



2009
AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT





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VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (AVA®)**

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The AVA is the professional organisation representing veterinarians across Australia.

Our vision is a global community that respects and values the benefits of enhanced animal health, welfare and production. Our mission is to represent the veterinary profession with one voice, and to serve the interests of members.

To achieve our mission, the AVA

- » provides leadership and expert scientific advice in animal health, welfare, conservation, public health, biosecurity and agriculture
- » promotes the veterinary profession and advocates AVA policy to government and the community
- » sets standards of professional excellence

- » provides a forum for professional support and the exchange of information and ideas
- » facilitates continuing education for members and the profession
- » provides valuable member benefits.

Members join the AVA to participate in their professional community, and work together to promote the profession, advise governments, and inform decision-makers. They must adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct.

AVA members value and invest in their own continuing education, and appreciate the value of setting high standards of professional excellence. They show their commitment to their communities through volunteering their time, and undertaking

pro bono and reduced-cost veterinary work. As AVA members, they are also committed to their profession, and supporting other veterinarians in times of hardship.

Member benefits include the option to join more than 20 special interest groups. Eight state and territory divisions and 40 local branches work at state and local levels to provide continuing education and professional support opportunities. They are also the veterinary voice for local and state governments.

Conferences, scientific journals and other publications are important member benefits. Membership is open to veterinarians and students studying for a veterinary science degree.

Information about the AVA is available at www.ava.com.au.



GOVERNANCE

The nine directors on the AVA Board bear the ultimate responsibility for every aspect of the association.

AVA has been a company limited by guarantee since 1976 and the functions of the Board include:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- » setting the strategic direction
- » approving the annual budget for the AVA as a whole
- » considering and approving financial policies
- » creating and dissolving committees and taskforces
- » approving strategies, business plans and operational policies
- » establishing delegations
- » reviewing and monitoring of the Board Code of Conduct.

MONITORING

- » ensuring solvency
- » annual budget and related fiscal matters
- » achieving strategic direction through the annual business plan
- » recommending to the AGM for appointment of the external auditor
- » considering reports from both the internal and external auditors
- » employment and performance of the Chief Executive Officer
- » operating information to understand at all times the state of health of the company
- » overseeing the management of business risks, insurance risks, environmental issues and occupational health and safety
- » ensuring that the company acts legally and responsibly on all matters and that the highest ethical standards are maintained.

COMPOSITION AND OPERATIONS

There are nine non-executive directors on the Board. Six directors are nominated and elected by the membership as a whole, and the three largest special interest groups nominate one director each.

The term of each director is three years. Directors may stand for a second term of office.

The Board at its first meeting following each Annual General Meeting elects the President, Vice President and Treasurer from among its number. The President chairs the Board, and each director has responsibilities on Board committees.

The President is in regular communication with the Chief Executive Officer to review issues and construct and agree Board agendas. The Board holds most of its face-to-face meetings at the national office of the AVA, which is at St Leonards in Sydney.

ANNUAL BRIEFINGS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At its first meeting after the AGM each year, committee membership is finalised and new directors are provided with briefing materials: all Board members are invited to formally renew their commitment to the AVA Board Code of Conduct and the AVA Board Charter. A planning workshop is held annually, often at the first full meeting of the Board after the AGM.

All directors undertake company director training before and during their term.

THE AVA BOARD



MARK LAWRIE
President



BARRY SMYTH
Vice President / Nominee of
Equine Veterinarians Australia



BEN GARDINER
Treasurer



STEVE ATKINSON



MICHELE COTTON
Nominee Of Australian Small
Animal Veterinary Association



PETER GIBBS



KEVIN M'GRATH
Nominee of Australian Cattle
Veterinarians



JULIA NICHOLLS



PAM SHORT

DIRECTORS' FEES AND INDEMNIFICATION

AVA directors receive a small allowance for attending face-to-face meetings of the Board and the AVA President receives an allowance in recognition of the substantial time commitment required. All allowances are taxable. The AVA covers the cost of return economy airfares or equivalent for attendance at Board meetings from the home base of each director, plus reasonable accommodation, meals and ground transport. Basic liability cover for directors and officers is also provided.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a challenging honour to serve a second term as AVA President. It was a year of membership growth and new strategic direction as we formulated a three-year plan to take us from 2010 to 2012.

Our goal is to grow the association in numbers and in strength, to promote the veterinary profession in its work to provide benefit to the animals and people of Australia and the world.

There have been wonderful moments over the last year, and many of the memories and experiences from the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin will be etched in our minds. A particular highlight for me in 2009 was attending one of the centenary celebrations for the University of Melbourne's veterinary faculty. Here I saw Val Sloss standing before the bronze statue cast in his image, while his great granddaughter cuddled the kelpie at the statue's feet.

Memories like these remind me, that we should appreciate the good fortune we have to be veterinarians and consider how, like so many of those who have gone before us, we can use what we have to make this world a better place.

It was a year in which we invested in new capabilities. Staffing has been provided to support the roll out of member services in the divisions. We have also invested much time in communications to promote the profession in a noise-crowded world. We have confronted many difficulties and engaged more proactively in our media strategy, with our performance showing clear signs of progress.

During the Victorian bushfire disaster in February, we quickly established a

prominent position and helped support both members and non-members through this tragedy. Praise is due to Ros Nichol, Bill Harkin and the staff and committee members, as well as those on the bushfire taskforce led by Norm Blackman.

When the H1N1 virus outbreak occurred at the end of April, it was pleasing to be one of the first organisations to send out the right messages. We emphasised the safety of pork and pork products and presented an accurate assessment of what would likely, and subsequently did, occur.

As individual members of the association, I would continue to strongly encourage you to be active and proactive. Write, email and call. With the help and support of the AVA media and communications staff, engage politically and have input to the media in your local area.

Sadly for a second year, we experienced the tragedy of a colleague dying from Hendra virus. Our thoughts continue to be with Alister Rodgers and his family, as well as Ben Cunneen's wife and daughter.

It is tragedies like these that remind us of the importance of the work of the AVA Benevolent Fund and the care it provides for members who need help. We are fully supportive of the proactive approach the fund has taken in preventative health for the profession – one example of this is the Bob Taylor Wellness Stand at the AVA Annual Conference. I encourage you to visit the stand at the Pan Pacific Conference and to support the fund, as one day it might support you.

Our work continues with government and other agencies to promote both biosecurity in



general, and infection control specifically. Praise must go to the Queensland Division for their development and delivery of infection control workshops run during the year.

Biosecurity continues to be a major focus for the AVA and Australia is at great risk of being unable to manage future incursions, as well as not having the field or office veterinary technical capacity to justify the security of our green image to the outside world. The Beale Review made recommendations for funding the expansion of post-border biosecurity that have not eventuated and resources for our technical capability have also been severely cut.

Throughout the year we have continued with the difficult task of advocating the need to support veterinarians in rural communities and in food animal practice. We are still lagging behind countries like the US and New Zealand, which have maintained and even increased their government veterinary capabilities, as well as putting in place support structures to encourage young veterinarians to stay in rural communities.

Over the past twelve months we have also increased our involvement in education. I would like to thank the deans of each of the schools for the great collaboration that we have had through the Council of Australian and New Zealand Veterinary Deans. The establishment of three new veterinary schools in Australia has raised the importance of undergraduate education.

We have offered our full support to each of the current schools while firmly stating our position that we believe there should be no more new schools at this point in time. This is not in Australia's best interests and we are optimistic that reason will prevail.

Both Charles Sturt University and James Cook University will produce their first crop

of graduates in 2010. Time must be allowed to measure the impact of the increased number of new graduates on the veterinary workforce and the new strategy of recruiting students from rural areas. The expansion of the veterinary education sector needs to be supported in a rational and sensible way as the profession grows in this country.

We have increased our efforts to work with our growing number of student members, as well as in general membership growth. Graduates and undergraduates alike have appreciated the need for us to join together to bring about the best outcomes for the animals, people and communities we serve.

A veterinary education taskforce has been established, and we hope that this will be a platform for further effort by the AVA. A

key to building our strength through collegiality, in which we all can engage, is the re-strengthening of ties between students, academics and other graduates.

The AVA has liaised on the world stage and continues to build positive relationships, through our involvement in the World Veterinary Association and International Veterinary Officers' Council. Much of this has been focused around veterinary education and the future of the veterinary profession globally.

We will also be involved as an executive member of the Vet2011 initiative, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the veterinary profession in 2011.

I would like to recognise the work of the whole profession in Australia in contributing

to the wonderful veterinary community that we have in this country. It is our collective successes over many years that have helped to elevate the veterinary profession in Australia to a high place on the world stage.

I would also like to recognise and thank the hard work of all the staff, led by CEO Graham Catt, the presidents, committee members and volunteers in all the divisions, special interest groups and branches. I have been truly blessed to work with such amazing people.

It has been a great honour to have been the first president to serve a second year since 1947, and I thank you for your support and feedback along the way.

Mark Lawrie



CEO'S REPORT



2009 has been a year of significant achievements across the whole spectrum of endeavours that make up the AVA – from local branches and divisions through to national programs run by special interest groups and the team of national staff.

The vision, mission and strategic goals remained unchanged during 2009 in preparation for the new strategic plan 2010–2012.

VISION, MISSION, STRATEGIC GOALS

Our vision is a global community that respects and values the benefits of enhanced animal health, welfare and production.

Our mission is to represent the veterinary profession with one voice, and to serve the interests of members.

To achieve our mission, the AVA:

- » provides leadership and expert scientific advice in animal health, welfare, conservation, public health, biosecurity and agriculture
- » promotes the veterinary profession and advocates AVA policy to government and the community
- » sets standards of professional excellence
- » provides a forum for professional support and the exchange of information and ideas
- » facilitates continuing education for members and the profession
- » provides valuable member benefits.

OUR REPORT CARD

There were more than a few AVA highlights in 2009 within each of these strategic goals.

LEADERSHIP

AVA spokespeople provided expert commentary on a range of media topics

throughout the year.

These included the Victorian bushfires, Queensland's Hendra virus outbreaks, the Queensland oil spill, the Influenza A H1N1 pandemic, vaccination of dogs and cats, inherited diseases in pedigree dogs, the cost of veterinary services and dog attacks in the community.

The AVA was represented on more than a dozen external committees working on important national issues related to animal health, animal welfare, veterinary testing, and the use of animals in teaching.

The National Veterinary Director attended the general session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris as part of the Australian delegation.

Submissions were made to the Royal Commission and Senate Inquiry into the Victorian bushfires about caring for animals during emergencies. Important advice was given to the review of agricultural and veterinary chemicals requested by the Primary Industries Standing Committee.

The *Australian Veterinary Journal* went to 4500 institutions globally, including those that are part of a philanthropic program to developing countries. Its impact factor rose by 34.6% to 0.801. Our overall ranking in the veterinary sciences category was 63/135, an increase of 8 ranks. Our Immediacy Index rose to 0.7, a 183.4% increase since 2008.

PROMOTING THE PROFESSION & AVA POLICY

The AVA appeared in the media 2237 times during the year, an increase of 16.8% over 2008. These appearances covered the range of media outlets, from extensive coverage in local and regional newspapers to major metropolitan television interviews and online news sources.

The media program included both responding to current news stories and proactively promoting veterinary issues, with spokespeople ranging from branch presidents to special veterinary experts from particular fields. Proactive stories that were widely covered include pet dental health, animal behaviour, hot weather and animals, pet-friendly communities, and the health benefits of pets.

Advocacy based on AVA policies took place on companion animal issues at state and local government levels. The New South Wales Division coordinated an alliance of organisations to successfully lobby against proposed legislation to ban the sale of pets in pet shops.

Divisions and special interest groups gave advice to governments about many other issues, including the closure of veterinary pathology laboratories, regulation of veterinarians, equine dentistry, state legislation and vocational training.

SETTING STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

17 new or revised policies and position statements were finalised, with topics including veterinary nursing, use of euthanasia drugs by non-veterinarians, provision of blood supplies for use in dogs and cats, and utilisation of native and introduced wildlife.

During the year to June 2009 there were 2075 examinations of adult dogs and 285 litter examinations under the Australian Canine Eye Scheme to help reduce inherited eye disease.

The Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme processed 403 x-ray submissions for hips and 339 for elbows to help breeders reduce dysplasia and to support a reduction of inherited disease through selection pressure.

Programs like the Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme, the Accredited Microchip Centres program, and the Hospital Accreditation Scheme set standards of excellence in veterinary clinical practice.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The AVA coordinated practical support for veterinarians affected by the Victorian bushfires, including providing medical supplies and coordinating volunteer veterinarians and nurses to help with the workload.

The 70 SIGs, divisions and branches that make up the AVA delivered scores of social and networking events for members.

The annual conference hosted more than 17 social events. It also featured the wellness stand to promote the benefits of healthy living options for veterinarians.

State mentoring programs supported students and new graduates, and the Benevolent Fund was there in times of need for veterinarians and their families.

Email alerts kept members on top of urgent current information about media controversies, changes to the industrial award and ongoing issues such as the Victorian bushfires and Hendra outbreaks. Twelve issues of eLine kept members informed about news for the whole profession, while divisions, branches and special interest groups published information relevant to their members.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Around 130 continuing education events were held throughout the AVA family.

More than 46,000 Vet Ed points were awarded through a range of flexible options, including online quizzes and validation of work-based education. This represented a 19% increase over 2008.

The annual conference in Darwin was a huge success, attracting 832 delegates. Delegate ratings of conference overall were the highest recorded.

Special interest groups provided clinical resources and information, publishing clinical journals and annual conference proceedings.

MEMBER BENEFITS

We launched our new student member program, and signed up 765 new student members. We also welcomed 605 new full members, and there was an 11% increase in membership overall compared with the previous year.

Our AVA counselling service spent 54 hours supporting members and their immediate families, while the Complaints and Mediation Service helped resolve more than 140 problems between veterinarians and clients. The AVA HR Advisory Service handled 2755 enquiries about workplace issues, a 4.5% increase over the previous year.

Many thanks to our partners and sponsors who made so many educational and networking activities possible across the whole AVA family. A special acknowledgement goes to our 2009 AVA Corporate Supporters – Guild Group, Hills and GE Money Care Credit.

The AVA Board carries out its role with great professionalism and dedication, and I'd like to thank all the directors, and particularly the President, for their support and guidance over the past year.

The professionalism of AVA employees around the country has helped the AVA achieve great things during 2009, and every member can be proud of those they pay to support their association and their profession. I thank all the team for their hard work and commitment.

These achievements result from the efforts of the whole AVA – volunteers, committees, directors, staff and members.

Congratulations to all of you for such a successful year.

Graham Catt

2009 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the AVA's 2009 award recipients.

- » Gilruth Prize –
Professor Ian Lean BVs PhD
(Calif) MACVSc
- » Kesteven Medal –
Professor Roger Morris BVSc (Hons)
MVSc PhD FACVSc FAmrCE FRSNZ CNZM

AVA FELLOWSHIPS

- » Dr James Gilkerson BVSc BSc
(Vet) (Hons) PhD
- » Dr Roslyn Nichol BVSc (Hons)
- » Professor Colin Wilks BVSc MVSc
(Melb) PhD (Cornell)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

- » Dr Ben Gardiner BVSc
- » Professor William Clark BVSc PhD
- » Associate Professor Bruce Parry
BVSc PhD
- » Dr Carl Muller BVSc
- » Dr Chris Robinson BVSc (Hons)
- » Dr David Marshall BSc BVMS
- » Dr David Mason BVSc MACVSc CMAVA
CertBA – Veterinarian
- » Dr Gibb Macdonald Dip Agric
(Wait) BVSc (Hons)
- » Dr Jane Vaughan BVSc PhD MACVSc
- » Dr Kerry Bail BVSc BSc MACVSc
- » Dr Lee Cook BVSc
- » Dr Peter Best BVSc
- » Dr Peter Gibbs BVSc
- » Dr Robert Clippingdale BVSc
- » Dr Stephen Pyecroft BVSc ACVSc
- » Mr Malcolm Bawden

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

- » Dr Stuart Barber BVSc PhD VSc

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- » Dr Michael Nunn
BVSc MSc MACVSc MASM GradDip Mgt

TREASURER'S REPORT

2009 FINANCIAL RESULTS AND STRATEGY

In planning for the 2009 year the AVA Board approved a budget deficit for 2009 of \$1.135 million. This decision to approve such a deficit was taken after careful consideration of the AVA's financial position and financial history. The 2009 year followed some years of significant surplus and the development of a strong balance sheet (with significant cash and current assets). This departure from surplus was also taken with the specific intent of providing an expanded service to members (largely through an expansion of AVA staff) and more fully and more completely representing the profession through stronger external engagement and advocacy.

The final operating result for 2009 for the AVA parent was a deficit \$1.241 million. A shift in financial strategy of this type requires continual review and has ramifications for forthcoming years. As such performance was continually monitored through 2009 and integrated with future budget planning. The AVA Board has committed to a return to at least financial break even in 2011 and developed a pathway to achieve this outcome. The approved budget for 2010 is an operating deficit of \$0.470 million, as an important step in the return to break even.

The AVA is a not-for-profit entity which does not seek to maximise profit but to provide member services compatible with resources. While for-profit entities can easily measure success through share price and dividends, identifying indicators of success for not-for-profit organisations is less tangible. The successes do however include:

- » convincing large numbers of non-

member veterinarians to join. There is much opportunity for this as almost half of registered veterinarians in Australia currently remain to be members

- » providing conferences, continuing education and publications of the highest scientific and professional quality which are of greatest value to members in their professional lives
- » the growing feeling of collegiality among members gathering together for AVA events or discussing professional issues of mutual interest
- » greater brand recognition and respect from the public and external bodies such as government and industry.

The AVA Board is committed to working toward the achievement of success in each of these areas. Following the 2009 operating deficit the AVA remains in a strong financial position with net assets (on a consolidated basis) of \$10.2 million, total assets of \$12.5 million and current assets and investments in shares and managed funds of \$7.0 million.

