REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2016 REGISTRATION

3–4 September 2016
Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour

NO GUTS, NO GLORY!
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR PATIENTS

Gastrointestinal conditions – imaging, medical conditions and surgical intervention
If you like bananas, Coffs Harbour is the place to go. Verdant hills is covered with banana plantations running right down to the Pacific Ocean, which provide a spectacular backdrop to this vibrant city. Coffs is a great place to visit. There are many things to do in the area including visiting one of the very first ‘big things’ - the Big Banana. It’s over 50 years since it started and is still going strong following many makeovers over the years. There is also fishing, diving, white water rafting and the beautiful Bellinger Valley to visit – plenty to do if you want to extend your stay and make a long weekend of it. The conference venue, Opal Cove Resort, is a beautiful location with excellent facilities, so it’s perfect place to join us for a very solid lecture program that will cover all aspects of the gastrointestinal tract: imaging, medical conditions and surgery.

We have an esteemed line up of speakers to present these topics and more. The equine stream will cover GIT conditions from an ‘in the field’ perspective. There will be a session on Hendra virus covering all the latest information including the change in vaccination protocols. We will also explore some aspects of biosecurity and you’ll find out what to do if an exotic disease is suspected.

Veterinary nurses have not been forgotten and we have a very strong lecture program covering nursing of GIT cases as well as general nursing topics. For nurses attending with a veterinarian from the same practice, conference fees have been discounted.

The most important session of the conference will be presented by Emily Scanlan on mental health. This session will explain many aspects of the mental health problem which plagues our profession. The information provided will help people recognise mental health issues in themselves, their family, friends and colleagues.

There will be a comprehensive trade display and, of course, a conference dinner on Saturday night. It is a conference not to be missed, especially if you like bananas.

Geoff Scarlett
NSW Division President and Conference Convenor
About the AVA

The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd (AVA) is the professional organisation representing veterinarians across Australia.
The AVA aims to be the health and welfare leader in Australia's animal industries.

About the conference

The conference theme will include these streams:

**Saturday:** small animals and nurses

**Sunday:** small animals, equine and nurses

Topics to be covered during the conference include:

### Conference theme

The NSW Division Regional Conference theme is:

**No guts, no glory! Make a difference to your patients.**

Getting to the guts of the problem

Gastrointestinal conditions – imaging, medical conditions and surgical intervention

### For nurses

Nursing GIT cases and pancreatitis cases, the role of the RSPCA and managing feeding tubes.

### For veterinarians

Management of gastrointestinal disease, imaging upper GI tract and abdominal GIT, surgery of stomach and small intestine, biosecurity and Hendra virus.

Some lectures will be combined for both veterinarians and nurses.

### Social event

**Saturday 3 September**

The Conference Dinner will commence at 6.30pm for pre-dinner drinks in Horizons Bar followed by dinner in the Opals Room at Opal Cove Resort.
The Conference Dinner is included in the full registration for paying delegates only. Additional tickets can be purchased for guests and nurses.

### Special offer

All full weekend paying AVA member veterinarians may bring 1 veterinary nurse for the discounted rate of $100

*Does note include Saturday night conference dinner
About the venue and accommodation

Opal Cove Resort
Opal Boulevard, Korora Bay
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Phone: (02) 6651 0510
www.opalcove.com

Special conference rates have been negotiated – quote ‘AVA Conference’ at the time of booking.

All rooms quoted include breakfast except for villas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single rooms</th>
<th>Twin/double</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resort room $140</td>
<td>Resort room $158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean room $160</td>
<td>Ocean $178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior suite $240</td>
<td>Junior suite $258</td>
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</tbody>
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Villas (unserviced)
- 2 Bedroom self contained $240 (min 2 nights)
- 3 bedroom self contained $280 (min 2 nights)
- 4 bedroom beachfront apartment $450 (reduced rate available for more than 1 night)

Set on 36 hectares of lush coastline overlooking the South Pacific, this relaxed resort is 7 km from both Coffs Harbour and the Big Banana theme park.

Featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and balconies or patios, the modern rooms offer free Wi-Fi and cable TV, plus sofa beds, minibars and tea/coffee making facilities. Suites have separate living rooms with dining tables. There are also bright 2- and 3-bedroom villas with full kitchens. Room service is available.

Amenities include a modern Australian restaurant/bar, an outdoor pool, a sauna, and a spa with beauty treatments (fee). There’s also a fitness centre, a 9-hole golf course and mini-golf.

Coffs Harbour is perfect for a family holiday, a romantic getaway or just a tranquil solo journey. There are plenty of things to see and do in the area. Nearby Dorrigo is a nature lover’s sanctuary where you can take in absolutely breathtaking views of Dorrigo National Park at the Skywalk. Go fishing in quiet Macksville, a perfect place to take a break from a long journey or an overnight stop.

