



02/2018

Welcome to the February 2018 edition of the SVS Newsletter. Remember to send through any interesting news items for inclusion in future newsletters.

Recent events and news

Judging honour for Rod

In January 2018, Rod Verral, Co-ordinator of the School's Large Animal Practical and Pre-Clinical & EMS, adjudicated the 2018 Jersey Futurity Class at International Dairy Week, the largest exhibition for Australian Dairy producers in Australia. This premier event is held annually in Tatura, Victoria. Over the years Rod has judged at many Royal Shows throughout Australia but his invitation to judge on an international platform was a long-held dream for him, as well as presenting another opportunity to promote SVS. Rod explains the importance of judging cows: "*I believe that the*

structure and the function of the cow go hand in hand- there are massive correlations between the two. The structure of the cow must allow it to perform it's major functions, and that is to produce milk daily. To do this the cow must produce a calf annually over a number of years - so longevity is also a key factor. One of my aspirations is to assist the external farming community by promoting the correct type of cow and by promoting that the correct genetics be accepted by industry. This will result in more functional dairy cows being found across Australia".



Australia's International Dairy Week showcases the latest developments in Australian dairy cattle,

farming practices, dairy knowledge, breeding and genetics, machinery, equipment, technology, environmental management and services. IDW is the place to be for all dairy farmers, breeders, producers, companies, organisations and others operating within the dairy industry.

"On the flip side one of my roles at SVS is to coordinate the pre-clinical extra mural studies program for our students in the pre-clinical phase of the BVSc program. I find that attending events like IDW provides the opportunity to liaise with a very large portion of the dairy producers and communicate with them face to face about their willingness to contribute to our practical work program. On-farm practical training is an essential milestone for our students to complete by the end of year three of their studies. It is important we can provide a suggested list of producers to our students, whom we have audited for suitability to provide a safe learning opportunity with ample learning prospects. When securing a preceptor it is essential to gain a full understanding of their animal handling facilities and husbandry practices as well as their inclination to discuss their business principles and beliefs with the students. At all times we want the students exposed to exemplary levels of professionalism which we hope they too display when representing the School."



Faculty of Science Awards 2018

The inaugural Faculty of Science Awards were held on 15 February in St Lucia. More than 100 inspiring nominations were received for the 9 award categories. SVS had nominees in each of the categories and we were all very proud when 4 of our nominees made it through as finalists.

Congratulations go to the following award winners:

- **Rising Star - Professional:** Fran Shapter
- **Leadership and Mentoring - Professional:** Mariki Visser
- **Teamwork - Academic:** Equine Medicine Team

Commendation must also go to the Clinical Studies team who were finalists in **Teamwork - Professional** category. They may not have made it to the top spot, but to be nominated by their peers for the wonderful work they do and the way they work together is wonderful, and to make it to the final against a competitive field is quite a feat! Almost all members of the CSC team attended the event to appropriately celebrate their achievement. Congratulations team. Click on the link below to read the full list of award recipients.

[Find out more >>](#)

Conference attendance

Gary Fitzgerald (Lead nurse/technician VMC) has just returned from the VMX (formerly known as NAVC) conference in Orlando in the US. This is the largest veterinary conference in the world and this year there were over 17000 delegates, offering over 1200 hours of CE across dozens of streams.

The conference is run like a small city and they produce a conference newspaper each day. Gary was featured with the NAVC mascot Max in an edition and was also seen honing his "corn hole" skills during the Superbowl party and doing his best to keep international relations alive and thriving.





Vet Ed Symposium

The inaugural Australasian Veterinary Educators Symposium, commonly called VetEd Downunder, was held at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus from the 13th-16th February.

The conference was well attended by national and international speakers and facilitators, including six SVS staff members (Aaron Herndon, Fran Shapter, Margie McEwen, Eva King, Dan Schull and Erika Meler).

The focus of the conference was sustainable educational practices in veterinary medicine and covered a range of focuses including admissions, curriculum design, teaching methodologies (eg designing flipped classrooms), clinical skills training, assessment planning, and constructing models and creating learning activities for student clinical skills labs, such as the Hub.



It was very collegial and a fantastic opportunity for each of our staff to talk to their peers/avatars (people who have the same role) from other vet schools. Due to the generosity of other presenters such as Prof. Sarah Bailey from Bristol in sharing their teaching resources and model construction information, the Student Clinical Skills Hub will save a significant amount of money in teaching resource creation and model purchases, with SVS staff also able to contribute new ideas to other schools.

