



**ANZCVS**

December 2024 edition

# COLLEGE COURIER



# Contents

- 03 CEO's Report
- 04 President's Report
- 05 Chief Examiner's Report
- 06 Project Officer's Report
- 08 Professional Letter from the President
- 09 Chapter Reports
- 19 Community Noticeboard
- 20 Key Dates



## COLLEGE COUNCIL

### President

Dr David Tabrett

### Chief Examiner

A/Prof Jennifer Carter

### Honorary Secretary

Dr Wendy Goodwin

### Honorary Treasurer

Dr Carolyn Guy

### Councillors

Dr Cathy Beck

Dr Jennifer Sinclair

Dr Guy Wolfenden

### Award Committee Convenor

Dr Guy Wolfenden

### New Zealand Contact

Dr Carolyn Guy

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS

### Chief Examiner

Dr Jennifer Carter

### Assistant Chief Examiner (T&C)

Dr Jana Leshinsky

### Assistant Chief Examiner (Exam)

Dr Ruth Sutcliffe

### Board of Examiner Members

Dr Linda Abraham

Dr Nick Bamford

Dr Susan Beths

Dr Lydia Hambrook

Dr Yenny Indrawirawan

Dr Samantha Livingstone

Dr Rachael-Kate Llewellyn

Dr Rena MacFarlane

Dr Elizabeth Tee

## ANZCVS COLLEGE OFFICE STAFF

### Chief Executive Officer

Mr Stephen Alderman

### Examinations Manager

Dr Mary Anne Hiscutt

### Examinations Officer

Mrs Jenny Burnett

### Assistant Examinations Officers

Ms Emma Lombard

Mrs Elizabeth Masu

### Project Officer

Dr Rachel Tan

### Administration Manager

Ms Maureen Thie

### Administration Officers

Mrs Sharyn Logan

Ms Cheyenne Tuari



## COLLEGE MERCHANDISE

**Polo Shirts**    \$30.00

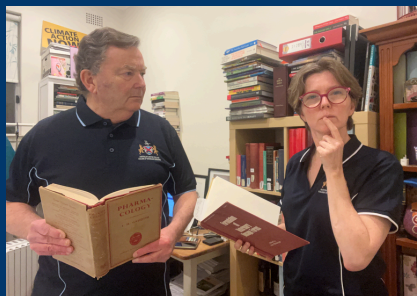
**Vests**    \$60.00

Note: All prices are in AU\$ and include GST.  
Postage fees apply, if applicable.

To place your order or for information on measurements, please contact the College Office.

Phone: +61 (07) 3423 2016

Email: [admin@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcvs.org.au)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

As we head into that time of year when the days all blur into one, we want to wish our members a relaxing, festive break. Switch off, unwind and unplug - take some time for your friends, for your family and most importantly, for yourself.

There's some important information relating to Maintenance of Credentials on page 8! Please be sure to read over and reach out if you have any queries.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to one of our wonderful assistant examination officers, Emma Lombard. Emma's acute eye for editing and proof-reading will be sorely missed but not as much as the pure joy she brought to the office. Thank you, Emma.



## CEO REPORT

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, our community has grown to over 3500 members who are at the forefront of every aspect of veterinary science. The supportive and collaborative environment that the College was built on remains a cornerstone that you continue to uphold and will shape our future.

I want to thank all of the members who have volunteered thousands of hours to the College. For over 50 years, the College community has continued to thrive thanks to your commitment to giving back. The value of your contributions to Chapter roles, examinations, and events is immeasurable.

The examination application period for 2024 Membership examinations has officially closed. When combined with the Fellowship examinations, we currently have over 400 candidates across 31 subjects. The interest and commitment of veterinarians seeking advanced qualifications in their respective field continue to reinforce the value of College certifications.

Preparations for the 2025 examination cycle are well underway across the College and Chapters. Examinations will begin in the first week of June 2025. The list of key dates is available on the ANZCVS website under "Examination Information."



### Reminder:

Stay alert to scams and phishing attempts, as scammers are always devising clever tactics to deceive. They may even appear to come from a fellow College member or someone you know.

A quick phone call can help verify the legitimacy of a request and protect your valuable finances or data from being compromised.

If you find yourself a recipient of a scam email or phishing attempt, report the email by right-clicking on the email, hover the cursor over Report and click on Report Phishing.

**CHECK | REJECT | PROTECT**

The College has also added a great set of on-demand resources to the learning management system as part of the ongoing support and knowledge transfer for members contributing to examinations. This was made possible with the time and expertise of many people. The leading content creators were Dr. Cathy Beck, Dr. Jen Carter, and Dr. Lydia Hambrook. We are very grateful for their contributions to these resources.

On behalf of all the College staff, we look forward to the year ahead and wish each of you a truly joyful festive season, creating memories alongside friends and loved ones!

**Stephen Alderman**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr David Tabrett



Our calendar rolls around again, and we reflect upon 2024, of what we may have done or achieved and looking forward to what we intend to do in 2025. We may be available for celebrations and connecting with family or friends. Our inbox and mailbox (do you ever receive physical mail that is not advertising or a utility bill?) may fill with invites and notifications of celebratory gatherings.

This cycle of reflection and planning is part of our psychology, part of our personality, part of our strengths of the human species. And this extends to our groups. The College reflection and planning cycle is timed to align with our structural elements of examinations or Science Week but the reflection/planning cycle even within College groups is happening all year round.

I am privileged to participate in Council meetings, every 6 weeks or so. We tackle the governance aspects of our College, providing oversight and direction to our College management team. I also enjoy the opportunity to participate in Board of Examiners meetings, as College President, to provide a governance perspective to this industrious team.

Each Councillor takes a role as Chapter liaison, or mentor, to your Chapter executives, small and diligent teams that keep the wheels of your Chapter running throughout the year. And within each Chapter, we see groups working year-round on teams such as Subject Standards Committee, Subject Examinations Committee, Science Week convenor teams or Examinations Teams.

