



Commonwealth Veterinary Association e-Newsletter

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Samoan veterinarian visits Australia through the CVA study fund

As a vet practicing in Sydney Australia for some decades, I have come to take many things for granted that vets in other parts of the world would regard almost as luxuries. It is hard to imagine doing without an X-ray machine or an anesthetic machine. But this is precisely what Samoan vet Renee Orange reported during her one week stay at my Sydney inner west small animal practice recently. Renee spent the first week of her CVA sponsored study visit to Australia living in and helping out with consultations and surgery. And whilst I am sure she gained quite a lot from her time with us, her experiences dealing with the likes of 'George' the ferret and some fluffy pet rabbits, whilst no doubt memorable for her, will perhaps be of limited use to her back in Samoa.

We at the Haberfield Veterinary Hospital enjoyed immensely having Renee with us for the week. To wish her a fond farewell, on her last night with us we took her out for a pizza night and presented her with a parting gift we thought she would appreciate – some bottles of stains for staining slides, something she just doesn't have back home, and a stuffed toy kangaroo. We hope that Renee will return to Samoa reinvigorated, that the kangaroo will remind her of us and that the bottles of stains in her luggage remain intact or else she could be unpacking some interestingly coloured clothes!



Update on New Zealand Veterinary Conference (NZVA)

I recently attended the NZVA conference at the Claudelands event centre in Hamilton NZ, on behalf of the CVA. This conference was well attended by members across the veterinary profession at a national and international level with Presidents from America, Australia and China also attending.

The theme of the conference was 'Worlds Infusion' – stressing the importance of the interaction between animals, humans and the environment in which we all live. There were a number of lectures on antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare and the effect we all have on the environment. Presenters came from all over the world from America to St.Kitts! Multiple streams of presentations were run concurrently in sheep and beef, cattle, Equine, Companion animal and complementary medicine as well as combined plenary sessions.

I attended a board meeting on the first day for overseas associations with the NZVA board members and we discussed how each of our associations, namely American, Australian, Chinese Veterinary associations are structured and are funded. We also outlined the benefits of membership to each association. The Chinese Veterinary medical association is very new (7 years old) and their representatives gained a lot from this discussion. These associations all rely heavily on subscriptions to function and sponsorship just like the CVA.

I spoke at the NZVA AGM on the following day and gave a brief history about the CVA. I outlined all of the programmes the CVA has to offer including the book program, guest lectureships, study grants, partnerships and results eg OIE twinning CVA Rabies laboratory in India. I presented a couple of power point slides showing our website and online CPD link and also the

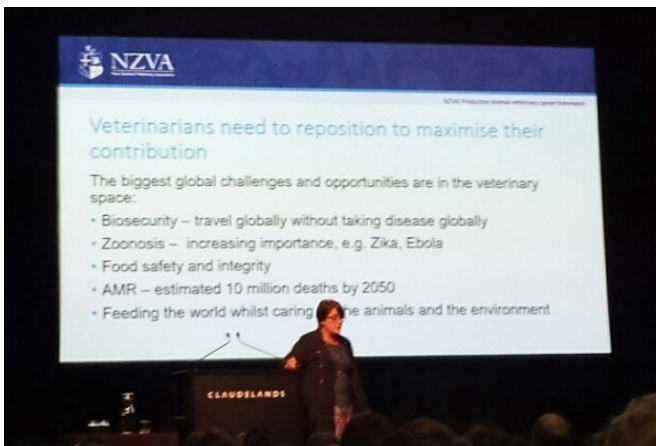
CVA facebook page. I think these slides really helped the audience visualise the CVA as no other overseas association spokesperson had any visual material.

I spoke to numerous veterinarians and drug companies about the CVA - namely what it is (a lot had never heard of us) and what we do. There was a positive response to our organisation.

I feel moving on in order to remain relevant and visible we need all councillors to write articles for their national veterinary association publications about the benefits of membership of the CVA in order to remain visible. Providing links to the CVA website in these articles is very important for ease of access. Jeff has put a lot of work into the site and it is an excellent resource for those not close to other forms of CPD. I think we all need to spend a little time to promote the CVA worldwide through our national associations.

Best Wishes to all

Dr Deb Kirton BVSc (dist), MANZCVS, CVA Treasurer



Commonwealth Veterinary Association Book Program Annual Report 2015-16

In July 2015, I took over the administration of the CVA Book Program from Dr Jeff Cave. With much valuable advice and support from him, the transfer was easy, the most difficult part being the shipping of books from Wodonga to Hobart. There are now well over 600 books in storage, selections of which are regularly sent to veterinarians overseas. There are also new donations that come from time to time.

My greatest challenge continues to be how to get books to Hobart. I have instituted a number of ways to make it easier for vets to donate, without having to pay postage to me:

1. Vetshare is acting as a drop off point in Sydney and Canberra and will then transfer books to me;
2. ZebraVet is doing the same in Melbourne;
3. Jenny Cumming at the AVA (Vic. Branch) is also a drop off point in Melbourne, and she will transfer them to ZebraVet;
4. I have family members in Armidale and Wagga Wagga who will also act as depots and bring them down when they visit;
5. Many of the LLA Vets in NSW are willing to act as depots, and will transfer them to Wagga at group meetings; and
6. Jeff Cave is still happy to take books at Wodonga.

I am very grateful to all these people for their help, but especially ZebraVet and Vetshare, who are donating significant freight costs.

