



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and events



2021 Clinical Coats Ceremony

The 2021 clinical coats ceremony was a success with 112 students attending. It was held in the Main Lecture Theatre in the usual presentation format and students were able to bring their family and friends. Following the presentation attendees enjoyed their canapes and drinks under the purple glow of the Bloom lighting outside the Walkway Café. Bruce Smith gave a keynote speech to prepare students for their clinical year and Bob Doneley presented the coats as the SVS Engagement Committee Chair. Thanks to Covetrus for sponsoring this event.



2021 Vet Ball and Golden Speculum awards

Vet ball is an evening to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the past year. This year the agenda for the evening included addresses from our principal sponsor and our guest speaker followed by the announcement of the staff award nominees and winners.

Staff awards are a tradition where each of the five vet science cohorts votes for who they believe was the best lecturer and tutor that year. It's a way to acknowledge the efforts the staff have put towards lecturing, answering questions, conducting tutorials and practicals.

This year, awards for the first four years were presented at the Vet Ball while the fifth year clinician awards are planned to be announced at the graduation dinner.

With a large proportion of fourth year lectures being conducted by external lecturers, we thought it would be fitting to acknowledge their efforts. We worked in conjunction with Rachel Allavena and the fourth year representatives to introduce a new award for external lecturers.

Furthermore, as the third years had a distinct lack of practicals this year due to COVID, they elected to nominate two lecturers for a dual award.

The nominees for this year awards were:

First year:

Tutor Nominees: Fran Shapter, Joe Olm, Werdi Pratiwi

Winner: Fran Shapter

Lecturer Nominees: Dan Schull, Fran Chapter, Dee Whitworth

Winner: Dan Schull

Second Year:

Lecturer Nominees: Chiara Palmieri, Dee Whitworth, Paul Mills

Winner: Chiara Palmieri

Tutor Nominees: Carolyn Cluderay, Deanne Whitworth

Winner: Carolyn Cluderay

Third year

Lecturer Nominees: Steven Kopp, Rachel Allavena, Justine Gibson, Dan Schull

Winners: Steven Kopp, Rachel Allavena

Fourth Year

Lecturer Nominees: Shahab Ranjbar, Ben Ahern, Rowland Cobbold,

Winner: Shahab Ranjbar

Tutor Nominees: Courtney Stewart, Rod Verall, Dan Schull

Winner: Courtney Stewart

External Nominees: Margie Bale, Kev Sullivan, Jayne McGhie

Winner: Margie Bale

From these nominees we had Rachel Allavena, Chiara Palmieri, Shahab Ranjbar, Albert Sole Guitart accept our invitation to attend and Rowland Cobbold and Frances Shapter as our MCs.

Our guest speaker was Dr Kate Bruce, a 2015 UQ Alumni who spoke on the important topic of industry burnout, fatigue and her experiences on balancing self-care and career fulfilment.

Attached are a photo of our awards, the winners, our evening's agenda and some photos of the night.

Lastly here are the fifth year clinician nominees:

Danielle Hindmarsh, John Mallyon, Ryan Leong, Dakota Leschke, Jodie-Lee Penn, Albert Sole Guitart

Recycling in SAH surgery

We've had soft plastic and paper recycling within the VTH for over a year now. We're trying to crack down on our waste in all areas of the hospital but with the help of Darcy and Jess (our procedures nurses), we're stopping a lot of recyclable material from entering the clinal



waste stream.

Darcy and Jess are also teaching the next generation of techs and nurses how to do it right - the photo is less than a weeks worth of soft plastic and paper from our theatres and prep room.



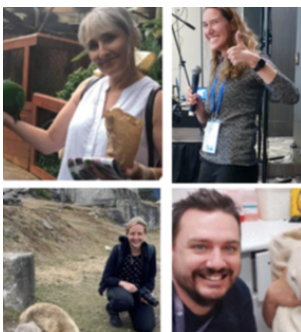
Getting hectic at the Hub again

Disruptions around COVID policy, increased off-campus learning modes and new blended learning tools provided to students had seen the Hub quieter during the start of semester two. However, over the past month, Hub usage has rapidly increased. More than 360 student visits occurred over just three days last week, as BVScIII students prepared for skills exams, alongside BVSc1 revising for the upcoming exam period and BVScV students trained for their Cherbourg Spey elective rotation. BVScIV has put so many miles on our pregnancy diagnosis models we have had to order more models and have been our most regular users

as they prepare for weekly surgery pracs.