We may also consider a longer cycle of reflection, as we remembered our past 50 years as a College with the anniversary in 2021 and consider what our College may look like in 20 to 30 years from now. Across all the various time and role perspectives, we rely upon this process of reflection and planning.

W. Edwards Deming modified the Shewhart Cycle in the early 1950s, a process improvement concept summarised as Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA). Utilising this concept, incorporating scientific principles of hypothesis generation and evidenced validation, enables iterative advancement towards an end goal, whether it be a candidate's goal to achieve their Fellowship accreditation, or developing a Science Week program designed to draw interest from Chapter members and beyond, or improving risk governance frameworks by the College Finance and Risk Committee.

Life is an experiment, and our end goal is not to live forever, but to live well. Our humanity is the strength that allows us to continue our own PDSA cycle to improve, both as individuals and as a College. This begs the question then; what does 2025 hold? Well, if we follow the concept of utilising PDSA towards our bigger life goals, 2025 holds the stepping stones to 2026 and beyond.

The key is that we define our futures, and the decisions we make every day will lead us somewhere. Let us make sure we do not waste the opportunity to reflect with humility – we did our best at the time – and engage these lessons to the next plan in 2025.

**David Tabrett**



# CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

## A/Prof Jennifer Carter



As the year draws to a close, I would like to take a few moments to thank all of our College office staff, Council members, Board of Examiners members, and examiners and observers for their incredible contributions to the College examinations process in 2024. It was an exciting year with a huge number of candidates and we couldn't have done it without the contributions of each and every one of you!

In October and November, we held our annual virtual Examiner's Workshop. This year saw a switch to a new format – online pre-recorded presentations from Lydia Hambrook, Cathy Beck, Neville Chiavaroli and I, followed by live Q&A sessions. Topics included:

- Introduction to the College Examinations Process,
- Using Learning Outcomes to Define the Testing Point
- Question Construction – Designing Higher Order Questions
- Writing Effective MCQs for Higher Order Thinking
- Marking Rubrics and Customising Marking Rubric Templates, and
- Common Issues and Questions.

Those recordings (including recordings of the live Q&A sessions) are now available to examiners and interested future examiners on the College Learning Management platform. If you would like access to the recordings, please contact the College Admin team on [admin@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcvs.org.au).

We hope that everyone has a peaceful and joyous holiday period, and we look forward to seeing a number of you in February at our in-person Examiner's Workshop and concurrent MCQ Peer Revision Bootcamp, both scheduled in Brisbane.

Season's Greetings to everyone – looking forward to seeing you in 2025!

~ Jen



Seeking a challenge?  
A change of scenery?  
Check out the ANZCVS  
[Positions Vacant page](#)  
Updated regularly!



# Project Officer Report

## Dr Rachel Tan

### Vet Science Week 25-27 July 2024



Save the date for next year with 2 live-dog workshops already planned for Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and Small Animal Ultrasound preceding the conference on Wednesday 23 July.

If you haven't already caught up, speaker proceedings for all available VSW 2024 sessions are available [here](#).

Access to the Feline Masterclass to 2024 delegates and paid access for any veterinarian or ANZCVS members is available on the College's [Learning Management System](#) (LMS).

Please email our team at [admin@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcvs.org.au) for access.



### Online Examination Series

In response to ongoing requests and strategy to encourage Chapters to develop multi-question type examination banks to support examination teams and improve sustainability, the College hosts an online examination series. The objective is to inform current examiners and those interested in participating in the examination process of the structure of ANZCVS exams and academic methods of question/answer writing. It is hoped that Chapters may be able to interest/recruit new Members that have the interest and ability to become involved in the next or following years examinations to support their Chapter.

The sessions hosted on the [College's LMS](#) include recording of live question and answer sessions and are structured as below.

	Duration	Item	Presenter
<b>Session 1</b>	30 min	Introduction to College examination processes	Dr Lydia Hambrook
	45 min	Using Learning Outcomes to define the testing point Question construction, designing higher order questions	Dr Lydia Hambrook
<b>Session 2</b>	90 min	Writing effective MCQs for Higher Order Thinking: How to design better multiple-choice questions effectively and avoid common flaws	Mr Neville Chiavaroli (ACER) Dr Cathy Beck
<b>Session 3</b>	45 min	Modifying Marking Rubric templates to suit your subject and application	Dr Jen Carter
	30 min	Common issues and questions	Dr Lydia Hambrook

The College is currently working on scoping a suitable long term question banking solution that examinations teams can use. This will take some time, but interim solutions are in place.

## Small Group Focus Workshop Thu 21 Nov; 2-6pm

To coincide with the unique combined 6-day AAVAC/UPAV conferences between 22-28 November 2024 at the Rex Hotel, Canberra, the College hosted a small group workshop focused on MCQ development for the Avian and Unusual Pets Chapters.

Convened by Dr Cathy Beck and Dr Jennifer Carter, the afternoon was a great success with many questions being reviewed for use in question banks for both Membership and Fellowship.

Thanks to all those great members who attended!



## Examiners and MCQ Workshop Sat 8 - Sun 9 February 2025 Brisbane Airport Convention Centre

The Examiners and MCQ Workshop will be held concurrently again during the weekend of 8-9 February 2025 at the Brisbane Airport Convention Centre. The Examinations team will be in contact shortly to invite selected examination teams involved in the 2025 cycle.

In addition to these delegates, 30 members of Chapter teams that are NOT part of 2025 examination teams will be invited to attend a MCQ question review workshop. The focus will be on experienced question writers that can train additional members within the Chapter to contribute to question banks.

For any questions regarding examinations and the MCQ workshop, please email the examinations team directly at [examinations@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:examinations@anzcvs.org.au). For general questions or for more information on the other topics, please contact me at [po@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:po@anzcvs.org.au).

## Are you a Science Week Convenor or Chapter Executive?

The College has built a new website for use by Executives and Convenors to work on Science Week each year. The aim of this site is to have a central resource portal where teams can reference materials and house an up-to-date record of the program and speaker details.

