I wish everyone a safe and restorative break and look forward to embracing the challenges and triumphs that 2024 will hold for us all.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Tabrett, President



Dear College members,

Cycle & perspective on time

A mild winter here in Newcastle, NSW, a fluctuating spring of warming & longer days with characteristic spring rains, and the promise of a warm summer ahead, I am struck how the seasons reflect the cycle of time, a cycle that we often pace ourselves and our social structures to align with the season or calendar. However, time is not a fixed entity, nor an absolute, and we only must look at the College lifecycle to see the cadence of our various events or functions to appreciate that we live by short-, medium- and longer-term cycles.

In our own lives, we recognise that we can get caught up in the busy-ness of the weekly, daily, or even hourly cycles. However, we also recognise that we can get the optimum fulfillment when we take a moment to pause, breathe, and consider the longer-term cycles in our lives. The months, years and sometimes the decades we are here on this planet. This reflection should be both backward and forward, seeing how far we have come, and thinking about how far we can go, or more importantly in which direction. This perspective taking capacity creates opportunity for growth and to best serve our families and communities.

The College also takes an opportunity to pause, breathe, and consider the longer-

term cycles. Part Of this is the planning for improvements to our examination processes, and fundamentally we are engaged in creating a sustainable capacity of the College and its members to continue our critical work of credentialling and assessment of candidates. The longer-term projects include our Examination Evolution & Support work, with teams of volunteers, working alongside our management staff, in the MCQ (Multi-Choice Question) training & deployments.

Nevertheless, our annual cycle continues and our examination for 2024 are starting to take shape, with record numbers of our professional colleagues, spread across the globe, challenging themselves to prepare for Membership examinations. Of course, alongside there are singularly focussed veterinarians finalising their residencies and credentials to attempt their Fellowship papers in 2024.





The College calendar is marked by not one, but two key events. After examinations, we will come together for Vet Science Week 2024 at the Gold Coast with the prospect of building upon the successes of 2023, and a chance to connect to our peers, friends & colleagues, to learn and to share. College Science Week is a unique event of the professional calendar. I attended my first Science Week back in 1992 or 1993 in Sydney. It's remarkable to see our event in its present form with the breadth of topics, domains of interest, and the gathering of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees.

Of course, when we consider the seasons, and reflect on our careers and lives, planning for the future, we are privileged to have the opportunity to meet in the warm climes of the Gold Coast in July 2024, learning the latest research and clinical practices, engaging with peers in focussed educational discussions, sharing the moments to meet friends in the full social program, and celebrating the achievements of the successful Members and Fellows.

Ahead of us lies the busy summer period, where in my own hospital, we are inundated with tick patients, snake bite victims, and all manner of trauma or public holiday illnesses – I work in ER practice, in case you were wondering! Our Christmas and New Year period hold much in store, whether working as above, or taking the time to meet with family & friends.

I want to thank our hard-working College management team, who will take a short period of respite over the Christmas break, for all their efforts in 2023. It has been challenging in many ways, but also rewarding to us as we reflect and plan for the year & years ahead.

I wish to thank my fellow Council members for their support and feedback. I enjoy working alongside so many learned colleagues who are devoted to the governance and success of the College. This thanks goes also to the Board of Examiners, for their application to the cause of robust examinations and credentialling programs.

Finally, I wish to thank all the volunteers within the College, serving as examiners or Chapter executive members, Chapter committees, or Science Week program convenors. There is no College without your participation and engagement. I appreciate your contributions.

We look forward to the year ahead, and I know that while the calendar may turn the page, the successes of 2024 and beyond come from the work we all do now, and in the months ahead.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR COLLEGE AWARDS

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS
IS CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE COLLEGE AWARDS FOR 2024.

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.

The **Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Award** recognises high academic and/or research accomplishment. It will be awarded to an Australian or New Zealand veterinarian making an outstanding contribution to veterinary science in the preceding five years.

The **Fellowship Training Scholarship** (value A\$10,800) will be awarded to a Member of the College who is enrolled in an approved Australian and New Zealand College residency training program and seeks financial assistance to complete any aspect of the training program.

A **Fellowship Research Grant** (value A\$3,000) will be awarded to a Member of the College who is enrolled in an approved Australian and New Zealand College residency training program and performing research as part of this training program. The aim of the

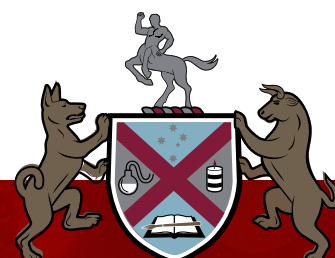
grant is to support either the research itself or analysis of results (e.g. statistical consultation).

