



DANDER

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President's Report

We are moving forward to the 6th Asia-Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP6) as part of the World's Poultry Congress in Brisbane. This will be the culmination of an enormous amount of work by Kevin Whithear, ably assisted by Peter Scott. We are grateful for their efforts on our behalf and AP6 should reward us well with quality scientific information and a chance to network with overseas and local poultry specialists.

We will have an AGM/OGM just prior to the kick off of WPC (details in this issue). With the elections of office bearers therein I will hand over the presidency, as will a number of our current executive, so this will be my final report as President. The outgoing executive leave the Association in great shape and hopefully the incoming office bearers will have a smooth induction to the running of the AVPA. Finances are in good shape and the new executive will only need to be concerned with our operational objectives. I would propose a huge vote of thanks to the outgoing Treasurer, Pete Gray for an outstanding input over his term and our solid position now is in no little way attributable to his efforts. Ben Wells has offered to stay on in the secretarial role for a time at least to allow for easy continuance and a progressive phase in for the new Assistant Secretary. I offer my deep gratitude to both Pete and Ben, what we have achieved for the AVPA in the last 2 years would not have been possible without them. Thanks also to those who have volunteered for positions for the coming year and those who will continue on in their roles. These tasks can at times be

very burdensome and we all owe a great deal to those who serve us so faithfully.

Kevin Whithear is also relinquishing the editorship of Dander. I would take this opportunity to thank and praise Kevin for his diligent work with our newsletter over many years. This is a difficult and often thankless task but one of the most valuable to the AVPA. On behalf of our entire membership I offer our heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

The initial task before the incoming executive will be to progress the assessment and decisions necessary for the project ideas submitted by several members. These are exciting concepts and represent considerable contributions that AVPA can make for its members. I would encourage every member to submit comments, suggestions and impressions of these projects so that we can make the most of them and gain full commitment of the Association to those which are chosen to proceed.

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all AVPA members for their support and, in some cases, real effort in assisting us reach this milestone in the history of the Association. It has been a privilege to be involved in all this and I thank you for patience and sustaining friendship. I offer my best wishes for the success and benefits for the AVPA into the future.

Peter Groves

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in the biggest and best poultry conference ever to be held, or likely to be held, in Australia.

The XXIII World's Poultry Congress runs from 30 June to 4 July at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The poultry diseases stream of WPC will feature as the 6th Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference and will be of particular interest to AVPA members. However, delegates will be free to attend any of the concurrent sessions of WPC. In addition, PIX and the 4th International Ratite Science Symposium will also be held within the same conference venue.

For more information about the scientific program visit <www.wpc2008.com/program.html>

PLEASE NOTE Financial Members of AVPA are eligible for the same reduced WPC registration rate as full time WPSA members. Please indicate that you are an AVPA member on the registration form.

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AVPA Office Bearers 2007 - 2008

President	Peter Groves	<zootechny@bigpond.com>
Vice President	Peter Scott	<pcscott@unimelb.edu.au>
President Elect	David Marks	<davidmarks@xtra.co.nz>
Honorary Secretary	Ben Wells	<benwells@bigpond.net.au>
Honorary Treasurer	Peter Gray	<pgray1@bigpond.com>
AVA Policy Councillor	Peter Groves	<zootechny@bigpond.com>
Website Co-ordinator	Graham Burgess	<graham.burgess@jcu.edu.au>
WVPA Bureau Member	Trevor Bagust	<trevorjb@unimelb.edu.au>
Editor Dander	Kevin Whithear	<kevingw@unimelb.edu.au>

AVPA Sub-Committee Convenors 2007 - 2008

Importation & Exotic Diseases	George Arzey	<george.arzey@agric.nsw.gov.au>
Therapeutics	Susan Bibby	<sbibby@scolexia.com.au>
Welfare	John Barnett	<john.barnett@nre.vic.gov.au>

Membership of the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd is available to individuals and groups working in, or interested in, any veterinary aspect of poultry.

Dander will be published quarterly (March, June, September and December). Contributions are welcome. Electronic copy is requested. Deadline for copy is by the end of the second week of the month of publication. Please send information on abstracts of interesting papers, summaries of reports, case histories, social news etc. to Kevin Whithear, School of Veterinary Science, The University of Melbourne, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee 3030, Victoria <kevingwt@unimelb.edu.au> fax 03 9731 2366.

Summary of Important Upcoming Scientific Meetings

June 2008	7th International Symposium on Turkey Diseases. Institute of Poultry Diseases Free University Berlin, Germany. June 19 – 21. Contact: Prof. Dr. H. M. Hafez; E-mail: hafez@vetmed.fu-berlin.de
June-July 2008	23rd World's Poultry Conference and Sixth Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference. Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre. June 29 - July 4. AVPA Contact Dr Kevin Whithear; Email: kevingw@unimelb.edu.au . Web: www.wpc2008.com
July 2008	8th International Marek's Disease Symposium. Townsville, Queensland. July 6-10. Contact: Dr. G. Burgess, School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811. Phone: 07 4781 5472; Fax: 07 4781 6833; Email: graham.burgess@jcu.edu.au . Web: http://www.jcu.edu.au/events/mds
July 2008	2008 AAAP/AVMA Annual Meeting. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center 900 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130. July 19-23. Contact Gregorio Rosales / Sue Clanton; Email: aaap@uga.edu . Web: www.aaap.info/mc/page.do

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership List: Thanks to all members who have renewed their AVPA subscriptions for 2008. An application form for new or continuing membership can be found at the back of this issue of *DANDER*. The following lists, prepared by the Hon. Treasurer, provide a breakdown of the current financial membership as at 24 June 2008. Could any members who have paid via AVA but whose name does not appear as having paid on the lists below please contact the Hon. Treasurer, Peter Gray.

New Members: AVPA welcomes the following new members: Kirsti Seksel, Tim Wilson and Eduardo Bernardi.

