



# Veterinary Science Newsletter

## News and updates

### UQ Gatton Diversity Night 2026

Diversity Night 2026 brought the UQ Gatton community together for a vibrant and memorable celebration of diversity, inclusion, connection, and belonging.

Organised by UQGISA in collaboration with the School of Veterinary Science (Swaid Abdullah), School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability, UQResClub, UQAPS, UQU International Collective, UQ Life/UQ Wellbeing, Faculty of Science Student Experience, and INDOGA, the event reflected a shared commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming campus environment.



With over 250 attendees, the evening showcased the richness of cultures represented within the UQ Gatton community. Participants engaged in interactive cultural activities such as origami, henna, and mahjong, and enjoyed a captivating angklung performance that highlighted traditional music and cultural expression. A shared international buffet further celebrated global diversity through food, bringing people together across cultures.

More than just a celebration, the event created a safe, inclusive space where students and staff could share their identities, exchange perspectives, and learn from one another in a spirit of mutual respect. It reinforced the importance of embracing diversity and promoting inclusion as essential values that strengthen the UQ Gatton community.

Diversity Night 2026 stood as a powerful reminder that when diversity and inclusivity are prioritised, communities thrive, fostering understanding, respect, and a true sense of belonging for all.

## BVetTech students welcomed to clinic at 2026 annual event

The annual BVetTech Welcome to Clinic event was held on Friday 27 March. There were 160 guests in total and a Zoom link option was provided for those who could not attend in person. Rebekah Scotney was MC, Trish Farry keynote speaker, and student representatives Risini Abeywardana and Rheanna Bose also gave talks. The students were presented with animal themed gifts that included a nurse pouch, scrub cap and socks. The ceremony was followed by drinks and nibbles outside the Foundation Building.



## SVS staff contribute to world-first cancer breakthrough

Rachel Allavena and Jose Granados were caught up in a whirlwind of fame after helping tech entrepreneur Paul Conyngham and a team of scientists from UNSW treat Rosie the dog who was suffering from mast cell tumour. Paul used his background in artificial intelligence and machine learning to firstly model the protein drug targets in Rosie's cancer then design and produce a personalised RNA cancer vaccine in collaboration with UNSW scientists notably AProf Martin Smith of the Ramaciotti centre for Genomics and Prof Pall Thordarson UNSW RNA Institute lead. The UQ team had animal ethics for autologous vaccine treatment in dogs with skin and superficial cancer, as well as the clinical trials expertise to help Paul, Rosie and UNSW (who don't have a vet school) deliver the vaccine. And it has worked! With Rosie showing substantial but not complete remission which has bought her months of time. Not only is Rosie the first dog in the world to receive such cutting-edge personalised medicine, her case is seen as a powerful contribution to the 'democratisation of science and biotech'. Even more astounding was the worldwide reaction to the news first published in the Australian newspaper (front page) and the Today show. The story has gone viral being featured in blogs, podcasts, and traditional media worldwide from France, to Vietnam, to the USA. Elon Musk even retweeted the story. You can read more about the story here from UNSW <https://news.unsw.edu.au/en/meet-the-man-who-designed-a-cancer-vaccine-for-his-dog>



Or Paul's blog post on X which has all the scientific details [https://x.com/paul\\_conyngham/status/2036940410363535823](https://x.com/paul_conyngham/status/2036940410363535823)

Photo is of Jose and Rosie at UQ vets in February 2026, assessing her remission.

## SVS stakeholders back reform of outdated Queensland Veterinary Act

The Department of Primary Industries is currently undertaking a review of the Queensland Veterinary Surgeons Act and consulting targeted stakeholders. Rebekah

Scotney, Navin Prakash, and Trish Clarke were able to voice their support for changes to the Act in an [interview with ABC News](#). It is hoped that veterinary technicians and nurses will be formally recognised in the Act which has not been substantially changed since 1936. There is already momentum for these changes. The UK regulated veterinary nurses in 2016 and Japan licensed all of their veterinary nurses and technologists in 2019. And in 2024 the Australian Bureau of Statistics recognised veterinary technologists as a professional occupation. Please see the recent [UQ News article](#) for more information.



## Engaging the veterinary community: a successful VERA pre-conference initiative

As VERA (Veterinarians in Education, Research and Academia) AVA SIG President, Erika Meler led an exciting new initiative ahead of this year's AVA Conference — a pre-conference workshop designed to spark conversations around clinical teaching in everyday practice.



Held the day before the official conference began, the session focused on general practitioners eager to strengthen their skills in mentoring and teaching. The goal was clear: to extend VERA's reach beyond academia and create meaningful dialogue with the broader veterinary community about how we support and guide undergraduate students and new graduates in private practice settings.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Participants were highly engaged, contributing rich discussion and sharing experiences, reinforcing a clear need for more opportunities like this. The enthusiasm confirmed that clinical teaching and mentorship are priorities across the profession — not just within academic circles.

Looking ahead, VERA aims to build on this momentum by delivering a series of future workshops featuring diverse speakers and topics. These sessions will continue to explore practical, relevant approaches to clinical education, benefiting both academic veterinarians and those working across the wider profession.

An added highlight this year was the Brisbane location, which made it possible for Dan Schull and Aaron Herndon to collaborate on the workshop, alongside Jayne McGhie, who contributed to an engaging panel session. The event also welcomed small animal interns — Gaby, Crispina, Stephanie and Alvin — who embraced the opportunity to expand their clinical educator toolkit and gain valuable insights early in their careers.

Overall, the workshop marked an important step in strengthening connections within the veterinary community and fostering a shared commitment to teaching, mentoring and professional growth.