In addition, meeting recordings, documents and media resources will also be housed here.

Please use your Executive or SWConvenor email address to access the site!



Any questions regarding the above or for more information, please contact Rachel at [po@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:po@anzcvs.org.au)





## PROFESSIONAL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2020, the College introduced a Maintenance Of Credentials (MOC) program to align itself with the standards set by international veterinary organisations. In addition, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) has strongly suggested that MOC should be a requirement to ensure the ongoing quality of qualifications. This move was designed to protect the ANZCVS qualifications from any allegations (real or perceived) of degeneration or reduction of quality, and is in line with New Zealand and other foreign jurisdictions.

I am writing to inform you of an important update concerning the Maintenance of Credentials program. After careful consideration and extensive discussions, the Council has identified several logistic and financial obstacles that hinder the effective implementation of the program for our Members. Consequently, it has been decided to suspend the program for Members only until a comprehensive project scope can be developed to provide a sustainable solution.

It is important to note that the Maintenance of Credentials program will continue as planned for our Fellows. For detailed information on the current policy, please refer to the MOC FAQ page on our website ([ANZCVS - Maintenance of Credentials](#)).

The College remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the highest standards of veterinary science. We commend all our Members and Fellows for their dedication to ongoing professional development and their contributions to the field.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

**Dr David Tabrett | President**

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Animal Reproduction

With the year drawing to a close, the Animal Reproduction Chapter is looking ahead to next year already. As we only convene at Science Week every other year, we are in the process of planning our next meeting in 2025.

Great thanks to Rory Nevard for taking on the tough job as convenor. Please reach out to Rory if you would like to contribute to our 2025 program ([rnevard@csu.edu.au](mailto:rnevard@csu.edu.au)).

We are also very happy to announce that Rory passed the American College of Theriogenologist certifying board exam this year. Massive congratulations, Rory!

Please all feel free to utilise our listserv ([anzcvs-repro@freelists.org](mailto:anzcvs-repro@freelists.org)) for any reproduction related enquiries, discussions etc. Xavier Schneider is kindly managing the listserv. Please contact him if you would like to be added ([Xavier.Schneider@qldvetspecialists.com.au](mailto:Xavier.Schneider@qldvetspecialists.com.au)).

A big thank you to everyone, who help keeping the Chapter going and the members of the exam committee, who are busy preparing for the upcoming 2025 membership exams. We are looking forward to expanding our Chapter.

As the holidays approach and the Thoroughbred breeding season hopefully winding down soon, we are hoping you all get to take a well-deserved Christmas break and enjoy a wonderful holiday season. We are looking forward to seeing you all next year for Science Week 2025.

Kind regards,  
Your Reproduction Chapter Committee

## Avian Health

### Warm Holiday Greetings to the ANZCVS Avian Medicine and Surgery Membership!

As we wrap up another remarkable year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the milestones and achievements that our Avian Chapter has accomplished.

*Avian Health continued...*

Together, we've made strides that will strengthen avian medicine and surgery across Australia and New Zealand.

### Key Highlights of 2024:

- **Examination Enhancements:** We established an examination question bank for both Membership and Fellowship exams, ensuring a robust resource for future candidates. With additional examiner training sessions at the AAVAC/UPAV Conference, we're setting a solid foundation for examination excellence.
- **Guideline Updates:** Thanks to the invaluable efforts of Dr. Melinda Cowan, Dr. Deborah Monks, Dr. Patrick Jones, and Dr. Kiara Simonis, our Avian Fellowship and Membership Guidelines have been refreshed with updated reading lists, reflecting the latest literature.
- **Resource Streamlining:** Our backend system on the College portals is now more organised, making exam resources easier to access by species, system, and discipline.
- **Exciting Webinars:** Our first avian-focused webinar with Dr. Panos Azmanis was a resounding success. We look forward to more engaging presentations from global experts in 2025!
- **Fellowship Examination Sustainability:** A new network of international specialists will assist in examining Fellowship candidates, ensuring high standards while supporting our local examiners.

**Special Acknowledgements:** We extend heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Deborah Monks for her outstanding service as Subject Examinations Chair and Subject Standards Committee Chair. Deb, your contributions have left an enduring legacy. Dr. Melinda Cowan will continue your work with the same dedication in 2025.

A huge thank you to our executive committee—Dr. Kiara Simonis and Dr. Pat Jones—and our Membership examiners for their exceptional efforts this year. Your dedication has made a huge difference to the successful examinations in June and to the running of our Chapter.

**Celebrations and Congratulations:** The AAVAC and UPAV conference in Canberra was a highlight, with a fantastic turnout from ANZCVS members. We can't wait for next year's conference at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and in Cairns in November for UPAV in conjunction with the ASAV 50th anniversary conference!



AAVAC / UPAV  
Conference 2024  
Canberra

# CHAPTER REPORTS

Avian Health continued...



Congratulations to **Dr. Savannah Spillett**, recipient of the Dr. Alexandr Mastakov Memorial Prize, donated by The Unusual Pet Vets. This award not only honours Alex's memory but also recognises our membership candidates' outstanding performance in the Avian Membership examinations.

Wishing you all a joyful, safe, and prosperous holiday season. Let's continue to build on this year's successes and create even greater achievements in 2025. Thank you for being part of our vibrant avian community—your passion and dedication make it all worthwhile!