On a consolidated basis the operating deficit was \$1.181 million. This result reflected total consolidated income of \$8.893 million and expenses of \$10.074 million.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

During the 2008 year deteriorating world financial markets adversely affected the values of AVA investments in listed shares and managed funds. This portfolio is primarily managed by the Macquarie Banking Group. The 2009 year saw a marked improvement in the values of these AVA



investments. The AVA balance sheet shows a reduction in the value of investments as at 31 December 2009. This occurred as the result of year end sales of assets which resulted in higher amounts being temporarily held in cash and receivables. Once correction is made for this event the increase in the value of AVA investments during 2009 is 15%.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

During 2009 there were no major property or asset acquisitions. AVA properties were however the subject of year-end valuation. The AVA holds five offices as freehold and the revaluations required a devaluation of \$52,490 in the combined carrying values of these properties. AVA property plant and equipment remains valued at \$5.569 million as at 31 December 2009.

FUNDS, TRUSTS AND ESTATES

The AVA has six trusts which have a total equity of \$906,094. During the year the Veterinary Emergency Support Trust was established to assist with the care and support for animals affected by the Victorian bushfires. The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation, Animal Welfare Trust, Benevolent Fund, Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust and Veterinary Emergency Support Trust held balances of \$609,962, \$62,322, \$209,244, \$-7, and \$24,573 respectively.

KEY ASPECTS OF 2009 ACTIVITIES

Apart from monitoring budget performance, some of the key activities of the Finance Committee for 2009 included:

- » assessment of minimum cash reserves required for operations
- » a review and shift in investment funds management



- » an examination of the cost structure of membership of AVA, its groups, and how this may impact on a restructure of our membership subscriptions
- » an analysis of fixed and variable costs of our operations
- » a review of role of interactivity balance accounts for AVA groups.

The latter exercise has involved a rethink of how we coordinate the way in which our many groups plan and utilise their budgets in an integrated way by greater involvement in the overall AVA strategy. Our challenge is to negotiate and agree to a level of autonomous functionality of any group within our single AVA entity while retaining the enthusiasm of the many volunteer office holders.

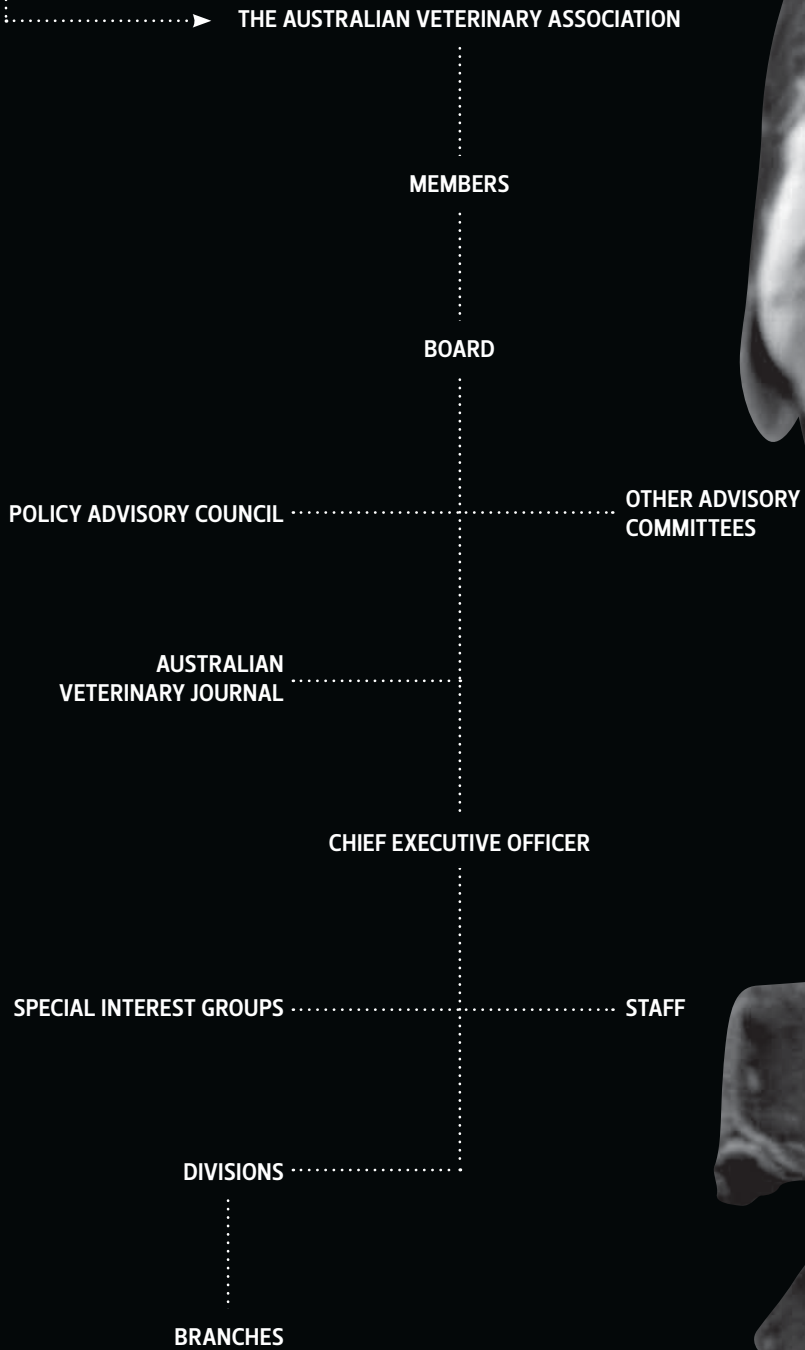
The Finance Committee for 2009 comprised the outgoing Treasurer, David Clarke, Directors Barry Smyth and Kevin McGrath, Corporate Services Manager, John Robb, along with AVA President Mark Lawrie, CEO, Graham Catt and myself.

The Finance Committee was convened monthly either by teleconference or face-to-face if preceding a Board meeting.

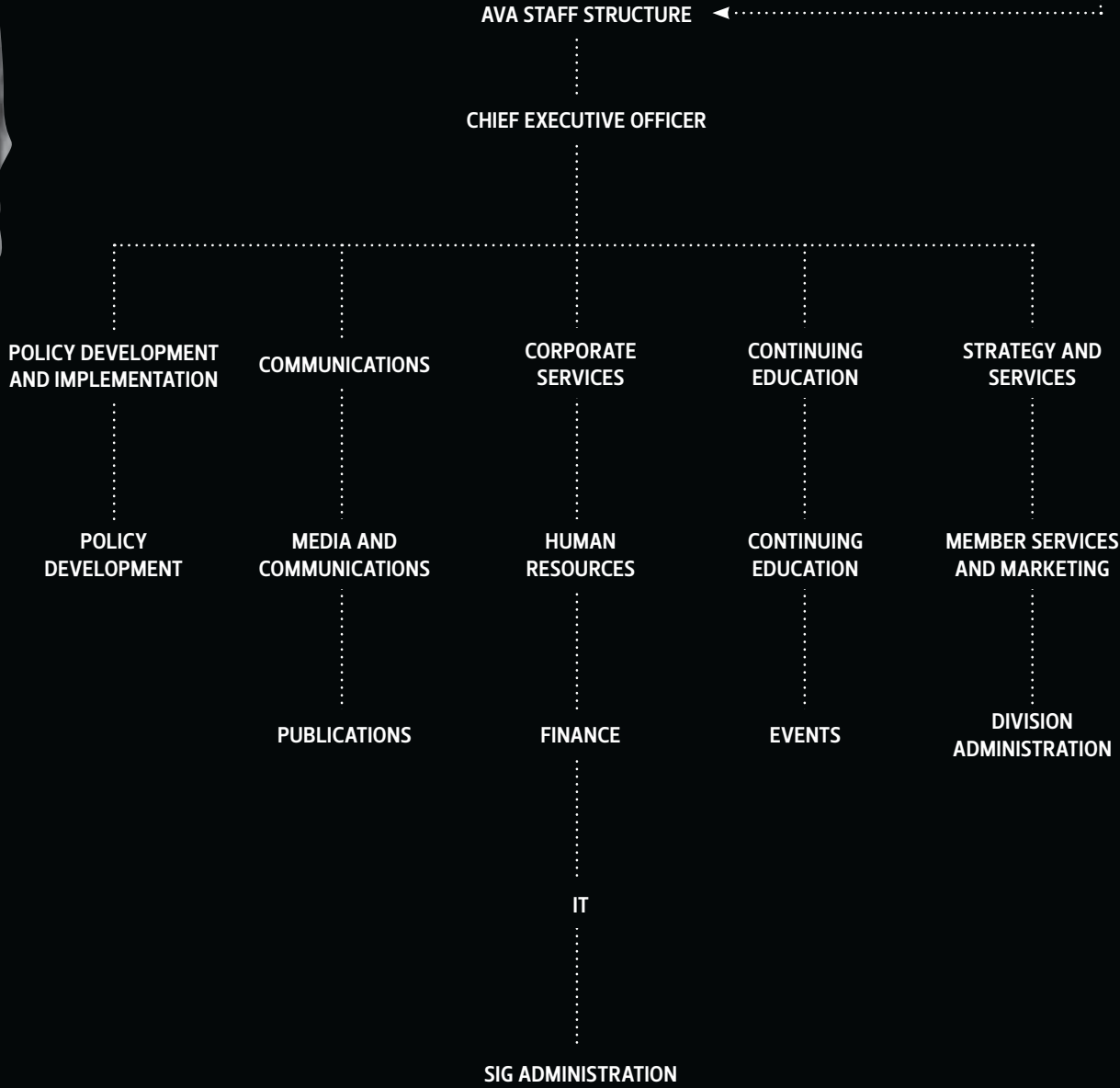
I would like to thank the other AVA Directors for their support, but particularly John Robb, and the committee members, along with the Treasurers from all of our groups who give of their time to manage our organisation's finances. I look forward to a constructive period of greater expansion and improved efficiency.

Ben Gardiner

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



STAFF STRUCTURE



**STATE
DIVISIONS**





AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY DIVISION

The ACT Division offered a number of continuing education opportunities for members throughout the year, including evening seminars, a mini-conference, and the Christmas in July and new to Canberra lunch for members and their families.

To cater for the diverse careers of ACT members, which include private practice, industry, research and government veterinarians, speakers from a range of areas were invited to present at division events.

Topics included the experiences of a veterinarian who worked as a volunteer assessing livestock after the 2009 Victorian bushfires and a government veterinarian's work as a diplomat in China.

In addition to this we covered equine nutrition, veterinary dermatology, clinical research, management, veterinary development in Africa, and Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC), their role and the collaborative work they do with the AVA.

The Division continued to produce our member newsletter and two issues were published in 2009. We also played a key role in keeping the AVA executive staff informed of the classification changes facing veterinarians employed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Our Policy Advisory Councillor continued to represent the interests of members at Policy Advisory Council meetings, by relaying member comments on a large number of draft policies.

Of the 22 policies up for member comments, the policy on ambulatory practice (formerly house calls) for which ACT had carriage was passed. The vast majority of the other policies, ranging from acupuncture, dental prophylaxis in rabbits, guinea pigs and rodents, sustainable use of pastoral land and embryo collection and transfer were passed for submission to the *Australian Veterinary Journal*.

Policies relating to religious slaughter, the use of projectile syringe equipment, vaccination of rabbits and ferrets, and quarantine, biosecurity and infection control will be contributed to by the ACT Division and discussed by Policy Advisory Council in 2010.

Raana Asgar
President



At the beginning of the year we decided to focus on four key areas, including branch support, communication, continuing education and lobbying.

It is a challenge to keep all of our branches running, and to keep up-to-date with meetings and social functions across the state. To help with this we appointed a Branch Liaison Officer, Tara Cashman, to assist branches when planning their budgets and programs, running events and securing sponsorship.

We also, for the first time, defined branch boundaries by postcode, to create marginal areas to give members the option to attend functions in several different branches.

Simon Rushworth led the development of our communications strategy, which aims

to streamline our communications, by only contacting members when there is a clear purpose and message to convey. Members continue to receive summaries of division committee decisions, as well as our newsletter, *E-ructations*.

We have been working on creating clear communication channels between our branches, the Division and national office. To achieve this, the committee has spoken many times with Graham Catt and John Robb to ensure we understand and keep our strategy and channels in line with those of AVA national office.

We also adopted a new way of receiving information from our members, by including a simple automatic response function in emails sent to members seeking feedback.

On the policy side, we have made a real effort to be proactively involved in the formulation of legislation that is scientifically based and contributes to animal welfare and health. We have been building a rapport with leaders and senior policy advisors of different political parties to do this, and I would like to thank Justine McNally for her work in this area.

Along with the Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association (AVPMA), we have also been closely involved with the

development of the new award for the veterinary industry.

Following the closure of the Rural Veterinary Laboratories in Orange and Wollongbar, we have monitored the performance of the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) in dealing with the increased demand. We invited member comments and presented them to the officers of EMAI and to the Minister. Issues raised were the courier services and the 'long weekend' hiatus of service. We remain concerned that the number of professional veterinary pathology staff has not reached the level that existed pre-closure.

We continue to enjoy a close working relationship with the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board and have liaised with them about creating 'back to work' programs for those returning to the industry after an absence.

We have also been actively working to address the issue of mood disorders in the professions, such as depression, and ways to prevent this occurring. To do so we have sponsored the Converge Group to speak at branch events on a range of related issues, and are encouraging open communication about ways in which we can help each other recognise and address these issues.

The Northern Territory Division had a busy and productive year.

We held two division conferences in addition to hosting the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin in May.

Our conferences were held in March and October, and both had comprehensive programs for veterinarians and veterinary nurses. Thank you to our Northern Territory Ambassador, Kim Smith, for her organisational work on these events.

The AVA Annual Conference was a huge success and gave the Division a chance to

show off the Territory's wonderful capital city. Congratulations to the AVA events team on a wonderful conference.

Throughout the year our members represented the Division on several committees and groups, including the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the steering committee that is reviewing the *Northern Territory Veterinarians Act*. Members also worked with the councils on developing dog by-laws in the Territory.

We have continued to seek feedback from our members and relay these to the rest of the association and to other external

groups, by putting forward member comments on AVA policies and on the discussion paper about the review of the Veterinarians Act.

In March we conducted a member survey and results from this showed that communication, emerging diseases and support for new graduates were important areas of focus.

In response we developed an Emergency Animal Management policy at Policy Advisory Council, increased our communication with members via our newsletters, established a mentor scheme

Just as the AVA as a whole has done, the Division has come to recognise the importance of engaging students and encouraging them to become members. We are aiming for 90% student membership by 2012 and plan to support programs such as student visits to regional areas, work placements for fifth year students, and orientation programs like the Hills Veterinary Leadership Experience program to reach this goal.

This year, also saw the NSW Division reinstate the role of Executive Officer. Debbie Neutze did a great job in this role for most of the year, and Mark Fraser has ably taken over the baton with great enthusiasm and competence.

Nigel Scott will retire from the committee in 2010. Nigel has held the positions of President and Treasurer, as well as being an outstanding representative of country NSW. Nigel's reassuring presence will be greatly missed by the committee members.

Geoff Tomkins from Lismore will be the new Division President in 2010. Geoff has been a main stay of the Far North Branch for many years and brings energy and enthusiasm to this post. Good luck to Geoff in his new role.

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee, particularly Julia Crawford, our Treasurer, and Steven Ferguson, who has been extremely active on the committee, as well as in his role as Secretary for the Highlands Branch. Your support, and the support of the profession, during this year have been greatly appreciated.

Rod Starr
President

for new graduates, and began surveying veterinarians about the prevalence of various diseases in the Territory.

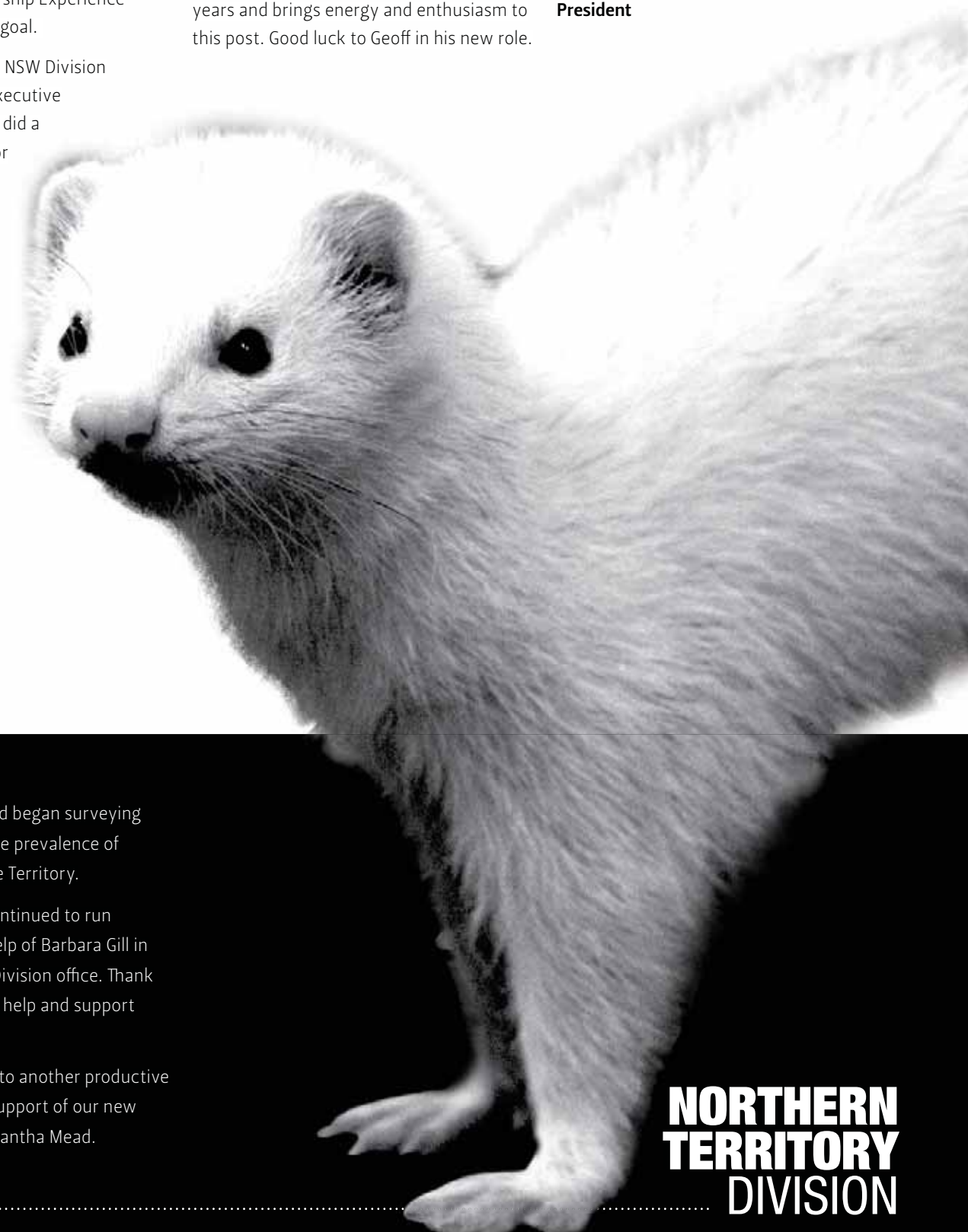
Our committee has continued to run cohesively with the help of Barbara Gill in the South Australian Division office. Thank you to Barbara for her help and support throughout the year.