Books have been sent all over the Commonwealth in the last 12 months. The countries involved include: Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Pakistan, Nepal, Trinidad & Tobago, the Cayman Islands and Timor Leste. So far all books have arrived safely, and the recipients have been very grateful.

I look forward to continuing to serve in this role. If anyone has any donations or questions, please email me first at jimconnah@bigpond.com or ring on 0459 771972.

Jim Connah BVSc MANZCVS



National Rural Poultry Centre in Malawi – News Update

by Pat Boland

Recently, Bill Gates said he wants to give away 100,000 chickens to poor countries. I can only repeat what someone has already said: “You can’t fault the sentiment”.

Which brings me to one of my stock stories for audiences interested in assisting village poultry owners in Malawi. Imagine two villages, each about the same size and each with a population of about 500 chickens. In one, you decide to help by donating a further 300 chickens, nice healthy chickens, and you manage to avoid all the practical pitfalls which so often dog such enterprises. In the other, you donate no chickens at all. All you do is train a couple of people in how to vaccinate chickens against Newcastle disease. You don’t give them anything much at all, just training and guidance. You simply set them up with the wherewithal to obtain the vaccine, to use it properly, to charge a fee so that they can buy more vaccine and put a bit in their pocket, and to continue their job after you’ve gone. That’s all.

Then you wait a couple of years and go back to see which village has more chickens...

You’ve already guessed it and you are correct. We would have seen smiles, clapping and dancing at the first village, great for publicity but not necessarily a reflection of substantial progress. And we certainly need progress – the vast majority of village chickens in Malawi are not vaccinated.

In our work in Ntchisi, we’ve just found that the losses from Newcastle disease are immense. We’ve confirmed something we’ve always said: Newcastle disease is the biggest single cause of death in village chickens in this part of the world. We found that households which had not vaccinated had lost about five times as many chickens to Newcastle disease as those which had vaccinated. Next on the list was losses through predation which are particularly important for young chicks. This was all part of a small survey we did towards the end of the project, too small to hang my hat on, but

of course I’m delighted that these results have generally supported what we intuitively thought was the way to go.

So we’ll concentrate more on these issues and with luck soon have an impact approaching that of the Bill Gates initiative. We’ve vaccinated over 60,000 chickens in Ntchisi so far and that certainly represents many thousands of chickens saved.

So now just thank your lucky stars I was not born a used car salesman.



CVA Country Councillor Profile – Dr Steve Pointing of the Falkland Islands

Q1. Tell us about you, your family and where you live?

My name is Stephen Pointing and I am the Senior Veterinary Officer at the Department of Agriculture in the Falkland Islands. I live in Stanley, the capital and only large settlement, within the Islands. I live here alone at the moment because my wife and the rest of my family (2 sons and 1 daughter) all live and work in the UK.

Q2. What is your favourite food?

That’s a difficult one. As far as English food is concerned I think it would have to be roast beef and all the trimmings with my wife’s lemon meringue pie as my favourite dessert. Internationally I really like a good Indian curry.

Q3. Do you have any favourite music?

I do. I really like classical music of all sorts but my favourite composers would have to be Rachmaninov, Chopin, Mozart and Beethoven. I particularly like piano music. As to modern music – I am not that enamoured by it and am firmly stuck in the music of the 60's and 70's which corresponded to my teenage years.

Q4. What is your favourite sport?

My favourite sport is tennis but I also like rugby and cricket. I'm too old for the latter two sports now – so I just like to watch them – but I still try to play tennis twice a week.

Q5. Tell up in a paragraph what your current veterinary position is.

I am the Senior Veterinary Officer in the Falkland Islands Dept. of Agriculture. My role is extremely varied – from routine livestock and small animal medicine and surgery to acting as the competent authority for the Government in relation to exports of meat and fishery products from the Islands. I also have to help draft all the legislation which is connected to the safe production of food and the welfare of animals within the Islands.

Q6. What influenced you to become a veterinarian?

I grew up in a very rural part of the UK (Devon) surrounded by all sorts of farming activity – so I've always been interested in farming and the industries connected with it.

Q7. What do you enjoy most about being a veterinarian?

The variety of my current role and interacting with such a diverse and interesting group of colleagues and members of the public.

Q8. What are some of the main challenges for you and your national veterinary association?

Having too much to do with not enough resources (staff, money and time) to do the job as well as I'd like it to be done.

Q9. How do you communicate to your organisation about the CVA and its activities?

I'm sorry to say that I don't do this. We are a very small number of vets here – only 3 full time and 1 seasonal vet who we employ for the abattoir export season.

Q10. How do you think the CVA can assist you in your Councillor Role?

Honestly speaking I don't think the CVA can do much to assist my current role. We are members of the CVA not so much for what the CVA can do for us but more to enable us to keep abreast of what is happening in the veterinary world in a very diverse range of countries around the world.



Recipes from the world – from Brunei

Mangoes With Sticky Rice

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Coconut cream
- 4 tablespoons Sugar
- 1 teaspoon Salt
- 4 Ripe mangoes
- 3 cups Sticky coconut rice

Directions:

Mix the coconut cream with the sugar and salt, and bring to a boil. Simmer for a few minutes, stirring occasionally.

Peel the mangoes and slice them, removing the stones. Arrange the mangoes on individual plates with rice beside them. Spoon the sauce over the rice.