The **Meritorious Service Award** will be presented to reward a Member or Fellow of the College, who has consistently and tirelessly contributed to the College through voluntary service at Chapter or higher level.

The **Most Commendable Paper in an International Journal** will be awarded to highlight the international scientific contribution that members of the College make to the veterinary community. This award will be specifically aimed at journal articles that provide insight to the pathogenesis of a disease condition, or substantially alter the treatment or prevention of disease.

The **Membership Travel Grant** is to reward a newly active member of the College who is not enrolled in a formal residency training program to attend an international veterinary conference or event that will be of benefit to the both the individual, as well as the Chapter to which they belong.

The closing date for all Awards is **29 February 2024**. Nominations should comply with the relevant criteria (available on the website <https://www.anzcvcs.org.au/awards/>, and should be forwarded to the College office at admin@anzcvcs.org.au. For assistance, please contact Dr Glenn Edwards, Chair of the College Awards Committee, by directing your enquiry through the College office.



ANZCVS

The closing date for all Awards is 29 February 2024

EXAMINATIONS REPORT

Dr Jennifer Carter,
Chief Examiner



As the year draws to a close, I would like to take a few moments to thank all of our College office staff, Council members, Board of Examiners members, and examiners and observers for their incredible contributions to the College examinations process in 2023. It was an exciting year with a huge number of candidates and we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

On Sunday, 19 November we held our third annual virtual Examiner's Workshop. We invited any interested parties to attend but strongly encouraged 2024 examining teams to join. Lydia Hambrook organised the day and kicked off with an engaging presentation on updates to the College examining process for next year. Ruth Sutcliffe presented on using subject learning outcomes to define testing points in blueprints, Rachael-Kate Llewellyn presented on designing higher order questions, I presented on the importance

of marking rubrics and how to revise them to suit your exam questions, and Cathy Beck finished out the day with a presentation on writing multiple choice questions. Attendance was strong throughout the day and lots of great questions were brought to the table. The presentations will be available to examining teams to review via a Teams site.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful and restful holiday period and we look forward to seeing a number of you in February 2024 when we bring back our IN PERSON Examiner's Workshop AND premiere a concurrent Multiple Choice writing workshop, both held in Melbourne. Season's Greetings to everyone – see you in 2024!



PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

Dr Rachel Tan, Project Officer



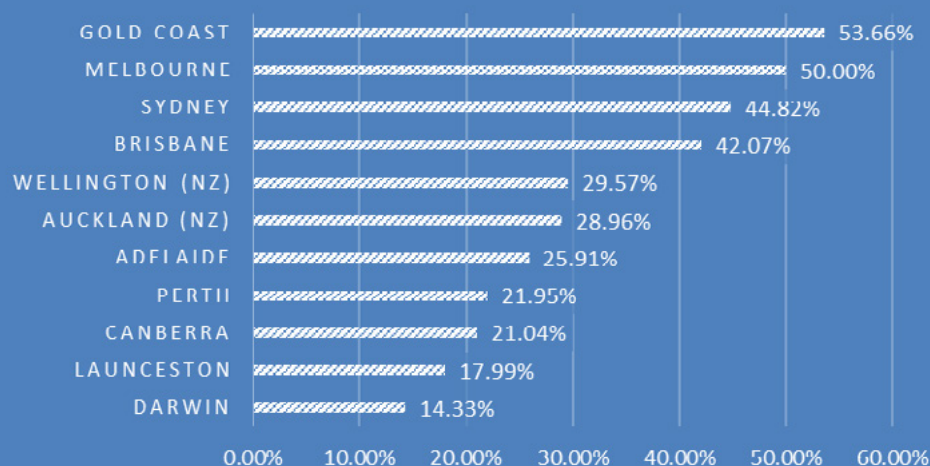
Conference survey results

A survey was undertaken of members and non-members in September 2023 to capture the opinion of members and non-members regarding veterinary conferences. The objective was to determine how conferences are perceived by veterinarians in terms of value and importance, as well as to identify factors which may impair their attendance.