We now look forward to another productive year with the added support of our new Executive Officer, Samantha Mead.

Clare a'Beckett
President



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
DIVISION**



←

The year commenced with a successful conference at Yeppoon, followed by an interesting and demanding 12 months for the committee.

The Queensland Executive Committee conducted the first Infectious Disease Control (IDC) seminar at Tablelands Veterinary Service's Malanda Hospital and followed this with seminars at Toowoomba, Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville.

We believed there was a degree of urgency to deliver messages to practitioners that would help them to improve the use and implementation of personal protective equipment when dealing with the unknown. After the distressing experience of Ben Cunneen's death from Hendra virus in 2008, no one expected a similar tragedy was about to unfold with Alister Rodgers. The majority of seminars were well attended by veterinarians, veterinary nurses and allied horse carers.

The Queensland Executive Committee is also working with the Anton Breinl Centre at James Cook University under the leadership of Professor Richard Speare. This group is focused on attracting grants to fund research on ways to improve standard operating procedures with personal protective equipment for veterinarians dealing with infectious diseases.

A round-table meeting was held with government to discuss the dissemination of essential information on Hendra virus and biosecurity guidelines to the horse industry and the horse-owning public. AVA President, Mark Lawrie, and Equine Veterinarians Australia Executive Officer, Jane Barry, also attended.

Members of the committee were invited by government to revisit Rockhampton for a Ministerial Forum to discuss the Hendra virus and veterinary ethics. Veterinarians and horse owners had experienced virus spillovers from flying foxes in the Rockhampton and Bowen districts, which resulted in some horses becoming ill and dying.

Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, corresponded with the Queensland Division in October. The Premier stated that her government was currently in discussion with Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, to establish an Emerging Infectious Disease Research Alliance based on a partnership between state and commonwealth government funding with a commitment from Queensland.

The state government also introduced the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act* in 2009, which is already mandatory in some municipalities.

Due to the sterling efforts of the Division office, branch members and two of our past presidents, Sue Fowkes and Andrew Easton, a number of microchip accreditation workshops were conducted across the state.

A major benefit to the Division during the year was the appointment of Steve McMaster as Executive Officer. Steve worked and communicated well with the committee, and although Steve moved on to take a job elsewhere, he showed us how having an Executive Officer could benefit the Division. Fortunately we have a new Executive Officer, Amanda Pollard, who was previously the Queensland PetPEP Education Officer. We look forward to Amanda's increased involvement in her new role with us.

During the year, we were informed by government that as of 1 December 2009 the Veterinary Tribunal would be replaced by a new organisation called the Queensland Civil and Administration Tribunal. In the past, there was always a veterinary nominee on the Tribunal. The Division believes it is vital that there be correct interpretation of all aspects associated with veterinary practice standards, and we look forward to further consultation with the Minister about this.

The stewardship of David Paxton has enabled the Division to distribute a noteworthy magazine, *The Queensland News*, in addition



QUEENSLAND DIVISION

to our online publication, *Grapevine*, giving us two channels with which to provide important information to members.

A successful mail-out to lapsed members resulted in over 40 members rejoining, and similar mail-outs led to new members joining for the first time. We are grateful for those colleagues establishing contact again and look forward to further interaction.

Gill Arnold and Camilla Broughton, from the Division office, continued to provide valuable assistance to our members, and assist with the successful running of conferences in Mackay and Ballina. These events continue to provide excellent continuing education to our 2681 registered veterinarians.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank our office staff, branches, special interest groups, industry representatives and AVA PetPEP for supporting Queensland veterinary practices throughout the year.

Bruce Pott
President



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

The South Australian Division was very active in 2009, with a number of events for members run during the year. In addition, we coordinated the South Australian PetPEP activities, resulting in 124 presentations to 7918 students, published four issues of our magazine, *Bulletin*, and commenced a monthly e-newsletter to members.

Also beginning this year, the Division office took on the administrative workload for the Northern Territory Division and facilitated the running of its committee meetings.

We began the year with a clear focus on delivery of service to members. We changed the pricing at our continuing education events to advantage members so that member registration rates for our key seminars during the year would more than repay the AVA membership fee.

We also wanted to recognise the importance of students to the profession, and made a point of engaging with them this year. For the first time we included all

students at the new University of Adelaide Veterinary School at Roseworthy as members, and organised for a delegation from the committee to visit the university to speak to students about the new membership categories and invite them to attend our meetings.

Our first event of the year was Pets and Vets in the Park scheduled to be held in February but was postponed due to the severe heat wave. Unfortunately we had less than optimal attendance due to the reschedule and the close timing with other major events in the city. The plan in the future is to partner with existing events such as the Million Paws Walk.

The South Australian Division Annual meeting was held in April with registrants numbering 120. We ran a nurses' stream concurrently, and received good feedback from exhibitors and attendees. We will continue with this format for our 2010 conference.

The AVA Ball, held in June, was also well attended with 273 people at the

black tie event and the Great Debate, held at the Presidents Reception in October, was a big success, as for the first time a student debating team took on the profession and won!

Continuing education meetings were very strong this year. The Small Animal Practitioners Branch held five events, the Rural Practitioners Branch and the Henty Branch each held two and the Hindmarsh Branch held four.

We also held a new graduates dinner in April, which was sponsored by Guild. The dinner welcomes new veterinarians to the state, as well as new graduates. Graduates are also paired with mentors at the event.

We had some success in 2009 with strengthening our relationships with key animal welfare groups in the state. Both the RSPCA and the Dog and Cat Management Board attended committee meetings to discuss ways we can work together to achieve our mutual goals.

The year also saw the emergence of a Veterinary Wildlife Committee and a Veterinary Emergency Management Group. This group is coordinated by Rachel Westcott, and was formed to improve the care and treatment of injured wildlife and to create systems to enable us to be prepared in the event of a bushfire disaster in South Australia.

Perhaps one of the most important developments within our office this year was the appointment of an Executive Officer. After an unsuccessful attempt to fill the position in May, we recruited again in September and Samantha Mead filled the position. Samantha started in the role in November and has quickly taken up the reins of both the South Australian and Northern Territory Division offices.

I would like to thank the committee for their support and dedication in 2009 and likewise Barbara Gill and Rachel Sullivan for their work. We look forward to another active year in 2010.

Warren Foreman
President

TASMANIAN DIVISION

The Tasmanian Division enjoyed another successful year and continued our commitment to provide quality continuing education opportunities to members through our seminar series.

We facilitated four seminars in the north of the state, three in the south and one in the north-west, and covered topics such as in biosecurity, pathology, dermatology, animal behaviour and online continuing education opportunities.

We also held two mid-winter social functions (one in the north and one in the south of the state) to welcome new veterinarians to Tasmania and encourage them to develop connections with colleagues in their region. The events were

very well received and we plan to repeat them in 2010.

Our annual meeting in March, held in conjunction with the University of Sydney's Centre for Veterinary Education program, attracted a record number of attendees. AVA President, Mark Lawrie attended and spoke about the wonderful work that was done by AVA members to support those affected by the devastating Victorian bushfires.

Our annual conference was held at Wrest Point Convention Centre in Hobart at the end of October. The conference had a fantastic line-up of speakers as well as a great social program, and we were very grateful for the support of more than 25 industry sponsors who helped make the event possible.

As well as being a productive and successful year for the Victorian Division, 2009 was a year of unexpected challenges.

Victoria was particularly saddened by the impact of the Black Saturday bushfires in February and the subsequent loss of human and animal life, as well as property. The Division was involved in the establishment of the Veterinary Emergency Taskforce (VET), which oversaw the veterinary response to the triage and volunteer effort. We acknowledge the valuable contribution that Norm Blackman made in his role as chair of the VET, as well as that of the members of the taskforce, staff, volunteers and organisations that donated advice, goods and services.

If a positive can be gained from this experience, it is that as a result the Division is now involved in a number of strategic partnerships with a range of organisations to ensure that future planning in a bushfire emergency response is coherent and streamlined.

The timing of the bushfires coincided with our annual conference, the first in ten years, which was hosted by the Geelong Branch. The conference was a great success with a strong education program for both veterinarians and veterinary nurses. It also provided an opportunity to put together a last minute auction to raise money for the AVA bushfire fund. Bondi vet, Chris Brown offered his support and was an impressive MC and auctioneer for the evening.

In April the Division held its annual meeting, and we conducted our first regional conference in Mildura in August. Our branches also had an active year and, with the support of Jenny Cumming, ran approximately 35 continuing education programs and events.

The Division continued to offer valuable member services across the state, and introduced a new initiative for 2009, a branch summit, where branch committee members meet and attend a planning evening. Feedback from this was extremely positive.

We continued to support Victorian veterinary students, by maintaining the status of Principal Partner with the Veterinary Students Society of Victoria (VSSV), as well as keeping up our support of the position of the Practitioner in Residence program at the University of Melbourne.

The President, President-Elect and Executive Officer attended a range of external meetings and functions to promote the AVA or to provide input on issues and continue the information exchange with government bodies, universities and other relevant organisations.

Formal presentations were made at the Veterinary Nurses Graduation Ceremony at Box Hill TAFE, and the University of Melbourne White Coat Ceremony, sponsored by the AVA.

Special acknowledgement is also extended to other members who have assisted the committee during the year by representing the Division on a range of groups and committees. Thanks to Jeff Brady and

Plans for our next conference are now well under way and we look forward to another great event this time at the Country Club in Launceston.

This year has also seen the appointment of Angela Offord as Executive Officer to the Division. This appointment has been great for the Division, and has led to improved communication and sharing of ideas with other divisions, special interest groups and national office.

In April the Tasmanian Division committee attended a meeting with the directors of the AVA Board. The meeting focused on exploring some of the issues affecting the Division, including our support needs, government relationships and advocacy, animal welfare and rural workforce issues.

We had an opportunity to meet again with the Board, as well as other AVA Presidents and Executive officers, in May at the Presidents meeting in Darwin and in October at the division leadership meeting in Sydney. These meetings facilitated an exchange of ideas between the groups and led to a closer understanding of the AVA's new strategic plan and key issues and challenges for 2010.

The Division has continued to liaise with government on a range of issues. We made a submission to a discussion paper on changes to regulations in the *Dog Control Act* and also responded to the government's draft Cat Management Bill, citing AVA policy on breed specific legislation and microchipping.

In addition, our advocacy work is aided by representation by Division members on a number of statutory advisory and animal ethics committees.

Next on the agenda will be our response to concerns expressed by members with regard to reduced government pathology capabilities following recent redundancies and the implications this may have in the event of an exotic disease outbreak.

I would like to thank the committee members for their hard work and support over the past year. I look forward to continuing to work together to provide a high quality of service to members in Tasmania.

Suzanne Martin
President

members of the Fellows and Awards subcommittee, Onn Ben-David for his excellent work as our Policy Councillor and David Rendell who continued the extremely valuable role as the Division representative on the Victorian Government's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Thanks also to Mike Harrison who continued as the Honorary Editor of *Vic Vet*, our quarterly member newsletter. This, along with our monthly electronic newsletter has continued to provide members with professional, personal and practice related information.

The Division was active in representing the AVA's views on Deakin University's proposal to establish a new veterinary school in Warrnambool, and held meetings with the Minister of Agriculture Joe Helper, and Shadow Minister Dennis Napthine, to put forward the AVA's position.

In response to a letter from Minister Allen, a meeting was also held with Skills Victoria to discuss the training of veterinary nurses,

and the impact on training costs of the new TAFE funding arrangements.

We have continued to meet regularly with the Victorian Nurses Council of Australia, and both organisations have agreed to form an industry advisory group in the near future.

Thanks to the work of David Rendell and Onn Ben-David the Division is fortunate to have extensive consultative feedback processes and systems. These ensure that members have the opportunity to discuss, debate and provide comment on the various draft policies, position statements, codes and legislation circulated during the year.

As well as responding to drafts from the Policy Advisory Council, we have also provided comment on a wide range of policies, guidelines, codes of practice and bills throughout the year. Topics include jumps racing, animal welfare, equine dentistry, breeding of animals with genetic defects, standards and guidelines for sheep, welfare of horses, review of national chemicals and plastics regulations and the *Livestock Management Act*.

VICTORIAN DIVISION

Veterinarians are continuing to register for microchipping accreditation for cats and dogs, and as Victoria also implemented legislation for microchipping of horses in 2009, registration for this too is not far away.

The committee and Division office staff continued to maintain a high level of service to members and the profession throughout the year. Executive Officer, Sue Stanley and Office Administrator, Jenny Cumming, welcomed another staff member in March, Linda Lawrie, who took up the role of Deputy Executive Officer.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their dedication and support throughout 2009.

Bill Harkin
President

The Western Australia Division was very busy at a committee and office level in 2009.

A change of government and a new division President this year gave us a good excuse to reconnect with government at a state level. Inroads have been made and we saw the Western Australian government overturn some poorly constructed local laws as a result of some of our work.

Some of the topical issues we have had bubbling away are cat control and issues related to poison regulations.

**WESTERN
AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION**

The biggest impact we appear to have had has been on the welfare front, with the government rumoured to be about to change the wording of the tail docking regulations. A lot of work went on behind the scenes to get the government to agree to change the regulations without public consultation and after two drafts, I think we may have ensured that all the loopholes have finally been closed.

This year also saw our inaugural state conference. An excellent trade fair was held on the Saturday night, with well over 300 veterinarians, veterinary nurses and soon-to-be-graduates attending. The success of the conference has given us an excellent platform on which to build. In 2010 we are planning to have two international speakers, as well as a couple from some of the eastern states, to present.

Finally, we have continued to involve our members in the work of the Division by listening to their feedback and reconnecting where appropriate. We have also continued to work closely with our trade partners and Murdoch University.

Division membership is at a record level, largely due to the work we are doing in graduate support and the added member benefits we provide to our local veterinary school students.

Garry Edgar
President



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE GROUP

The Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Group (AVAG) aims to provide quality continuing education opportunities for its members and in particular for International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) graduates who need to maintain their continuing education for annual IVAS membership and registration.

The AVA Annual Conference held in Darwin in May provided us with two days of lectures. Speakers included Americans Kevin May and Bruce Ferguson, who both have extensive international experience teaching Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM).

AVAG members Chris Robinson and Carl Muller were awarded Meritorious Service Awards at the conference and Pam Short was elected to the AVA Board. Congratulations to Chris, Carl and Pam.

The post-conference program included an advanced TCVM diagnostics workshop and a two-day workshop on musculoskeletal disorders, both presented by Dr Ferguson. Thank you to Joanna Milan for her wonderful organisation of the conference and social program.

In February, Canadian Steve Marsden returned to Sydney for another five-day introductory Chinese veterinary herbal course and master-class weekend, and in December Bruce Ferguson presented a TCVM workshop at Murdoch University. Topics covered included advanced equine acupuncture techniques and the TCVM herbal module for cardiovascular and respiratory disorders.

Ulrike Wurth and other AVAG members have been working hard on the veterinary

acupuncture position statement for the AVA Policy Advisory Council. The document has now been presented to AVA members for feedback. Thank you to Dr Wurth for all her hard work.

The AVAG continues to enjoy a growing membership base with over 140 members to date. In 2009 we kept up our communication with members via our quarterly journal and email newsletter. We are very pleased with our website, www.acuvet.com.au, which has received over 13,000 visits to date and has increased the visibility of our group as well as the AVA.

Thank you to the AVAG committee members for all their hard work throughout the year.

Esther Horton
President

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA VETERINARIANS

The Australian Alpaca Veterinarians (AAV) conference this year was held in Galway, Ireland, attracting international speakers and attendees to the event.

As well as a great conference program, we have continued to provide value to our members through our comprehensive newsletter and member rates for conference registration.

The Q alpaca process, our voluntary alpaca quality assurance program is achieving global recognition and is in the process of being upgraded. The program is envied internationally, especially since the emergence of tuberculosis (TB) in alpacas in the United Kingdom and Spain. Australian alpacas are free from this disease because of the AAV's Q alpaca program.

Michael Strakosch
President



The Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association (AAVMA) aims to promote the interests of veterinarians working in the area of cage and aviary bird health and welfare. It does this through scientific meetings, email discussion groups and the provision of expert advice on avian health and welfare issues when needed.

The main focus of the AAVMA has been scientific conferences to disseminate new avian health information, as well as some basic casework to encourage less experienced members.

Our next annual meeting will be held in October 2010. The central issue addressed at the previous meeting was ways of stabilising membership numbers and how to encourage younger members to join the group. It was decided we would offer free student membership as a way of attracting young members to join.

This year AAVMA had a modest decline in full members, but there was a large increase in membership overall, due to the take up of free student membership. However, it is not clear how active our student members are, as establishing contact has been difficult.

Other work we are looking to progress is the formulation of a policy on birds listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that are seized after illegal importation into Australia.

Our next annual conference will be with the Association of Avian Veterinarians – Australasian Committee (AAVAC) in October in Hobart. The conference will be run in conjunction with the Unusual and Exotics Pet (UEP) special interest group. The AAVMA will also co-present with UEP at the AVA Annual Conference in Brisbane in May.

The teaching of wildlife, cage and aviary medicine has continued to increase in the Australian university curriculum. The practical clinical experience for recent graduates may, however, be minimal, leading to a sharp falling away of these newly acquired avian skills.

The AAVMA provides a mentor system for undergraduates and veterinarians who wish to improve their skills or deal with avian cases. As in the previous year, undergraduates are being encouraged to contact and join the association in order to facilitate appropriate placement.