Always looking to expand our empire, we have added small animal dentistry to the Hub's repertoire, thanks to a generous donation from clinic staff, and launched two new training areas this month. The BVScI students have a new area to practice horse and sheep skills outside the anatomy entry. The surgery suite above the Hub (8106-212) has also been put to good use, as student trained for setting up a field hospital and practiced anaesthesia skills.

This year one of our most experienced nursing staff from the UQ Vets Team, Courtney Stewart, has been tutoring in the Hub one day a week for any discipline students wanted to work on. Feedback from students and staff who have accessed Courtneys assistance has confirmed this is an excellent resource, improving the competence and confidence of all students who seek her expertise.



UQVETS nurses and technicians give back to the industry

Several of the UQVETS nursing staff hold leadership and support volunteer positions with the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA). The VNCA is a not-for-profit professional association which promotes the interests of Veterinary Nursing across Australia.

Trish Farry

- Elected to the Board of Directors and appointed as Vice-President of the VNCA.
- Also serving on the CPD and Conference Committee of the VNCA.

Gary Fitzgerald

- Member of the Queensland Division of the VNCA.
- Member of the AVNAT Regulatory Committee of the VNCA.

Linda Kirkman

Member of the Queensland Division of the VNCA

Deb Laws

- Appointed as Vice-Chair of the CPD Committee.
- Member of the Queensland Division of the VNCA.

Courtney Stewart

Member of the CPD Committee of the VNCA

Kiara Stoboi

Chair of the Queensland Division of the VNCA

Joint One Health and Equine SIG antimicrobial resistance and practical case evening

Drs Justine Gibson, Allison Stewart, Fran Shapter and Ka Yuen volunteered their time on a Thursday evening to lead students through a series of cases (endometritis in a mare, peritonitis in a horse, wire in a hoof, cat fight abscess, tick paralysis in a dog) with hands on activities in the Hub including tracheal wash, abdominocentesis, endometrial swabs, abscess aspiration, Gram stain and cytology interpretation. The Hub was at COVID capacity and the attending students really enjoyed the practical experiences using real world simulated cases followed by Q&A over pizza. Researchers also introduced the equine antibiogram which is being utilised in a VETS5017 research elective project to determine student knowledge before and after a video presentation and poster on antimicrobial resistance, the UQVETS ESH antibiogram and common infecting bacterial organisms for particular sites. The huge amount of preparation by SIG members and faculty was greatly appreciated by the students.



Queensland Animal Science Precinct update

On Sunday the 4th of July, the Queensland Animal Science Precinct (QASP) was affected by a fire that originated on the outside of one of the Chemical Holding tanks that is associated with the Effluent Waste Treatment Plant for the Biocontainment building (8370 – Map attached). The Biocontainment building is one of the 14 buildings that comprises QASP. Research that is conducted in this building is catered toward research projects that require physical containment (PC, either level 1 or 2) to

complete (OGTR and DAWE).

Even though the fire was contained to the outside of the building, there is significant damage to the interior of the building that was sustained because of the heat, smoke and soot associated with the fire. I would like to emphasise that NO animals or research projects were directly affected or compromised due to this event.

After careful consideration and reviewing the assessment reports from various specialists, including the hygienist, metallurgist and the building engineers, it has been determined that the damage to a large part of the East side of the building and the entire West side of building 8370 are of such significance that these areas have been deemed inoperable until further notice.

The QASP staff are working closely with P&F and the insurance company to ensure that there is minimal impact on future research.

We are unable to provide a timeline, at this stage, as to when the entire facility will be fully functional again. However, there are other buildings and spaces in QASP that would be suitable for use in the interim to facilitate a certain level of PC1 and PC2 research, specifically short-term projects that do not require the use of the Effluent Waste Treatment Plant. The post-mortem room and the PC2 small livestock area experienced less damage than the others, therefore, we have made it a priority to get these two areas restored as soon

as possible to provide as little disruption to the continuation of PC2 research at QASP.

Please contact me for more information about the options available if you are interested in using the quarantine or PC2 large animal facilities soon.

PLEASE NOTE: all other areas of QASP remain open for business as usual. We appreciate the support we have received following this unfortunate event.