AVA Members Who Have Paid for 2008 (Poultry SIG) (35 Ordinary, 4 Life)

Caroline Ash, Trevor Bagust, Balkar Bains (Life), Leone Basher, Susan Bibby, Doug Black, Glenn Browning, Peter Claxton, Neil Cooper, Kim Critchley, Joanne Devlin, Elizabeth Evans, Gordon Firth, Paul Gilchrist (Life), Tom Grimes, Peter Groves, Bill Hall, Clive Jackson, Rodney Jenner, Robert Johnston, Noel Johnston, Branko Karaconji, Azadeh Laghai, Harvey Langford (Life), Mark Lindsey, Alistair Murdoch, Michael Nunn, Bruce Remington, Grant Richards, Simon Robinson, Kirsti Seksel, Margaret Sexton, Peter Spradbrow, Andrew Turner, Greg Underwood, Stephen Walkden-Brown, Mark White, Kevin Whithear (Life), Tim Wilson.

Non AVA Members Who Have Paid for 2008 (52 Ordinary, 7 Sustaining, 2 Life)

George Arzey, Edla Arzey, Philip Ashby, Leon Barlow (Life), John Barnett, Carol Bates, Peter Beers, Eduardo Bernardi (Sustaining), Nathan Binstock, Pat Blackall, Wayne Bradshaw, David Buckley, Brian Burke, Graham Burgess, Neil Christensen, Roger Chubb (Life), Greg Cronin, Colm Culligan, Mike Cundy, Peter Curtin, Kent Dietemeyer, John Doyle (Sustaining), Peter Gray, David Hampson, Bob Hughes, Fakhru Islam, Brian Jones, Wayne Jorgensen, Vivien Kite, Margaret MacKenzie, Warwick Madden (Sustaining), David Marks, Cornelius Matereke, Michael McDermott, Darryl Meaney (Sustaining), Krystyna Minkiewicz, Linden Moffatt, Chris Morrow, Kerry Mulqueen, Amir H. Noormohammadi, Frank Pace (Sustaining), Matthew Perrott, Mike Pritchard, Ravi Ravindran, Rod Reece, John Reeves (Sustaining), Julie Roberts, Ambrosio Rubite, Brett Ruth, Peter Scott, Sue Sharpe, Lyn Tan, Jillian Templeton, David Tinworth (Sustaining), Valeria Torok, Aileen Vanderfeen, Amandeep Walia, Julie Wagner, Ben Wells, Bill Williams, Sarah Wylie.

Please see the AVPA website for information on sustaining members and links to websites

Current AVPA Sustaining Members 2008

Sustaining members contribute funds that help defray costs of services to members of the AVPA. We thank all sustaining members for their active interest and support.



Bayer Australia Ltd, 875 Pacific Highway Pymble 2073 NSW. (02) 9391 6218
Contact: Neil Cooper 0418 970 351 <neil.cooper.nc@bayer-ag.de>



Bioproperties Pty Ltd, 36 Charter Street Ringwood 3134 Victoria. (03) 9876 0567
Contact: David Tinworth 0418 334 766 david.tinworth@bioproperties.com.au



Elanco Animal Health, PO Box 516 Echunga 5153 SA. (08) 83888867
Contact: Daryl Meaney 0429 637034 <meaney_darryl@lilly.com>



Fort Dodge Australia Pty Ltd, PO Box 6024, Baulkham Hills 2157 NSW
Contact: John Reeves Fax (02) 9889 2151 <reevesj@fortdodge.com.au>

OzBioPharm

OzBioPharm Pty Ltd, 24 Parkhurst Drive Knoxfield 3180 Victoria. Tel/fax: (02) 9440 5360
Contact: John Doyle 0407 446 144 <john.doyle@ozbiopharm.com.au>



Pace Farm, Locked Bag 800 Rooty Hill 2766 NSW (02) 9830 9800
Contact: Frank Pace fp@pacefarm.com



Pacificvet Limited, PO Box 16-129, Hornby Christchurch NZ.
Contact: Dr Julie Wagner Phone: +64 (03) 349 8438 Fax: +64 (03) 349 8863
info@pacificvet.co.nz Website: www.pacificvet.co.nz

Newcastle Disease Management Plan 2008-2012

The Newcastle disease management plan for 2008-2012 will replace the existing plan which is due to expire 30 June 08 (having been extended twice by Animal Health Committee beyond the original expiration date of 31 Dec 07). The 2008-2012 plan has yet to be approved by industry and AHC and is currently out for review by ND Steering Committee members. Once approved by the SC and industry (CMFA and AECL) the plan will be presented to AHC for endorsement.

The SC met in Feb 08 to develop the new 5 year management plan. The new plan as developed would allow for some changes to vaccination protocols for some jurisdictions considered to be a "low risk" for virulent ND derived from existing precursor viruses. As a result of these actions the SOPs for vaccination have been amended by a working group of the SC. This working group was headed by Dr George Arzey. For those jurisdictions that may be able to reduce the level of vaccination some surveillance will be required to ensure that decreasing the level of vaccination does not increase the risk of virulent ND.

Ultimately it may be possible to do away with the need for vaccination using V4 and killed vaccines and this will hopefully lead to an exit strategy for the management plan. It is proposed to review the new plan in 2010 (after 2 years of operation).

It must be emphasized at the time of writing (June 2008) that the new plan has not yet been endorsed by the SC, industry or AHC and the material presented here is subject to change before the plan is implemented.

William Hall
Co-ordinator Veterinary Services
Animal Health Australia

Avian Influenza – the global situation Hot topic for WPC/AP6

The global avian influenza situation will be an important topic at AP6/WPC next week. Sessions will focus on but not be restricted to HPAI. Nobel Laureate, Professor Peter Doherty will give a plenary address on medical research into avian influenza on Tuesday morning. This will be followed by no less than 5 scientific sessions on avian influenza.

The invited speaker for the first session is Dr Les Sims whose topic will be *HPAI: an Asia-Pacific Perspective*. Other speakers in this session are from China, USA, Iran, Italy and Australia. In the late afternoon session on Tuesday, Dr Peter Daniels will lead off the presentations by talking about *Avian influenza viruses circulating in poultry in Indonesia*. This international perspective will be complemented with speakers from Iran, USA and Mexico as well as Dr Andrew Turner from Australia.

The session on Wednesday morning will feature Dr Tom Grimes' experiences on *The role of biosecurity programs and compartmentalisation in facilitating international trade between countries with Notifiable Avian Influenza* followed by speakers from Egypt, Germany, USA and Thailand.

