



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and events



Hard work pays off!

A massive congrats to our team members Gary and Bec who are the first candidates outside of the US and Canada accepted to sit their Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) exams in Clinical Practice (Exotic Companion Animals). Such an incredible achievement, we are wishing you all the best with your exams



Tribute to Neil McMeniman

Vale Professor Neil McMeniman was a genuinely good bloke, internationally renowned veterinary nutritionist, and Fellow of the Australian Society of Animal Production. Neil was a two-term head of the School of Veterinary Science, and he lead the School through some of its toughest challenges. Neil passed away on 11 May 2020.

Neil grew up on a mixed sheep property near Stanthorpe. After graduating with a BVSc from The University of Queensland in 1966, he married Eileen, his lifelong partner. He spent his early postgraduate days in Charleville working in the Sheep and Wool Branch of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries doing research relevant to the sheep industry. In 1972 he was awarded his MVSc degree (UQ) for original, practical research that today still underpins the strategies and recommendations on feeding

mulga to sheep and cattle.

With their four children (Susan, Caron, Deirdre and Damien), Neil and Eileen moved to the UK in 1973 where Neil completed his PhD research at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne working with Professor David Armstrong on microbial protein production in ruminants. This work was at the forefront of research into identifying and quantifying the factors that influence the efficiency of microbial protein production in the rumen.

After obtaining his PhD in 1976 Neil and the family returned to Charleville where he applied his theoretical knowledge to practical issues facing the region. Neil carried out some of the first and only studies into nutrient supply to sheep grazing the Mitchell grasslands; his findings still form the basis for current recommendations to producers on grazing sheep and cattle in the region.

In 1981, Neil joined The University of Queensland and rose through the ranks to become Head of the School of Veterinary Science in 2001, holding various academic and administrative appointments along the way. He has supervised some 21 postgraduate students in a variety of fields. His work at The University of Queensland involved the study of aspect of the nutrition of a wide variety of animal species including sheep and cattle, deer, horses, dogs, fish and crocodiles.

All of his research was tackled with the strong scientific rigour for which Neil is well known and respected, but still with the practical application to the industry in mind. Neil published some 75 refereed papers and 40 conference papers. He was a strong advocate for international research in developing countries, supervising many students from those regions and conducting training courses there.

Above all Neil is known for his collegiate approach to life. He has mentored countless undergraduate and post-graduate students and staff, always with his quiet, positive advice and occasional need to step out onto the veranda for a fag. His dedication to the welfare of the 'team' is exemplified by his willingness to return from retirement to once again take over the reins as head of School in 2006, a time when the School was facing major international accreditation issues. He steered the School through this hurdle and laid the foundations for the building of the new veterinary school at Gatton.



Adopt a UQ Pet!!

Two of the Clinical Studies Centre (CSC) cats have ended up in their forever home with one of our SVS staff. Trish Farry recently adopted these two cats from the CSC colony.

Truffles is a middle age female tabby who tolerates the presence of Winchester who is a younger male domestic medium hair. These were both shelter animals prior to their arrival at the CSC. The time the dedicated CSC staff and

volunteers spend with the CSC colony ensures that the animals are well looked after and socialised until they are ready to be rehomed.

They now live an indoor life with access to an outdoor deck which they enjoy with the local wildlife of Mount Crosby, including numerous bird species and possums. They have both settled in well to their new environment with the added bonus of having more time with their human during COVID-19.

If you are looking for a cat or dog as a family pet, visit the CSC [website](#) or [Facebook](#) and see what animals are up for adoption. Trish says "It is great to be able to provide a forever home to an animal that has contributed to the training of our students and/or played an integral role in the Mission of the SVS."

A very worthy cause!

Online presentation at BrisScience by Rachel Allavena

Associate Professor Rachel Allavena presented at UQ's public lecture series, [BrisScience](#) by an online zoom session to talk about how dogs can help us cure cancer in "Man's best friend; Helping us cure cancer" last month.

Because of COVID-19 the in-person event was cancelled, but a new zoom webinar format was tried which was by all accounts a success with more than 70 people joining to hear the talk. The audience asked some rather intriguing questions and it would be a great format for conveying some of the expertise of the school out to the general public.

