



# Veterinary Science Newsletter

## News and events



### BVet Tech students celebrate the start of their clinical year

The annual "Welcome to Clinics" event for third year BVetTech students was held on Tuesday 11 April. Canapes were enjoyed by students and staff in the Walkway Cafe outdoor area followed by dinner in the Dining Hall. Iffy Glendinning was the event MC and Harold Davis, an esteemed veterinary technician from North America, was the invited guest speaker. Students had the opportunity to have their photos taken by a professional photographer, including some group shots outside the Foundation Building.



### SVS Staff attend the Faculty of Science Awards ceremony

A number of SVS staff attended the Faculty of Science Awards on Tuesday 14 March at the Women's College, St Lucia. The School was strongly represented across each of the award categories. Congratulations to all nominees – this is a wonderful recognition of your contributions to the School by your colleagues:

- Rising Star – Taylor Pini, Deb Laws
- Leadership and Mentoring – Nicholas Clark, Malcolm Heath

- Partnerships and Collaboration – Virtual Tour of UQ Dairy for Immersive Education – Rod Verrall and Steven Kopp
- UQ values – Daniel Schull, Paul Mills
- Award for Excellence – Rebecca Hulett, Caitlin Mack, Ella Wright, SVS Pathology Tech Team

It was a very successful event for SVS with Taylor Pini awarded the Rising Star Award – Congratulations Taylor! And congratulations also to the finalists for the categories:

- Leadership and Mentoring – Malcolm Heath
- Partnerships and Collaboration – Virtual Tour of UQ Dairy for Immersive Education – Rod Verrall and Steven Kopp
- UQ values – Daniel Schull
- Award for Excellence – Caitlin Mack

*Photo: Taylor Pini receiving her award from the Executive Dean.*



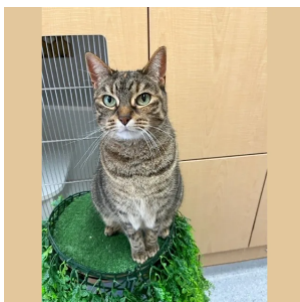
## Harmony Day International Food Festival

The UQ Gatton Campus Harmony Day International Food Festival was celebrated on Wednesday 5 April in the Foundation Building of the Gatton Campus. The SVS Head of School, Prof Nigel Perkins, inaugurated the event. A total of 180 students attended and indulged in cuisines from India, China, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, and the Middle East. The food was prepared by local restaurants from Plainlands to Toowoomba. Students participated in a quiz competition on international traditions and customs

and the winner was offered a \$50 gift card. This was followed by karaoke and live music.

The event was organised by Dr Swaid Abdullah (the current Academic International Student Mentor for the BVSc program), Prof Joerg Henning (the former mentor), the international student representatives from each year of the BVSc program, and the Gatton International Student Association (GISA). Financial support was jointly provided by SVS and SAFS.

The Gatton Campus Harmony Day International Food Festival enabled international students of Gatton campus to celebrate their cultural diversity. The event supports the establishment of an inclusive and supportive international student community on the UQ Gatton Campus and is well aligned with UQ values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.



## Can you give May a forever home for her birthday?

May, a beautiful tabby cat (pictured), is celebrating her seventh birthday this month. She is in excellent health but now is too old to be part of our teaching and blood donor program (she has taught many students, and saved many cat-lives).

May is a fantastic companion - smoochy, loving, weaving in between your feet and trying to trip you over at every opportunity. She is not a big fan of being picked up and cuddled - she is "a real cat" who wants affection and attention on her own terms! May has been with other cats, and can live with a tolerant cat, but

really would prefer and deserves to be an only cat who is totally loved and cherished for herself. [Find out how to adopt May and other CSC dogs and cats.](#)



## Chiara Palmieri attends workshop on AI and Medicine

Chiara Palmieri attended the workshop on AI and Medicine at the Frazer Institute in Brisbane on Wednesday 26 April. This event celebrates the sixth Italian Research Day in the World. It was organised by the Embassy of Italy in Canberra, the Consulate of Italy in Brisbane, and the Association of Italian Researchers in Australasia and co-hosted by UQ. Chiara gave a presentation on *Artificial*

*intelligence in animal health to improve diagnostic accuracy of cancer and discover cancer mechanisms across species*. It was a welcome opportunity to showcase the outcomes of a multi-institutional collaboration on AI-powered pan-species computational pathology recently published on Nature communications ([Bridging clinic and wildlife care with AI-powered pan-species computational pathology | Nature Communications](#)).