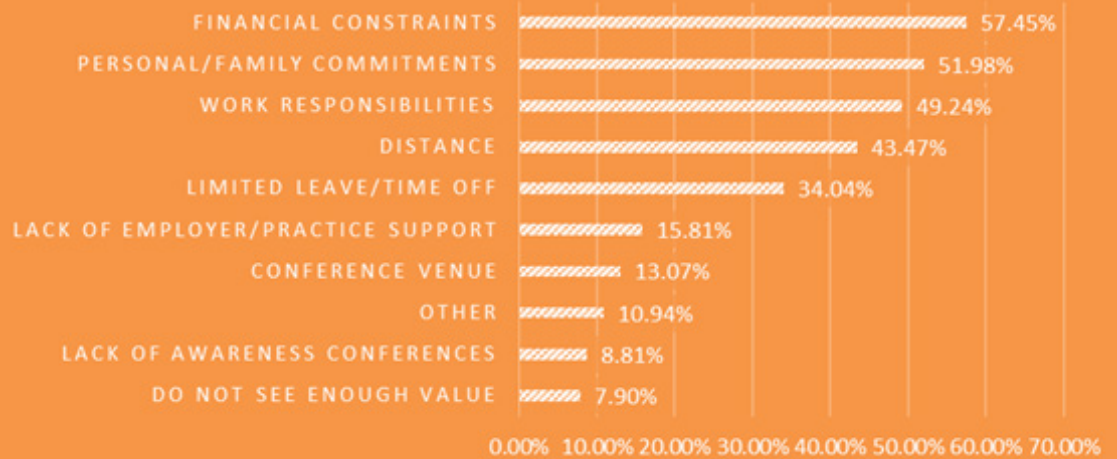
397 people responded to the survey of which 74% were Members. Of those, 34% reported to attend a conference biannually, 36% annually, 18% 2-4 times per year, 3% 5 plus times per year and 9% never having attended a conference. The preferred scope for a veterinary conference was for a specific interest (46%) followed by a broad range of species/interest (33%) and specific animal species (21%). The majority (69%) considered 3 days as the ideal duration for a conference with lectures, workshops and panel discussion preferences as 89, 65 and 53% respectively.

Preferred conference location was on the eastern seaboard of Australia and the major 3 constraints to attendance was financial costs, personal commitments and work responsibilities. Knowledge sharing, inspiration and networking were indicated as the 3 items of most value when attending conferences.

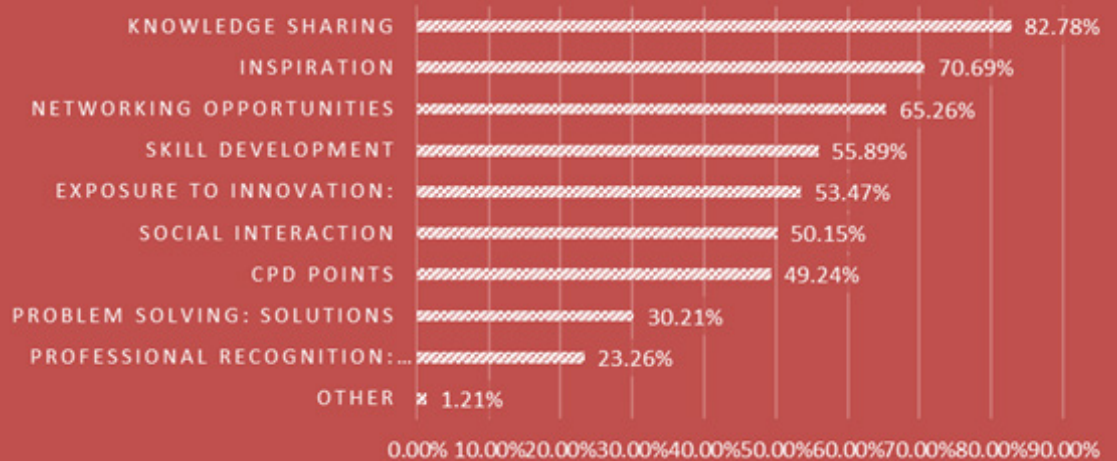
PREFERRED CONFERENCE LOCATION



CONSTRAINTS TO CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE



VALUE IN CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE



The results of the above survey in conjunction with survey feedback from delegates and exhibitors from Science Week 2022 and 2023 will be used by Council to design strategy and structure for future events. Pricing for venues in the top 3 destinations indicated in the surveys is also being undertaken for 2025 in consideration of the fact that cost to delegates is the single most important factor for attendance.

Science Week 25-27 July 2024

Planning has commenced for Science Week 2024 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. We are looking forward to a great program as we return to this venue. The Science Week website has been updated and we look forward to bringing you more information on the conference and associated pre-conference workshops on Wednesday 24 July.

If you have any questions or industry interested in sponsorship, please contact Dr Rachel Tan at po@anzcv.org.au

ANZCVS Science Week 2024 | 25 - 27 July 2024, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD, Australia (vetscienceweek.com.au)

24-27
JULY
2024



ANZCVS
VET SCIENCE WEEK
2024

SAVE THE DATE

Multiple Choice Question Workshop (February 2024)

Thanks to all the Members who have volunteered for the MCQ workshop in February. The venue for the Examiners and MCQ Workshop will be the [Novotel Preston](#) in North Melbourne. We have had a fantastic response and are almost at capacity. This will mean that all those who have volunteered and aren't already prioritised to attend the Examiners workshop being held concurrently, will soon be notified to organise flights and accommodation.