Following this session the AI baton will be transferred to the "Poultry Production in Developing Countries" stream. Dr Jonathan Rushton from FAO in Rome is the invited speaker and his topic is *Poultry sector development, highly pathogenic avian influenza and the smallholder production systems*. Following speakers will describe aspects including epidemiology, control and disease compensation in smallholder poultry production in South East Asia, Egypt and Ethiopia.

The finale on AI will be a Workshop and General Discussion on Wednesday afternoon to be moderated by Dr Andrew Turner with a panel to include all the presenters from the AI sessions. The audience will be invited to question the presenters and to comment on the papers. It is hoped that a lively and informative debate will result.

To get the mind focussed (if it is not already) on AI and national poultry biosecurity, DANDER is delighted to publish a report from Dr Andreas Dubs, Chair of the Biosecurity Consultative Committee on the development of a national biosecurity manual for the industry. Andreas' article is on the following page of *DANDER*.

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL BIOSECURITY MANUAL FOR THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

Dr Andreas Dubs, Executive Director, Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF) Inc., North Sydney NSW; and Chair of the Biosecurity Consultative Committee

The practical and economic reasons for biosecurity are no doubt self-evident to this readership. There is also a legal requirement for chicken farms in Australia to implement biosecurity. This requirement forms part of the agreement between the industry, the Australian Government and the State Governments regarding Emergency Animal Diseases, called the EADRA (Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement), put in place in 2002. The equine influenza outbreak in 2007 is the most recent example where substantial action was taken under the agreement. The only other example is Newcastle Disease.

A milestone in biosecurity in Australian chicken farming was the development and publication of the National Biosecurity Manual for Contract Chicken Farming, a document that set out what were seen as the main measures that chicken growers should take to prevent the incursion and spread of diseases on poultry farms. This manual was developed in 2002 in response to the requirements of the EADRA.

Avian Influenza and Biosecurity

The world-wide concern about avian influenza since 2005 has impacted the awareness of both consumers and primary producers. ACMF used this focus to promote the biosecurity measures through an AI preparedness kit which we distributed to all growers in late 2005. While the biosecurity measures advocated in this kit were not new, we felt that the background of media coverage on AI internationally would provide a good platform to rejuvenate the biosecurity message and encourage a renewed focus on its implementation.

Given the heightened public concern, AHA and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) jointly organized a workshop in June 2007 to bring together the various sectors of the poultry industry, state government organizations and other stakeholders to discuss how best prepare for the possibility of an AI outbreak in Australia. This workshop identified biosecurity, surveillance and vaccines as the main areas where further work needed to be carried out. Here, we will only review the action taken on the biosecurity front following the 2007 workshop.

AI Biosecurity Consultative Group

An AI Biosecurity Consultative Group was established following the workshop, comprising representatives from each of the main commercial poultry sectors, namely chicken, egg, ducks, free range chicken, emus, ostriches and game birds. The Group also includes representatives from AHA and DAFF's Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer.

The Task Group has developed a draft biosecurity manual that encompassed all the principles that were agreed as being relevant and appropriate for all poultry sectors. To achieve this, some of the specific requirements and arrangements only relevant to some of the sectors had to be left out with the clear intention that each sector would be encouraged to develop its own version, incorporating the generic requirements with the specific ones reflecting the needs and arrangements specific to the sector.

The draft biosecurity manual was discussed by a broader st. The generic Poultry Biosecurity Manual was endorsed as a useful reference document for all sectors. The Workshop agreed that the Biosecurity Consultative Group be tasked to expand the manual to cover some further aspects, in particular pick-up and transport.

The Group was also tasked with looking further at the best way to implement this biosecurity strategy across all sectors of the poultry industry. In many instances this may require only minor adjustments. Other operators may face more fundamental changes which may take a little while to be fully implemented. The optimal mechanism to drive this project remains a topic to be tackled by the Group. There was good agreement that these changes should be implemented under the guidance of the industry and not be enshrined in regulatory mechanisms akeholder group at a follow-up AI Workshop, held on 11 June 2008.

However, it is safe to assume that biosecurity, together with food safety, animal welfare and environmental management, will ultimately be in many circumstances incorporated in an overall quality assurance program to meet the growing accountability expectations being put on the agricultural sector.

REFERENCES

Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) (2002). Animal Health Australia website. Available for download at <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/eadra.cfm>

ACMF Inc. (2002). National Biosecurity Manual – Contract Meat Chicken Farming. Available for download at <http://www.chicken.org.au/page.php?id=20&item=4>

ACMF Inc. (2006). Biosecurity information kit for meat chicken farmers. Available for download at <http://www.chicken.org.au/page.php?id=20&item=9>

Proposed Preliminary APVMA Investigation of Nicarbazin - Let the Debate Begin

Linden Moffat has provided the following rationale behind the decision of APVMA to investigate the use of nicarbazin as a coccidiostat in poultry.

“The developmental toxicity concerns about nicarbazin, as expressed by the Office of Chemical Safety (OCS) in the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, arose from observations from a developmental study in rats and observations reported by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA).

Tajima et al (1979) observed lower foetal body weight, retarded foetal development (delayed ossification), abnormalities (hydronephrosis, hyperplastic and bent ribs) and malformations (cleft palate, cryptorchismus, sacralization of lumbar vertebrae) in a rat developmental toxicity study.

In 2003, EFSA reported that nicarbazin showed toxic effects on the chicken reproductive system. Nicarbazin reportedly reduced egg production, completely inhibited hatchability of eggs and prevented maturation of ovarian follicles. ESFA's concerns were that women of child bearing age may be exposed to nicarbazin through consumption of poultry meat/products containing residues of nicarbazin.

From a public health perspective, the OCS nominated nicarbazin for a review so that the relationship of the above findings to human exposure could be considered.

Note that the initial investigations will focus on existing data holdings within OCS, assessments by international organisations (eg. JECFA) and any assessments from other regulatory agencies which might be available. Furthermore, the APVMA is trying to build a picture of the importance of this compound to the Australian poultry industry before it makes any decision on the need for a formal review and a full s.33 data call-in. These data will also serve as a crude yardstick of the level of possible public and occupational exposure to nicarbazin.”

In response, **George Arzey** has made these observations,

“The following is an extract from the recently adopted (April 2008) Scientific Opinion of the European Food Safety Agency;

Based on a limited range of tolerance studies performed on various non-target animal species the CONTAM Panel concluded that accidental ingestion of feed containing nicarbazin at the maximum authorised level for chickens (50 mg/kg feed), is unlikely to cause adverse effects in non-target animal species.