For accompanying guests and those staying longer there are many beautiful places to see in the Coffs Harbour region.
Small animal stream speakers

**Dr Kath Briscoe**  
*BVSc(Hons), MVetStud (Small Animal Clinical Studies) MACVSc (Feline Medicine)*

Katherine graduated from the University of Sydney in 2003, with first class honours and the University Medal. She worked in a private small animal practice in Sydney for two years before travelling to the United Kingdom where she worked as a locum. Katherine completed her internship in small animal medicine and then she completed her specialist training program in feline medicine.

Katherine worked at the University of Sydney for five years and joined the team at ARH as a registrar in small animal medicine in 2011.

**Dr Robert Nicoll**  
*BSc(Vet) BVSc Diplomate ACVR Specialist in Diagnostic Imaging*

Robert undertook research in ultrasonographic evaluation of tendon and ligament injuries as part of a BSc(Vet) at the University of Sydney in 1989.

Following his graduation from veterinary school in 1990, he worked in mixed practice for several years before taking a position as a resident in radiology at the University of Wisconsin, USA from 1994 to 1997.

Robert is experienced in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, both in Australia and the USA, and he is involved in research and publications in radiology, ultrasound, MRI and CT.

**Dr Sarah Helmond**  
*BVSc Medicine Specialist*

Sarah graduated from Melbourne University in 2001 and worked in private general practice for five years. In 2006 she moved to Minnesota, USA to undertake a residency in small animal internal medicine.

She is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and worked at Cornell University, where she was a clinical research fellow. Following this, Sarah moved to California to work in a private specialty practice in the East San Francisco Bay area for several years.

Sarah joined ARH in February allowing her to move back to Australia and be closer to her family. She enjoys all aspects of internal medicine.

**Dr Larry Van Niekerk**  
*BVSc*

Larry graduated from the University of Pretoria in South Africa with a BVSc in 1982. He then went on to complete an Honours and Masters in surgery in 2002 qualifying him as a specialist surgeon.

Larry has spent most of his working career in private practice and as a specialist. He has spent the past year working at Greencross South Tamworth as vet, director and specialist surgeon.
Equine speakers

**Dr Hadley Willsallen**
*BVSc*

A graduate of the University of Sydney in 2003, Hadley completed an internship in equine medicine and surgery at Agnes Banks Equine Clinic during 2004. She then associated with a surgical focus at Canberra Equine Hospital (2005) and Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital (2007-9) before completing a four-year equine surgical training program at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

Hadley has completed many externships with various surgeons around the world including England, United States and throughout Australia. She's currently based in Sydney working with Dr Nick Kannegieter.

**Dr Paul Freeman**
*BVSc*

Paul is a senior veterinary officer with NSW DPI based in Lismore.

Following graduation from the University of Sydney in 1979, he spent 10 years in private mixed practice in Australia, UK and Canada before he took up a position with the public sector where he has worked for over 20 years with RLPB and later with the DPI.

Paul has a Masters in veterinary public health and is a Member of the Australian and New Zealand Collage of Veterinary Scientists in epidemiology.

Wellness and wellbeing

**Emily Scanlan**

Emily is a Registered Psychologist with the Australian Practitioners’ Health Association (APRHA) and an Associated Member of the Australian Psychological Society (AMAPS).

At present, Emily works in a psychology practice in Sydney’s CBD.

Emily benefits from her experience of working under high pressure and tight deadlines as an ABC radio and TV journalist. She also worked at executive level of Government with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra.

She has a particular interest in developing resilience to overcome pressure situations and the stresses of working life. Wellness and wellbeing are an important part of this process.

Recently, Emily has been introduced to the veterinary profession and has recognised some of the unique problems that veterinarians deal with especially in the early years after graduation.

Like all of us she is appalled by the high incidence of mental illness in the veterinary profession and the alarming rate of suicide.

We feel that the mental health session is one of the most important sessions of the conference and we encourage everyone to attend.
Nurses stream speakers

Dr Laurie Milner
**BVSc**
Laurie has worked in general practice and in emergency hospitals.
At present, Laurie is working for the RSPCA as the training manager and is also educating TAFE students.
Laurie is particularly interested in the relationship between animals and humans and is always looking for ways to improve animal welfare.

Dr Julia Etel
**BVSc**
Julia graduated in 2002 with first class honours and then worked on the south coast of NSW for 18 months. In mid-2005, Julia moved up Coffs Harbor where she started working at Pacific Vetcare. She enjoys a range of veterinary cases: from emergencies to soft tissue surgeries to geriatric medicine. Julia is also a part time TAFE teacher for the Cert 4 veterinary nursing at CHEC.