Additional resources and help will also be communicated to those participants to assist them in their MCQ writing journey.



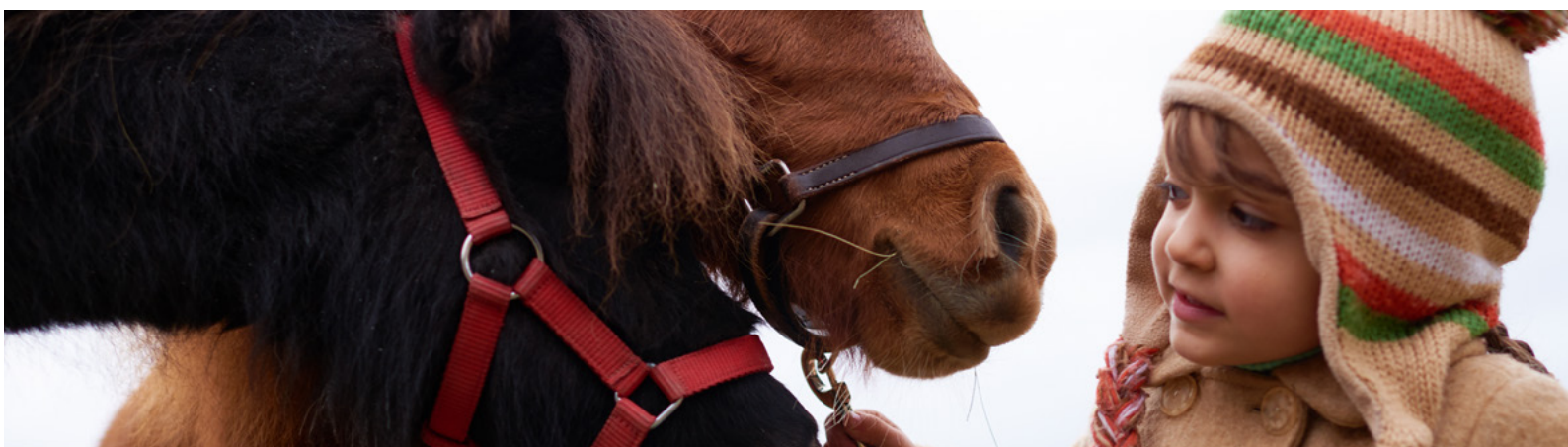
ANZCVS Member Benefit – Office 365 Accounts

The ANZCVS has a licence for Microsoft 365 A5 for faculty. This will allow the gradual progression of all Members and affiliated websites, including examination platforms, to transition to “Single Sign-On” (SSO).

Single sign-on is an authentication method that allows users to sign in using one set of credentials to multiple independent software systems. Using SSO means a user doesn't have to sign in to every application they use. This will hopefully mean that for every site that ANZCVS members use, they will only need to use their ANZCVS dedicated email address and password to access it. The roll-out of ANZCVS Microsoft accounts has commenced and will generally be in the format of “firstname.lastname@anzcv.org.au”.

In addition to a dedicated email address and access to ANZCVS sites, the account will offer a broad suite of Microsoft features which includes 1 TB of cloud storage per user and the Apps and Services below. Detailed information can be found at: [Compare Office 365 Education Plans \(microsoft.com\)](#)

The College is continuing to roll out this program to all members, but if you would like access earlier, please contact the office at admin@anzcv.org.au.





Retirement of Dr Mark Schipp

College member, Dr Mark Schipp, has retired as Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer after a long career with the Commonwealth Government.

After graduating from Murdoch University with degrees in Biology and Veterinary Science, Dr Schipp started work in Western Australia as a field veterinary officer. He then joined the Commonwealth as an on-plant veterinary officer at export abattoirs in WA, Victoria and Tasmania before eventually moving to Canberra to work in export programs, before taking up postings in Seoul, South Korea and to Beijing, China as Agriculture Counsellor between 2000 and 2006.

He was responsible for establishing the Australian agriculture office in Beijing at a time of enormous interest in China and the opportunities for Australian exports. On returning to Australia, Dr Schipp was promoted to lead the department's food export programs and also led Australia's delegation to the global standard setting body for food safety, inspection and export certification, the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

In 2011 Dr Schipp was appointed Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer. During the suspension of live cattle exports to Indonesia, he played a significant role in the establishment of conditions for the humane export of livestock to all markets – the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS), which allowed the trade to resume and form the ongoing basis of Australian livestock exports.

