



# Veterinary Science Newsletter

## News and updates

### Equine Hospital Hosts EVA Day One Competency Workshop

The Equine Veterinarians Australia special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association organized a Day One Competency Workshop at The University of Queensland, Gatton, on the 2-3 of March. The workshop was attended by 22 participants from various regions including Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, and the Western United States. The feedback received for the workshop was excellent. The organizers were happy to see a diverse group of participants that included recent graduates, vets returning from maternity leave, and those who attended five years after graduation because of the growing equine caseload in their practice. There was even a retired veterinarian who wanted to attend the workshop to see what he had missed during his career. The workshop was a mix of theory and practical sessions that provided hands-on training in an inclusive and nurturing environment. It covered a broad range of basic skills required in routine general equine practice. The faculty was a motivated team of experts with a combination of academic and private practice backgrounds, offering different perspectives and approaches to the participants.



### Second biannual SVS Picnic

The second SVS picnic was held on 29 February. UQVSA, PSN and the School started the picnic last year at the start of semester two as a way to have a completely informal, cost-free, all inclusive opportunity for staff and students to meet and socialise. The concept

is to get as many of us there as possible, even if its only for a little while. There were 250 attendees from all student cohorts plus staff. The students performed a live concert and the PSN launched the buddy system again.



## Farewell Celebration for Michael McGowan

Professor Michael McGowan was the guest of honour at a farewell function held at Pinjarra Hills on Friday 1 March 2024.

More than 50 people turned out on a beautiful Friday afternoon to celebrate Michael's long and distinguished career – held at the historic Pinjarra Hills meeting room on John Francis drive, looking out over brilliant green pasture and the adjacent cattle yards where Michael (and others) have spent so much time over the years.



Michael formally retired from UQ at the end of 2023, some 36 years after first joining the then Faculty of Veterinary Science as a registrar at the newly acquired UQ Dayboro Veterinary Clinic in 1988. With the exception of several years spent at the Royal Veterinary College in London (as Professor of Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery), the rest of the time Michael has been a full-time academic at the UQ School of Veterinary Science.

Over that period Michael has made an immense contribution to livestock industries (particularly beef and dairy cattle), wildlife conservation, veterinary science, many generations of students and staff and to the community. Michael is recognised as a world leader for his contributions to research in animal reproduction, infectious disease control and prevention, animal welfare, and to animal production systems.

Michael's passion, drive and commitment and his ability to use science to drive solutions to complex problems – are matched by an ability to communicate effectively with farmers and scientists, to build teams and to drive projects to completion. He has mentored large numbers of young people in their careers – touching people on-farm and at university. Some of his biggest impacts have been in teaching in veterinary science over decades. Along the way Michael has supervised more than 25 Masters and PhD students, published over 150 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, and given countless presentations at local, national and international venues.

Michael has recently been made an Emeritus Professor at UQ, further evidence of the recognition by his peers of his outstanding impact as a veterinary scientist and leader. We look forward to interacting with Emeritus Professor McGowan into the future.

## Industry based student learning opportunities needed

Look at the smile on these students! There is always a positive, in every industry-based student learning experience. Student placements across the Veterinary Science and Veterinary Technology programs demand a huge number of touch points. Please take a moment to reflect, do you have personal connections with animal-based enterprises, either of a clinical, primary production, welfare or research focus that potentially could develop into a positive student learning opportunity?



Please forward any ideas to Rod Verrall [r.verrall@uq.edu.au](mailto:r.verrall@uq.edu.au)

## SVS hosts visitors from Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University

From February 26 to March 1 the School hosted Dr Ryotaro Miura and Dr Tsuyoshi Tajima from Nippon Veterinary and Life Sciences University in Tokyo. During their stay they were able to observe practicals, tour the CSC, VTH, Hub, UQ Dairy and ODGB Beef, and meet with SVS staff and the Head of School. They also attended the SVS picnic. Dr Miura presented a guest lecture on "Factors involved in the occurrence of repeat breeding in Holstein dairy cows and Japanese Black cows (Wagyu)". Thank you to all those who assisted with tours and meetings to make the visit enjoyable and worthwhile.



*Photo: Dr Ryotaro Miura and Dr Mohanathas Gobikrushanth*

## SVS Staff enjoy special Easter morning tea

The School held a special morning tea for staff with scones and sausage rolls on Wednesday 27 March just before the Easter long weekend. Due to the rain the event was moved under cover instead of the usual location under the bottle brush trees. Thanks to all those who were able to attend and to Laura for organising.