When using a conservative daily intake estimate: a person eating 100 g chicken eggs, 100 g chicken liver and 300 g chicken muscle would be exposed to 843 µg of nicarbazin (corresponding to 14 µg/kg b.w. per day for a 60 kg person).

Therefore, the Panel concluded that there is no indication of an appreciable risk to consumers' health from the ingestion of nicarbazin residues in products from animals exposed to cross-contaminated feed up to a hypothetical level of 10% of the maximum authorised level.

Examination of the 1979 paper by Tajima et al reveals that the NOEL for maternal and foetal toxicity for rates was 200 mg/kg body weight per day

A conservative daily estimate as per EU of 14 µg/kg bw per day for a 60 kg person is 14, 285 times lower than the NOEL for maternal and foetal toxicity of 200 mg/kg /day in the 1979 paper cited by the APVMA.

Is there the slightest developmental toxicity suspected in the USA considering that 10 million kg of Nicarbazin have been consumed by 80 billion broilers since 1955?”

The APVMA welcomes the information provided by George Arzey and encourages the AVPA membership to provide further contributions to the preliminary investigations.

The AVPA Therapeutics Subcommittee will also be submitting a response to the AVPMA nicarbazin investigation. AVPA members with a contribution to make should contact the subcommittee convenor, Susan Bibby.

Treasurer's Report 2007-2008

The last 2 years have been a tumultuous time for AVPA with the transition into our own 'not for profit' company. Financially we are in good shape with just over \$18,000 in the 'AVPA Ltd' account. The money held by AVA on our behalf as of March 2008 was \$81,645.14. The money held by AVA has been used for student poultry practical work placements & speaker sponsorship to AP6.

AVPA Budget 2007-2008

Income	as at 17/6/08	
	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Ordinary Membership	\$3,600	\$3,644
Sustaining Membership	\$2,250	\$2,625
Adelaide Conference Attendance	\$6,715	\$6,715
Adelaide Conference Sponsorship	\$3,250	\$3,250
AP6 Sponsorship	\$3,500	\$4,200
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Sub Total	\$19,315	\$20,434
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Expenditure		
Dander	\$1,600	\$1,200
Accounting	\$3,000	\$0
Insurance	\$2,000	\$0
Telephone	\$1,000	\$103
Miscellaneous	\$300	\$0
WVPA Fees	\$1,000	\$863
Bank Charges	\$200	\$142
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Sub Total	\$9,100	\$2,308
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Total	\$10,215	\$18,126

Our membership base has grown to 99 financial members. The membership consists of:

39 AVA members (including 4 AVPA life members)

59 non-AVA members (including 2 AVPA life members & 7 sustaining members)

There has been confusion with AVA on those who paid via AVA into the Poultry SIG. (Payment to the Poultry SIG of AVA entitles membership into AVPA.) The confusion is with the AVA & this will need to be fixed before 2009 membership renewals. For those who've fallen between the cracks, thanks for your patience while we sort out this issue.

Membership renewal/ payments:

One of my goals as Treasurer was to increase the payment methods available to members. This was not possible until we became our own identity. We now have credit card & direct deposit payments available as well as the usual cheque payments. For overseas members, though, cheques will now only be accepted in Australian dollars.

Board Teleconferences:

With the requirements of a company it's important that the Board meets regularly. Time & distance often make this difficult. A teleconference system has been setup using our accountant's phone number as the billing number. Face to face contact is often preferable, but this facility does mean that local AVPA committees are not essential in the future.

Standing down as Treasurer:

I will be standing down as Treasurer after the AGM. It's been a great experience & I've enjoyed the contact with everyone. After being a member for many years it was good to be able to 'put something back in'. Thanks to Peter & Ben in particular for their support. I think we've come out the other side of this time with a great base for the future.

Peter Gray
AVPA Treasurer

Therapeutics Subcommittee Annual Report

The Therapeutics subcommittee has been involved in three APVMA chemical reviews this financial year.

The outcome of the **dimetridazole** review can be found at http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/Dimetridazole_final_report.pdf

The **neomycin** review is in progress and an update on this process can be found at - <http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/neomycin.shtml>

Nicarbazin has recently been nominated for an investigation prior to commencing a formal review - http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/Nominations_priority1.shtml

The AVPA will submit a response to this investigation.

Australian Veterinary Association Therapeutics Advisory Committee meetings were reduced to two face to face meetings per year and two meetings via teleconference – this format is working effectively and reducing costs.

The 2001 edition of the AVPA Code of Practice for the Use of Antibiotics is currently being used by other special interest groups of the AVA as a template for the development of similar codes for other species including dogs and cats. It is possible that a minor review of this document may be made in the coming 12 months in order to update a few small areas. It is a testament to the authors of this document that it has survived the test of time very well, and remains the cornerstone of appropriate prescribing and antibiotic use in poultry in Australasia.

Susan Bibby
Convenor

WVPA Bureau Member Annual Report

Congratulations to the new AVPA on behalf of your parent professional Association, the World Veterinary Poultry Association (WVPA). In fact you may well just have received the annual WVPA Newsletter Aerosols (modelled after the example set by Dander incidentally) - and this is the first time it has been sent electronically. Again, having noted how well Dander travels!

For your information (see more in the WVPA Newsletter), there are 33 countries with professional Associations that are sufficiently large to have voting rights at the WVPA Bureau, the Governing body of the WVPA. While Australia is only a "middle power" based on the population numbers of this country (plus an extra 4 million now from Kiwiland in our new Australasian AVPA Group), the membership numbers of the AVPA (99, and climbing still) are amongst the biggest in the WVPA (!) As your representative to WVPA, I still only get one vote in issues-but then so does the UK and the USA so that's probably OK. Anyway, it's great from a wider perspective to be able to see how well our own AVPA rates internationally, both on Membership and the scientific quality of our Conferences and the professional deliberations undertaken to assist the poultry industry.