**Hamish**  
President, ANZCVS Avian Chapter

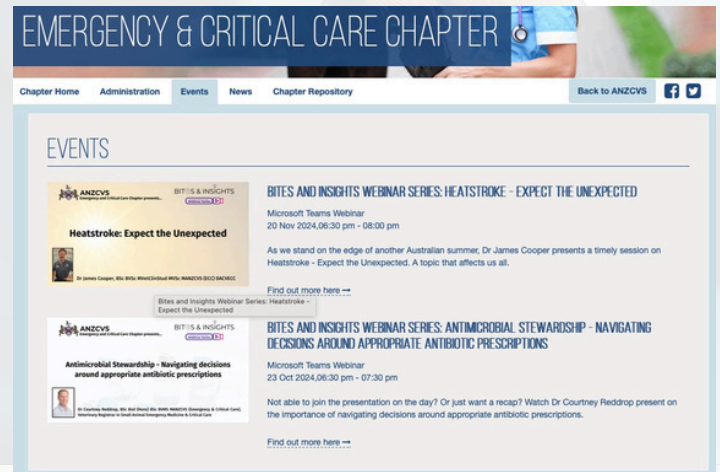
## Emergency and Critical Care

Dear Emergency & Critical Care Members and Fellows,

### Bites & Insights – Webinar series

We're excited to announce our 2nd recording is now out!

Recordings of the Antimicrobial Stewardship and Heatstroke webinars can be found on our [Chapter Events page here](#). Check it out!



### VSW2025 Update

Our Science Week Convenors, Beck and James, are working hard to deliver another full 3-day Conference, packed with content for 2025. Want a sneak peek? We are looking at collaborating with Small Animal Internal Medicine to present a very special, international keynote speaker!

As the festive season unfolds, we want to extend our warmest wishes to each of you. May this time of celebration bring joy amidst the busy summer season ahead. We are certain that your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated by Pets from all over, and we look forward to the continued success and collaboration within our Chapter.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Warm regards,  
ECC Chapter Executive Team



# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Epidemiology

Season's greetings!

### 17th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics a resounding success

The 17th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE17) was held at the International Conference Centre, Sydney, between 11 and 15 November.

It was led by members of the ANZCVS Epidemiology Chapter: Michael Ward and Marta Hernandez-Jover (Chairs, pictured below), Simon Firestone (Treasurer), Mark Stevenson and Anke Wiethoelter (Science), Jane Heller and Charles Caraguel (Social), Peter Black and Skye Fruean (Sponsorship) and Victoria Brookes and Jennifer Manyweathers (Workshops).



Dr Marta Hernandez-Jover and Dr Michael Ward

ISVEE17 attracted nearly 750 delegates from 64 countries. During the week there were 5 keynote presentations and >1000 regular and poster presentations within 12 scientific themes. There were also 11 special sessions presented. In addition, 8 workshops took place during the week before and the week after the conference. There were 177 delegates from Australia and 31 from New Zealand. Overall, there were 16 countries with >10 delegates, including from our region (Thailand 22, Indonesia 21, Japan 18, Philippines 17, China 10). Gender and geographic diversity were achieved.

The conference was a financial success (a small profit is expected), with support from a range of sponsors, including gold sponsors the Australian Department and Ausvet. ISVEE18 will take place in Cape Town in 2027, and ISVEE19 in Santiago in 2030.

ISVEE17 provided international exposure to the veterinary epidemiology and economics community of Australia and New Zealand. As demonstrated by this conference, the community is engaged, connected and vibrant in our region.

*Epidemiology continued...*

### What to Expect for Vet Science Week 2025

We are preparing an exciting 2.5-day program with the Veterinary Public Health Chapter for Vet Science Week 2025.

Make sure to mark your calendars for Vet Science Week 2025! 🎉

**Abstract and Poster Submissions Open:** 13 January 2025

**Conference Dates:** 24-26 July 2025

**Location:** Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

We are excited to collaborate with the Veterinary Pharmacology Chapter to welcome renowned international keynote speaker Professor Luca Guardabassi from the University of Copenhagen.

Please join us on Thursday, 24 July, for what promises to be an engaging session on Antimicrobial Resistance.

### Abstract Submissions open 13 January 2025!

Please save the date: January 13, 2025, when the submission portal opens for abstracts and posters. We look forward to celebrating your research achievements and reconnecting in July 2025!

Warm regards,

Tiffany O'Connor and Tabita Tan

## Feline

Wishing all Feline Chapter members a wonderful Christmas.

Whether you are part of the Feline Chapter or regularly come across feline patients in your day-to-day schedule - with the upcoming holidays, it is an opportune time to take advantage of our excellent Feline continuing education recordings released earlier this year - Masterclass in Feline Endocrinology. A great way to earn CPD points and deep dive into endocrine-related topics. For more information, reach out to [Admin@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:Admin@anzcvs.org.au).

And a reminder we hold fortnightly Journal Clubs, 8am (AEST) Wednesday mornings. Journal articles are emailed out beforehand prior to discussion/meet. The club is very informal and is a fantastic way to learn key-highlights of recently published feline literature. Topics change on a regular basis.

If you would like to be added to the Feline Journal Club mailing list, please reach out to Dr Wan-Ju Jao via email, [wjjao@catspecialists.com.au](mailto:wjjao@catspecialists.com.au).

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Medicine and Management of Laboratory Animals

We have come to the end of another year already. Planning for next year is already in full swing, with some exciting new initiatives to bring on board. We are looking to ramp up MMLA Chapter Members over the next couple of years. This means recruitment and support for all candidates. So, if you have ever had an interest in sitting the MMLA membership exams, now is the time to get involved. Early next year we will hold an information, question and answer online session for all interested potential candidates. Then, Saturday of Science Week will include a panel discussion and workshop for those interested in learning more about the exam process. This presents a great opportunity to gather into study groups and get great advice from those who have passed the exams already.

The rest of the Science Week 2025 program will involve collaboration with another Chapter for Friday. Thursday will feature presentations by Chapter members and some additional invited speakers. Stay tuned for additional information as we continue to plan.

In the meantime, Journal Club returns in February after two very successful sessions this year. We are working on setting up a way members can access previous Journal Club materials, and we will update members once this has been organised.

Take care everyone and I hope you all get a much-needed holiday break!

Sincerely,

Dr Emily Barrick  
MMLA Chapter President

## New Zealand Network

**NZ Network hosted a hybrid seminar on 17 October 2024 on The Activity of the UN's One Health High Level Expert Panel in Pandemic Preparation and Prevention**

The COVID-19 pandemic was the catalyst for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) 'quadripartite' to enhance their science-based cross-sectoral collaboration by creating a multidisciplinary One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) in 2021 to provide technical and scientific advice on One Health issues.

