

Companionien

ASAV MEMBERS' MAGAZINE | Q3 2020

FEATURED MEMBER

Ray Ferguson

“Once you start working with racing dogs and sporting dogs, you start to use your hands as diagnostic tools to feel where any musculoskeletal injuries are.”

Q&A with Kersti Seksel
On making vet visits easier for cats

Seven kinds of Wandiful
Meet Australia's luckiest dingo

Cam Raw talks WALDHeP,
One Health and the pandemic

Plus

The truth about cats and dogs ... and snakebites
Our accredited hospitals
Sixteen mountaineers and a dog called Daisy



VET FEST WRAP-UP

ASAV Student Scholarship winners

Thank you enormously to the ASAV for providing me the opportunity, through this scholarship, to attend the AVA's VetFest 2020 conference.



Caroline Duddy - Charles Sturt University

I was on placement during the conference, so it was invaluable to be able to attend virtually with sessions that supplemented my learning during that time.

As a fourth-year student, I am still two years off graduation and have a long way to come before being 'a real vet'. I find that learning in an environment such as a conference takes the pressure off, which facilitates thought without stressing about having to catch every part in preparation for an exam. It also provides the opportunity to explore some topics in greater depth than we have the time to cover in class, allowing us to develop and expand our veterinary knowledge in an enjoyable way.

I thoroughly enjoyed and was enthralled by the oncology talks, particularly surgical oncology for the general practitioner, in the small animal stream. It has been difficult to maintain concentration and drive during the COVID-19 pandemic with no practical sessions at university, so watching the oncology streams helped me to re-focus my efforts, as pathology and oncology was part of my motivation for pursuing vet studies!

The plenary 'Canaries in the coalmine' was a fascinating insight into disease surveillance and the important role veterinarians play in One Health. Interestingly, the conversation arose with a friend, and second-year student, only a few days later regarding veterinarians' role in emergency disease outbreaks. It was an incredible feeling to be able to discuss this topic with my peers following the presentation by Tracey McNamara.

It is difficult to put into words how valuable I have found this conference and the AVA NSW divisional conference I attended last year but I strongly encourage other students to try to attend one of these veterinary symposiums whilst at university. While CPD events are not compulsory during uni, the AVA events teams do such a great job putting together wonderful programs and I am so grateful for having been given the opportunity to attend VetFest.

Thank you again to the ASAV.

CAROLINE DUDDY
Charles Sturt University

Not so long ago I had the opportunity to attend VetFest 2020, an online vet conference with talks and zoom meeting sessions in the evenings. The pandemic has impacted all of our lives significantly and I didn't think that I would be able to attend any continuing education events this year, so I'm incredibly thankful for the ASAV Student Scholarship which allowed me to participate in this virtual forum.

The AVA organised an impressive program and I really enjoyed the flexibility of being able to watch lectures and attend social gatherings online from the comfort of my own home after a busy day of work or university rotations. I watched talks on a variety of topics from across the veterinary profession, including: treating a seizing patient, canine and feline intoxications, reptile nutrition, palladia treatment, pre-surgical assessment of brachycephalic dogs, rapid vaccine development in the age of COVID-19 and so much more.

I have a wide range of interests in veterinary medicine and having the ability to attend different streams such as small animal, behaviour, equine, business, cattle, and unusual pets, was great for a student such as myself who is in the early development stages of their career. After three weeks of attending VetFest 2020 in the evenings, I had significantly enhanced my breadth of knowledge from lectures on a variety of topics.

I am a final-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine student and while attending conferences is extremely beneficial to veterinary students in all year levels, I was especially grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference in my final year

because I am now at a point in my studies where I have the background knowledge to fully comprehend the lectures on clinical approach and treatment – and to apply the information from these talks into my clinical reasoning during university rotations and following graduation.

One of the best aspects of attending AVA and ASAV conferences is the social events where you can expand your network by meeting others in the veterinary industry. I was worried that I wouldn't have the same opportunities to network at an online conference, but there were several social events planned which took place over Zoom meetings. For example, I had the opportunity to attend the Veterinarians in Education, Research and Academia (VERA) group's social, and by doing so, gained valuable counsel for my final-year research project. I also joined the ASAV group's happy hour and was given advice about life as a new graduate and was able to make several connections with leaders in the industry.

I had a wonderful time at VetFest 2020 and I highly encourage other vet students to attend these types of conferences as they dramatically enhance both your professional and personal development, as well as providing you with practical career information. Seeing the breadth of attendees and presentations at these events can also provide you with a fantastic source of new veterinary contacts who you can turn to for invaluable advice and inspiration about what to expect post-graduation.

MARLENA LOPEZY
University of Melbourne



Marlena Lopez - University of Melbourne