Of the activities undertaken by the WVPA through the \$8 or so a year you will pay through your subscription to AVPA (thanks to Peter Gray!), the continuing scientific editing for publication of Avian Pathology is one of the most important. The most recent Thomson Scientific Impact Factors (IF) show the IF for Avian Pathology was 1.809. This put Avian Pathology into the highest 10% (12/128) of journals in the Veterinary Sciences category. Go our scientists who publish in it! Some further news: The publishers have now digitised virtually all back volumes of Avian Pathology. These are now available via the Journal website at <www.avianpathology.com>

You might also like to check the website of the WVPA, which is at www.wvpa.net. There you will find information on the association, membership, grants and awards, publications, meetings and links to related websites.

Another key function for the WVPA is the regular organization of international scientific meetings in the fields of poultry health. For those of our AVPA Members who will be participating in the World Poultry Science Congress - 6th Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference coming up in Brisbane 30 June - 4 July this year, two special international visitors from the WVPA will be participating.

First Professor Hafez Hafez, the charismatic President of the WVPA, who is a researcher and teacher from the Free University of Berlin. His column is to be found on the opening page of this year's Aerosol, and contains really interesting information there on timings and planning for future Congresses and the Executives of the WVPA. Also at Brisbane, you can meet Dr. Khalid Bouzoubaa, Corresponding Secretary for the next WVPA Congress, in Marakesh, Morocco.

He and staff will have a special booth at WPS Brisbane. The next Congress will be 22-26 September 2009. The congress website address is www.wvpc2009.org, and is also linked with WVPA website.

Please do not hesitate to make yourselves known to either of these Gentlemen, as they will be pleased to meet you as fellow members of the WVPA

Trevor Bagust
AVPA Member, Bureau of the WVPA

AVPA Business Meeting

The AVPA will hold an AGM and OGM commencing at 3.30 pm on Monday 30th June 2008 in rooms 3 and 4 at Rydges Hotel, Southbank, Brisbane.

The Agenda for both meetings and Minutes of the previous AGM/OGM held in Adelaide are on the back pages of this edition of DANDER.

There will be a changing of the guard at this meeting. The outgoing Executive Committee led by Peter Groves deserves the gratitude of the entire AVPA membership and should be congratulated for successfully guiding this organisation through probably the most difficult period in its history.

It would be very appropriate if as many members as possible can attend the AGM/OGM to thank the outgoing Executive and welcome the new. AVPA would not exist if it were not for those prepared to put in their time and effort to make it all work.

Electronic 'Aerosols'

As indicated in the report of Trevor Bagust our WVPA Bureau member, the WVPA newsletter Aerosols has gone electronic and the most recent edition was sent to part of its global constituency via email. Australia was selected as one of only 2 countries to receive this test email run sent on 20 June. Perhaps they were unsure whether electrons would travel as far as Australia.

In her covering email letter, Aerosols editor Dr Carol Cardona stated: *"Please find attached to this email message, the most recent Aerosols, the newsletter publication of the World Veterinary Poultry Association. Our thanks to the Australian branch (and your corresponding secretary, Dr. Bagust) for making it possible for us to test out the distribution of an electronic version of this newsletter. We are testing this method only in the United States and Australia so, I would like to solicit your input as to how this electronic distribution worked for you and how we might make changes in the future. Thank you and enjoy."*

Dr Bagust has kindly agreed to accept either bouquets or brickbats about the newsletter and he will pass both onto Dr Cardona. You should also notify Dr Bagust if you failed to receive your email copy of Aerosols.

6th Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference and XXIII World's Poultry Congress Final Reminder

The XXIII World's Poultry Congress (WPC) will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 30 June – 4 July 2008. The 6th Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP6) will be the main poultry diseases stream of the WPC although there will be other health and disease topics in other concurrent streams (or main disciplines) of the Congress.

Each main discipline is divided into a number of themes and each theme will have one or two invited speakers who will provide an up to date overview (30 minutes) of the theme topic to be followed by presentations of selected proffered papers (15 minutes). In addition to all of this, and running concurrently, will be the 4th International Ratite Science Symposium and PIX 2008.

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre venue is well planned and will allow delegates to move easily between talks of their choice. The Scientific Program Committee is endeavouring to structure the Program to try to avoid clashes of simultaneously running related topics.

The morning sessions on each day of the Congress will be devoted to a Plenary available to all delegates. There will be a single registration for all conference delegates, including AP6 (although PIX 2008 has a separate registration). Registration is available online at www.wpc2008.com.

Financial members of the AVPA are eligible for the same discounted rate as WPSA members, a saving of \$200. Please indicate that you are an AVPA member on the registration form.

WPC/AP6 is a not to be missed event for anyone interested in poultry science. There will be something for everyone and even more! AVPA members will be particularly welcome.

Immediately following WPC/AP6 will be the 8th International Marek's Disease Symposium in Townsville.

Kevin Whithear
Chair AP6 Scientific Program Committee

New Duck Meat Industry Association Formed

The Australian Duck Meat Association (ADMA) was formed in May 2008 as the result of a decision taken by the foundation members, Luv-a-Duck Pty Ltd and Pepe's Ducks Pty Ltd.

The executive members of the ADMA are –

President: John Houston, General Manager, Pepe's Ducks Pty Ltd.

Vice President: John Millington, General Manager, Luv-a-Duck Pty Ltd.

Treasurer: Glenn Fraser, Breeder Development Manager, Luv-a-Duck Pty Ltd.

Secretary: Merv Darby, Operations Coordinator, Pepe's Ducks Pty Ltd

The duck industry has been growing over the past 30 years or so to the point where it now has a cumulative turnover of approximately \$100m. Luv-a-Duck and Pepe's Ducks represent approximately 85% of Australia's total production of duck meat and are also active in export marketing.

While the respective companies have varying product directions and are staunch competitors in the market place, they do have common ground in the basic principles and welfare of the duck industry.

As a result of contact by senior management of both companies and the desire that the industry warranted recognition in its own right, a decision was taken to form the ADMA.

In forming the association, principles and objectives were established, which not only apply to the 2 foundation members but are to encourage smaller and developing companies currently involved or new players considering entering the duck industry to take up membership. The objectives of the ADMA are clearly expressed in the constitution and are listed as follows:

- a) To provide a forum whereby duck meat processors can be represented by a common association for the long-term wellbeing of the industry.
- b) To offer protection of financial interests for members and to ensure a reasonable financial return as the industry grows.
- c) To promote duck meat as an alternative food base and gain a greater acceptance by consumers.
- d) To establish and maintain compliant growing and processing standards to further enhance the industry.

e) To work closely with state and federal bodies and other representative bodies to maintain a high standard of operation for the benefit of the entire industry.

f) To maintain and pursue practices that will help ensure a disease free status giving consumers confidence in a wholesome meat product.

g) To develop and monitor strict biosecurity standards resulting in optimum disease control and to help reduce the likelihood of serious disease spreading.