The AAVMA is continuing the process of producing a series of information sheets and client handouts for the most common conditions. In past years a CD-ROM of our presentations at the AVA Annual Conferences was distributed to all AAVMA members, and we expect to reintroduce this member benefit in the coming financial year.

Thanks again to all the committee members for their work in 2009.

Alex Rosenwax
President

**AUSTRALIAN
AVIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

▶ **The Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG) is the newest special interest group and already one of the larger ones in the AVA.**

Since its inception, AVBIG has organised successful scientific programs at every AVA Annual Conference. In 2009, AVBIG did not have an international speaker, but instead combined with other special interest groups to deliver a very well-attended stream. Papers from the conference attracted a lot of media interest and resulted in interviews with radio stations around Australia.

Following the conference we ran a Dog Bite Symposium, with Bonnie Beaver from Texas State University as the keynote speaker.

In August we held our first AVBIG conference with internationally renowned ethologist Professor Raymond Coppinger as the featured speaker. This was an outstanding success with an audience of veterinarians, veterinary nurses, dog trainers and university staff from around the country.

Following the 2008 success of a seminar we held in conjunction with the Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners Branch, we held a similar event with the Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners Branch in March 2009. AVBIG members Debbie Calnon, Robert Holmes and Gaille Perry were supported by Pauleen Bennett, who has now become a regular speaker at both AVBIG and AVA events.

AVBIG continues to service members by providing information through a range of channels. We publish a quarterly online newsletter and supply printed copies of AVBIG papers for members attending the AVA Annual Conference, which we then upload to our online discussion group for the information of all members.

We have also negotiated a member rate for the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior Clinical Applications and Research* and this is subsidised for our student members by the sponsorship we received from Hills Pet Nutrition.

In 2009 AVBIG contributed to the development and review of a number of policies and position statements, through our involvement on the Policy Advisory Council. We have also provided assistance to the AVA Board when required and the media and communications team.

Gaille Perry
President



**AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY
BEHAVIOUR INTEREST GROUP**



AUSTRALIAN CATTLE VETERINARIANS

▲ **The Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV) had another busy year in 2009 with conferences, projects and rural practice weekends held at many universities around Australia.**

The AVA Annual Conference in Darwin in May was well attended by cattle vets from all over Australia, despite being away from the heart land of our membership. Attendance numbers in the cattle stream were pleasing and members enjoyed the social events on offer, including the dinner held at our Annual Meeting.

The ACV conference in 2009 was held at the Marriott Resort on the Gold Coast in conjunction with Australian Sheep Veterinarians and Australian Reproduction Veterinarians.

The conference was an extremely successful combined effort between the three ruminant production animal special interest groups. The organising committee did a great job and put together an amazing program of local and international speakers. There were two rooms operating throughout the program and several social events on offer, which kept the conference organisers and ACV office staff very busy.

Post-conference workshops were held at the University of Queensland Pinjarra Hills farm. An ultrasound workshop for recent graduates was run with the help of BCF Ultrasound and assistance from Scott Norman, Scott Parry and the university staff. Some of the younger members also attended an embryo transfer workshop at the same location.

In October we held our executive workshop at Melbourne airport. The two-day event was attended by state representatives, as well as non-executive members. The workshop aims to determine the direction the ACV will take in coming years and develop leadership skills in new committee members.

Another project that kept ACV members busy was the rural practice weekends, which have been taking place at university campuses over recent years. By establishing contact with the students, we hope to give them a greater understanding of rural practice and what the day to day work of a rural veterinarian involves. In 2009 we appointed a committee member to act as liaison with the university student representatives, and part of this role will be to assist in organising these events in the future.

Our work on improving the Veterinary Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation (VBBSE) also continued, as we sought input from many practitioners and experienced reproduction veterinarians. Workshops were run around the country for veterinarians who undertake examination of bulls for breeding soundness to become accredited.

Veterinarians who complete their accreditation can provide a standardised examination and report pertaining to the reproductive soundness of an individual bull. This scheme offers bull purchasers and producers a consistent and repeatable assessment of fertility components and indicates when the bull has a high probability of being fertile.

Next year will mark the start of the compulsory use of the National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis (NCPD) trademarked tag system for all accredited pregnancy testers. We put in a great deal of work in 2009, as well as in previous years, to develop a tagging system that cannot be replicated by non-accredited pregnancy testers. Thank you to Ian Bradshaw and Anne Cover for the endless hours they have contributed to fine tuning the trademark document and tag design.

Finally, my thanks to all of the people who have contributed to the smooth running of the ACV in 2009.

**Andrew Hoare
President**

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY CONSERVATION BIOLOGISTS

The Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB) has had a successful year in many areas. We continued to grow our membership numbers and have become more involved in local and international conservation issues. AAVCB members are kept up-to-date via our newsletter and regular email contact.

The year kicked off with the Australasian Veterinary Students' Conference in Perth in January, which we sponsored. Students were shown how varied a career in veterinary practice can be, as well as how and where they can become involved in conservation issues. AAVCB were proud to sponsor the event and have the opportunity to teach the veterinarians of the future about these important issues.

In May, we were in Darwin for the AVA Annual Conference. The conservation

stream was well attended and covered issues of local, national and international interest. The week wrapped up with a field trip to Crocodylus Park and the Northern Territory Wildlife Park.

We held a successful seminar series throughout the year at the Sydney University Veterinary Conference Centre. Topics included local issues such as koalas, as well as international areas of focus such as conservation projects in Indonesia, presented by renowned international speaker Dr I Gede Nyoman Bayu Wirayudha. Thank you to Derek Spielman for his ongoing organisation of these seminars.

Thank you also to Vere Nicolson for organising the highly successful presentations that we ran in south-east Queensland. A great range of topics were on the program including pathology, wildlife corridors and conservation in India.



Over the year we have continued to provide advice to Policy Advisory Council on topical conservation matters as they have arisen. These include wildlife utilisation, animals in captivity and the Queensland oil spill that occurred in March.

Geoff Dutton
President

The main focus for the Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) has always been continuing education for the whole profession, particularly for our members. In 2009, our members were proactive in achieving this goal and ran day seminars, lectures and dental wetlabs around the country.

The dental wetlabs have proven to be the most popular with interest so high we have had waiting lists for some events. To cater for the increased demand, we will hold two dental wetlabs at the Pan Pacific Conference in Brisbane in May. Thank you to Natalie Walker, Events Manager, for her assistance with this, and iM3, the veterinary dental company, for their support.

AVDS is well respected throughout the world for being at the cutting edge of veterinary dentistry and our members actively promoted this in 2009 by providing continuing education to veterinarians worldwide.

The society has also continued to offer value to our members by providing an online newsletter, dedicated member website and membership rates for wetlabs and events.

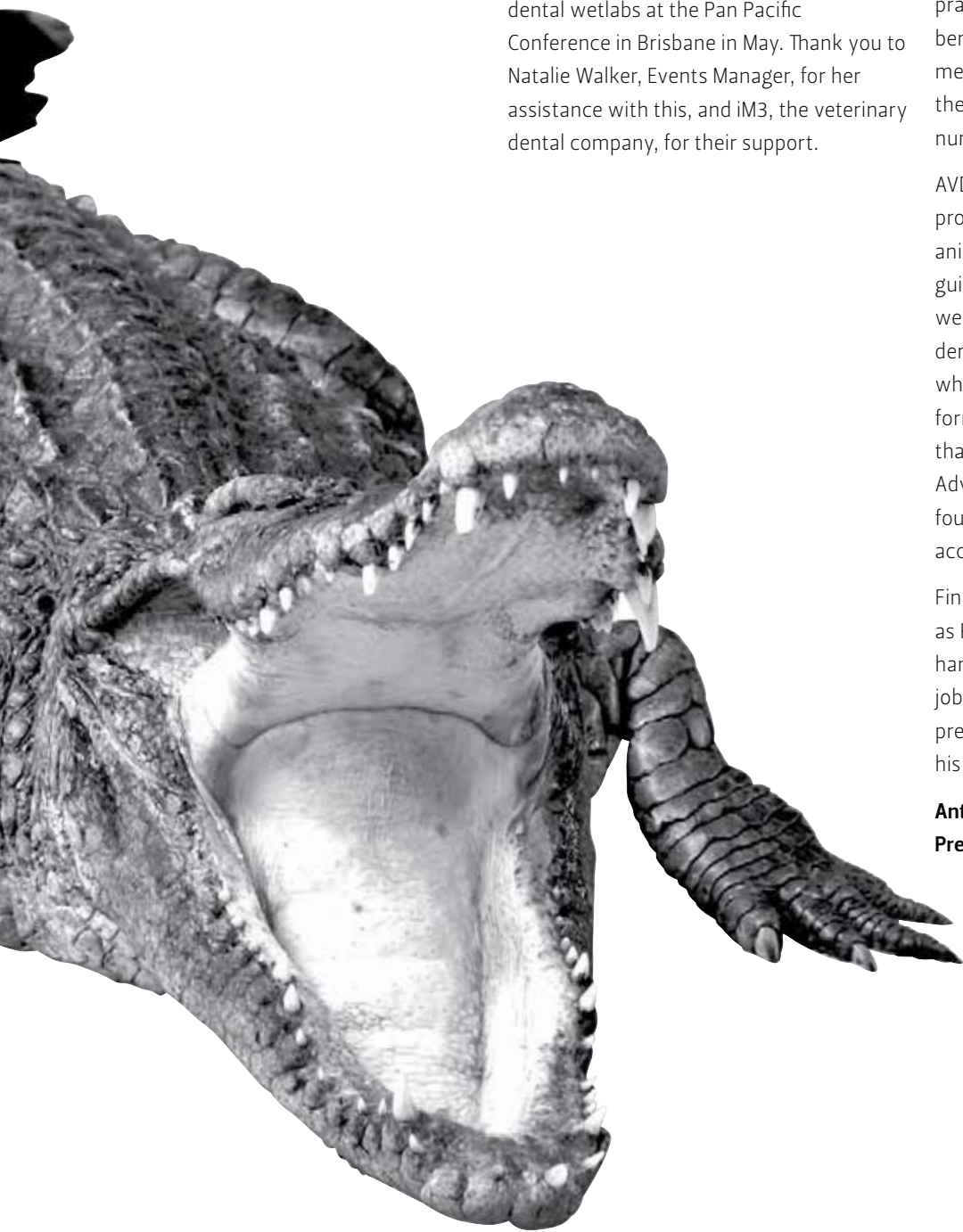
Pet Dental Health Month, run in conjunction with Hills Pet Nutrition, hit its 11th year in 2009. The initiative attracts close to 1000 practices Australia-wide, who promote the benefits of better oral care for pets. The media once again took a keen interest in the promotion, and this resulted in a number of interviews in August.

AVDS has always taken an active role in protecting the welfare of companion animals and in 2009 this resulted in new guidelines for oral care in cats and dogs, as well as the formulation of an equine dentistry policy. Thank you to our members who have put many hours into the formulation of these policies, and special thanks to Wayne Fitzgerald, our AVA Policy Advisory Council representative, who has fought 'tooth and nail' to get these policies accepted by the profession.

Finally, as I come to the end of my tenure as President, I would like to thank my hard-working committee for making my job a lot easier. I wish the incoming president, Aaron Forsayeth, all the best in his new role.

Anthony Caiafa
President

**AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARY
DENTAL
SOCIETY**



EQUINE VETERINARIANS AUSTRALIA

The year was very productive for Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA) as we continued to focus our efforts on three core areas: continuing education, finance and membership services and stakeholder relationships.

The executive and management team of EVA are acutely aware that our subscription fees are the highest of all the special interest groups in the AVA and that it is our responsibility to ensure that the services we provide for our members are good value for money.

With this as our guiding principle, we have delivered a range of continuing education opportunities throughout the year. These included a lecture series on equine exertional rhabdomyolysis and muscle disease by world-renowned researcher Stephanie Valberg who presented the latest information at a number of meetings.

Other continuing education events included short courses by veterinary specialists on a range of topics including reproduction, surgery, dentistry, geriatric medicine and miniature horses. Also on offer were presentations by senior racing veterinarians Craig Suann and Paul O'Callaghan.

The equine stream at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin was a great success, and covered a wide range of topics. Lectures were presented by local speakers, as well as keynote speaker Rick LeCouteur, whose knowledge and skills cover a wide array of species. One of the great strengths of the conference is that it gives members the opportunity to choose from a range of subjects and it was especially pleasing to see EVA members attending several of the lectures presented by the Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association.

In addition, with the support of AVA national, we also continued the important work of delivering a range of workshops on Hendra virus and biosecurity.

As always, the Bain Fallon Memorial Lectures were a continuing education highlight for equine veterinarians. This year, keynote speakers Sue Dyson, Hal Schott and Robin Dabareiner presented the latest research and its clinical applications on a range of lameness and internal medicine topics. The speakers were supported by veterinary specialists and clinicians from private practice and universities.

Following Bain Fallon was the latest of the now well established Shoeing for Performance lectures and workshops. This series is designed to present the latest information and practical skills to veterinarians and farriers. Speakers included world-renowned laminitis researcher Chris Pollitt, Robin Dabareiner and master farrier Carl O'Dwyer.

The team in the EVA office has continued to deliver timely, accurate and useful information to members via our electronic newsletter eLine. This format has proved successful and has received very positive comments from members. As our website continues to develop, members and the community are using it to access a variety of information such as the Find-a-vet function, Sciquest, the electronic archive of conference proceedings, and journal articles. Our quarterly journal, *Australian Equine Veterinarian*, continues to evolve and attract both scientific articles and

sponsorship from industry and I would like to extend my thanks to contributors, sponsors and the editorial team.

In addition to subscription fees, EVA relies heavily on our industry partners to contribute the sponsorship we need to deliver valuable services to members. Our Education Partner, Provet, has continued a strong and valued relationship with EVA and we look forward to continuing these close ties. Our business partners from the veterinary support industry are enthusiastic attendees at Bain Fallon and their contribution to the success of the conference is appreciated by the executive and delegates alike.

Strong relationships with horse industry stakeholders also continue to be a priority, and are vital to our activities. Engagement with the Australian Racing Board has ensured EVA opinion has been considered in a range of decisions, including the use of whips in racing, the future of jumps racing, licensing of track veterinarians in Victoria and testing for therapeutic substances.

EVA input has also been sought from Australian Harness Racing on the current revision of their prohibited substances regulations. The relationships developed with various state Chief Veterinary Officers in the dark days of the equine influenza outbreak continue to strengthen and bear fruit as discussion develops regarding the management of Hendra virus research and a range of other issues which affect us both.

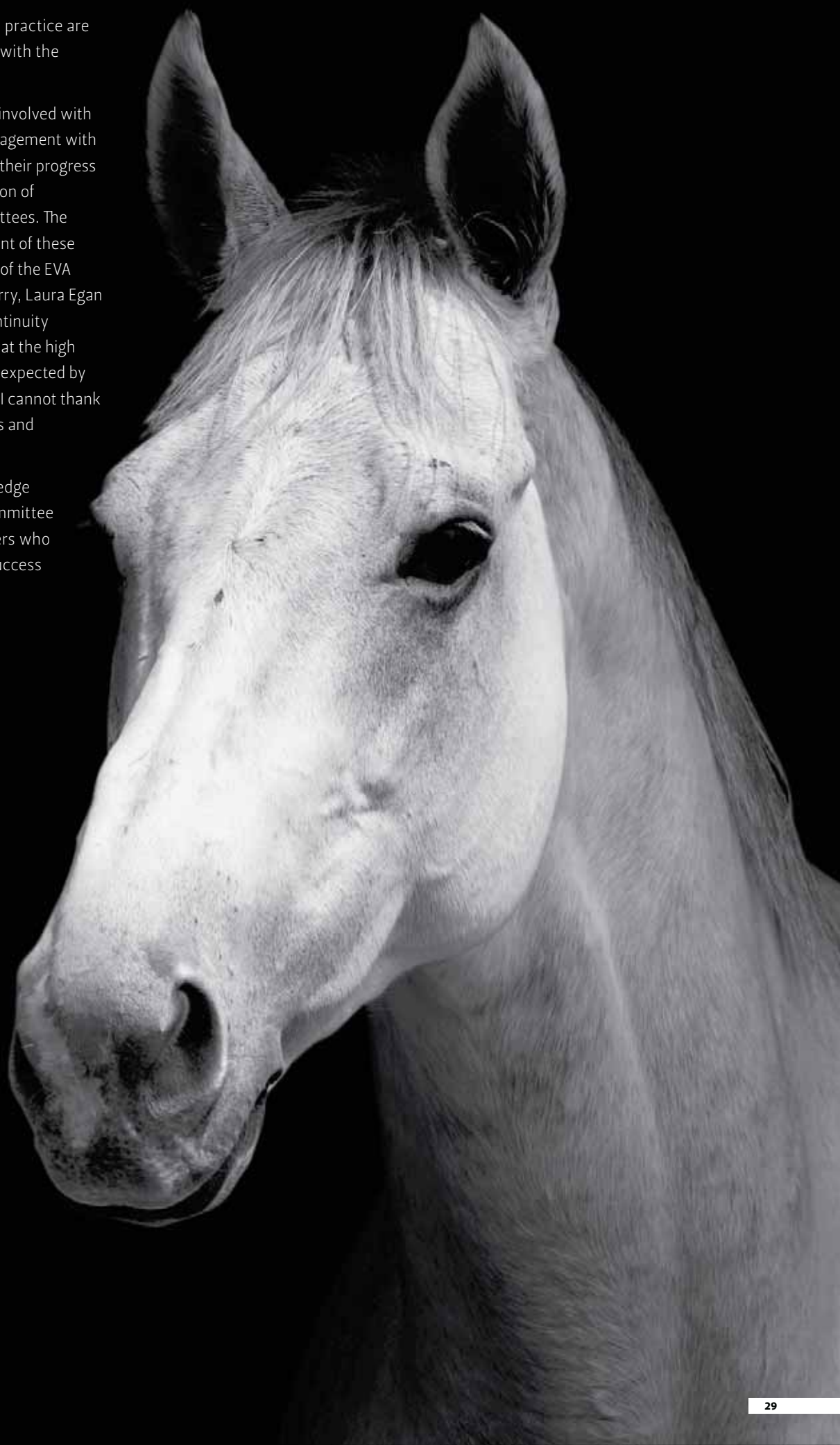
EVA was the first sponsor of the Australian Horse Industry Council and we continue to be engaged with this peak industry body on issues including the development of an Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement and the focus of research dollars. The Equine Therapeutics Research Association receives financial support from EVA to continue its work in drug excretion studies with the aim of producing reliable withholding period data for practitioners managing clinical cases. A review of the effect of changes to the Radiation Safety Code of Conduct and the regulations regarding the use of compounded

prescription drugs in clinical practice are currently being undertaken with the relevant authorities.