Staff achievements

Joerg Henning - Senior Fellowship for the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA)

Paul Mills - Excellence in HDR Supervision Award

Shahab Ranjbar - [Most commendable paper in AVJ \(ANZCVS College Courier September 2021\)](#)

Teacher showcase



Linda Kirkland - Veterinary Nurse and Clinical Educator

Linda is a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) who works in the veterinary teaching hospital to support fifth year BVSc, third year BVetTech, and BVetTech (Hons) students in her area of specialisation (avian and exotic pet and wildlife medicine). In any one week, Linda can be found supervising up to 6 students as part of the avian, exotics and wildlife veterinary service. Linda also contributes to practical handling skills classes and delivers

lectures for the vet and vet tech students. In her own words, Linda aims 'to be a professional role model who supports vocational learning through participation and inclusion, to encourage growth, independence, critical thinking, teamwork, and self-reflection, resulting in the workplace readiness of students.' She is a patient and inclusive teacher, with teaching contributions appreciated by students and colleagues alike.

Student SECaTs for the Avian and Exotic Service, from both veterinary and veterinary technology students, are frequently complimentary of Linda's attitude and approach to teaching, highlighting the enjoyment she takes in educating students. The following reflect just some of the student feedback she has received via formal teaching evaluations:

"Linda was really patient with us students and didn't expect us to do anything that we were uncomfortable with. I liked how she understood that not every student had a particular interest in exotics but still helped to relate what we were learning to general practice and how it could be applied in the future"

"Very kind staff – especially Linda. She provided lots of opportunity to practice clinical skills and demonstrated a gold standard of care."

"We were involved in everything. Linda was great!! She taught me heaps."

"The staff were very friendly and helpful and always willing to assist. Linda was very patient and generous with her time."

"I really enjoyed this rotation. The vets and Linda allowed us to have a go at everything. The participation that they allowed from students in this rotation was the best part. I now feel

more comfortable handling wildlife/exotics cases and providing first aid to them in the future. Tell Linda she is great!"

Vital statistics:

Years of tertiary teaching: 2 years at UQ

Discipline areas: Avian and exotic pet and wildlife medicine, clinical teaching

Teaching courses: VETS1018, VETS3044, VETS5030 (Avian and Exotics Rotation)

Clinical contribution:

Avian, exotics and wildlife veterinary service in the Veterinary Medical Centre

Student quote:

"Linda was very patient and generous with her time"

In addition to her specialised clinical contributions, Linda has embarked on further training and development as a clinical teacher. She has recently completed the UQ Graduate Teaching Associate program, and is an applicant for being recognised as an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Linda has completed a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. She has also contributed to the development of the UQ ClinEd2U training resource for clinical teachers across a range of healthcare disciplines.

Brought to you by the SVS Vet Ed Network. The 'Teacher Showcase' initiative celebrates the many outstanding grassroots teachers in the school. Please contact Dan Schull (d.schull@uq.edu.au) to nominate a colleague!

Upcoming events and opportunities

Third Year Vet Tech Dinner

Sunday 22nd November 5:30-9:00pm, Dining Hall and Central Walkway, UQ Gatton.

Once again the vet tech cohort will be holding a third year dinner and we'd like to invite all academics and staff within the vet school.

Please [RSVP](#) by October 31st



2022 Equine Practitioners Conference

1-2 February 2022, Gatton Campus

UQ VETS is pleased to announce the 2022 Equine Practitioners Conference, to be held on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 February 2022. The conference will include ten 30 minute lectures on current topics in equine practice and four 90 minute hands on practical sessions. The event will be limited to 60 participants, so please [register online](#) to reserve your place.

Please see the [conference brochure](#) for further details about the event. The registration costs and CPD points can be found on page 4 of the brochure.
Conference Topics

- Investigating the neurological horse
- Beginner's guide to ultrasound of the stifle
- Applying a cast
- Diagnosis of cervical spine fractures and stenosis
- Surgical repair of cervical spine fractures and stenosis
- Testicles and ovaries, when and how to remove them
- What's new with Queensland Itch? (Insect Bite Hypersensitivity, IBH)
- You have a cast on your patient, what next?
- Care and management of the down horse
- The Hendra exclusion is negative! Other causes of meningoencephalitis

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)

[School of Veterinary Science](#), The University of Queensland, Phone: (07) 5460 1834

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