The ADMA sought membership to Animal Health Australia to further the recognition and promotion of the industry. Subsequently it was successful and admitted at the AGM on May 29, 2008.

The formation of ADMA and admission to AHA was the result of encouragement, assistance and hard work by people within the duck industry and associates. We wish to recognise their efforts. Our participation in the cost sharing agreement and the security it offers to our members is invaluable to the future of the duck industry.

The ADMA is involved with several industry/government bodies which in principal assist in development of industry standards. The development of the national biosecurity manual, poultry production, minimum standards is one such project to which the ADMA made considerable contribution.

The ADMA sees biosecurity and animal welfare as critical components of general management practices and will pursue both of these points as part of the industry's obligations.

A three tier auditing process is being developed and implemented as part of our obligation to the industry.

Education, training and compliance are a further obligation that the ADMA has undertaken and will pursue in its continuing development programmes.

In conclusion the ADMA encourages enquiries from interested people and companies who share its desires to see the duck meat industry grow and maintain the high standards required for success.

John Houston

Many thanks to John Houston for providing the AVPA membership with a summary of the need for, and aims of, the new Australian Duck Meat Association. Admission of ADMA to Animal Health Australia and its implications for disease control will be of benefit to the entire poultry industry. AVPA members servicing duck producers other than Pepe's Ducks and Luv-A-Duck may wish to encourage their clients to consider joining ADMA.

Editor

AP6 Supporters

AVPA conferences over the years, including the larger Asia-Pacific Poultry Health Conferences have always benefited from the generous sponsorship provided by various companies who have supported the role played by AVPA in keeping the membership up to date on poultry health matters. On this occasion, the (sixth) Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference has been amalgamated into the much larger Worlds Poultry Conference. A number of companies that have previously directly sponsored AVPA conferences have taken out various levels of corporate sponsorship that will be essential for the success of the entire World Poultry Conference. The organisers of the WPC will make full acknowledgement of these sponsors. However, in addition, AVPA has received direct financial support from several organizations and individuals directly for AP6.

The AVPA thanks their AP6 supporters whose company logos are listed below.

	
<p>OzBioPharm</p>	
<p>Zootechny</p>	
<p><i>Rural and Commercial Projects Leon Barlow</i></p>	 <p>animal and avian health consultancy</p> <p>info@scolexia.com.au</p>

NSW PHLG Industry Health Report, March 2008

The following items were discussed:

Spotty Liver

Spotty liver was again an important topic of discussion. It is an expensive and frustrating disease. Various theories on aetiology and prophylaxis and treatment were discussed.

There are characteristic pathological changes and histological lesions can be graded by age of lesion. However, not all cases diagnosed as spotty liver on gross pathology are spotty liver. It is most commonly seen in birds on the ground but has also been seen in caged layers. It has been seen in multi-tiered sheds in all tiers except the top one where birds do not have access to the manure belt of the tier above which supports the suggestion that there is a faecal-oral route of infection.

Is it caused by an endotoxin? Is there a change in the composition of the gut flora; is there an overgrowth of gut *Clostridium* with endotoxin produced affecting the liver? Does feed composition affect its occurrence? Different feeds support clostridial overgrowth. Does all vegetable feed protect? Is the ratio of long and short chain fatty acids in the feed important? Does *P multocida* vaccination protect? One company never sees spotty liver, is this related to their feed, or management, or something else?

There have been several interested researchers who have been unsuccessful in obtaining funds. Epidemiological studies are required to identify risk factors. Previous studies have been unable to culture any organism(s) consistently. Peter Groves is hoping to conduct a survey under the auspices of the University of Sydney.

ILT

Peter Groves gave an update on the continuing 'outbreak' of ILT in Victoria which has been going since August 2007. Forty six cases have been seen to date, most in birds >35d. Mortalities of up to 10% are being seen in unvaccinated flocks and 1-3% in vaccinated flocks. Insufficient appropriate vaccine available for all – A20-14M doses available May but most is going to Bendigo – 2.5M doses would last 3 weeks for Baiada, SA2 used at ¼ dose works well, Intervet does not recommend using its ILT vaccine in broilers.

Implications for NSW- currently notifiable but that's all. Border closure would only be contemplated if there was NO vaccine. Movement restrictions rely on the commonsense of Companies and farmers.

Runny/watery egg whites

A major consumer complaint to AECL is watery whites in eggs. This can be such that the albumen doesn't firm up when the eggs are boiled – yuk! It is being seen a lot more and the worry is that consumers may come to accept it rather than the problem being solved. Can be seen more in birds 35+ weeks. Is it an IB problem? Some Companies are vaccinating against IB by mixing 2 IB vaccines in equal proportions, Clive Jackson thinks that this is not a problem.

Juliet Roberts at UNE is currently undertaking a national survey of egg quality from birds in 3 age groups: 25-35wks, 45-55 and 60-65. Rowly Horn is doing the NSW part. Rowly has noted 2/30 eggs in the 60-65 week age group have watery whites.

Peter Groves had a project with Tom Scott looking at individual bird egg quality. One observation was that individual birds produce watery whites all their life. He found no significant change in ultrastructure and there are many fixed oviducts not looked at. Rod Reece offered to look at the stored oviducts of 2 normal and 2 worst-quality egg layers.

Broiler mortalities

Elevated mortalities have been seen related to poor egg quality in early morts and cellulitis in older birds.

Chlamydiosis

Diagnosis using immunofluorescence (+) has been at odds with PCR and histo (-) recently. It is an inconvenient diagnosis commercially.

Blackhead

Has been seen in a few birds. It is a sporadic problem which can be controlled at the moment but there is concern about what would be the outcome if there were high mortalities as there are no appropriate antibiotics permitted for use in layers.

Erysipelas

Erysipelas has been seen in a couple of flocks. On 1 farm there were very few clinical signs, just mortalities with very few lesions. For a full report see the March 2008 Dander article by George Arzey.