Many of the projects we are involved with are complex and involve engagement with external parties. As a result, their progress takes place under the direction of successive executive committees. The coordination and development of these projects is the responsibility of the EVA administrative team Jane Barry, Laura Egan and Katherine Baird. The continuity provided by them ensures that the high standard of EVA endeavours expected by our members is maintained. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts and professionalism.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my executive committee and the efforts of all members who have contributed to EVA's success this year.

Cameron Collins
President



AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Membership numbers for the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association (AGVA) grew again in 2009, and we now have 132 veterinarians as members.

Throughout the year we continued to deliver information to our members via our online forums to great effect. Topics covered this year, included new forms for track veterinarians to report injuries to Greyhound Racing Victoria, angular bone deformities in greyhounds, hip dysplasia incidence in greyhounds, neospora treatment regimes and water diabetes.

The AGVA Annual Conference attracted record numbers this year. Delegates came from Australia, New Zealand and Macau. Peter Yore and Barry Haywood were the keynote speakers for this event.

Our members were once again active in representing our group in a number of ways. They attended the Track Veterinarians Conference in New Zealand, both as delegates and speakers, and Ray Ferguson and Chris Boemo continued to provide lectures for final year veterinary students at the University of Melbourne.

AGVA members John Newell and Chris Doyle participated on the national microchip committee, which examined the use of microchips in greyhound racing. Final decisions on this have now been reached and the conclusions are available from Greyhounds Australasia.

Chris Doyle, at the request of Greyhounds Australasia, visited Greyhound Racing Western Australia to assist with the evaluation of a worrying post-race condition occurring there. This occurrence, as well as the results from an Australia-wide survey, has resulted in a substantial grant being secured for Murdoch University to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the condition.

The achievements of AGVA member Jim Gannon, were recognised by Greyhound Racing Victoria, which inducted him into its Hall of Fame this year. Congratulations to Jim on this great achievement.

Finally, it is with sadness that I pass on our condolences to the family of Peter Thomas from Perth who passed away earlier this year. Peter was a senior greyhound practitioner and track veterinarian who was highly respected particularly in his home state, Western Australia.

**Christopher Doyle
President**



The primary aim of the Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS) committee is to ensure that valuable insights into the development of the veterinary profession in Australia are collected and recorded.

In 2009 we initiated a series to record what brought about specialisation in the various disciplines of veterinary science and the people involved in making this happen. We will consider other specialist interests each year.

We approached the Board with a series of recommendations for future direction of AVHS. These included:

- » developing a comprehensive history of the development of veterinary science and the profession in Australia
- » developing a short history for the World Veterinary Congress in 2011
- » developing a high quality Australian Veterinary History Collection of artefacts to promote the veterinary profession
- » preparing obituaries in a timely manner and organising the collection of biographical details of members
- » entering eminent veterinarians into the Australian Dictionary of Biography
- » maintaining adequate records so that accurate and authoritative history about the AVA can be kept.

**AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARY
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Our collection at the Max Henry Memorial Library has continued to grow thanks to the donations we have received. Space is limited however, so we have had to modify the criteria for accepting books. The library is now only taking books written by Australian veterinarians about veterinary or related topics or books of historical significance.

AVHS has continued to produce our member newsletter, the *Australian Veterinary History Record*. Neil Tweddle took over in the role of Editor of the Record this year.

Andrew Turner
President



AUSTRALIAN HOLISTIC VETERINARIANS

The Australian Holistic Veterinarians (AHV) have an important role within the AVA, to educate colleagues about integrative veterinary medicine, promote animal health and welfare and the advancement of veterinary science.

We strongly support the belief that it is crucial for optimal animal health and welfare that animals are treated by veterinarians with suitable qualifications and experience rather than by lay practitioners.

In 2009 the AHV had a great year and remained committed to quality continuing education by supporting a number of events.

The combined AHV and Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Group sessions at the AVA

Annual Conference were well attended, as were the post-conference workshops. Thank you to Joanne Milan for her organisational work on the conference sessions.

In February AHV members attended the foundation course and master-class in Chinese veterinary herbal medicine presented by Steve Marsden, and organised by Barbara Fougere.

In May, our current and immediate past presidents taught the third module of the third Homeopathic Professionals Teaching Group Australasian course.

The AHV contributed to the development of the AVA small animal vaccination and acupuncture policies, and our members have represented the group enthusiastically at Policy Advisory Council and Therapeutic Advisory Committee meetings throughout the year.

We continued to communicate with our members through our newsletter, *Chiron*, which we now distribute electronically via

email. We also created an online magazine, *Spearhead*, to keep members up-to-date with case reports, practice tips, international news and research and continuing education events.

Our website continues to evolve and we will be adding some new functionality soon to enable members of the public to search for AHV members in their local area.

In September, the committee held a strategic planning day to identify our priorities for next year. It was agreed that our areas of focus would be continuing education, policy development, improving the website, data collection and research into integrative veterinary medicine.

In 2009 the AHV received a significant donation of funds. This donation will be used to fund research projects of benefit to AHV members and the advancement of integrative veterinary medicine.

**Megan Kearney
President**

The Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI) represent veterinarians who work outside of veterinary practice in allied animal health industries.

In 2009 AVI membership grew, reaching 204 at the end of October 2009. This is an increase of 33 members since July 2009.

The AVI currently has representatives on the Australian Pharmaceuticals and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) Industry Technical Committee (ITC), the Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Policy Advisory Council (PAC). We also have a representative on the AVA conference scientific committee.

We have continued to keep our members up-to-date via our regular newsletter, emails and networking and social events.

It was an interesting year in industry, with ongoing mergers and take-overs occurring. The AVI committee continued to work away

behind the scenes, as we committed ourselves to providing information and services to members that would help them to deal with the changes.

Continuing education continued to be a major focus and we put a huge amount of effort into offering an excellent program for the AVA Annual Conference. We achieved this by working with other special interest groups to provide relevant combined sessions, as well as stand-alone sessions on issues highly pertinent to our members.

A number of key issues, including the AVA policy on vaccination of dogs and cats, generated interesting and vigorous debate this year. AVI provided information at PAC and TAC to assist the AVA with the development of this policy.

We have also worked hard on addressing the issue of compounding pharmacies and 'compounded' products entering the veterinary market in direct competition to

rigorously tested registered products. We liaised with industry groups, in particular the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association, and via the ITC we raised the issue with the APVMA.

We will continue to lobby the APVMA to regulate compounding pharmacies. We have included a forum for in-depth debate of this matter with the wider AVA membership, in the form of a panel of expert speakers at the 2010 Pan Pacific Conference in Brisbane.

We also prepared a draft policy on the use of compounded pharmaceuticals.

**Sally Colgan
President**

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARIANS IN INDUSTRY

↓ AUSTRALIAN PIG VETERINARIANS

The Australian Pig Veterinarians (APV) held our annual conference and meeting in June in Melbourne. The stand-alone conference was a big success with 41 delegates attending. Next year, our conference will be held prior to the International Pig Veterinary Society Congress, in Vancouver, Canada.

A new executive committee, which will serve for a two-year term, was elected at the annual meeting. Office holders include Tony Fahy, President and Ross Cutler, Secretary and Treasurer. Committee members include Trish Holyoake, Graeme Eamens and Yvette Millar.

We have continued to circulate *What is your diagnosis*, a monthly publication for members that provides information on an unusual disease or a disease manifestation that field practitioners may have encountered. This has proven to be a great resource for students, new graduates and those in mixed practice.

APV members have continued to offer mentoring to new members, and have also played a role in AVA policy development through our contribution to the 'Keeping livestock in periurban areas' policy in its draft stage. Pigs are an important component of this policy, as they create a risk of exotic disease being introduced into Australia through swill feeding.

Our main focus this year was on keeping members up-to-date with current issues. Of particular interest was the H1N1 human influenza virus, which appeared to cause a mild illness in pigs.

The executive was quick to get to work by providing members with facts and updates on the disease in humans to clarify some of the misunderstanding in the media. When the first case was diagnosed by Trish Holyoake members were informed within 24 hours.

We were also extremely active in trying to persuade the government and media to refer to the influenza pandemic (H1N1) 2009, as human influenza, and not swine flu. Australia is free of swine influenza, and this incorrect labelling gave a misleading impression about the safety of pigs and pig products.

APV took on a key role in implementing a new code of accepted practice for the welfare of pigs, by engaging with industry in the debate over what constitutes competency standards for pig producers.

This also involved ensuring that there is a robust, independent and transparent auditing of the Pig Quality Assurance program.

As part of this code, APV put forward a generic herd health program checklist which is designed to minimise pain and suffering from disease, by ensuring that adequate disease prevention and minimisation programs are in place. This should be available early in 2010.

**Tony Fahy
President**



The Australian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA) started off the year with a scientific meeting in February, held in conjunction with the Australian Poultry Science Symposium at the University of Sydney.

The meeting focused on infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), which has been causing problems in the poultry industry since 2007. ILT continues to be problematic, with full control hampered by the shortage of vaccine available. Our members have been successful in stopping the outbreak in commercial birds in the Sydney region, but low level outbreaks continue to occur in Victoria, and Queensland has also been affected.

Cooperation between veterinarians and poultry companies is imperative when regional control of a disease such as ILT is necessary, and our association bonds have helped us greatly in this area.

Our executive was involved in a number of issues in the middle of the year. Of real concern to AVPA, and many others groups within the AVA, was the closure of regional veterinary laboratories in New South Wales. The concern is that the closure will significantly reduce the capacity for sufficient warning of exotic diseases in Australia.

We established a new website, which operates through a link with the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre's 'Poultryhub'. The website gives members a forum to discuss topics of interest to the industry and to us as an organisation. Visitors to the site can also prepare and discuss submissions and interesting cases or problems. The website is one of the first steps we have taken to become more accessible, and we are looking forward to

continuing to update and improve its effectiveness and convenience for users.

Next year, we have two scientific meetings planned, the first in association with the Poultry Information Exchange, to be held on the Gold Coast in May, and the second is linked with a World Poultry Science

Association meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand in October. We are looking forward to both meetings, and to the opportunity to work with and create better relationships with our poultry colleagues across the Tasman.

**Peter Groves
President**



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**AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARY
POULTRY
ASSOCIATION**



AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association (AVPMA) had a very productive year. We played an active role in the new modern award negotiations and ran a successful conference on the changing roles of women in the veterinary profession.

In May we organised the practice management stream at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin. Our overseas speaker, Donald Erceg, held very well attended sessions on innovative ways to service clients and market veterinary practices.

The AVPMA committee started the process of reviewing the intellectual property of our group. The *Smart Operating Guide*, which includes all the contacts and requirements for operating a practice, is being reviewed and will be amended for each state.

The release of our occupational health and safety manual was even more successful than we anticipated. Due to the high demand, we are now outsourcing parts of the production, to ensure that orders are filled promptly.

The AVPMA has also been instrumental in developing a series of Wellness Lectures that have been made available through AVA branch meetings. These lectures promote psychological well being and establish contacts for counselling where required.

For a major part of the year the AVPMA Executive Officer, Debbie Neutze, Past-President, Warren Foreman and I, were involved in the negotiations of the new Animal Care and Veterinary Services Award 2010. Debbie did a phenomenal amount of work on this project and the successful outcome of a stand alone veterinary award reflects this effort.

Although there are areas where our recommendations were not accepted, the overall result should prove workable. Seminars to explain the changes and new workforce obligations contained in the award have already begun.

Other projects on the go include developing a resource to house all forms and checklists for practice and human resource management, and developing a standard chart of accounts, to help practices legitimately compare results and relate costs to income areas in the practice.

The AVA/Pfizer Practices of Excellence awards continue to be a success with entries in the last two years increasing.

The AVPMA lodged a successful federal government grant application, and the funding from this was put towards our conference on 'The changing role of women in the veterinary profession'.

The timing of the conference was ideal due to the release of a report by National Australian Bank in August. The report predicted that in 2010 the total number of female veterinarians would exceed the total number of male veterinarians, and that the total number of full-time equivalent female veterinarians would exceed the total full-time equivalent male veterinarians by 2013.

The need for the profession to adapt to these changes and to develop work procedures and practices that align with the workplace demographics is increasingly important. The first presentation of the conference raised the question of whether we are dealing with a gender or generational change and the focus often returned to this over the course of the weekend.

The conference also highlighted several areas for us to focus on in 2010, and we have already begun work on some of these in preparation for the year ahead.

The 2010 AVPMA conference will be held in Adelaide and will focus on 'Productivity and profitability'. This theme relates to the issue of salary and the different remuneration levels between the genders.

I would like to thank our sponsors, in particular Hills Pet Nutrition and Provect, who have continued to support our work throughout the year.

I would also like to thank our AVPMA staff, Debbie Neutze and Jill Baker. The AVPMA's success depends on them, and they have been wonderful to work with. Thanks also to the committee, who continue to donate their time and effort.

Terry Theakstone
President

It was a fantastic year for the Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH) as we worked hard to integrate veterinary public health across the organisation, especially with other special interest groups.

One of the strengths of AVPH is the diversity of membership, the extensive scope of its application and representation, and its relevance and importance in all veterinary areas. There has been a much greater acceptance of public health by the profession, which is really pleasing, especially in the areas of emerging infectious diseases, biosecurity, food safety, zoonotic diseases and One Medicine One Health.

This year marked the beginning of a student veterinary public health movement. It started at the University of Queensland, where a passionate group of veterinary students created the 'Vets in Public Health and Biosecurity' group. Six successful workshops were held and many high profile speakers presented public health messages to more than 80 students.

Inspired by their lecturers and mentors, the students came away from the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin with the idea of setting up a national student group. The 'Australasian Veterinary Student Public Health Network' facebook group was established and has to date attracted 131 veterinary students from Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia. The group aims to reach a wide audience of veterinary students in the region, discuss topical public health issues, share practical work experiences and promote opportunities and research in the field.

In light of this, the AVPH committee invited two students to serve as representative committee members for the first time this year. Eliza Smith is our undergraduate student committee member and Johanna Dups is our post-graduate committee member. They have been highly involved, excellent contributors and will no doubt be the next generation of AVPH presidents.

Next year, the students have further plans to expand their membership, develop their website and encourage more veterinary public health student advocates to attend the Pan Pacific Conference in 2010.

The AVA Annual Conference in Darwin was a great success for our group. The One Medicine One Health theme was particularly important for AVPH, as it represents a large and important part of our work. One of the highlights was the entertaining and extremely popular hypothetical on an outbreak on the Tiwi Islands, led by Ross Cutler and ably supported by a panel of public health colleagues.

Based on the success of this theme there will be a permanent One Medicine One Health stream at all future conferences. This is testament to the influence AVPH is having on the profession.

The Pan Pacific Conference in Brisbane in 2010 will be an exciting conference for us. We have worked closely with our kiwi cousins to develop a diverse and interesting veterinary public health program. Michael Reichel and Emma Haslam, with strong support from our members, have been working extremely hard to organise this, and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

The AVPH newsletter has continued as a great resource and publication. In 2009, we have had many contributors and some excellent articles submitted. Rowland Cobbold has been fantastic in his role as Editor and we look forward to this continuing in 2010.

The year also saw some of our colleagues justly recognised and awarded for their efforts.

Colin Wilks was made a fellow of the AVA for his outstanding service to the association over many years, particularly in his contribution to leadership in continuing education. Colin has now officially stepped down from his role in AVPH and its committee, but we thank him for his tremendous contribution over the years and wish him well.

Lee Cook was awarded a Meritorious Service Award for his long-term contribution to the AVA, particularly in AVPH and in his role of Policy Advisory Councillor.

Mike Nunn was awarded the AVA's President's Award, recognising his outstanding contribution to veterinary science as the Principal Scientist in Animal Biosecurity at Biosecurity Australia, particularly with respect to quarantine and import policy.

I would like to thank the AVPH committee for all their work. They are a great bunch to work with and I have enjoyed seeing veterinary public health develop strongly over this year.

**Brant Smith
President**

**AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARIANS IN
PUBLIC HEALTH**



AUSTRALIAN REPRODUCTION VETERINARIANS

The Australian Reproduction Veterinarians (ARV) enjoyed steady growth in membership during 2009. At its core ARV members are still predominantly sheep and cattle embryo transfer practitioners, however the breadth and depth of information presented at the ARV conferences appears to be gaining broader appeal to the mixed practice community.

This was in part aided by our combined conference with the Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV) and the Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV) at the Gold Coast in 2009. This conference was well received, providing a unique opportunity for discussion and information exchange with members of other special interest groups.

Since ARV membership, with few exceptions, is dominated by the over 45's, it was very pleasing to see so many undergraduate and new graduate veterinarians spending time with our more senior members.

A combined ARV, ACV and ASV conference is likely to become a biennial event.

As usual, conference attendees were given the opportunity to sit the theory

component of Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service embryo export exam at the conference.

Following the conference, the University of Queensland made their Pinjarra Hills facility available for an introductory cattle embryo transfer workshop. The workshop was well attended, and we appreciate the assistance of the university team that helped out on the day.

In keeping with our commitment to continuing education, our 2010 stand-alone conference will offer a more detailed cattle, sheep and equine embryo transfer workshop, a half-day andrology lab and a full day of theory.

**Peter Atkinson
President**





AUSTRALIAN SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA) had another exciting year in 2009. Our two biggest events were the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin, and the ASAVA Annual Conference in Christchurch. We also experienced some changes in our office and executive committee since the end of 2008.

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP VETERINARIANS

Membership of Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV) remained strong with approximately 300 veterinarians as members.

ASV had a very limited program at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin, partly because of the location, but principally because of other conferences held around the same time. The International Sheep Veterinary Congress was in Stavanger, Norway in June, and the Mega-Repro Conference was on the Gold Coast in July.

The Congress in Norway was very successful. Nearly 30 veterinarians from Australia were among the 300 delegates attending from 27 countries. The four-day scientific program was excellent, with four concurrent sessions running through most days. This was the seventh international sheep meeting, and it was at this meeting the International Sheep Veterinary

The 2009 ASAVA Annual Conference in Christchurch was the major event for the year. The conference was extremely successful and had the second largest number of delegates ever at an ASAVA meeting (only surpassed by our 2008 conference in Cairns).