As Australia's Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Dr Schipp was elected to the Council of WOAH, eventually becoming President of WOAH between 2018 and 2021. As a member and past Chair of the Animal Health Committee, which brings together the Chief Veterinary Officers of the states and territories, Dr Schipp has been a respected facilitator who strengthened relationships with Australia's livestock and food industry stakeholders.

In April 2022, Dr Schipp was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in recognition of his distinguished contribution to veterinary science, both nationally and internationally.

Reflecting on his national role, Dr Schipp said the strength of the Australian animal health system is the ability and willingness of industry and government to work together in the national interest.

"I wish to express my appreciation to the many expert work colleagues, mentors and support staff who have enriched my career, making work easier, more pleasurable and social. I want to especially thank my team in the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, for their dedication and collegiality. I leave the role of Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, grateful for the many opportunities afforded me and pleased with what we were able to achieve," said Dr Schipp.

The College extends warm congratulations to Dr Schipp on his retirement, and thanks him for his support and continuing interest over the years.

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Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in Australia

SUPPORTER

In recognition of international efforts to encourage greater transparency in animal research, the College has signed the [Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in Australia](#). The agreement is an optional public pledge that organisations may sign to demonstrate their commitment to greater openness and is one of ten such agreements modelled on a 2014 UK initiative. In 2021, the [New Zealand Openness Agreement](#) was the first to be launched outside Europe.

While animal research is a particular focus for the Medicine & Management of Laboratory Animals and Animal Welfare Chapters, it can also be an important topic for chapters such as Veterinary Anaesthesia & Analgesia, Veterinary Pharmacology and Pathobiology, as well as indirectly for many more.

RENEWALS

2024 College Subscriptions

Members will receive an email invoice for their College subscription on 1 March 2024.

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.

AUTO-RENEWALS

Make renewing your College subscription even easier every year. Opt-in to auto-renew your subscription:

To opt-in for auto-renewal:

1. Log in to your Member Portal on the [College Website](#)
2. Select 'Sign up or edit recurring payments'
3. Complete the form

Your subscription will be auto-deducted on 20 March 2024. A receipt will automatically be emailed to you once the payment is made.



CHAPTER REPORTS

ANIMAL WELFARE

It has been a busy time for our Chapter with preparations steaming ahead to secure a great program for Science Week. At this stage, we are planning a joint session with the Veterinary Behaviour Chapter and possibly others with lots of interesting and challenging issues to learn and talk about.

We are also setting up a zoom study group for our 2024 Membership candidates which kicks off in mid-December. We are planning a series of topics and speakers to help our mentees absorb as much as they can before June!

We are also offering the 2024 David Bayvel Award for a veterinarian who has given an outstanding contribution to enhancing the veterinary profession's role in promoting animal welfare through either science, advocacy, education, legal reform or other endeavours to achieve better lives for animals. More details to follow in the New Year!

Forthcoming seminar:

- **2024 RSPCA Animal Welfare Seminar**, Wed 21st & Thurs 22nd February (half days) Online & free [Through their Eyes – Strengthening our Relationship with Animals](#)
- **2024 International Society for Equitation Science**, 14-16th March, New Zealand. [A Good Life for Horses](#)

On behalf of our Chapter, we wish our College family a safe and happy break over the summer holidays, and that we are all refreshed and energised for 2024!

EPIDEMIOLOGY

APCOVE Update

In recent weeks the Asia Pacific Consortium of Veterinary Epidemiology (APCOVE), led by the University of Sydney, has introduced a series of free eLearning modules – a game-changer in animal health education. These modules are designed to upskill field veterinarians in the foundations of field epidemiology to ensure they can help prevent future outbreaks from turning into pandemics, protecting our human and animal populations and ecosystems. The self-paced modules are accessible [here](#), and will be translated in other languages in the coming months.

The chapter wishes to congratulate Navneet Dhand and the extended APCOVE team for all their hard work developing this invaluable resource.

ISVEE Update

Progress and planning for ISVEE17 is well underway, as we are entering into the last year of preparations for the conference to be held on the 11th to 15th of November 2024. Since the last update, six keynote presenters have been confirmed and the international scientific committee established. We have had an excellent response to the call for



special sessions for the scientific program and the International Society for Economics and Social Sciences for Animal Health agreed to hold their yearly conference together with ISVEE in 2024. We have also had a great response for workshop proposals, with nine workshops being accepted. Information on accepted workshops will be available soon on the [ISVEE17](https://isvee17.com.au) website. The committee has been working hard on identifying sponsorship opportunities and we are happy to say that the response has been very positive. It is also exciting that the abstract call will open very soon. For all up to date information please go to the ISVEE17 website (<https://isvee17.com.au>) and like and follow our newly created ISVEE17 Facebook page ([ISVEE | Facebook](#)). The coming weeks will see conference and workshop registrations and abstract call open!