Has anyone had experience with erysipelas vaccine? None present. Vaccine was made by Websters many years ago.

EDS notification

There is a large outbreak of EDS in Queensland.

Fowl cholera

Flock used to get acute disease but has been vaccinated for 5 years and no acute cases have been seen. Currently, when the flock is affected, it is usually the sires with about 25% with swollen wattles. It is treatable and production is good. Clinical signs are apparently dose dependent – Peter Scott has done a dose response : >10Kbugs produced endotoxic shock with death in<24h; 100bugs produced a chronic response.

Infectious Bronchitis

Variant A strain (a subtype that is not the vaccine strain) has been seen in the Sydney basin producing a mild mucoid tracheitis in live birds. Other clinical signs include swollen heads, unilateral conjunctivitis, mild cough and

late mortalities, especially in males. It usually starts about 22d and frequently doesn't stop. Pathology could be mistaken for colibacillosis and includes perihepatitis, pericarditis and congested lungs. There is no nephritis, no femoral head necrosis and no cellulitis. Vaccination with Vic S twice appears to protect birds against this strain.

NDV V4 vaccination of Quail

A trial vaccinating quail with V4 induced no serological NDV HI response. Overseas, HI seroconversion has been induced with La Sota vaccine.

A paper in **international J of Poultry Sci 2004** states that groups of quails vaccinated (OR NOT) against NDV did not show any sign of ND after challenge although broilers challenged in the same experiment died.

The paper basically says that quails are a lot more resistant than chickens and natural outbreaks in quails are rarely encountered in endemic areas.

The question of ability of quails to resist infection with the milder Australian vaccine virus (unlike La Sota) is something that needs to be resolved with more trials and different experimental procedures.

Edla and George Arzey

Interested in studying poultry health?

Avian Health Online is an interactive web based learning environment. It is taught by the University of Melbourne with assistance from Faculty members at the University of Georgia, PDRC. It has been designed for veterinarians to further their understanding in poultry health and management and enable them to better function in today's global poultry industry.

Currently, we offer two part-time postgraduate courses in this arena:

- **A Postgraduate Certificate in Avian Health – 1 year**
- **A Master of Avian Health and Medicine – 3 years**

Course commences: 1 September 2008

Applications close: 1 August 2008

For information on scholarships please visit www.poultrycrc.com.au

For further information please call + 61 3 8344 0357/ 7357

email: smd@unimelb.edu.au or visit

www.avianhealthonline.vet.unimelb.edu.au

Faculty of Veterinary Science

dream large



8th International Marek's Disease Symposium

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/events/mds> <<http://www.jcu.edu.au/mdc>>

Sunday 6 July to Thursday 10 July 2008
Townsville, Queensland, Australia



On behalf of the organising committee I have pleasure in informing you that we are now accepting abstracts for the symposium. Registration is now available

Arrangements of the symposium are proceeding quite well and it promises to be a very stimulating event. There will be a great social program and the scientific program is starting to take shape with some excellent keynote speakers.

Graham Burgess



The Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd

A.C.N 128 211 281

Secretariat Address

Ben Wells
33 Moores Rd
Glenorie 2157

Secretariat Contacts

Phone 02 96522109
Fax 02 96520763
email benwells@bigpond.net.au

AGM

Time 1530 30th June 2008
Venue Rydge's Hotel Southbank Brisbane, Rooms 3 & 4

AGENDA

1. Attendance & Apologies
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Committee conveners:
 - i. Dander editor
 - ii. Therapeutics
 - iii. Importation
 - iv. Welfare
 - v. WVPA Bureau
 - vi. AP6

5. Elections:

Position

President
 President Elect
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Assistant secretary
 Treasurer
 Convenors:
 Therapeutics
 Importation
 Welfare
 Dander Co-editors
 WVPA Bureau Councilor
 SIG President
 SIG Secretary/Treasurer

Nominees

Dave Marks
 (Open)
 Peter Groves
 Ben Wells
 Branko Karakonji
 Darryl Meaney

 Susan Bibby
 George Arzey
 Greg Cronin
 Grant Richards & Lyn Tan

 Peter Groves
 Simon Robinson

Ben Wells
Secretary

avpa



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AGENDA

1. Attendance & Apologies
2. Minutes of last OGM (this is our first OGM so no minutes?)
3. Matters arising from the minutes (?)
4. Therapeutics issue: Nicarbazin review by APVMA
5. Projects – discussion and where to go from here
6. Scientific sessions for 2009 –
 - a. With APSS in February
 - b. Late 2009 meeting
7. Other business

Ben Wells
Secretary



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Minutes Ordinary General Meeting – Comfort Inn Haven Marina, Glenelg North, SA

31st October, 2007

Present: Neil Cooper, Aileen Vanderfeen, Rod Jenner, Linden Moffatt, David Tinworth, Branko Karaconji, Wayne Bradshaw, Margaret Sexton, David Marks, Ravi Ravindran, Jutta Tebje-Kelly, Kerry Mulqueen, Julie Wagner, John Doyle, Darryl Meaney, Sarah Wylie, Soy Rubite, Chris Morrow, Kim Critchley, Iain Mortimer, Peter Scott, Phillip Ashby, Matthew Perrott, Bob Hughes, Tom Grimes, Clive Jackson, Balkar Bains, Bruce Remington, George Arzey, Peter Groves, Peter Gray

Apologies: Ben Wells, Greg Underwood, Pam Whitely, Joanne Sillince, John Reeves, Simon Robinson, Leon Barlow, Wayne Jorgenson, Noel Johnson, Paul Macqueen, Caroline Ashe, Harvey Langford, Trevor Bagust, Mark Lindsey, Kevin Whithear.

Welcome to the Company

- Peter Groves (President) welcomed all to the Inaugural Meeting of the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd.
- Concern was raised to the name change to 'Australasian' from 'Australian'. It was explained that this was in recognition of the increased number of New Zealand members. This name was on the circulated Draft Constitution for comment. To the best of our knowledge no complaint was received.
The President offered the opportunity for a motion to be passed to return to original name, however, this was declined. It was commented that in future all areas of Constitution can be reviewed as members see necessary.
- Peter Groves recently acknowledged those who had helped in setting up the new company in Dander. He neglected to add Tom Grimes name to that list & wished for Tom to be recognized at the meeting for his contribution.
- Motion – That the Constitution of the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association be accepted. Chris Morrow/ David Tinworth. Carried without dissent.