The scientific program featured three world renowned speakers: Brad Gavaghan, Dennis Chew and Stan Marks.

This year saw the inaugural Roger Clarke State of the Art Lecture (SOTAL) and it was also the first year we offered a veterinary nurses' stream. Numbers in the nurses' stream were small, but the lectures were well received. We look forward to attendance at these lectures growing over time.

Thank you to industry for supporting our conference, particularly Gold sponsor, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Silver sponsor, Provect and Bronze sponsor, IDEXX Laboratories.

Attendees at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin were both educated and entertained in the small animal stream. Ann Wagner, Rick LeCouteur, Jill Maddison and Colin Dunlop all proved to be invaluable sources of useful information in numerous areas of small animal practice.

Our new and recent graduates dinner was also held at the conference and again proved to be a popular social event.

ASAVA has continued to support the Penn Hip program in Australia, and through this arranged for ASAVA members to attend a post-conference seminar in Darwin, which will occur again following the Pan Pacific Conference in Brisbane in 2010.

The new ASAVA website was launched late last year and represents a massive step forward in providing information to members.

The *Australian Veterinary Practitioner* continues to be one of our flagships and the executive would like to recognise the immense effort made by Rick Atwell as

Association was created. The next international meeting will be in New Zealand in 2013.

The Mega-Repro Conference was an outstanding event for the three special interest groups responsible, the Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV), the Australian Reproduction Veterinarians (ARV) and the ASV.

The conference was very well attended and included presentations from human reproduction experts, as well as veterinarians. Anne Cover, Executive Officer of the groups, and the organising committee deserve particular congratulations for their work in putting together a large and comprehensive meeting.

In the middle of the year, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) announced that Australian woolgrowers would not meet the agreed

deadline of 31 December 2010 for the cessation of mulesing.

Following the announcement, two ASV members attended a meeting in Sydney called by AWI and attended by a number of animal welfare groups. All welfare groups, including the ASV, made clear their disappointment with the announcement, but commended AWI on its actions to improve communication with welfare groups.

The AVA policy on mulesing was circulated at the meeting and received favourable comment from the welfare groups present. It was apparent that nearly all the people in attendance were previously unfamiliar with the AVA's position.

Our quarterly newsletter has remained an important part of our activities, and John Plant and Anne Cover continue to ensure it provides members with valuable information and updates.

In 2010 the ASV will have a three-day program at the Pan Pacific Conference in Brisbane, held in conjunction with our New Zealand colleagues, as well as some shared sessions with Australian Cattle Veterinarians.

Kym Abbott
President



Editor over the last twenty five years. *The Companion*, our quarterly newsletter also continues to further develop its content.

The ASAVA committee continues to maintain representation on the AVA Board, Policy Advisory Council, Australian Companion Animal Council, Nursing Industry Advisory Group, Therapeutics Advisory Committee and Australian Veterinary Association Committee for Companion Animals in the Community.

The new AVA policy on the vaccination of dogs and cats was ratified this year, and it has recently been supported by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

There were a few changes in the ASAVA office this year. Colin Hort left his role of Executive Officer in February and Patricia Soesanto, one of our Administrative Assistants, left us in the latter part of 2009.

I would like to thank Cristina Sacco, our other Administrative Officer, for all her hard

work in the five month period without an Executive Officer. Fortunately, we appointed a new Executive Officer, David Imrie, in June and he began in his role just a few weeks before the ASAVA Annual Conference in Christchurch. David has brought new ideas and enthusiasm to the ASAVA, and we are excited to have him as part of the team.

In 2010 we are looking forward to providing two conferences for members. In addition to the ASAVA Annual Conference in August in Hobart, we will also, for the first time, hold a Relax and Reinvigorate conference in March.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two members of our executive who left the committee this year, Neville Robertson and Matthew Retchford.

Neville represented the ASAVA on the Therapeutics Advisory Committee, and the National Industry Advisory Group for Veterinary Nurses. He was also the driving force behind the development of the new ASAVA website.

Matthew has had a long history with the ASAVA, including serving as President. He has represented the ASAVA on the AVA Scientific Organising Committee, the Policy Advisory Council, and was a trustee for the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation. Matthew was also part of the Conference Organising Committee for the very successful 2007 World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Conference in Sydney.

Both Neville and Matthew will be missed on the committee and we wish them success in their future endeavours.

I would like to welcome new committee members Rodney Sundra, David Mason and David Neck, and thank our long-term committee members, Adrian Choi, Debbie Osborne and Phil Brain for their ongoing efforts.

We look forward to serving you all in 2010.

Graham Swinney
President

The Unusual and Exotic Pets (UEP) special interest group had a busy and productive year in 2009.

We received some great media exposure as a result of our sessions at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin. Stories of interest included native fish deaths and deformities in south-east Queensland and keeping axolotls as pets.

We also held our sixth annual UEP conference in Sydney in October, and attracted the highest number of delegates to date. We had 25 speakers in total, and keynote speaker, John Chitty, an avian and exotics veterinarian

from the United Kingdom, proved extremely popular with delegates.

The Stephen Ross Scholarship for practitioners was won by Arana Parslow, who presented her paper on Full thickness free skin allograft in an adult green tree snake.

Our student scholarship, the Anne Martin Scholarship, was won by Jayne Weller. Jayne's topic was Clinical cases in a Nepalese wildlife rehabilitation centre.

Congratulations to Arana and Jayne.

Our annual meeting saw the formation of a new UEP committee. Appointments included: Robert Johnson as President and Policy Advisory Councillor, Mark Simpson as

UNUSUAL AND EXOTIC PETS

Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE) is dedicated to the dissemination of scientific knowledge concerning the ethics of animal use, animal management and animal welfare policy.

Membership of AVAWE has doubled over the last few years, reflecting a growing interest in animal welfare and ethics within the profession, and it is particularly pleasing to see the growing number of student members.

An initiative of AVAWE that has proved very successful in recruiting student members is sponsorship of veterinary student social events. In 2009 these events were held at most universities, with the students showing a particular interest in animal law, which is proving to be an area of growing interest in the legal profession.

AVAWE has representatives on the staff of most of the Australian veterinary schools and

we have a close association with the Animal Welfare Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. Our members also contribute to animal welfare through their roles on Animal Ethics Committees, Animal Welfare Advisory Committees, in research, teaching and government.

In 2009 we continued to provide up-to-date information on animal welfare issues through our newsletter, which we distribute to members and non-members as well as all of the veterinary schools and veterinary faculty libraries.

AVAWE members contributed to policy development and review for the AVA throughout the year. At the October Policy Advisory Council meeting, the AVAWE policy on the 'Philosophy on animal welfare and the veterinarian' was finalised for review by the AVA Board. We have also been working with a number of special interest groups on a range of policies

including animal shelters, dogs and cats in pet shops, boarding facilities, use of dogs for teaching in vet schools, welfare of vealer calves and circus animals.

Over the last few years, AVAWE has successfully worked at raising its profile at the AVA Annual Conference. I would like to thank former AVAWE President, Susan Maastricht, who did a great job of organising our program at the 2009 conference in Darwin.

The conference program included a number of welfare sessions, both as stand-alone lectures and in conjunction with other special interest groups. We held our Annual General Meeting during the conference and appointed new executive members, who represent all states and territories.

We are now looking forward to the Pan Pacific Conference in 2010 in Brisbane, where we will again offer an interesting program through joint and stand-alone



Secretary, Mike Cannon as Treasurer, Brendan Carmel and Julia Malcolm as committee members and Sasha Herbert has taken on the role of Editor of our newsletter.

We continued to play a role in the AVA Policy Advisory Council meetings, and contributed to proposed policies on dental prophylaxis for small mammals, rabbit welfare in Queensland, guidelines for rabbit and ferret vaccination, and guidelines for keeping and selling reptiles in pet shops in NSW.

The year saw the first examinations offered in unusual pet medicine

and surgery at the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. Successful candidates for this were Brendan Carmel and Julia Galvez.

UEP members, Brendan Carmel, Robert Doneley and Robert Johnson have also been involved in the development and teaching of a comprehensive course for veterinary undergraduates in avian, small

mammal and reptile medicine and surgery at James Cook University in Townsville.

In 2010 we look forward to holding our annual conference with the Association of Avian Veterinarians — Australasian Committee in Hobart in October. We are also keen to begin work on a number of projects, including streamlining the information and resources available for unusual pet practitioners, encouraging young members to take a more active role in our group and conference, and promoting the advantages of keeping unusual pets.

Robert Johnson
President

sessions. Planned topics include animal law, pain and behaviour, whipping horses, ethics and welfare lessons for undergraduates, humane pest control, human/animal relationships in zoo animals, assessing quality of life, professional ethics, evidence-based medicine and animal welfare and pedigree dog diseases.

The AVAWE looks forward to another vibrant and active year in 2010.

Tanya Stephens
President

**AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARIANS
FOR ANIMAL
WELFARE AND
ETHICS**





**TRUSTS AND
ADVISORY
GROUPS**



ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST

The Animal Welfare Trust supports the welfare of animals through an institution engaged in the use of veterinary and other knowledge and expertise through research, education, promotion and action.

Trustees are appointed by the AVA Board and their appointment is open ended. At the last Annual General Meeting at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin Steve Atkinson was re-elected as Chairman and Pam Scanlon was elected as Deputy Chair.

A motion was also passed at the conference to award a single grant of around \$10,000 instead of multiple smaller grants.

The improved grant application and forms were circulated to the Deans of all the veterinary schools to offer students and post-graduate students the chance to apply for a small allocation of funds to assist them in undertaking suitable projects or studies.

Applications have been assessed and negotiations with the successful applicants are underway to award the grant and ensure written reports are presented at the AVA Annual Conference and to the *Australian Veterinary Journal* for publication.

The Trust is also continuing to move forward with the process of obtaining tax free status from the Australian Taxation Office.

AUSTRALIAN WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) consists of members with special animal welfare skills and interests, and members of state and territory government animal welfare committees. The main aim of the AWAC is to make animal welfare a priority issue with AVA members, to be proactive and to respond quickly to issues.

The AWAC advises the AVA Board, special interest groups, Policy Advisory Council, and state, territory and local governments on animal welfare issues. Through its state and territory representatives the AWAC can initiate policy development as specific animal welfare issues are flagged in their jurisdictions.

Over the last year, the AWAC Terms of Reference were revised and the statement of purpose was restated. The changes mean the AWAC will now hold one face-to-face meeting a year and increase teleconferences to four a year.

The AWAC discussed and presented their position to Policy Advisory Council on a range of policies in 2009. These include:

- » electroimmobilisation
- » fish welfare
- » branding of horses
- » castration of horses and donkeys
- » mulesing
- » veterinarians in the media
- » use of live animals in teaching hospitals.

AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) helps to fund investigative projects to further knowledge of the cause, treatment and prevention of clinical diseases in companion animals.

The foundation raises money through donations, and all gifts and donations to the foundation are tax deductible to the donor, under the *Income Tax Assessment Act*.

Donations for 2009 totaled \$43,982.03, including \$4,747.96 from the sale of condolence cards. This money will be used to fund research grants in 2010.

Honorary trustees oversee the operation of the ACAHF and funds donated are distributed to clinical research projects after careful assessment by a selected research committee.

The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA) has continued to provide office space and administrative support to the foundation.

The type of research that is funded is wide-ranging, and is chosen for the direct benefit of companion animals. Some examples of research projects funded in 2008–2009 include investigations into genetic diseases, dermatology, diabetes, immunology, ophthalmology, viral and respiratory diseases.

The ACAHF trustees would like to thank the veterinarians, pet owners and industry who donated to and supported the foundation in 2009.

VETERINARY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TRUST

This trust was established in 2009 to assist with relief efforts for the Victorian bushfires. Donations to the Trust supported the AVA's efforts to help veterinarians caring for animals affected by the fires. Special thanks to organisations who donated in-kind goods and services, including MAB Corp for the use of an office suite in the Aquavista building in Docklands, Mr Rental (South Melbourne), Commander and Abacus Rent IT for the use of office equipment. Donated funds supported temporary office staff to help coordinate volunteers, veterinary supplies and travel and accommodation for AVA representatives visiting bushfire affected areas.

The trust also supported the welfare of horses adversely affected by the quarantine orders at the time of the Hendra virus outbreaks in Queensland in 2009.

The intention is to wind up this trust as soon as the new Animal Welfare Institute is established with deductible gift recipient status.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND CRISIS RESPONSE TRUST

There was no activity in 2009. The intention is to wind up this trust as soon as the new Animal Welfare Institute is established with deductible gift recipient status.

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

Established in August 2009, the Animal Welfare Institute is the ongoing AVA trust that will be used in future emergencies. The Institute is to provide relief for animals suffering as a result of a natural disaster, including providing short-term care, veterinary care and maintaining a register of volunteers willing to provide the services needed. An application has been made to the Australian Taxation Office for deductible gift recipient status.





BENEVOLENT FUND

Catastrophic bushfires in Victoria in early February heralded the New Year. In response the AVA set up the Veterinary Emergency Taskforce (VET), chaired by Norm Blackman.

Trustees Peter Longmire and Randall Lemin represented the Benevolent Fund at a meeting with Bruce Cartmill at VET headquarters in Melbourne on 6 April. As requested by the VET, a letter with information about the Fund was prepared by the Secretary, to be included in a questionnaire sent to colleagues affected by the bushfires. A letter was also sent to the Editor in Chief of the *Australian Veterinary Journal* to thank those who had donated to the Fund.

Outgoings between Fund annual meetings totalled \$63,025, whereas income was \$18,800. Fund assets have fallen from \$200,436.90 at 1 January 2009 to \$186,745.72 as at 30 September 2009.

In part this is due to diminished returns from interest earned on capital reserves. The Treasurer has recommended a range of measures to address the decline in assets, and the Trustees agreed to a minimum reserve of \$150,000 for 2010.

Eight new cases were reported during the year, three of which did not require assistance. Of the remaining five, one involved suicide and one inactive case was re-opened. It was pleasing to note that in one case involving depression, a coordinated approach involving the state representative of the Fund and an understanding employer appears to have averted a potentially serious situation. It is likely that all five new cases will require extensive support.

Recommendations were made by the Trustees regarding updates to the Benevolent Fund section on the AVA website. The internal structure of the Benevolent Fund appears to work well in its current format, but there could be an improvement in communication with national office.

The Bob Taylor Wellness Room, at the AVA Annual Conference, was sponsored by the Benevolent Fund for a second year. The room is slowly gaining a higher profile among attendees and the organisers, headed by Helen Jones, are planning a more ambitious event in Brisbane for 2010.

Lyndy Scott's four-year term as Trustee was to conclude in December 2009, but she expressed her willingness to stand for another term and was reappointed.

The Trustees thank all the representatives of, and donors to, the Fund for their generous assistance and support in 2009.



▶ **THERAPEUTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of representatives from different special interest groups in the AVA and those who have specific expertise and interest in therapeutics. The TAC exists to provide advice to the AVA Board on therapeutic issues.

The committee has one face-to-face meeting each year and conducts teleconferences as issues arise. The group is very proactive and advises the Board on policy development, as well as interacting with the Policy Advisory Council.

In 2009 the TAC worked on a number of issues, including:

- » reviewing the national scheme for assessment, registration and control of use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals – the review process has been directed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council
- » developing a national pharmacology curriculum for veterinary students
- » developing research projects in conjunction with universities to investigate the evidence base for holistic medicine
- » compounding pharmaceuticals
- » the Adverse Experience Reporting Program and the possible development of a reporting area on the AVA website
- » developing a code of practice on responsible use of antimicrobial agents
- » biosecurity guidelines for the AVA.

FINANCIALS



DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your Directors present their report together with the financial statements of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited (the Company) and Controlled Entities (economic entity) for the financial year ended 31 December 2009.

DIRECTORS

The names of Directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Diane Sheehan	Resigned May 2009
Mark Lawrie	
Samantha McMahon	Resigned May 2009
David Clarke	Resigned May 2009
Barry Smyth	
Kevin McGrath	
Steve Atkinson	
Peter Gibbs	
Ben Gardiner	
Michele Cotton	Appointed May 2009
Malcolm McLennan	Appointed May 2009 Resigned July 2009
Pam Short	Appointed May 2009
Julia Nicholls	Appointed October 2009

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

INFORMATION ON COMPANY SECRETARY G CATT, MA, MBA, GRAD DIP BUSINESS

Company Secretary since 16 April 2008.

J ROBB, B EC(HONS), LLB

Company Secretary since 10 March 2009.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Company during the financial year focused on the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences and included:

- » operation as an association representing veterinary professionals in Australia
- » promotion of the value of the profession to the community, industry and government
- » providing a forum for veterinarians to exchange ideas and access member services

- » assisting members to strive for professional excellence
- » providing high standards of continuing education and professional development
- » publication of the *Australian Veterinary Journal* and other scientific veterinary journals and materials
- » providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production
- » stimulating informed debate on issues within the areas of professional competence
- » developing technical policy on animal health and welfare issues.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Company's principal activities during the financial year.

OPERATING RESULTS

The consolidated deficit from operations for the year was \$1,180,903. (2008: consolidated surplus of \$117,988).

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

A review of the operations of the Company during the financial year is contained in the Report of the National President.

The economic entity comprises the Company, including 8 divisions, 21 special interest groups (SIGs) and 40 branches, in addition to the AVA National Group and 6 trusts. All groups operate within their own budgetary control but within financial operating guidelines promulgated by the Board of Directors. Being a not-for-profit entity, the Company does not seek to maximise profits but to provide member services compatible with possible income. On the foregoing basis, it is expected that the Company will generate surpluses in some years (to be carried forward for future use) and deficits in some years (representing the expenditure of past or future surpluses).

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

No significant changes in the Company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

No matters or circumstances (apart from the change in manner of management of investments referred to below) have arisen since 31 December 2009 that significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations of the Company or economic entity
- (b) the results of those operations
- (c) the state of affairs of the Company or economic entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2009.

LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS

No information is included in this report as it is the opinion of the Directors that the disclosure of this information would prejudice the interests of the Company.

Likely developments in the activities of the Company are noted elsewhere in the annual report, with the Company continuing to work towards the achievement of its objectives.