Marta & Michael from the Organising Committee

MEDICINE & MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS

The end of 2023 is fast approaching with several things accomplished and several more in the works. There have been a couple of pivotal things that have happened this year, namely the Openness Agreement launch. This was an initiative undertaken by the Australia New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching ([ANZCCART](#)) to help Australian research and teaching organisations be more open with the public about the work that is undertaken using animals. At this point, we are happy to report that ANZCVS, the AVA and the RSPCA have signed the agreement. This is an excellent representation by the major veterinary and welfare bodies. Please see more about the Openness Agreement [here](#).

In other news, the first Journal Club was held on 17th November via Zoom and was well attended. Topics discussed were:

- NSW Animal Welfare Inquiry – Recommendation for a Vet with relevant qualifications:
 - Next steps:
 - Form a working group:
 - Define “Animal Welfare Officer” and “Attending Veterinarian”
 - Create a Program of Veterinary Care template for Oceania
 - Discussed Antimicrobial Use in Animal Research, see paper [here](#):
 - Dr Rebecca Wilcox presented and kindly answered several questions.
 - Dr Tony Rowe presented on Osmoregulation in Fish.



Chapters continued ...

The meeting was recorded and will be provided to those members who request it. Journal Club is open to all current members and to candidates for the next exam. The next Journal Club will be in early February and an invite will be sent to all members. Please join if you can! It is a fantastic opportunity to learn and engage with your fellow colleagues.

We hope you all had a fabulous year and that the remaining weeks go by smoothly. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Cheers,

Dr Emily Barrick, MMLA President

ONCOLOGY

Dear colleagues,

We would like to introduce ourselves (the new Chapter Executive committee) - Claire Cannon (President), Johanna Todd (Secretary) and Sonya Yu (Treasurer).

The Oncology Chapter Science Week organisers are calling for people to present their current oncology research projects in 20, 30 or 60 minute time slots on **Saturday 27th July 2024**. The project does not need to be finished and preliminary results are encouraged! Please register your interest by emailing Johanna and Sandra at swconvenorvetonco@anzcvs.org.au

We wish everyone a safe holiday season.

Oncology Chapter Executive and Science Week convenors

PHARMACOLOGY

The second annual Joanna Griffiths Invited Wildlife Pharmacology Keynote Address was delivered by Dr Claire Madden, Head Veterinarian at Village Roadshow Theme Parks (Seaworld), at Science Week 2023. The address considered some of the challenges that zoo and wildlife veterinarians deal with frequently due to gaps in the knowledge base relating to pharmacology of drugs in these less common species. These challenges arise in response to issues including behavioural and welfare considerations, diagnostic restraints and human and animal safety.

Following the Keynote Address members of the Pharmacology and Zoo and Wildlife Chapters participated in an open forum to introduce and discuss the idea of a collaboration between the two Chapters that could work to fill some of these knowledge gaps in zoo and wildlife pharmacology.

The momentum continues after Science Week and a Working Group is being established to scope out a collaborative project. The Pharmacology Chapter (represented in the Working Group by Dr Stephen Page, Dr Gail Versluis and Dr Erica Malcolm) is excited to be joined by Dr Claire Madden, Dr Larry Vogelneust





and Dr Sarah Alexander to work on identifying and defining priorities.

A potential focus for this project could be the use of Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modelling and Simulation to create a model of drug behaviour in a selected species that could be utilised by veterinarians working with wildlife to guide dose regimen planning and prediction of potential toxicity or interactions with other drugs, with responses to treatment feeding back into the model to aid its validation and improve its predictability.

The Pharmacology Chapter welcomes any interest or ideas from Members regarding this project: Contact Erica Malcolm at presidentpharmacology@anzcvs.org.au

PIG HEALTH AND PRODUCTION

We are delighted to announce that Dr Alan Sharrock has been made a life member of the College. Alan became a member in Pig Medicine in 1982, and has been an active member of the pig vet community for many years. In recent years Alan played a pivotal role in the formation of the Pig Health and Production Chapter, which has now been active for five years and has resulted in six new members entering the college, virtually doubling the existing membership.

In other news, we have great pleasure in welcoming three new members to the chapter, following successful examinations earlier this year. We welcome Dr Nandi Van Wyk from WA, Dr Molly Dunstan from SA and Dr Greg Tuckett from NSW. We wish them all long and fruitful associations with the chapter.

Our next exams are due to be held in 2025, and we encourage anyone interested in joining our chapter to talk to one of the existing members. The makeup of our examination committee has changed, with Dr Bernie Gleeson taking over as chief examiner from Dr Trish Holyoake. I'd like to thank Trish for all of her hard work in getting our first two examinations off the ground, not an easy task with a brand-new subject in the middle of a pandemic.