**?** Would you like to make a deposit to the MCQ Question Bank?  
Contact Rachel at [po@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:po@anzcvs.org.au)



*New Zealand Network continued...*

The OHHLEPs two initial main functions were to provide policy relevant scientific assessment on the emergence of health crises arising from the human-animal-ecosystem interface and to guide the development of longer-term strategic approaches to reduce the risk of zoonotic pandemics.

We were extremely lucky to have a member of the OHHLEP, David Hayman give a Hybrid presentation in Wellington for the members of the NZ Network.

David Hayman, Professor of Infectious Disease Ecology and the inaugural Percival Carmine Chair in Epidemiology and Public Health at Massey University, has been a member of OHHLEP since its inception.

He spoke about the activity of OHHLEP in relation to zoonotic infectious diseases in general, its contribution to enhancing strategic orientations and coordination, and providing political visibility on One Health, along with how OHHLEP has advanced and developed the scope of One Health for the quadripartite. At the seminar he used examples of emerging infectious diseases, including the current high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 and mpox outbreaks, as case studies on how One Health approaches could mitigate future human, animal and ecosystem health issues.

A recording of David's seminar can be found on [New Zealand Network's page here](#).



# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Ophthalmology

The Ophthalmology Chapter have just enjoyed a wonderful Interim Meeting in October in Manly, NSW, with guest speaker Dr Gus Aguirre, who spoke to us about inherited ocular disease. A big thanks to Dr Jeff Smith and Dr Sarah Coall for organising a fantastic meeting.

We are also looking forward to our Vet Science Week 2025 program, where we welcome Dr Ron Ofri as our keynote speaker. He will be providing lectures to the ophthalmology stream, but we will also be combining forces with the Behaviour Chapter for a discussion on animal vision and visual optics. We are very much looking forward to a fabulous program!

After successfully awarding our first annual Chapter Research Grant this year to Dr James Bryan, we are now accepting applications for the 2025 research grant. The \$4000 grant is aimed at helping residents and interns with an interest in eyes pursue their research in ophthalmology. As part of the application process, the research proposals are also reviewed by the Grant Committee to help strengthen your research. We encourage you to apply!

Please see our Chapter website for more information.

Dr Matt Sanders and Dr Yvette Crowe  
Ophthalmology Chapter Secretaries

## Pharmacology

It has been a busy year for the Pharmacology Chapter.

We welcomed two new members who successfully sat their Pharmacology Membership exam this year: Tian Chee Lu and Yunhan Wang; we congratulate them on their achievement.

The working group between Pharmacology and the Zoo and Wildlife Chapter has continued to scope out a collaborative project with the aim to add to the evidence base for wildlife therapeutics. We look forward to the next steps from this working group.

And finally, the Pharmacology Chapter Science Week Committee has been busy co-ordinating a very exciting programme for 2025 Science Week with two, well-regarded, international speakers joining us. Professor Luca Guardabassi is a veterinary microbiologist specialising in antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial therapy. Professor Katrina Mealey is a veterinary pharmacologist best known for her role in the discovery of the ABCB1 (MDR1) gene in both cats and dog.

*Pharmacology continued...*

Our international speakers will have shared sessions with other Chapters in addition to their Pharmacology sessions. It is going to be a very interesting, thought-provoking few days! And we thank the Committee for their hard work in securing such formidable speakers.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year 24 – 26 July at Science Week – definitely one not to be missed!

Sincerely,  
Madelaine Guy-Moore  
Pharmacology President

## Small Animal Medicine

The SAM Chapter is going from strength to strength... bring on 2025!

You asked for more Continuing Education opportunities and we are delivering.

- Elevate your expertise at the Mornington Peninsula; where learning meets the sea. The SAM Medicine Masterclass will be at the beautiful Hotel Sorrento, Victoria from 28th February-1 March 2025. Chronic enteropathies, pancreatic disease, hepatobiliary disease with time aside to explore this beautiful holiday destination. Sneaky weekend away and a mini-conference... Yes please!
- Dr. Gemma Birnie, the VSW25 SAM Convenor is doing an amazing job creating the SAM stream. I've seen the program and it's phenomenal. You won't want to miss it!
- We have a great range of online webinars and the SAM online journal club planned for 2025. We will be launching our 'SAM Support Series' of webinars and panel discussions, so monitor your inbox for this exciting new program from the SAM team.

We will be closely monitoring these new CE initiatives over the next 12-24 months to gauge their impact and relevance to our members. To ensure we can continue offering these valuable opportunities, we encourage you to actively participate and engage. Your involvement is key to keeping these programs viable for the Chapter.

We are still looking for someone to help us launch the SAM Chapter socials! If you're passionate about social media and want to make a meaningful impact, volunteering to launch and manage our Chapter's social media channels is a fantastic opportunity to help us connect with a wider audience and share our mission. Your creativity and skills could play a key role in shaping our online presence and engaging our community! Please get in touch if you are the person we've been waiting for!

# CHAPTER REPORTS

*Small Animal Medicine continued...*

As we come to the close of another year, I wanted to wish each and every one of you a joyful and peaceful holiday season. May this time of year bring you rest, happiness, and moments of warmth with those you cherish.

For those of you preparing for exams in 2025, I want to send my best wishes for your success. May your hard work and dedication continue to shine through, and may the new year bring you the clarity and focus you need to achieve your goals.

A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers within our Chapter. Your time, energy, and commitment are truly appreciated. The support you provide makes a world of difference, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do.

Kindest regards,

Dr. Elizabeth Thrift BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS GAICD  
SAM President

## Small Animal Surgery

Hello to all the Members and Fellows of the Surgery Chapter,

I would first like to take a moment to recognise the honour that it is to take over from such well-respected presidents in the recent past, particularly most recently by Dr Abbie Tipler, who we all know put in tireless hours to keep the Chapter not just surviving but thriving. Abbie took over as president from Prof. Philip Moses under extreme conditions and truly honoured his memory with her drive towards a better veterinary profession, both at centre-stage and behind the scenes.