The most exciting outcome, thanks to the hard work of Dan Schull and support from our HOS, SVS will be hosting the second Vet Ed Downunder conference in Gatton, in 2020.

Queensland Women in STEMM 2018 People's Choice Award

Rachel Allavena has entered the Queensland Women in STEMM 2018 People's Choice Award. Please help raise the profile of our companion animal research here at the School of Veterinary Science by voting for Rachel [here](#).



Comparative Medicine: Vets helping pets: Pets helping people.

Cancer is a common and devastating disease in Queenslanders and their dogs. As a veterinary pathologist and immunologist my understanding of disease and immunity drives cures for cancer. For many decades, science relied on mice to help us research cancer, but treatments that work

fantastically in mice frequently fail in human patients. My research takes a different approach. I use pet dogs with natural cancer and no hope for other treatments to develop new cancer therapies. Cancer is common and devastating in our pet dogs and causes heartache for their families. Dog cancer is similar in appearance, behaviour, genetics and environmental causes to human cancers. I study lymphoma, melanoma, sarcomas, carcinomas and brain cancer. I test novel theranostics and immunotherapy treatments. Because dog and human cancer is so similar, dogs provide excellent safety and efficacy data on our treatments. My treatments have cured pets, and are now helping human patients.

Talent in SVS

If you have material that showcases the great talent we have at SVS, please get in touch with [videos, articles, press releases, awards and other materials](#). The Engagement Committee is looking for support for [Rachel Allavena](#).

Remember we are still looking for **Year of the Dog** stories to profile from SVS.

International Women's Day 2018

International Women's Day is coming up on **Thursday March 8th**. To celebrate the great achievements of the current academics, staff and students, as well as women who have contributed greatly to our school, we are putting together a show case of our female talent. All SVS women are invited to submit a slide for the showcase. Post-graduate students are also encouraged to submit.

Please send your submissions to [Rachel Allavena](#) for collation by **Monday the 5th of March**. A template for you to use can be found in the adjacent Find out more link.

[Find out more >>](#)

UQ Awards for Excellence 2018

Nominations for these awards are now open. Last year's winners from SVS for the team award for Excellence in Wellness & Safety were A/Prof Mike Noad and Dr Bec Dunlop and the BRAHSS project. Is there someone else in the School who can nominate this year?

The Awards celebrate staff achievement across all levels of the organisation, regardless of position. There are five Award categories for which individuals and teams may be nominated. The categories are:

- UQ Award for Excellence in Innovation
- UQ Award for Excellence in Service
- UQ Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion
- UQ Award for Excellence in Wellness and Safety
- UQ Award for Excellence in Leadership

Further information about the Awards and the online nomination process is available at the **Monday 12 March 2018**. Nominations will close on [UQ Awards for Excellence page](#).

Teacher Showcase

Associate Professor Bob Doneley - Avian and exotic pet medicine and surgery BVSc FANZCVS

World famous and respected across the globe for his expertise, Bob is best known for his large contributions to the School as our specialist in avian and exotic pet medicine and surgery. Bob teaches into all programs within the school delivering lectures, tutorials and also teaching students on clinics whilst delivering specialist clinical services. As well as teaching students from our school, a large number of veterinary students from other countries all over the world make the trek to Gatton to spend time on rotation with Bob.

Bob is a 1982 UQ graduate. After working for 5 years as an associate and locum veterinarian in Queensland and the UK, he opened his own clinic in 1988. He obtained his Membership (Avian Medicine) of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in 1991 and his Fellowship in 2003, becoming Queensland's first registered specialist in Avian Medicine. He has been

awarded the College Prize (2003) and the College Meritorious Service Award (2015). He sold his practice in 2010 to take up the position as Head of the Small Animal Hospital at UQ Gatton and, since 2012, has been Head of the Avian and Exotic Pet Service. He is a member of the School Research Committee and co-supervises the interns in the small animal hospital. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the AVA and is President of the Avian Health chapter of the ACVSC.

