



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and updates

BVSc Clinical Coats Ceremony gets bigger and better

The annual Clinical Coats Ceremony for fourth year BVSc students was held in the Gatton Shire Hall this year to enable students to invite more than one guest each. The ceremony has traditionally been held in the Main Lecture Theatre on Gatton campus, but having the option to invite more people was a priority for the cohort. The event was a success with the Hall filled to capacity. The ceremony was also live streamed in the Main Lecture Theatre for those unable to attend in person. 342 people attended in the Gatton Shire Hall, 133 via Zoom and 20 in the Main Lecture Theatre, for a total of just under 500 watching the ceremony. After the ceremony students returned to campus for photos and celebratory drinks and refreshments outside the Foundation Building. Special thanks to Ella Wright and everyone who helped to organise the event in this new format!



SVS HDR student Genevieve Williams makes UQ Final 3MT Competition

Congratulations to SVS HDR student Genevieve Williams for participating in the UQ Final 3MT Competition which was held on Wednesday 2 October. The event was opened by the Vice-Chancellor and was attended by many senior UQ staff.

Photo: Genevieve poses with other 3MT finalists and the Vice-Chancellor



Swaid Abdullah recognised by Morris Animal Foundation's Animal Health Advisory Council

Dr Swaid Abdullah has been recognized as an expert in veterinary research and education by the prestigious Morris Animal Foundation's Animal Health Advisory Council (AHAC) and invited to serve on their Veterinary Student Scholars Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Swaid will start on the VSS SAB from spring 2025, where he will review scientific proposals submitted by veterinary students, provide his expert feedback on each proposal, and assist MAF in decisions for funding by rating proposals.

The Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar (VSS) program is a competitive program that provides veterinary students the opportunity to become involved in mentored research that advances the health and/or welfare of dogs, cats, equids, or wildlife. The VSS program awards stipends of \$5,500 to veterinary students who are selected by their institution to participate in clinical or basic animal health research. It is a great opportunity to support veterinary students interested in a career in research. The proposal guidelines and application information will be available on the Morris Animal Foundation website on December 4, 2024.

[Read more](#)

Swaid Abdullah leads creative lunchtime painting event for SIGs

A Vet School art piece has come to life! On August 21st, three Gatton SIGs—Vets Worldwide, Pathology, and One Health—hosted a creative lunchtime painting event, led by Dr Swaid Abdullah. SVS students gathered to paint mini canvases, and the finished

pieces have now been combined into a mural that will be displayed in the Vet Science building. This artwork isn't just a splash of colours; it's a living symbol of community and collaboration, growing with each new painting session. There's a buzz of excitement about turning this into a cherished tradition for SVS students and staff, fostering creativity and unity throughout the School.



Successful completion of the Australia-China collaboration for farm animal welfare, the Animal Welfare Standards Project

Recently, we celebrated the successful completion of the Animal Welfare Standards Project (AWSP), a collaboration between UQ's School of Veterinary Science and six partner universities in China. AWSP's aims were to improve farm animal welfare in China through sustainable, regional capacity building in animal welfare science. AWSP was generously supported by several large donations from Open Philanthropy/Good Ventures including their most recent support in 2022.



Key outcomes for AWSP from 2019 – 2024 included:

- Regional animal welfare hubs established in 6 Chinese universities, each focused on a specific farm animal species or industry:
 - China Agricultural University - Broiler chickens / Layer hens / Pigs / Beef cattle
 - Zhejiang University – *Aquaculture*
 - Henan Agricultural University - *Dairy cattle*
 - Inner Mongolia Agricultural University – *Sheep*
 - South China Agricultural University - *Broiler chickens / Layer hens*
 - Foshan University - *Broiler chickens / Layer hens*
- Establishment of an online community hub for animal welfare science tools and knowledge – '*the Animal Welfare Toolbox*' (<https://animal-toolbox.org/>)
- A program of critical research projects aligned with 3 primary themes:
 - Understanding and improving livestock welfare
 - The intersection between animal welfare and production.
 - Animal welfare in Chinese societies and industry
- Development of a free Open Online Course on the science of animal welfare for Mandarin Chinese speakers (<https://animal-toolbox.org/online-course/>).
- Post-graduate development through training and research project support.
- Collaborator roundtable discussions on the progress and future of animal welfare in China.
- Development of a magazine style 'Legacy document' summarising the activities and achievements of the AWSP, to serve as a resource and memento with a focus on our Chinese collaborators.
- Evaluation and assessment of AWSP activities and impact.

During the project some challenges arose, most prominently in the form of the COVID-19 global pandemic, original staff leaving to take up other opportunities, and geo-political relations temporarily souring between the governments of Australia and China. Despite these challenges, the AWSP has achieved many successful outcomes, making significant impacts in animal welfare in China through capacity building and by creating strong, bilateral relationships with lasting benefits to both China and Australia. We are proud of the impact AWSP has made on farm animal welfare in China and would like to recognise all of the staff and students who have been integrally involved in AWSP. In particular, we recognise the enthusiasm and commitment of our colleagues and collaborators in China, which has been the most essential element of our success. We are excited to see how China continues to develop in animal welfare into the future.

Photo: Roundtable participants from China Agricultural University, Henan Agricultural University, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, South China Agricultural University, Foshan University, and The University of Queensland.

Congratulations Sarah Sheppard

HDR student and PhD Candidate Sarah Sheppard and her partner welcomed precious bundle of cuteness baby Margot Elisabeth on Wednesday the 2 October. Sarah and Bub are doing very well. Sarah will be enjoying her maternity leave now and will be back next year- not that that has stopped her researching Western blots and antibodies online.



Upcoming events and opportunities

Ethics and Integrity in Action SVS Workshop
Wednesday 6 November, 9am

Marie Zitny and David Lavell from the University's Integrity Unit will be visiting the Gatton campus on Wednesday 6 November 2024 (9 to 11 am) to deliver a 2 hour, in-person 'Ethics and Integrity in Action' workshop for all School staff.

This 'Ethics and Integrity in Action' workshop is part of the School's ongoing commitment to embedding the **Culture Charter**, living **UQ Values** and promoting an **ethical climate** each day at work, so please make local arrangements with your supervisor to enable your attendance.

Gatton Event

Date: Wednesday 6 November 2024

Time: 1pm - 3:30pm

Location: 8111-201

Semester 2 Faculty of Science All Staff Forum

Wednesday 6 November, 1pm - 3pm followed by some refreshments from 3:00 to 3:30pm.

Preparations for our panel discussion are well underway, and we look forward to what will no doubt be an engaging conversation on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

If you haven't already done so, please complete your **RSVP** before Monday 4 November.

Copies of the school reports are now [available online via SharePoint](#).

Gatton Event

Date: Wednesday 6 November 2024

Time: 1pm - 3:30pm

Location: 8150-153 - [Animal Studies Building](#), Learning Theatre

UQ Thanks You

This end-of-year celebratory event is an opportunity to say thanks to our teams, working right across UQ, and to have a bit of fun as we wrap up another busy year.



UQ Thanks You events are for staff only, so please register with your staff email address. You can find more details on the event [webpage](#).

Gatton Event

Date: Tuesday 12 November 2024

Time: 12 - 3pm

Location: [Elton Burns Recreation Building \(8206\)](#), UQ Gatton

[More information](#)

Celebrating SVS Staff@Xmas

All SVS staff are invited to attend our annual Christmas lunch celebration. If you haven't already, please [RSVP](#) to Laura MacLeod.



Date: Friday 13 December 2024

Time: 12:30 - 2:30pm

Location: Dining Hall, UQ Gatton

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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