I would like to recognise the adaptability and resilience of the Chapter committee in navigating a tough period with a fair amount of upheaval, particularly Dr Brenton Chambers as Treasurer, and our oncoming Secretary in Dr Renee Huggard, ably assisted through a rough patch of availability by Dr Sara Rodes.

This December period is a low season for council activities, and we have spent much of our time preparing for the big push next year. By the time this courier comes out, we should have finalised the candidates for examinations next year and gone some way to finalising the examination team. As it stands, I am wholeheartedly impressed by the generosity of our peers who have put their hands up to join the examination team, particularly the extraordinarily arduous task of being a Fellowship examiner. The fact that we have had no shortage of volunteers speaks wonders of the strong spirit of the Chapter.

*Small Animal Surgery continued...*

Our Subject Examination Chairpersons in Dr Alastair Franklin (Fellowship) and Dr Jack Neville-Towle (Membership) and Head Subject Examiners in Dr Ben Mielke (Fellowship) and Dr Kadie O'Byrne (Membership) have really burst out of the gates this year and put us in good stead for the year ahead.

We have also begun the planning for next year's Science Week, with the committee led by Dr Abbie Tipler, and supported by Dr Gustav Dippenaar, Dr Luke Ellis, Dr Darby Walmsley and Dr Emma Dunning. Without counting unhatched eggs, I can say it is extremely unlikely that anyone will be disappointed with the program for next year. We also have flagged some changes in the pre-program day/s, which will be finalised in the coming months.

Finally, I'd like to extend a welcome to everyone to contact me with any questions or comments about the Chapter and how it can maximally benefit the membership base now and into the future. I would like to particularly encourage the ongoing diversity and inclusion of all surgeons, particularly those who may feel alienated by recent events around the world.

Everyone have a great end of the year and enjoy any holidays you've been lucky enough to negotiate into your schedules.

Dr Blaine McCracken  
Surgery Chapter President

## Small Ruminant

Our main fund-raising activity is selling FAMACHA® cards to sheep, camelid and goat owners after reaching an agreement with the South African copyright owners for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Another shipment of 100 cards was received recently so that we can continue providing these cards to livestock owners. This was timely as a veterinarian in Western Australia has started running courses on barber's pole worm control & how to use FAMACHA® cards. We also sell batches to vet schools.



The president also took part in a workshop in November on "Minor Production Species And Pain Management Workshop" speaking about pain relief options such as Buccalgesic gel and Meloxicam injections. She gave a presentation on how she uses NSAIDs in goats.

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Veterinary Behaviour

Dearest colleagues,

The Behaviour Chapter showcases cutting edge webinars, presented by experts in the field of behavioural medicine. The webinars are aimed at all veterinarians, inclusive of veterinarians with a special interest in behaviour with topics often overlapping and inclusive of other fields in veterinary medicine.

Dr Bronwen Bollaert, a current behaviour resident of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine, recently presented on "Feather Picking in Birds - What's Going On?".

Dr Isabelle Resch, a current behaviour resident of the ANZCVS and ACVB, presented a webinar focusing on "Diet or Behaviour - Should we Care?" into the current knowledge about the connection between the microbiome and its potential effect on the body, brain and behaviour of dogs and cats- a humungous and rapidly expanding subject.

Check out the [Behaviour Chapter home page](#) for past and future webinars, found under the Education tab. Residents and undergraduates receive a discount code to access the webinars.

These webinars come to you thanks to the hard work of our Education Co-ordinator, Dr Melanie Rockman, who along with Dr Bronwyn Sharman and Dr Karen Kam (who has recently come back on board!) have been busy organising our Science Week program - Watch this space.

We also plan to have an update of the Chapter Website so please have a look at the homepage and let us know if you want your details to be added, removed or updated.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season, and hope 2025 brings you joy!

Dr Lucy Scott  
President - Veterinary Behaviour Chapter

## Veterinary Oncology

The subject examinations committee have started developing the fellowship examination for 2025, and are very grateful to have many fellows and diplomates volunteer to help write questions - thank you to all!

Nicholas Lai has taken the initiative to re-start our Chapter journal club as well as textbook review sessions for fellowship candidates, which is wonderful and we hope will be a great way for our membership to learn together and get to know each other. If anyone is interested in joining journal club please contact the Chapter Executives and we can pass on details.

Thank you to all the Veterinary Oncology Chapter members for their contributions to the Chapter in 2024, with special thanks to everyone involved in the examinations and to Johanna Todd and Sandra as convenors, and all the speakers, for a great Science Week program.

Claire, Johanna, and Sonya

## Veterinary Public Health

### VPH Fellowship Study Guidelines Approved

I'm pleased to advise that another step towards FANZCVS (VPH) has been achieved. The College has approved VPH's Fellowship Subject Guidelines, which are now posted on [ANZCVS website](#).

### Fellowship

Fellowship is associated with scholarly and technical excellence in a particular subject. Standards required for training and examination in Fellowship subjects meet or exceed the prerequisites for registration as a Veterinary Specialist in Australia and/or New Zealand.

### Our submission

In our submission to the College Board of Examiners (BOE) it was proposed that VPH use the fast-tracked mechanism as permitted in the College Constitution which inter alia reads:

*Jump to it! Get involved in your Chapter!*

Have a knack to making numbers float?  
A Quiz-master connoisseur?  
A social media savant?

Wherever your strengths lie, your Chapter needs your help. Reach out to your Chapter Executives, or the College Office, to see how you can get involved.