The Pig Health and Production Chapter is not planning to run any sessions at Vet Science Week next year, however we would love to collaborate with other chapters if there is a need for a speaker in any pig related area. Please contact Dr Rahul Shankar (SWConvenorPHP@anzcvs.org.au).

Rowan Wilson (President PHP)

Chapters continued ...

SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

2023 has been an excellent year for the SAM Chapter and its members and 2024 is shaping up to be even better.

We had amazing participation at Science Week and the Membership/Fellowship exams in 2023 and it was so lovely for our chapter to come together and support this amazing profession and continuing education at such a high level for all of our vets. We wish all of our 2024 candidates luck on their journey of studying; we hope you are able to enjoy the process of learning amongst the murky waters of examination stress!

Big thanks to those who are giving back to the Chapter and have volunteered for the committees and examination process for the SAM Chapter. We couldn't do this process without your altruism.

Chapter members can look forward to the following excitement in 2024:

- Specialist Cardiologists Fiona Meyers & Brad Gavaghan will steal our hearts with 'Cardiology in the Barossa' - an exclusive weekend event for SAM members. This will be at the Novotel Hotel, Barossa Valley, SA on 22-24 March 2024. Places are limited to ensure attendees have the opportunity to have a friendly, relaxed and interactive learning opportunity. What a great reason to visit the Barossa Valley!
- After the success of Andrew Mackin's webinar on IMPA, we will continue to offer webinars to deliver content from local and international veterinary experts direct to our Member's computer screens.
- A College Science Week program for 2024 will be perfectly tailored to all of our

members to ensure that Members and Fellows have an engaging program with leaders in veterinary medicine.

The SAM executive team has tremendous gratitude for all of our members for 2023! The spirit of collegiality and positive engagement of SAM Chapter is phenomenal and we look forward to further building on this in 2024.

Happy Holidays to you all. May it be safe and full of joy.

Your President-elect and President,

Elizabeth & Luke

SMALL ANIMAL SURGERY

Dear Small Animal Surgery Chapter Members,

This is my first Courier post, so I firstly wanted to say thank-you for everyone's confidence in me to take the role of Chapter President. Having served as the Acting President in the lead-up to ANZCVS Science Week last year under the guidance of Adjunct Professor Philip Moses, I feel prepared and honoured to assume this position. I must take a moment to extend my deepest appreciation to Philip Moses for his invaluable contributions to the Surgery Chapter over the years and, personally, for playing a pivotal role in my journey to becoming a surgical specialist. As I am sure most of you are aware, Philip has recently been recognised for his achievements by way of the College Oration and the awarding of Member (AM) in the general division of



VETERINARY BEHAVIOUR

What a fantastic session we had with Dr Anne Jackson presenting her online seminar on “An insider’s Guide to Writing a Case Report for Publication”. We were joined by colleagues across the globe and from a wide variety of fields to hear her practical and applicable information. She gave us wonderful insight into crafting a worthwhile report and invaluable tips on how to move towards getting scientific articles published.

Our next webinar will be presented by Dr Gabrielle Carter, Registered Specialist in Veterinary Behaviour, on “Post-surgical Management of Physical, Emotional and Behavioural Health” on Wednesday 6th of Dec 2023 at 7pm (AEDT). This webinar is aimed at Members, Residents and Specialists, and General Practice Veterinarians who are keen to improve the care of their patients. To find out more, follow this link: <https://Post-surgical-Management.eventbrite.com>

In February 2024, Dr Kersti Seksel will be presenting on Sleep and the significant role it plays in medical and behavioural health in our patients. Tickets will be available to purchase soon - keep an eye out for details!

Drs Mel Rockman & Bronwyn Sharman, our hard-working Science Week Convenors for 2024, are well into organising the programme for the Behaviour Stream. A “Call for Papers” will be released in the coming months.

We wish all our colleagues, their families and friends, a peaceful and restful festive season, and look forward to 2024!

Bronwen Bollaert
President

The Order of Australia in the Inaugural King’s Birthday honours list for 2023. I miss him every day at VSS, and his absence is felt by the Surgery Chapter as well. His influence has undoubtedly shaped many of our career paths and he is in our thoughts and prayers as he continues with his health battles.

On another note, let us extend our congratulations once again to Dr. Bryden Stanley on her election to ACVS President. Dr Stanley is the first Australian to be elected into this role. We thank her for her contributions to the ANZCVS College over the years and are happy that the USA recognise the leadership qualities of our side of the world :)

Thank you to the Chapter Executives and committee members, Drs Rebecca Weight and Brenton Chambers, Renee Huggard, Jana Kolichis, Gustav Dippenaar and Eamon Ryan for committing to another year in this volunteer capacity. It is heartening to see our profession come together and helping out, and the Chapter is extremely grateful for your efforts.