Discussion re- AVPA Ltd.

- Membership of the Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance means automatic membership of AVPA Ltd.
- Clive Jackson raised that previously membership did not require a Veterinary Science Degree but did require scientific qualifications or relevant poultry experience. The current Constitution states that a member 'may be a veterinarian or non veterinarian but must have an interest in Poultry Health, Production or Medicine'. The Committee will review the difference between the previous & new Constitution in this area.
- Membership of the AVA Poultry SIG will confer membership of AVPA Ltd. with no additional cost. Membership can be paid via AVPA or AVA. The Constitutional requirement that all new members of the AVPA Ltd. must be proposed & seconded in writing by a member and be approved at the Board Meeting applies whether joining via AVA Poultry SIG or direct via AVPA. Balkar Bains raised the concern that he believes once someone is accepted in membership they cannot be 'struck off' the membership even if fees are not paid. This emphasizes the importance of proper process in vetting new members.
- A separate AVA Poultry SIG Committee will be formed.

Treasurer's Report

- Peter Gray presented the Treasurer's Report. As of 30th September 2007, we have \$97,526 in 'Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance' NAB cheque account. There are still some costs to be paid so current balance as of the meeting date is approx. \$91,000. The new AVPA Ltd. NAB Account has approx. \$5,000 in credit. The AVA has again requested that we close our 'Australian Veterinary Poultry Alliance' account & transfer the money to the AVA which will be available for use by the Poultry SIG. Now that the structure is in place for this to occur we will transfer the money & close the account by the end of 2007.
Motion- Treasurers Report be accepted. David Marks/Peter Scott. Carried.
- What do with the money? Tom Grimes made the comment that the AVPA money was never meant to be building up in a bank account, but rather used for furthering the aims of the association. For example paying for international

speakers to attend Australian Conferences. Peter Groves outlined a proposal put forward by Rod Reece to build a pathology database/ collection of slides of Poultry Diseases. The cost for this could be \$50,000. No major amounts would be spent without consulting the membership. Tom Grimes requested that the membership be canvassed on possible uses of income.

Motion- Membership be canvassed on use of funds. Rod Jenner/ David Marks. Carried.

Election of Office Bearers

- To assist in transition to new structure it was proposed that all current positions be transferred to the new AVPA Ltd. The positions would be open for re-election at the next AGM. Bank account opened with NAB will require two of the three signatories to sign.

President (Director/ Signatory)- Peter Groves

Honorary Secretary (Director/ Signatory)- Ben Wells

Honorary Treasurer (Director/ Signatory)- Peter Gray

Vice-President- Peter Scott

Sub Committee Convenors- Importation & Exotic Diseases- George Arzey; Therapeutics- Susan Bibby; Welfare- John Barnett

Dander Editor- Kevin Whithear

WVPA Bureau Member- Trevor Bagust

Website Co-ordinator- Graham Burgess

Motion- All existing positions remain until next AGM. David Tinworth/Chris Morrow. Carried.

- Previously unfilled positions-

President Elect- Nominated David Marks. Proposed: Branko Karaconji/ Chris Morrow. Carried.

Assistant Secretary- left open at this stage.

Scientific Convenor- Nominated Chris Morrow. Proposed: David Tinworth/ Peter Gray. Carried.

AVA SIG Executive- Nominated Peter Groves, Simon Robinson. Proposed: D Marks, P Gray. Carried.

- Committee will investigate timing of next AGM & possible alternative means of conducting the meeting.

Acknowledging Our Members

- Kevin Whithear- received the Order of Australia - Medal (OAM) in 2007 for service to veterinary science and education, particularly the research, development and production of vaccines to control poultry diseases.
- Trevor Bagust- appointed President Elect for WVPA

The meeting wishes to acknowledge & pass on our congratulations to both Kevin & Trevor.

Conferences

- Peter Scott will be involved in financial & administrative co-ordination (with P Groves assistance) on behalf of AVPA with Bob Pym for AP6 & WPC.
- The AVPA Committee will contact Graham Burgess to ask that he circulate details of Mareks Conference in Townsville to AVPA members.

Other Business

- Bruce Remington requested that the AVPA Committee look at re-running the AVPA tie & similar item for female members.

Peter Gray
Hon. Treasurer



Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd

A.B.N 70 128 211 281

Tax Invoice

Application for new or continuing Membership 2008

The annual membership fee is set out below. Please indicate type of membership.

- AU\$60 for ordinary membership

May be a veterinarian or non veterinarian but must have an interest in Poultry Health, Production or Medicine.

- AU\$375 for sustaining membership

A sustaining member is a corporation/ individual. They will be recognized as a sustaining member in each edition of Dander & entitles one nominated person to ordinary membership

- AU\$44 for student membership

Undergraduate students in veterinary and animal sciences. This membership carries no voting rights.

Fees for both Australian & NZ members are exempt of GST when paid through AVPA.

Membership fees are due by the **1st of January** of each year. Membership may be paid either through AVPA OR AVA Poultry SIG (for AVA members). **DO NOT PAY BOTH**. Please indicate-

____ I will pay through AVPA. Payment is included & my details are recorded below.

____ I will pay through AVA Poultry SIG. My details are recorded below.

Please complete details so that records can be kept current.

Name: _____

Are you a current member of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)? Yes/No

Employer: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Qualifications: _____

Special Interests: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For New Membership:

Proposer _____

Seconder _____

Payment Methods:

1. **Cheque** made payable to '**Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd**';

2. **Direct Bank Deposit**- BSB 082 -343 Account Number 85-927-9091

If paying by Direct Deposit please send completed membership form & ensure identification details are clearly marked on bank transfer. (Otherwise we won't know you paid!)

3. **Credit Card**- Visa/ MC/ Bankcard can be made by contacting Peter Gray on contact details below.

Card Type: Visa/ Master card/ Bankcard

Name on Card:

Expiry Date: __ __ / __ __

Card Number: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Peter Gray
Honorary Treasurer
Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd
C/- Inghams Enterprises
PO Box 233
Morisset
NSW 2264
Email: peter.gray@ingham.com.au
FAX: 02 49735293
Phone: 0418672011