DIVIDENDS

The Company's constitution precludes the payment of dividends. Accordingly, the Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend. No dividend has been paid or declared since the commencement of the financial year.

DIRECTORS' BENEFITS

Since 31 December 2009 no Director has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related corporation with the Director or with a firm of which he/she is a member, or with a Company in which he/she has a substantial financial interest. However, the President and Directors who serve in an honorary capacity are entitled to receive a reimbursement for actual expenses incurred as well as an honorarium for their services as Directors of the Company.

Information on Directors

D Sheehan , B.Sc, BVSc, MBA, CMAVA	AVA Director 2001–2009, President Elect 2006–2007, Treasurer 2002–2006, President ASAVA 2000–2002, President QLD Division 1994, AVA Member since 1984.
M Lawrie , BVSc, MACVSc (Animal Welfare)	AVA Director since May 2006, Chair of Visibility Strategy Committee, President NSW Division 2005–2006, NSW Executive 2002–2007, Chief Veterinarian RSPCA NSW 1993–2008, Secretary AMRRIC 2003–2007, AVA Member since 1995. Experience in government, management, animal welfare, food animal, mixed and small animal practice in Australia and overseas.
S McMahon , BVSc, FAICD	AVA Director 2004–2009, President NT Division 2002–2003 and 2003–2004, Chair Risk and Audit Committee 2006–2007, AVA Member since 1999.
D Clarke , BVSc, Diplomate AVDC, Fellow AVD, MACVSc (Dental), Registered Specialist Veterinary Surgery (Dentistry)	AVA Director 2006–2009, AVA Treasurer 2006–2008, ASAVA Committee 2004–present, Adjunct Associate Lecturer Massey University NZ, consultant veterinary dentist Taronga and Western Plains Zoos, Adelaide and Monarto Zoos, Director K9 Gums, Director Dental Care for Pets, AVA Member since 1985.
B Smyth , BVSc, MBA, PhD, GAICD, FACVSc, Diplomate ACVS, Registered Specialist Equine Surgery	AVA Director since May 2007, President EVA 2006–2007, Secretary AEVA 2004–2006. Director Australian Horse Industry Council Inc. 2006–2009. Various Roles. President AHIC 2006–2009. Director private companies. Clinical Veterinary Practice Australia and overseas, Research Australia and USA, University teaching Australia and overseas. AVA member since 1984.
D K McGrath , BVSc	AVA Director since May 2007, ACV Executive member 2000–2007, ACV President 2005–2006. AVA member since 1988.
S Atkinson , BVSc, MACVSc (Animal Welfare), DipContEd, CMAVA	AVA Director since May 2007, President and Policy Councillor AVAWE 1997–2007, Chair AVA Animal Welfare Trust, Chair AVA AWAC. Industry Fellow University of Queensland Veterinary School. Teacher at University of Queensland Veterinary School, Chair NSW Minister’s Animal Welfare Advisory Council. AVA member since 1994
P Gibbs , BVSc, MACVSc (Anaes & IC), MRCVS, CMAVA	AVA Director since May 2008, NSW Division committee member 2002–2008. President NSW Division 2006, Policy Councillor 2007–2008. AVA member since 1970.
B C Gardiner , BVSc, CMAVA	AVA Director since May 2008. Various AVA branch and ACV SIG executive positions since 1989 including ACV President 2003–2004. Elected member local government 1995–1999. AVA member since 1982.
M Cotton , BSc(Vet)(Hons), BVSc, MVPHMgt, CMAVA	AVA Director since May 2009, AVPMA Committee 2008–2009, Secretary AVPMA 2009, AVBIG Committee 2008–2009, Policy Councillor 2008–2009, AVA Education Taskforce 2009, AVA Risk and Audit Committee 2009, Director Post-graduate Foundation in Veterinary science 2002–2007, general and zoo veterinary practice, university laboratory services and undergraduate teaching, Australia and overseas, Currently on the governing boards of various not-for-profit organisations. AVA Member since 1968.
Malcolm McLennan , BVSc, MSc, MVSc, MACVSc, GCEd	AVA Director from 2002–2004, former President of QLD Division and also of the south-east QLD Branch. Chair of a focus group charged with the introduction of AVA Vet Ed in May 2004, Convenor of Education Day at the AVA Conference 2003–2009, Chair of the AVA Education Advisory Committee.
Pam Short , BVSc(Hons), Dip Vet Clin Studs, IVAS Cert, MVS	AVA Director since May 2009, Secretary and Treasurer AVAG 1995–2000, President-Elect AVAG 2009–2010. Lecturer IVAS course 2008 and 2010. Principal Gladesville Veterinary Hospital 1985 to present. AVA member since 1985.
Julia Nicholls , OAM, BVMS, PhD, MACVSc (Feline Medicine), CMAVA	AVA Director since October 2009, Director Adelaide Animal Emergency Centre, Meritorious Service Award 1992, SA Division President 1986–1987, Member SA Division Committee for 15 years, ASAVA Accredited Hospitals Convenor for 5 years, Animal Welfare Officer University of South Australia, Member Animal Ethics Committees, Member Veterinary Surgeons Board South Australia 1987–1993, 2002–2005. Member AVBC 2002–2008. AVA member since 1980.

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

During the financial year, nine meetings of Directors were held. Attendances were:

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Diane Sheehan	5	5
Mark Lawrie	9	9
Samantha McMahon	5	4
David Clarke	5	5
Barry Smyth	9	9
Kevin McGrath	9	9
Steve Atkinson	9	8
Peter Gibbs	9	9
Ben Gardiner	9	9
Michele Cotton	4	4
Malcolm McLennan	2	0
Pam Short	4	3
Julia Nicholls	1	1

INSURANCE FOR COMPANY OFFICERS

During and since the financial year the Company has paid, or agreed to pay, premiums in respect of contracts insuring persons who are or have been a Company Officer, against certain liabilities incurred in that capacity. Company Officer for this purpose means any Director or Secretary of the Company and includes any other person who is concerned, or takes part, in the management of the Company, including Trustees of the six AVA Trusts, Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund, Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation, Australian Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Trust, Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust, Veterinary Emergency Response Trust and AVA Animal Welfare Institute Trust.

The insurance contracts prohibit disclosure of the nature of the liabilities insured by the contracts and the amount of the premiums.

INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The Company has, to the extent permitted by law, entered into agreements to indemnify its Directors and officers for all losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of the Company or a related Company. This includes losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of a Company where such office is held for the benefit of the Company.

No claim has been made against or by the Company in relation to any such indemnities or insurance policies during the financial year ended 31 December 2009.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Company's operations are not subject to significant environmental regulation under the law of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory.

PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the financial year.

AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the Auditors' Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 70.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



B Gardiner

Director and Honorary Treasurer



M Lawrie

Director and President

Dated at Sydney this 29th Day of March 2010.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2009

	Notes	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	8,893,224	8,915,922	8,710,335	8,603,181
Revenue from other non-operating activities	2	-	1,272,855	-	1,272,855
Total revenue		8,893,224	10,188,777	8,710,335	9,876,036
Service expenses		(708,586)	(1,069,409)	(708,586)	(723,706)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(323,390)	(351,373)	(323,390)	(551,373)
Conference and continuing education expenses		(3,149,553)	(2,849,036)	(3,149,553)	(2,849,036)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,448,848)	(1,307,808)	(1,448,848)	(1,307,808)
Occupancy expenses		(192,316)	(202,593)	(192,316)	(202,593)
Policy and advocacy expenses		(503,669)	(388,942)	(503,669)	(388,942)
Administration expenses		(2,911,344)	(2,679,951)	(2,911,344)	(2,679,951)
Interest expense		-	-	(49,615)	(39,448)
Loss on disposals of investments		(22,871)	-	(22,871)	-
Write-down of furniture and equipment		(3,508)	-	(3,508)	-
Impairment loss		-	(466,707)	-	(466,707)
Other operating expenses		(810,042)	(754,970)	(638,132)	(754,970)
(Deficit)/surplus from ordinary activities before income tax expense		(1,180,903)	117,988	(1,241,497)	(88,498)
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(b)	-	-	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus from ordinary activities after income tax expense	11	(1,180,903)	117,988	(1,241,497)	(88,498)
Other comprehensive income/(loss)					
Change in fair value of property		(52,490)	-	(52,490)	-
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments		312,317	(30,383)	312,317	(30,383)
Realised gain from disposal of investments		40,624	-	40,624	-
Unrealised impairment loss on investments		-	(466,707)	-	(466,707)
Total other comprehensive income/(loss)		300,451	(497,090)	300,451	(497,090)
Total comprehensive (loss) for the year		(880,452)	(379,102)	(941,046)	(585,588)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2009

	Notes	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$	\$	\$	\$
			Restated		Restated
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	1(h),14	4,204,159	4,160,317	4,135,465	4,116,397
Trade and other receivables	4	870,015	569,241	870,015	569,241
Inventories		65,383	63,214	65,383	63,214
Other current assets	5	310,454	239,786	317,513	239,786
Total current assets		5,450,011	5,032,558	5,388,376	4,988,638
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Available-for-sale financial assets	1(e), 6	1,576,814	1,962,527	1,576,814	1,962,527
Property and equipment	7	5,569,965	5,778,648	5,569,965	5,778,648
Total non-current assets		7,146,779	7,741,175	7,146,779	7,741,175
Total assets		12,596,790	12,773,733	12,535,155	12,729,813
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	8	736,141	502,193	1,580,607	1,303,780
Other liabilities	9	1,323,826	853,673	1,323,826	853,673
Provisions	10	202,895	148,997	202,895	148,997
Total current liabilities		2,262,862	1,504,863	3,107,328	2,306,450
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Payables		-	64,759	-	64,759
Provisions	10	48,864	38,595	48,864	38,595
Total non-current liabilities		48,864	103,354	48,864	103,354
Total liabilities		2,311,726	1,608,217	3,156,192	2,409,804
Net assets		10,285,064	11,165,516	9,378,963	10,320,009
EQUITY					
Retained earnings	11	6,334,052	7,514,955	5,427,951	6,669,448
Reserves	12	3,951,012	3,650,561	3,951,012	3,650,561
Total equity		10,285,064	11,165,516	9,378,963	10,320,009

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year to 31 December 2009

ECONOMIC ENTITY	Notes	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Capital Profits Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2008		8,951,255	1,651,474	941,889	11,544,618
Effects for the change in accounting policy	24	(281,433)	(648,940)	930,373	-
Balance at 1 January 2008 – restated	24	8,669,822	1,002,534	1,872,262	11,544,618
Transfers (from)/to reserves related to property and equipment sold		(1,272,855)	(483,438)	1,756,293	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Surplus attributable to members of the economic entity		117,988	-	-	117,988
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Change in fair value of investments		-	(30,383)	-	(30,383)
Impairment of investments		-	(466,707)	-	(466,707)
Total other comprehensive income		-	(497,090)	-	(497,090)
Total comprehensive income		117,988	(497,090)	-	(379,102)
Balance at 31 December 2008		7,514,955	22,006	3,628,555	11,165,516
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Deficit attributable to members of the economic entity		(1,180,903)	-	-	(1,180,903)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Change in fair value of property and equipment		-	(52,490)	-	(52,490)
Change in fair value of investments		-	352,941	-	352,941
Total other comprehensive income		-	300,451	-	300,451
Total comprehensive income		(1,180,903)	300,451	-	(880,452)
Balance at 31 December 2009		6,334,052	322,457	3,628,555	10,285,064

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Continued

PARENT ENTITY	Notes	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Capital Profits Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2008		8,312,234	1,651,474	941,889	10,905,597
Effects for the change in accounting policy	24	(281,433)	(648,940)	930,373	-
Balance at 1 January 2008 – restated	24	8,030,801	1,002,534	1,872,262	10,905,597
Transfers (from)/to reserves related to property and equipment sold		(1,272,855)	(483,438)	1,756,293	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Deficit attributable to members of the parent entity		(88,498)	-	-	(88,498)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Change in fair value of investments		-	(30,383)	-	(30,383)
Impairment of investments		-	(466,707)	-	(466,707)
Total other comprehensive income		-	(497,090)	-	(497,090)
Total comprehensive income		(88,498)	(497,090)	-	(585,588)
Balance at 31 December 2008		6,669,448	22,006	3,628,555	10,320,009
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Deficit attributable to members of the parent entity		(1,241,497)	-	-	(1,241,497)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Change in fair value of property and equipment		-	(52,490)	-	(52,490)
Change in fair value of investments		-	352,941	-	352,941
Total other comprehensive income		-	300,451	-	300,451
Total comprehensive income		(1,241,497)	300,451	-	(941,046)
Balance at 31 December 2009		5,427,951	322,457	3,628,555	9,378,963

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2009

	Notes	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$	\$	\$	\$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Receipts from members' subscriptions		3,112,664	2,784,786	3,043,277	2,738,137
Receipts from other ordinary activities		6,073,156	6,078,822	5,958,121	5,821,379
Payments to suppliers and employees		(9,698,888)	(9,165,785)	(9,539,240)	(8,859,498)
Interest received		217,452	263,659	217,452	263,611
Net cash (used in) operating activities	14b	(295,616)	(38,518)	(320,390)	(36,371)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Proceeds from sale of investments		429,114	-	429,114	-
Proceeds from sale of property		-	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
Payment for property		-	(1,243,303)	-	(1,243,303)
Payment for investments		(24,933)	-	(24,933)	-
Payment for equipment		(64,723)	(140,528)	(64,723)	(140,528)
Net cash provided by investing activities		339,458	1,116,169	339,458	1,116,169
Net increase in cash held		43,842	1,077,651	19,068	1,079,798
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period		4,160,317	3,082,666	4,116,397	3,036,599
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	14a	4,204,159	4,160,317	4,135,465	4,116,397

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2009

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies

The general purpose financial statements cover the consolidated group of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited as an individual parent entity (the Company) and The Australian Veterinary Association Limited and the controlled entities as a consolidated group. The Australian Veterinary Association Limited is an unlisted public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, including Australian Accounting Interpretations other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the Australian Accounting Standard Board (AASB) has concluded would result in a financial statement containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below. They have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Principles of consolidation

An entity is consolidated when the substance of the relationship between an entity and the Company indicates that the entity is 'controlled' by the Company. The power to appoint or force resignation of trustees in accordance with the Trust Deed is an indication of this control.

The controlled entities are:

- » Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation
- » Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund
- » Australian Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Trust
- » Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust
- » Veterinary Emergency Support Trust
- » AVA Animal Welfare Institute Trust.

All controlled entities have the same financial year-end as that of the Company.

All inter-company (Company-Trust) balances and transactions between entities in the Group, including any unrealised profits or losses, have been eliminated on consolidation. Accounting policies of the controlled entities have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with those policies applied by the Company.

Where controlled entities have entered or left the economic entity during the year, their operating results have been included/excluded from the date control was obtained or until the date control ceased.

(b) Income tax

No income tax is payable by the Company as it has been advised on 30 October 1981 by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation that it is exempt from income tax under the terms of section 50(5) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*. As part of the self assessment regime the Company sought professional advice during 2004 which affirmed that there had been no substantial change in purpose of the Company since October 1981 and that the Company could continue as a tax exempt entity.

(c) Inventories

Inventories comprise primarily of forms, publications, clothing and membership insignia which have been included in the accounts at cost on a first in first out basis. All inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(d) Property and equipment

Each class of property and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

PROPERTY

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction. It is the policy of the Company to have an independent valuation every three years, with annual appraisals being made by the Directors. New independent valuations of all properties as at 31 December 2009 have been obtained and provide the basis of property valuations in the financial statements. Newly acquired properties are valued at cost, in the period preceding the next round of external valuations.

Increases in carrying amount arising on revaluation of buildings are credited to asset revaluation reserve in the statement of changes in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against the asset revaluation reserves directly in the statement of changes in equity. All other decreases are charged to comprehensive income. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the comprehensive income and depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from the retained earnings to asset revaluation reserve.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

The buildings, which are a component of the total valuation of each property, are isolated from the land component and depreciated over expected life of 40 years, consistent with AASB 116 – Property, Plant and Equipment.

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

OFFICE FURNITURE, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Office furniture, fittings and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amounts of office furniture, fittings and equipment are reviewed annually by Directors to ensure they are not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

DEPRECIATION

The depreciable amount of all property and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives to the Company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of depreciable asset	Depreciation rate
Buildings	2.5%
Office furniture and fittings	5–10%
Equipment	25–33%
Leasehold improvements	10%

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at each statement of financial position date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included

in the comprehensive income and transferred to capital profits reserve. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the asset revaluation reserve relating to the asset sold are transferred to capital profits reserve.

IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

(e) Financial instruments

RECOGNITION AND INITIAL MEASUREMENT

Financial instruments, incorporating financial assets and financial liabilities, are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Trade date accounting is adopted for financial assets that are delivered within timeframes established by marketplace convention.

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

DERECOGNITION

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the Company no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset.

AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS

Available-for-sale financial assets include financial assets not included in the following categories:

- » Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss
- » Loans and receivables
- » Held to maturity investments.

Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to asset revaluation reserve in equity unless the assets are impaired.

LOANS AND RECEIVABLES

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

FAIR VALUE

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

IMPAIRMENT

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

(f) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to financial position date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on-costs.

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the Company to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(g) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than three months and net of bank overdrafts.

(i) Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the amount of the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria should also be met before revenue is recognised:

- » membership subscriptions are brought to account as income at the time these are received except that where members' subscriptions are received in respect of a future financial period, the income is deferred and subsequently recognised in that future period
- » interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis using the effective interest method applicable to the financial assets

- » affinity commission is recognised when the right to receive the income has been established
- » conferences and events revenue which includes sponsorships and delegates fees are recognised upon commencement of the said conferences and events
- » advertising revenue for the publishing activity of the Company is recognised when the particular article is due to be published
- » dividend and distribution revenue are recognised when the right to receive the income has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(j) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis except that the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(k) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(l) Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information.

Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data obtained both externally and within the Group.

The Directors assess impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the assets is determined. Value in use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates. At 31 December 2009 there are no impairments.

(m) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

(n) New accounting standards and interpretations not yet adopted

There are no impending new accounting standards that will result in any material change in relation to the financial statements. The following new accounting standard has been adopted:

Presentation of financial statements (AASB 101)

AASB 101 prescribes the contents and structure of the financial statements. Changes reflected in these financial statements include:

- » the replacement of Income statement with Statement of comprehensive income. Items of income and expense not recognised in the profit or loss are now disclosed as components of 'other comprehensive income'. In this regards, such items may no longer be reflected as equity movements in the Statement of changes in equity
- » other financial statements are renamed in accordance with the Standard.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 26 March 2010 by the Board of Directors.