# CHAPTER REPORTS

## *Veterinary Public Health continued...*

- “Fast- tracked or fast-tracking” means dispensing with the requirement to complete a Membership examination or any College approved training program before advancing to Fellowship.
- Two groups of candidates [are] considered eligible for fast-tracking:
  - Those who have successfully completed a Diplomate examination in one of the American Colleges, European Colleges or the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons;
  - Those who are eminent veterinarians with extensive depth and breadth of training, scholarship and experience and a record of academic and practical excellence as otherwise defined by the Council.

## Board of Examiners’ comment on our submission

In its determination the BOE said while supportive of the proposal to use the fast-track mechanism to establish sufficient fellows at the specialty level in the Chapter it required that the Chapter articulate a pathway for a formal traditional fellowship training to act as a measure of assurance that any fast-tracked fellows are committed to establishing this traditional pathway.

## Where to from here?

Realistically it will be 2026 before the Chapter can offer fellowship examinations.

Members who believe they fit the application criteria above are urged to read the [College’s Fellowship Candidate Handbook](#) and in particular the Sections dealing with ‘Fast Tracking’. [Section 2.13 pp 34-35] and Submission of Credentials Document [Section 4 pp 46-49].

## In summary.

Since re-establishment of the Chapter a handful of members have come forward saying that they are interested in pursuing a VPH Fellowship.

- Submission of the mandatory Intention to Sit application form deadline is 30th June 2025. See [Fellowship Intention to Sit – ANZCVS and](#),
- The deadline for submission of the Credentials Document is 31st October 2025

This is another milestone for our Chapter which was re-established in 2017. Chapter secretary, Dr Allen Petrey will be extremely pleased to discuss matters further with anyone who wishes to proceed to Fellowship.

## VPH Membership Exams 2026

After running memberships on an annual basis since re-establishment in 2017 and in accord with College policy the VPH Chapter will now run biannual membership exams. The next exams will be in 2026.

Pleasingly, the 2024 membership cohort (see the September Courier) are presently working with Dr Leo Foyle Chair of the Standards Committee, reviewing of the current membership study guidelines in preparation for 2026.

## *Veterinary Public Health continued...*

Intention to Sit submissions are being accepted for subject examinations in 2026 onwards [here](#).

## Veterinary Science Week 2025

Preliminary planning for VSW has commenced. Along with sister Chapter Veterinary Epidemiology, VPH has accepted an invitation from the Veterinary Pharmacology Chapter to collaborate on AMR/AMU. An international key speaker has been approached and the following theme being considered - the effect of veterinary antimicrobial usage on human health and the environment.

Twenty-minute abstracts will again be sought, with the AMR/AMU theme encouraged. Additionally, after the well accepted presentation this year from Dr Alicia Kennedy, Veterinary Social Work will again be addressed along with an exploration of bat viruses beyond Hendra.

Kevin Crews  
VPH President

## Veterinary Practice Small Animal

### **Philip Moses Memorial lecture**

The loss of Philip Moses has been felt deeply across the College, and especially within our Veterinary Practice Small Animal Chapter. Philip was critical to the formation of our Chapter. Philip was a man passionate about Continuing Professional Development, and about sharing knowledge, especially between General Practitioners and Specialists. Two topics close to his heart were brachycephalics and animal welfare. Philip changed the lives of many patients and people. As such, we are proud to announce the inaugural Philip Moses Memorial lecture, and invitations are open for consideration.

Speakers are invited to submit a one-page synopsis of their talk for consideration by a panel. Themes should include brachycephalics and/or animal welfare. The talk can be presenting research or a knowledge summary. The target audience should be general practitioners. The presentation is ideally to be given in person, although presentation via audiovisual link will be considered to enhance accessibility and opportunity for the speaker.

The primary goal is to promote the knowledge base within the profession about the topics. A bursary of up to \$1500 (inclusive of speaker fee) can be provided to assist the speaker with costs incurred presenting in person, for example, flights and/or accommodation.

Please forward your synopsis and contact details to [presidentvetpracs@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:presidentvetpracs@anzcvs.org.au) by 10th March 2025 for consideration.

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation

Hi everyone,

Since our last update in September, I am pleased to say that we have now set up our monthly small animal VSMR journal club, with the first session taking place in November. Hosted by Dr Ah Young Kim, this monthly meeting is aimed at people with a canine VSMR interest. In the first meeting, two papers were reviewed on Surface Electromyography and their application to evidence-based practice discussed. Our next Canine VSMR Journal Club meetings are scheduled for 08:00 Canberra time on 12th December, 9th January and 6th February. Please get in touch with the Chapter Secretary to express your interest.

There is already an existing equine sports medicine journal club hosted by the University of Queensland. If you are not already a member and keen to get involved, please email Prof Ben Ahern on [b.ahern@uq.edu.au](mailto:b.ahern@uq.edu.au). This journal club is held fortnightly on a Tuesday at 3PM AEST.

In 2025, we will again be holding the membership examinations in Equine Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. Currently, we have 9 candidates registered. Candidates requiring mentoring through the process can contact [Ben Ahern](#) or [Brodie Argue](#) for advice.

Finally, news from the Science Week Coordinating team - we have organised for Amie Hesbach PT, DPT, MS, CCRP, CCRT to lead our pre-conference workshop (Wednesday 23 July 2025) on neurologic rehabilitation techniques (Save the date!) as well as being our keynote speaker for the Science Week conference.

We are currently looking for some volunteer, neurologically affected dogs to be used as demonstration dogs on the day. Please contact [swconvenorvsmr@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:swconvenorvsmr@anzcvs.org.au) if you would like more information as to what would be involved, or have patients/dogs yourself that would be interested in sharing part of their day with us, so that we can learn how to improve our neurologic rehabilitation outcomes. We will also be working with the Equine Chapter to develop some combined equine sports medicine sessions.

Best wishes for the festive season,  
Sam Franklin, President ANZCVS VSMR Chapter

## Zoo and Wildlife

In this last quarter a Chapter-led position statement – “Integration of Wildlife Veterinarians into Emergency Management” was approved by Council and published on the College website. See: [News - ANZCVS Chapter-led position statement - wildlife vets in emergencies](#). The ANZCVS Zoo and Wildlife Chapter is calling on emergency authorities and incident managers to integrate the expertise and skills of wildlife veterinarians in all emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities likely to affect wildlife.