A recording of the presentation is [available here](#).



Morris Animal Foundation grant opportunities

Apply now for grants from the [Morris Animal Foundation](#). See the table below for information on the grants that are currently accepting applications. And don't forget to check the [SVS Research Calendar](#) on SharePoint for more upcoming grant opportunities.

Link	Deadline	Outcome	Description
Apply Now	5 August 2020, 4.59pm	October 2020	This call is for proposals aimed to address environmental, social and emotional risk factors for health and welfare in cats.
Apply Now	8 July 2020, 4.59pm	November 2020	Large Animal (Equine and Llama/Alpaca Proposals)

Staff news

Welcomes:

Lyndall Hulse	Research Officer
Xochitl Sama-yoa Herrera	Project Administrator –CAWE
Joanne Gordon	Scientific Officer – Histology
Caroline Kerr	ECC Clinician
Ildiko Erdelyi	Lecturer in Pathology (leave cover)

Resignations/Departures:

Lauren Parkes	General Practitioner
Akshata Taggers	Avian and Exotic Pet Internship
Elke Erregger	Production Animal Clinician
Irving Kat	Dispensary Coordinator
Vincent Yoon	ECC Clinician
Shay Edwards	Trainee Animal Attendant
Imtiaz Randhawa	Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Teacher showcase



Steven Zedler, Dr

Equine Surgeon and Clinical Academic in Veterinary Medical Centre

DVM Dipomat ACVS (Large Animal) Registered Specialist

Steven is best known as a central member of the Equine Veterinary Specialist team at the Gatton Veterinary Medical Centre, specialising in orthopaedic surgery, reconstructive surgery, lameness, and scintigraphic imaging. Steven is active at the professional level, consulting, exchanging knowledge and skills in cross disciplinary approaches to continually improve surgical techniques with industry colleagues.

What makes Steven a great teacher?

A recipient of the School's 'Helen Keates Developing Teacher Award' in 2018, Steven teaches into both the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and DVClinSci programmes and mentor residents, interns and undergraduate students in the clinical setting. He considers his role and responsibility in teaching veterinary students of significant importance and is a perfectionist about standards expected and promoted, and is proactive in improving teaching methods to ensure students are comfortable in surgical situations. Steven encourages students meticulously prepare for their cases, seek out additional information, question what they do and why, and take responsibility for clinical outcomes.

Steven is very active in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), leading a recent project to review the general surgical teaching across the BVSc programme. He also led a recent 'Students as Partners' project to review and refine blended learning materials for the development of fundamental surgical skills.

Vital statistics:

Years of teaching:

15 years

Discipline areas:

Equine surgery (including orthopaedics and lameness) and general surgical skills

Course coordination:

VETS5015 – Equine Clinics

Teaching courses:

VETS4010, VETS4022, VETS3070

External Teaching:

SVS Annual Equine Conference, Bain Fallon & Science Week, Locum work for Adelaide Veterinary School

Clinical contribution:

Equine surgical services

Current Teaching Grants:

'Student as Partners' Blended learning materials for surgical foundations

Student quote:

"Steve said Good Morning and held the door open for me – it was the best day of my life!" (5th year Student 2020)

Student testimonials:

"Steve has a really practical approach to teaching, he doesn't take himself too seriously and he has a great ability to explain things in a range of ways"

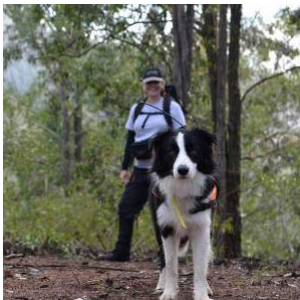
"Steve has an amazing work ethic, he's into detail and sets a really good example"

"He really focuses and emphasise what is relevant when working up a case"

"Steve has a great way of forcing us to consider the practical elements when we are working up cases"

"His teaching is case-based - this is so helpful in terms of applying our learning"

Upcoming events and opportunities



Inaugural Conservation Dog Conference, held in Canberra 20-21 August

Do you love dogs and wildlife? Learn how dogs are helping us monitor and conserve threatened species at the inaugural Conservation Dog Conference, held in Canberra 20-21 August.

[Read more](#)

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)