I pray everyone has a lovely Holiday Season, and we look forward to giving you some exciting 2024 Science Week news in our next Courier.

Kindest Regards,

Dr Abbie Tipler ATCL BVSc FANZCVS

Chapters continued ...

VETERINARY PRACTICE SMALL ANIMAL

Our chapter-based CPD nights have started, with Dr Charlie May presenting on her approach to Osteoarthritis Management in Small Animals. Further sessions are planned to build camaraderie and share knowledge amongst our members.

Similarly, our chapter study group has started with an oomph! We are hoping to be able to embrace candidates as they embark on the study process. We are grateful for the support of Prof Mandy Burrows and Dr Robert Shiel for enthusiastically assisting with this program. Please contact [Dr Angela Hodgson](#) if this is something of interest for you.

Our examinations are shaping up for more new members in 2024, with a new examiner added to the ranks, and adding multiple choice questions to the examination profile for 2024.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

It was with sadness that in May we advised that VPH Chapter's Subject Standards Committee Chair, Dr Mike Nunn, had passed away. Mike was an important part of the veterinary public health community in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. He will be missed by his many colleagues, friends and the Chapter.

The Chapter's Membership Subject Guidelines have now been revised and been approved by the College Board of Examiners. The revision was based on feedback from past membership candidates, VPH academics in Australia and New Zealand and developments in VPH practice both domestically and internationally. The Subject Guidelines can be found [here](#). VPH membership exams will be held in 2024 and from thereon, every second year.

Planning has commenced for Veterinary Science Week, 25-27 July 2024, on the Gold Coast, Queensland. The VPH programme will be similar in format to 2023, consisting of presentations, oral and poster abstracts.





Chapter member, Dr Nicole Sia, has taken up the position of Veterinary Officer, Animal Care Services, at the University of Western Australia. ACS is responsible to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research for the management, development and continuous improvement of the Universities' animal-based biomedical research programs.

Congratulations to Chapter member Bruce Gummow who was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Southern African Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine for his contribution to Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Veterinary Medicine. Bruce a former University of Pretoria academic, is Professor of Epidemiology and Head of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at the College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences of the James Cook University, Australia.

The Chapter also congratulates and sincerely thanks Dr Mark Schipp who is retiring as Australian Chief Veterinary Officer. Mark, an Honorary College Fellow and VPH Chapter member, has been a keen supporter of the Chapter since its re-establishment in 2017. Mark's career is profiled on Page 11.

Kevin Crews
President



Dr Bruce Gummow

Chapters continued ...

VETERINARY SPORTS MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

The Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Chapter has been quite busy with our examinations committee members actively involved in developing MCQs for the 2024 Canine Examination, as well as starting a bank of questions for future Canine and Equine Membership examinations. Several members will attend the MCQ Workshop slated for February 2024.

The Subject Standards Committee has updated both Canine and Equine documents, making preparation for each examination clearer for candidates.

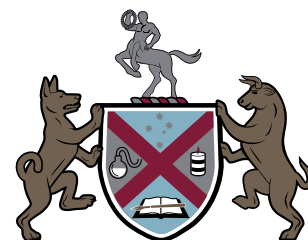
Our Science Week convenors are developing a robust agenda for SW 2024. Watch for more details in upcoming College Courier editions!

We wish all College members well as we head into the holidays and anticipate an exciting 2024.

Kind regards,

**Dr. Janet Van Dyke,
Secretary VSMR chapter**





ANZCVS 2023/2024 KEY DATES

- **1 Dec:** Nominations for College Awards – OPEN
- **22 Dec – 7 Jan:** College Office closure (Christmas)
- **3-4 Feb** In-person Examiners Workshop (Melbourne, VIC)
- **29 Feb:** Nominations for College Awards – CLOSED
- **1 Mar:** Nominations for College Council & Board of Examiners – OPEN
- **1 Jun:** Nominations for College Council – CLOSED
- **4 – 6 Jun:** Membership Examinations (Written/Practical) and Fellowship Exams (Written)
- **14 Jun:** Voting for College Council - OPEN
- **22 – 23 Jun:** Fellowship Examinations (Practical / Oral)
- **29 Jun – 1 Jul** Membership Examinations (Oral)
- **6 – 7 Jul** Membership Examinations (Oral – Medicine of Cats UK only)
- **12 Jul:** Voting for College Council - CLOSED
- **24 - 27 July:** Veterinary Science Week
- **26 July:** ANZCVS Annual General Meeting
- **27 July:** Awards Dinner



ANZCVS

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