## Careers Fair for BVSc and BVetTech Students

Nineteen vet clinics and ninety BVSc and BVetTech students attended the second annual SVS Careers Fair on Monday 8 May in the Elton Burns Centre, UQ Gatton. It was an opportunity for students to meet with potential placement providers or future employers and for vet clinics to engage with our students. Thanks to Ella Wright for organising the event which was a huge success.



## SVS Staff at the 29th VNCA Conference

The School was well represented at the 29th National VNCA Conference in Perth, held from 19-21 April.

Presentations were given by Trish Farry, Iffy Glendinning, Bec de Gier, Nav Prakash, Brittney Prakash and Narelle Braunack. Trish Clarke delivered the plenary session at the conference titled *Being a full fledged professional; what does this mean for veterinary nurses and technicians in Australia?* And for the third year in a row the winner of the

case reports was a UQ Vet Tech Graduate.

*Photo: SVS staff at the 'All that Glitters' Gala Dinner*

## Rachel Allavena recommends UQ Research Collaboration Workshop

I attended the UQ Research Commercialisation Workshop at Custom's House on 8-9 May. This is a free, 2-day event that aims to create awareness of intellectual property management and commercialisation. I won first prize at the end of the second day for



the best commercialisation pitch for my research on immunotherapeutics for cancer in pet dogs. The speakers were fantastic and very informative and the food was delicious!

I learned new things, even though I had already participated in the CSIRO On prime and ON accelerate boot camps. For example, I learned that a process like a specific diagnostic approach can be commercialised, and that community or public health initiatives can be companies, like UQ's successful Triple P parenting

program, which is now a global brand. The workshop will make you think differently about how to approach your research, and how you might fund or talk to stakeholders about it.

The workshop is predominantly attended by HDR, postdoc and ECR researchers. I would encourage any of our HDR students, especially DVCLinSci students, and professional and academic staff to attend future workshops. It isn't necessary to have a project that could lead to a commercialisable product to attend or benefit. The next workshop will be held in October.

[More information](#)



## Staffing news

### Welcome:

Kylie Larbalestier - Laboratory Assistant  
Leonie Huijser - Postdoctoral Research Fellow

### Departures:

Meghan Scrivens - Clinical Associate Lecturer  
Mikayla Stone - Veterinary Nurse



## Staff achievements

Congratulations to the following staff:

- Gary Fitzgerald - appointed President of the VNCA for the 2023-2024 term
- Taylor Pini on her recent [article in Nature Communications](#)
- Swaid Abdullah - awarded a \$14,000 research grant from the Canine Research Foundation for the project: *Surveillance of efficacy of commonly used wormers against canine hookworms*
- Trish Clarke - [awarded Honorary Membership of the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia at the recent Annual General Meeting](#)

## Upcoming events and opportunities

### SVS 3MT Competition





The 3MT this year for SVS is on Tuesday 30 May. The event is in-person only in the Animal Studies Learning Theatre, UQ Gatton. The event will be followed by the 3MT SAFS Gatton event which will be starting at 11:30am.

**Date:** Tuesday 30 May

**Time:** 10-11am

**Location:** 8150-153

Please come along and cheer on our HDR students!

[Register to attend](#)



## Vet Nurses and Technicians Conference 2023

8-9 July, UQ St Lucia

The conference will feature two international speakers Megan Brashear and Elle Haskey, and special guest presenter Cat Walker, The Radio Vet Nurse.

Lecture topics include critical thinking, approach to the seizing patient, ECG interpretation, nursing acute kidney injury patients, nursing coagulopathic patients, approach to the trauma patients, blood transfusions, medical math, cardiac drugs, CPR, fluid therapy, and compassionate communication.

[More information](#)



## BVSc Class of 2025 Halfway Ball

29 July, Victoria Park

Come along to the Halfway Ball and celebrate this important milestone. The ticket price includes a two course dinner and a beverage package for the evening.

If you have any questions or enquiries please email [uqvethalfway2023@gmail.com](mailto:uqvethalfway2023@gmail.com)

*Note: This is an 18+ only event*

[Purchase your ticket](#)

## The UQ Research Commercialisation Workshop

24-25 October 2023

The Research Commercialisation Workshop's program is tailor-made for the academic and research staff and research higher degree students of The University of Queensland, designed to inform, encourage and inspire those interested in creating impact through the commercialisation of their research. With a mix of small group activities and presentations from industry leaders and fellow researchers, the UQ Research Commercialisation Workshop will guide you along the tech transfer journey, outlining how your individual research project could be commercialised to create change.

[More information](#)

## 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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