Firstly, thank you to the dedicated working group for putting forward a well-researched and considered statement drawing on published literature and a wealth of lived experiences across the Chapter and the broader wildlife network. The statement has been endorsed by Wildlife Health Australia and we are in the process of distributing it to all those involved in or likely to be involved emergency management.

We are grateful to the College for their support and assistance throughout the development and approval stages. This is an important inaugural piece of advocacy from the Chapter and it is hoped that this statement will lead to tangible improvements in outcomes for wildlife and personnel in declared emergencies in the future.

The Chapter has warmly welcomed 3 new members after Dr Sally Gazzard, Dr Taylor Hawkins and Dr Bertrand Ng successfully passed the Zoo Animal Health Management examinations in July. This great news was followed by an excellent program put together by the Chapter’s Science Week coordinators Dr Stephanie Shaw and Dr Karina Argandona. The day was full of diverse and interesting talks highlighting the breadth of the work our Chapter members are involved in.

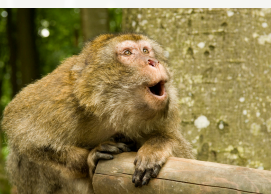
To align with our recent Chapter name change from 'Zoo and Wildlife Medicine' to 'Zoo and Wildlife', some minor amendments to the Chapter Constitution have been made and were approved at the 2024 Chapter AGM.

We are very much looking forward to 2025 with ongoing collaborations with other Chapters as well as building new connections.

## Did you know...

As an active College member, you are entitled to an ANZCVS email address, which comes with an online Microsoft 365 A1 license, giving you access to a suite of online Microsoft tools! [Click here](#) for more info!

Contact the [College Office](#) to check if you already have an existing account or to request one.



# Nominations sought for...



# 2025 COLLEGE AWARDS

The **College Prize** will be awarded to a veterinarian who has made an outstanding practical contribution to veterinary science or practice in Australia or New Zealand without the support of an academic environment. The Awards Committee will consider the applicability of the contribution in the broad field of veterinary science.

The **Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Award** recognises high academic and/or research accomplishment. It will be awarded to an Australian or New Zealand veterinarian making an outstanding contribution to veterinary science in the preceding five years.

The **Fellowship Training Scholarship** (valued at AU\$11,100 for 2025) will be awarded to a Member of the College who is enrolled in an approved Australian and New Zealand College residency training program and seeks financial assistance to complete any aspect of the training program.

The **Fellowship Research Grant** (valued at AU\$3,000) will be awarded to a Member of the College who is enrolled in an approved Australian and New Zealand College residency training program and performing research as part of this training program.

The aim of the grant is to support either the research itself or analysis of results (e.g., statistical consultation).

The **Meritorious Service Award** will be presented to reward a Member or Fellow of the College, who has consistently and tirelessly contributed to the College through voluntary service at Chapter or higher level.

The **Most Commendable Paper in an International Journal** will be awarded to highlight the international scientific contribution that members of the College make to the veterinary community. This award will be specifically aimed at journal articles that provide insight to the pathogenesis of a disease condition, or substantially alter the treatment or prevention of disease.

The **Membership Travel Grant** is to reward a newly active member of the College who is not enrolled in a formal residency training program to attend an international veterinary conference or event that will be of benefit to the both the individual, as well as the Chapter to which they belong.


The closing date for all Awards is end of February 2025. Nominations must comply with the relevant criteria (available on the [website here](#)), and be forwarded to the College Office at [Admin@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:Admin@anzcvs.org.au).

Nominations close

For assistance, please contact Dr Guy Wolfenden, Chair of the College Awards Committee, through the College Office.



# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD




## **A reminder to members on the correct use of postnominals:**

### **If awarded in or before 2010:**

Use of the initials MACVSc or MANZCVS for Members / FACVSc or FANZCVS for Fellows; followed by the subject(s) in brackets.  
Example: FACVSc (Veterinary Radiology)

### **If awarded in or after 2011:**

Use of the initials MANZCVS for Members / FANZCVS for Fellows; followed by the subject(s) in brackets.  
Example: MANZCVS (Animal Welfare)



## **Use of College brand assets, including name and logos:**

Please refer to the [College Style Guide](#) for the correct use of College branding and logos.

The use of the College Coat of Arms is granted to members only for the purpose of displaying, communicating and promoting their membership in ANZCVS and alongside the Member's name and postnominals (in official College font, Fira Sans).

See example >



# ANZCVS 2025 KEY DATES

**20 December - 5 January 2025**

College Office Christmas closure

**8 - 9 February**

In-person Examiners Workshop 2025  
In-person MCQ Writing Workshop 2025  
~Brisbane, QLD

**28 February**

College Awards nominations close

**1 March**

Nominations open for College Council  
Nominations open for Board of Examiners

**1 June**

Nominations close for College Council  
Nominations close for Board of Examiners

**3 June**

Membership Written Examinations

**3 - 4 June**

Fellowship Written Examinations

**5 June**

Membership Practical Examinations  
(if applicable)

**21 - 22 June**

Fellowship Practical and Oral Examinations

**28 - 30 June**

Membership Oral Examinations

**23 July**

2025 Pre-Conference Workshops

**24 - 26 July**

Vet Science Week 2025

**25 July**

College Annual General Meeting

**26 July**

College Awards Dinner

**1 August**

2026 Membership Examination  
applications open



If you would like to contribute or request an article to be included in future College Couriers, please reach out to the College Office team!



Certifying excellence  
in veterinary science

## CONTACT US

Building 3, Garden City Office Park  
2404 Logan Road  
EIGHT MILE PLAINS QLD 4113

Phone: +61 7 3423 2016  
Email: [admin@anzcv.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcv.org.au)  
Web: [www.anzcv.org.au](http://www.anzcv.org.au)

**CERTIFY**

**EDUCATE**

**SHARE**