## Dr Shapter wins prestigious teaching and learning award

A huge congratulations to Dr Fran Shapter (SVS) who has been awarded a prestigious Australian Award for University Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.



[Read more](#)

## PAS Alpaca Training Day

The PAS team clinicians and technicians attended an alpaca training day on 31 January at Somerset Alpaca in Forrest Hill. The training was run by Dr Margie Bale, who specialises in camelid medicine and is renowned as a world expert on camel health.



## Changes in the Finance Advisory Team

Unfortunately we have lost both Megan Rivas (Senior Management Accountant) and Peifen Twang (Management Accountant) recently, Megan to an external position and Peifen to a another Management Accountant position within the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law in St Lucia. However, we are pleased to advise that Sonia Li is starting in the role of SMA commencing 8 April and Emily Eyles will be starting as MA commencing next Tuesday 2 April.

In the meantime a range of other finance advisory staff are monitoring our email, [svs.finance.advisory@uq.edu.au](mailto:svs.finance.advisory@uq.edu.au) so please continue to send queries to this email address and someone will get back to you.

## Library Updates

### For researchers

The Library is continuing to run monthly workshops on how to defray publishing costs using the read and publishing agreements that UQ has signed up to. The next workshop is online on [April 3](#), or you may wish to review the slides below from the March workshop to get an idea of the content. These sessions are not recorded, and content will change each month as new agreements and policy come into play. [PrePaid-APCs-UQ-Library-can-help-fund-publishing-activities-and-advise-on-publishing-strategy.pdf](#)



### For course coordinators

For teaching staff, learn about how to Indigenise your curriculum with the new online module. It provides information about library resources and general advice to help you get started. Includes handouts from the School of Political Science and International Studies program. <https://web.library.uq.edu.au/library-services/teaching-staff/indigenising-curriculum-resources/get-started-indigenising-curriculum-online-module>

### For HDR students

#### **Promotion your research impact: collecting evidence of research engagement**

28 May, Online, 10-11.30am

Learn about research metrics and social media impact. Find out how and where you can start making an impact with your research.

#### **Join a UQ group of tech users (even for just one session)** (various times)

Discuss problems with coding and data analysis software – R, Python, GIS, etc

## Invitation to make a submission to the 2024 School of Veterinary Science review

As part of the forthcoming review of the School of Veterinary Science, the SVS community is invited to make submissions. Please find attached a memorandum from the President of the Academic Board with further information.

The terms of reference for the review can be accessed by visiting the [School, Centre, Institute and generalist degree reviews](#) page, by clicking on the heading “Upcoming reviews” and locating the terms of reference link next to the School of Veterinary Science entry.

If you would like to make a submission, please send via [uqreviews@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqreviews@uq.edu.au) by **8 April 2024**.

## Upcoming events and opportunities

### Promotions drop-in session

For Gatton staff, the Executive Dean will be hosting a Promotions drop-in session at **Gatton Campus at the Coffee Pod on 30 April, 9am - 9:30am**. Please confirm your interest to attend the drop-in session to [science.ea@uq.edu.au](mailto:science.ea@uq.edu.au).

### UQ Review of SVS

The UQ Review of our school is scheduled for Monday 13 to Thursday 16 May 2024. Please mark the review dates in your calendars.

**Draft Review Timetable** is as follows:

Monday 13 May – St Lucia Campus: Review Committee holds interviews with UQ Senior Executives

Tuesday 14 & Wednesday 15 May – Gatton Campus: Review Committee holds interviews with SVS staff and tours of School facilities

Thursday 16 May – Gatton: Review Committee presents draft recommendations to the Executive Dean, Head of School and to the School at a School meeting

**The Review Committee membership** is below:

External members: Professor Jacqui Norris, University of Sydney

Professor Josh Slater, University of Melbourne

Professor Jon Huxley, Massey University

UQ Internal members: Professor Sandy Brauer, Head of School, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (Academic Board Standing Committee Representative)

Professor Saso Ivanovski, Head of School, School of Dentistry (Cognate School Representative)

Secretary: Faculty Executive Manager, Faculty of Science

If you have any questions about the review, please reach out to Weston, Kathy, Nigel or have a chat to your supervisor.