Student testimonials

'Associate Professor Doneley has a very great sense of humour and he is extremely experienced in the vet field. He is a wonderful lecturer and I really do enjoy his lectures. He is also very inspiring as he has so much knowledge. He is very good at explaining things to students as well, especially when it comes to abstract concepts. He is also very kind and understands our needs.'



'He is very knowledgeable about his subjects and he is always willing to happily answer questions and have a chat about any concerns you may be having. Over the years, he has just continued to add to information that he has previously told us instead of just repeating things we've been told before. I also love his PowerPoints which contain many helpful pictures and notes which have all the information you need for the assessment.'

'He teaches content in a logical organised manner. As much as I used to hate it, I really appreciate that he makes you stand up between lectures because it does help. Uses lots of pictures. Love that he gives you all the information, it really helps when you have so much study for everything to just be organised and at your fingertips. Also enjoy the humour'

External Teaching

Clinical Contribution:

Full time on clinics except when teaching
ANIM3016; ANIM3019

B App Sc: VETS2001; ANIM2020.

B Vet Tech: VETS1025; ANIM2501; VETS2012; VETS2008; VETS3024; VETS3050; VETS3070; VETS4010; VETS4034; VETS5030; VETS5016.

Teaching Courses: BVSc

Course Coordination VETS5030

Discipline Areas: Avian and exotic pets; wildlife

Years of Tertiary Teaching: 7 (plus 5 years as an adjunct associate professor 2003-2008)

Vital Statistics: VIN Consultant

CVE Poultry Course twice yearly

Conference speaker:

Spanish Exotics Vets (2017)

FASAVA (2017)

National AVA

AAVAC & UPAV (Avian and Exotics Vets)

Brought to you by the SVS Vet Ed Network

SVS Award winners

Two recipients who could not attend the inaugural SVS Awards have recently been presented with their awards. Professor Perkins presented Professor Joanne Meers with the SVS Higher Degree Research Supervision Excellence award and Dr Aaron Herndon received his SVS Helen Keates Developing Teacher Award. Congratulations are extended to all winners.



Recent passing of Dr Hugh Wirth

Dr Hugh Wirth AM - animal welfare champion

World renowned animal welfare advocate and an alumnus of the University of Queensland's School of Veterinary Science, Dr Hugh Wirth AM, has passed away in Melbourne aged 78 after a battle with Parkinson's disease. Hugh dedicated his life to animals and made tremendous contributions to the RSPCA, veterinary science and to animal welfare. He was a tireless worker and a forthright, strong leader who was not afraid to stand up for what he believed was right. His loss will be felt by all those who care for animals and advocate for their welfare.

CAWE owes a lot to Hugh Wirth, a champion of animal welfare in Victoria, nationally and internationally, who recently passed away. He was a tireless supporter of the Centre at its inception in 2005 and an enthusiastic member of its Advisory Committee for many years. He was the reason for Ethics in the title of the Centre, arguing that many centres addressed welfare issues, but none considered what this meant for our management of animals - the ethical component. This sound guidance provided a valuable *raison d'être* for CAWE, which can now claim to be a leader in ethical analysis and review of national and international animal welfare issues. Hugh never forgot the value of the education that he had received in Queensland.

Visit his [Memorial Post online](#).

Upcoming Events

Presentation - Humane slaughter of livestock and the Humane Slaughter Association.

Tuesday 6 March, 11am in #8106-211 Contact Clive Phillips for further details.

This introductory presentation will look at the establishment of the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) in the UK and examine the reasons for its foundation and its continuing influence with the meat and livestock industry in the UK and around the world. Finally, the concept and history of humane slaughter will be examined in detail, hopefully in open discussion with the assembled delegates.

SVS Accreditation Visit

The AVMA Council on Education will have an **accreditation site visit** to SVS on **9 - 14 September, 2018**.

In case of an emergency

In case of confirmed emergencies such as gas explosions, life threats, confirmed fire, please contact **000** - remember to call out of UQ first by dialling another 0 first, i.e. **0-000**.

For medical emergencies, UQ still mandates UQ Security be contacted first, all hours, on ext **53333** or **3365 3333**.

In both cases, remember to let them know you are calling from UQ GATTON campus and in the latter case, your building number.

8114 (Veterinary Science Building)

8106 (Veterinary Teaching Building including Anatomy, Post-mortem, MPL and Histo labs)

8156 (Veterinary Medical Centre)

8179 (Clinical Studies Centre)

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