## A Successful presence for UQ HDR at the AVA Conference

The HDR Committee held a successful UQ booth at the AVA Conference from 18 to 21 May in Brisbane. The booth was well-attended and allowed alumni to reconnect to their alma mater, colleagues from the industry to make contact with our staff and prospective HDR students to gain more information on the programs our school is offering. Thank you to all who contributed to man the booth (Erika Meler, Gry Boe-Hansen, Amanda



Carozzi, Swaid Abdulah, Sara Horsman, Grace Reeves, Ben Wood and Ben Ahern, Haidee Grey) and to those who stopped by to say "hi"!

## PREZODE OHANA Workshop Strengthens One Health Collaboration in the Pacific

The second in-person PREZODE OHANA workshop was held from 20–22 May 2026 in Nouméa, New Caledonia, at the Pacific Community (SPC) headquarters. The workshop forms part of The University of Queensland's Connecting Pacific Nations Towards the Development of One Health Impact Frameworks project, funded by the French Embassy in Australia through the Pacific Fund and led by Prof. Ricardo J. Soares Magalhães, with coordination by Dr. Léa Indjein.



Bringing together government representatives in animal and public health from Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, the workshop also engaged key partners from the Quadripartite organisations (FAO, WOA, WHO) and the Institut Pasteur of New Caledonia.

Co-facilitated by CIRAD experts Dr. Flavie Goutard and Dr. Tu Tu Zaw Win, the final workshop focused on refining the PREZODE OHANA One Health Impact Framework for the Pacific. Participants collaboratively developed a structured matrix of priority actions, aligning national and regional needs while strengthening coordination and shared ownership.

A key outcome of the workshop is a practical roadmap to guide implementation and future development. This milestone sets the stage for the next phase of PREZODE OHANA, supporting ongoing collaboration and investment in One Health initiatives across the Pacific.

## Léa Indjein presents at One Health event hosted by the French Embassy of Australia

On April 1, Léa Indjein presented for [PREZODE OHANA](#) at a One Health event organised by the French Embassy of Australia. This was a satellite event to the One Health Summit (France, April 7) to discuss challenges and opportunities to progress collaboration on One Health in the Pacific region.



## Another successful SVS picnic thanks to our student organisations

The students (UQVSA, UQVTSA and PSN) did a fabulous job both organising and advertising the semester one SVS picnic, and we had more numbers than last year! The buddy program ran again, and some students stayed until 8.30-9pm to chat. We had more extended family join us this year, which was lovely. The dogs were a huge hit and created so many opportunities for strangers to interact and get to know one another.



## Model maps potential lumpy skin disease gateways to Australia

A University of Queensland-led team, that included Ricardo Soares Magalhaes from SVS, has built the first geospatial model to map where insects carrying lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV) could arrive either blown by strong wind or carried on ships. The research has featured in ABC News ([Cape York and Port Hedland flagged as Australia's highest risk entry points for lumpy skin disease - ABC News](#)) and an article on the findings has been published in Nature (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-026-39806-8>). For further information please see the recent [UQ News article](#).



## SVS staff awarded grants from Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

SVS has recently achieved outstanding success, securing highly competitive international grant funding from the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. This accomplishment reflects the strength and impact of the team's work.

- Allison Stewart, Jessica Wise and Steph Bond were awarded a 2-year grant "Is Gastric Hyperacidity Significant in Horses?" which will fund the final study of Marthe's DVCLinSci thesis.
- Jessica Wise and Steph Bond were awarded a 2-year grant "The Effect of Feed on Gastric pH In The Exercising Horse".
- Evie Hodgson was awarded the Elaine and Bertram Klein Career Development Award, which is a highly competitive career development award (\$30,000USD salary supplement).

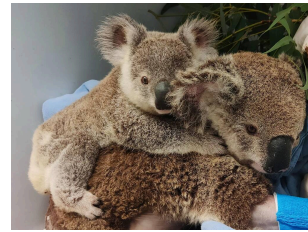
A special thank you to Marthe and Evie, whose dedication and tireless effort were instrumental in developing the grant applications—your contributions have truly made a difference.

## Upcoming events and opportunities

Veterinary and Animal Science HDR Symposium 2026

Staff are welcome to attend to support our HDR students. View the [program](#) for more information. Please [RSVP](#) for catering purposes.

**When:** Thursday 4 June 2026  
**Time:** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Where:** [Hamon Centre Learning Theatre](#)



[RSVP](#)

## Faculty of Science All staff Forum

**When:** Tuesday 23 June 2026  
**Time:** 10.00am - 12.00pm  
**Where:** [8150-153 - Animal Studies Building, Learning Theatre](#)

Please hold this time for the **Semester 1 2026 Faculty of Science All Staff Forum**.

The forum will be held in person at St. Lucia, with the option to join via group Zoom sessions at each of our sites or from any location of your choice. Refreshments will be provided following the in-person sessions.

Kindly [RSVP](#) using the link below.

[RSVP](#)

## 2026 SVS work and Wellness Day

All SVS staff are invited to attend a full-day Work and Wellness Planning Day at [Porters Plainland Hotel](#) from 8:30am - 4:00pm on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

Please arrive at 8:30am for an 8:45am sharp start.

Sessions will include:

- Smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country
- Animal and Totem connections to Lockyer Country workshop
- Career development (separate professional and academic staff streams)
- 90th Anniversary Celebrations and Strategic Planning session
- SVS group photo
- Trivia quiz
- Culture by Design - psychosocial, personal reflection/growth
- Pub Choir



Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

Please make an effort to attend, and please encourage and facilitate your postdocs to attend as well. Please [register](#) to confirm your attendance by no later than 12pm on Tuesday 23 June.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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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