Note 2. Revenue from ordinary activities

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Subscriptions	2,605,288	2,457,439	2,535,901	2,410,790
Interest	193,149	292,456	194,657	292,408
Affinity commissions	1,001,544	999,770	1,001,544	999,770
Rental income	20,494	25,322	20,494	25,322
Other revenue (incl. conferences and publications)	5,072,749	5,140,935	4,957,739	4,874,891
	8,893,224	8,915,922	8,710,335	8,603,181
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Gain on disposal of property	-	1,272,855	-	1,272,855
	-	1,272,855	-	1,272,855
Total revenue	8,893,224	10,188,777	8,710,335	9,876,036

Note 3. Profit from ordinary activities

Profit from ordinary activities has been determined after:

EXPENSES

Depreciation and amortisation	218,061	207,642	218,061	207,642
Provision for employee entitlements	158,450	43,159	158,450	43,159
Impairment loss on investments	-	466,707	-	466,707
Loss on disposal of investments	23,523	-	23,523	-
Loss on write-off of office furniture and equipment	2,854	-	2,854	-

Note 4. Trade and other receivables**CURRENT**

Trade receivables	346,324	407,595	346,324	407,595
Other receivables	523,691	161,646	523,691	161,646
	870,015	569,241	870,015	569,241

Note 5. Other assets**CURRENT**

Prepayments	310,454	211,600	310,454	211,600
Receivable from VEST	-	-	7,059	-
Other assets	-	28,186	-	28,186
	310,454	239,786	317,513	239,786

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Note 6. Available-for-sale financial assets				
NON-CURRENT				
Managed funds	1,277,215	1,754,288	1,277,215	1,754,288
Listed shares	299,599	208,239	299,599	208,239
	1,576,814	1,962,527	1,576,814	1,962,527

Financial assets consists of investments portfolios which are composed of listed securities, managed funds and listed trusts. The fair value of managed funds is based on the latest available price which may be different to the statement of financial position date.

Note 7. Property and equipment

FREEHOLDS LAND AND BUILDINGS AT:

Independent valuation December 2009 (October 2006)	776,189	769,448	776,189	769,448
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BUILDINGS AT:

Independent valuation December 2009 (October 2006)	4,303,811	3,211,651	4,303,811	3,211,651
- Purchased June 2007	-	519,976	-	519,976
- Purchased September 2008	-	1,054,972	-	1,054,972
Less accumulated depreciation	-	(316,622)	-	(316,622)
	5,080,000	5,239,425	5,080,000	5,239,425

Office furniture and equipment at cost	1,237,142	1,269,446	1,237,142	1,269,446
Less accumulated depreciation	(747,177)	(730,223)	(747,177)	(730,223)
	489,965	539,223	489,965	539,223
Total property and equipment	5,569,965	5,778,648	5,569,965	5,778,648

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movements in the carrying amounts for each class of property and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Freehold land	Buildings	Office furniture and equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	769,448	4,469,977	539,223	5,778,648
Additions	-	-	66,079	66,079
Write-offs	-	-	(98,383)	(98,383)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	6,741	(59,232)	-	(52,491)
Depreciation expense	-	(106,934)	(111,127)	(218,061)
Depreciation from written off assets	-	-	94,173	94,173
Carrying amount at the end of the year	776,189	4,303,811	489,965	5,569,965

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Independent valuations of all land and buildings were carried out on 31 December 2009 by registered valuers in each state or territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use and the values advised have been included in these financial statements.

Note 8. Trade and other payables

CURRENT

Sundry creditors	736,141	502,193	736,141	502,193
Payable to AVA AWT	-	-	62,322	56,779
Payable to AVABF	-	-	210,420	192,600
Payable to ACAHF	-	-	571,724	552,208
	736,141	502,193	1,580,607	1,303,780

Note 9. Other liabilities

CURRENT

Income received in advance:				
Membership subscriptions	864,095	356,719	864,095	356,719
Annual conference income	380,875	428,542	380,875	428,542
Other income in advance	78,856	68,412	78,856	68,412
	1,323,826	853,673	1,323,826	853,673

Note 10. Provisions

CURRENT

Employee benefits	202,895	148,997	202,895	148,997
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NON-CURRENT

Employee benefits	48,864	38,595	48,864	38,595
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Total	251,759	187,592	251,759	187,592
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Number of employees at year end	50	46	50	46
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A provision has been recognised for employee entitlements relating to long service leave. In calculating the present value of the future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based on historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria relating to employee benefits have been included in Note 1.

Note 11. Retained earnings

Balance at 1 January	7,514,955	8,951,255	6,669,448	8,312,234
Change in accounting policy	-	(281,433)	-	(281,433)
Balance at 1 January – restated	7,514,955	8,669,822	6,669,448	8,030,801
Transfer to capital profits reserve	-	(1,272,855)	-	(1,272,855)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(1,180,903)	117,988	(1,241,497)	(88,498)
Balance at 31 December	6,334,052	7,514,955	5,427,951	6,669,448

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Note 12. Reserves				
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE				
Balance at 1 January	22,006	1,651,474	22,006	1,651,474
Change in accounting policy	-	(648,940)	-	(648,940)
Balance at 1 January – restated	22,006	1,002,534	22,006	1,002,534
Transfer to capital profits reserve	-	(483,438)	-	(483,438)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Change in fair value of investments	352,941	(30,383)	352,941	(30,383)
Impairment of investments	-	(466,707)	-	(466,707)
	300,451	(497,090)	300,451	(497,090)
Balance at 31 December	322,457	22,006	322,457	22,006
CAPITAL PROFITS RESERVE				
Balance at 1 January	3,628,555	941,889	3,628,555	941,889
Change in accounting policy	-	930,373	-	930,373
Balance at 1 January – restated	3,628,555	1,872,262	3,628,555	1,872,262
Transfer from retained earnings	-	1,272,855	-	1,272,855
Transfer from asset revaluation reserve	-	483,438	-	483,438
Balance at 31 December	3,628,555	3,628,555	3,628,555	3,628,555
Total reserves balance at 31 December	3,951,012	3,650,561	3,951,012	3,650,561

Note 13. Capital and leasing commitments

Capital commitments: As at 31 December 2009 the Group did not have any capital commitments.

Operating lease commitments:

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements.

Payable – minimum lease payments:

- not later than 1 year	24,881	21,197	24,881	21,197
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	45,415	52,034	45,415	52,034
	70,296	73,231	70,296	73,231

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Note 14. Cash flow information

(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash on hand and Cash in bank	1,000,190	1,200,317	931,496	1,156,397
Short term placements	3,203,969	2,960,000	3,203,969	2,960,000
	4,204,159	4,160,317	4,135,465	4,116,397

(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with (deficit)/surplus from ordinary activities

(Deficit)/surplus from ordinary activities	(1,180,903)	117,988	(1,241,497)	(88,498)
NON-CASH TRANSACTIONS				
Depreciation	218,061	207,642	218,061	207,642
Impairment expense on investments	-	466,707	-	466,707
Profit on disposal of assets	-	(1,272,855)	-	(1,272,855)
Loss on disposal of assets	26,377	-	26,377	-
Changes in assets and liabilities				
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	10,177	(31,221)	10,177	(31,221)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(2,169)	32,950	(2,169)	32,950
Increase in other current assets	(70,668)	(78,885)	(77,727)	(78,885)
Increase in payables	169,189	238,977	212,068	447,610
Increase in provisions	64,167	29,013	64,167	29,013
Increase in other liabilities	470,153	251,166	470,153	251,166
Cash flow from operations	(295,616)	(38,518)	(320,390)	(36,371)

Any credit standby arrangements

Note 15. Members guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 December 2009 the number of members was 5,674 (2008: 4,876).

Note 16. Remuneration of the auditor

Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditor of the Company:

Audit of the financial statements	33,111	21,500	33,111	21,500
Other services	1,585	9,026	1,585	9,026
	34,696	30,526	34,696	30,526

Note 17. Key management personnel compensation

Directors

Diane Sheehan (Non-Executive Past-President)
 Mark Lawrie (Non-Executive President)
 Samantha McMahon (Non-Executive)
 David Clarke (Non-Executive)
 Barry Smyth (Non-Executive Vice President)
 Kevin McGrath (Non-Executive)
 Steve Atkinson (Non-Executive)
 Peter Gibbs (Non-Executive)
 Ben Gardiner (Non-Executive Treasurer)
 Michele Cotton (Non-Executive)
 Malcolm McLennan (Non-Executive)
 Pam Short (Non-Executive)
 Julia Nicholls (Non-Executive)

Other key management personnel

Graham Catt (Chief Executive Officer)
 Marcia Balzer (National Communications Manager)
 Kevin Doyle (National Veterinary Director)
 Debbie Neutze (National Manager Strategy and Services)
 Anne Jackson (Editor in Chief, *Australian Veterinary Journal*)
 John Robb (National Corporate Services Manager)
 Sonya van der Steege (Membership and Marketing Manager)
 Maureen Revington (Continuing Education Manager)
 Colin Hort (Executive Officer ASAVA)
 David Imrie (Executive Officer ASAVA)
 Jane Barry (Executive Officer EVA)
 Anne Cover (Executive Officer ACV, ASV and ARV)
 Allison Lyons (Executive Officer Western Australia Division)
 Sue Stanley (Executive Officer Victorian Division)
 Samantha Mead (Executive Officer South Australian Division)
 Angela Offord (Executive Officer Tasmanian Division)
 Stephen McMaster (Executive Officer Queensland Division)

Note 17. Key management personnel compensation

	Short-term benefits of Directors and key personnel				Termination benefits		Total
	Salary and fees	Super-annuation contribution	Bonus	Non-cash benefits	Termination payment	Unused annual leave	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2009							
Total compensation	1,101,062	109,569	-	38,165	24,579	8,617	1,281,992
2008							
Total compensation	729,335	67,287	-	-	-	-	796,622

Note 18. Related parties

Directors: The names of persons who were Directors at any time during the year are set out in the 'Directors' Report' on page 48.

Information relating to the remuneration of Directors is set out in Note 17. There were no other transactions between Directors and the Company during the year.

There were no transactions with related parties, other than Directors.

Note 19. Risk management

The Group's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and available-for-sale financial assets.

(a) (i) Credit risk exposures

The credit risk on financial assets of the Group which have been recognised on the statement of financial position is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts. Credit risk is managed on a group basis and reviewed regularly by the Finance Committee. The Group does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables.

(ii) Interest rate risk exposures

The Company's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out below. Exposures arise predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the Company intends to hold fixed rate liabilities to maturity.

(iii) Liquidity risk exposures

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Company's major cash outflows are conference and continuing education expenses, communication and publication expenses and administration expenses, the levels of which are managed by the Board of Directors.

iv) Market risk exposures

Market risk represents the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of the changes in market prices. Refer to Note 6 for details on how the Board of Directors manage this risk.

(b) Financial instruments composition and maturity analysis

2009 Economic entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
			<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1%	1,000,190	3,203,969	-	-	-	4,204,159
Receivables	0%	-	-	-	-	870,015	870,015
Available-for-sale financial assets	0%	-	-	-	-	1,576,814	1,576,814
Other current assets	0%	-	-	-	-	310,454	310,454
		1,000,190	3,203,969	-	-	2,757,283	6,961,442
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES							
Payables	0%	-	-	-	-	736,141	736,141
Other liabilities	0%	-	-	-	-	1,323,826	1,323,826
		-	-	-	-	2,059,967	2,059,967
Net financial assets		1,000,190	3,203,969	-	-	697,316	4,901,475

Note 19.**(b) Financial instruments composition and maturity analysis (continued)**

2009 Economic entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
			<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1%	1,200,317	2,960,000	-	-	-	4,160,317
Receivables	0%	-	-	-	-	569,241	569,241
Available-for-sale financial assets	0%	-	-	-	-	1,962,527	1,962,527
		1,200,317	2,960,000	-	-	2,531,768	6,692,085
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES							
Payables	0%	-	-	-	-	502,193	502,193
Other liabilities	0%	-	-	-	-	853,673	853,673
		-	-	-	-	1,355,866	1,355,866
Net financial assets		1,200,137	2,960,000	-	-	1,175,902	5,336,219
FINANCIAL ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	4.2%	931,496	3,203,969	-	-	-	4,135,465
Receivables	0%	7,059	-	-	-	870,015	877,074
Available-for-sale financial assets	0%	-	-	-	-	1,576,814	1,576,814
Other current assets	0%	-	-	-	-	317,513	317,513
		938,555	3,203,969	-	-	2,764,342	6,906,866
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES							
Payables	6.3%	844,466	-	-	-	736,141	1,580,607
Other liabilities	0%	-	-	-	-	1,323,826	1,323,826
		844,466	-	-	-	2,059,967	2,904,433
Net financial assets		94,089	3,203,969	-	-	704,375	4,002,433

Note 19.**(b) Financial instruments composition and maturity analysis (continued)**

2009 Parent entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non interest bearing	Total
			<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1%	1,156,397	2,960,000	-	-	-	4,116,397
Receivables	0%	-	-	-	-	569,241	569,241
Available-for-sale financial assets	0%	-	-	-	-	1,962,527	1,962,527
		1,156,397	2,960,000	-	-	2,531,768	6,648,165
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES							
Payables	3.2%	801,587	-	-	-	502,193	1,303,780
Other liabilities	0%	-	-	-	-	853,673	853,673
		-	-	-	-	1,355,866	2,157,453
Net financial assets		354,810	2,960,000	-	-	1,175,902	4,490,712

(c) Net fair value

The net fair value of:

- » Listed investments have been valued at the quoted market price at financial position date, adjusted for transaction costs expected to be incurred. For unlisted investments where there is no organised financial market the net fair value has been based on a reasonable estimation of the underlying net assets or discounted cash flows of the investment.
- » Other assets and other liabilities approximate their carrying values

(d) Sensitivity analysis

Interest rate risk

The Company has performed a sensitivity analysis relating to its exposure to interest rate risk at the financial position date. This sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect on current year results and equity which could result from a change in this risk. As at 31 December 2009, the effect on profit and equity as a result of changes in the interest rate, with all other variables remaining constant, would be as follows:

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CHANGE IN PROFIT				
- Increase in interest rate by 2%	84,083	82,261	82,709	82,261
- Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(79,693)	(77,673)	(79,693)	(77,673)
CHANGE IN EQUITY				
- Increase in interest rate by 2%	84,083	82,261	82,709	82,261
- Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(79,693)	(77,673)	(79,693)	(77,673)

This sensitivity analysis has been performed on the assumption that all other variables remain unchanged. No sensitivity analysis has been performed for foreign exchange risk, as the Company is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign exchange.

Note 20. Company details

The registered office of the Company is:

Unit 40
6 Herbert Street
St Leonards
NSW 2065

Note 21. Segment reporting

The Company and the economic entity is engaged in the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences, including providing high standards of continuing education and professional development, providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production, and stimulating informed debate on issues within the areas of professional competence. Their activities are conducted in Australia and revenue is derived from the members.

Note 22. Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances (apart from the change in manner of management of investments referred to below) have arisen

since 31 December 2009 that significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations of the Company or economic entity
- (b) the results of those operations
- (c) the state of affairs of the Company or economic entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2009.

Note 23. Capital management

Management control the capital of the Company to ensure that adequate cash-flows are generated and that returns from investments are maximised.

The Company's capital consists of financial liabilities supported by financial assets.

Management effectively manage the Company's capital by assessing the Company's financial risks and responding to changes in these risks and in the market.

Note 24. Effect of change in accounting policy

During the year ended 31 December 2009, the Company changed its accounting policy

in recognising the revaluation component in the asset revaluation reserve for property sold. The revaluation component is transferred from asset revaluation reserve to capital profits reserve. Previously, this was recorded by transferring the amount in the asset revaluation reserve to retained earnings.

The basis for the change in the accounting policy is as follows:

- » to be consistent with the accounting for the sale of property. The accounting gain/loss on disposal of property, the difference between the net proceeds and carrying value, is transferred from retained earnings to capital profits reserve.
- » logical and proper approach in accounting the 'true profits/losses' of the sold property.

The change in the accounting policy has resulted in the restatement of the retained earnings, asset revaluation reserve and capital profits reserve as at 1 January 2008 and 2009.

	As previously reported \$	Reclassification \$	As restated \$
ECONOMIC ENTITY			
1 January 2008			
Retained earnings	8,951,255	(281,433)	8,669,822
Asset revaluation reserve	1,651,474	(648,940)	1,002,534
Capital profits reserve	941,889	930,373	1,872,262
	11,544,618	-	11,544,618
PARENT ENTITY			
1 January 2008			
Retained earnings	8,312,234	(281,433)	8,030,801
Asset revaluation reserve	1,651,474	(648,940)	1,002,534
Capital profits reserve	941,889	930,373	1,872,262
	10,905,597	-	10,905,597

▼ DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION

The Directors of the Company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 51–68, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2009 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Company and economic entity.
2. In the Directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



B Gardiner
Director and Honorary Treasurer



M Lawrie
Director and President

Dated at Sydney this 29th Day of March 2010

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, as lead auditor for the audit of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited and its Controlled Entities for the year ended 31 December 2009, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Moore Stephens Sydney

MOORE STEPHENS SYDNEY
Chartered Accountants

J Webster

J B WEBSTER
Partner

Dated in Sydney this 29th day of March 2010

Moore Stephens Sydney ABN 90 773 984 843
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited ("the Company") and The Australian Veterinary Association Limited and Controlled Entities ("the consolidated entity"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2009 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Our procedures include reading the other information in the Annual Report to determine whether it contains any material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Our audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by directors or management.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of The Australian Veterinary Association Limited and The Australian Veterinary Association Limited and Controlled Entities is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Moore Stephens Sydney

MOORE STEPHENS SYDNEY
Chartered Accountants

J Webster

J B WEBSTER
Partner

Dated in Sydney this 29th day of March 2010

**AVA
SUPPORTERS**

PLATINUM AFFINITY PARTNER



GOLD SUPPORTERS



BRONZE SUPPORTER



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Annual Report 2009

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