Dr Merrilyn Fitzgerald
**BVSc**
Merrilyn has been working with Pacific Vetcare for over 10 years. Her special interests are in horse reproduction and foal medicine and she runs the equine reproduction unit for Pacific Vetcare.
Merrilyn is passionate about teaching and is involved with teaching veterinary nursing.

Jasmine Pengelly
She has worked in small animal specialist medicine practice at Sydney University, and small animal general practice in both nursing and management capacities.
Jasmine is a trainer and assessor for veterinary nurses and sits on the Executive and NSW committees of the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia.
## Program

### Saturday 3 September 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.45am–8.10am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.10am–8.15am</td>
<td>Welcome and announcements</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 8.15am–9.15am | **Combined session**  
Vets and nurses: management of gastro–intestinal disease. *Dr Kath Briscoe and Dr Sarah Helmond* |
| 9.15am–10.15am| Imaging upper GI tract. *Dr Robert Nicoll*                            |
| 10.15am–11.00am| Morning tea and opening of trade displays                             |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 11.00am–12.00pm| Imaging abdominal GIT. *Dr Robert Nicoll*  
Pathology test in GIT disease. *Dr Merrilyn Fitzgerald* |
| 12.00pm–1.00pm | Imaging abdominal GIT (continued). *Dr Robert Nicoll*  
Pathology test in GIT disease. *Dr Merrilyn Fitzgerald*  
Nursing GIT cases. *Jasmine Pengelly* |
| 1.00pm–2.00pm  | Lunch in trade display area                                           |
| 2.00pm–3.00pm  | Oesophageal disease in the dog and cat. *Dr Kath Briscoe*  
The other end of the catheter; Best welfare for the inpatient. *Dr Laurie Milner* |
| 3.00pm–4.00pm  | Approach to the cat with chronic GIT signs. *Dr Kath Briscoe*  
Feeding GIT cases. Managing feeding tubes. *Jasmine Pengelly* |
| 4.00pm–4.30pm  | Afternoon tea in trade display area                                   |
| 4.30pm–5.30pm  | **Combined session**  
Mental health – looking after ourselves and others. *Emily Scanlan* |

### Sunday 4 September 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am–8.20am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.20am–8.30am</td>
<td>Announcements</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 8.30am–9.30am | Inflammatory bowel disease diagnosis and treatment. *Dr Sarah Helmond*  
Diagnosing colic in the field. *Dr Hadley Willsallen* |
| 9.30am–10.30am| Rational approach to kittens with diarrhoea. *Dr Kath Briscoe*  
Treating colic in the field. Making the best of limited resources. *Dr Hadley Willsallen*  
Prevention is better than cure The role of the RSPCA. *Dr Laurie Milner* |
| 10.30am–11.00am| Morning tea and opening of trade displays                             |
| 11.00am–12.00pm| Surgery of upper GIT, oral cavity and oesophagus. *Dr Larry Van Neikerk*  
Colic surgery: what when why? *Dr Hadley Willsallen*  
Abdominal imaging. *Dr Julia Etel* |
| 12.00pm–1.00pm | Surgery of stomach and small intestine. *Dr Larry Van Neikerk*  
Dealing with equine emergencies in the field. *Dr Hadley Willsallen*  
What you think you know, what you know, what you think you don’t know. *Dr Laurie Milner* |
| 1.00pm–2.00pm  | Lunch in trade display area                                           |
| 2.00pm–3.00pm  | Surgery of lower intestine. *Dr Larry Van Neikerk*  
Combined equine and nurses  
GIT conditions of foals and horses. *Dr Merrilyn Fitzgerald*  
Combined veterinarians and nurses  
Overview of Hendra virus. Latest developments. *Dr Paul Freeman* |
| 3.00pm–3.30pm  | Afternoon tea in trade display area                                   |
| 3.00pm–4.30pm  | Combined veterinarians and nurses  
Overview of Hendra virus. Latest developments. *Dr Paul Freeman* |
| 4.30pm–5.30pm  | Combined veterinarians and nurses  
Biosecurity in everyday practice. What to tell clients. What to do with a suspect EAD. *Dr Paul Freeman* |
Register before 5 August 2016 for Early Bird

Register online – CLICK HERE

Saturday and Sunday pricing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AVA members</th>
<th>Non AVA members</th>
<th>Vet Nurses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early bird full weekend registration &lt; before 5 August 2016</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>$1320</td>
<td>$295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full weekend registration &lt; after 5 August 2016</td>
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<td>One day registration</td>
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<td>Early bird full student registration &lt; before 5 February 2016</td>
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<td>Full student registration &lt; after 5 August 2016</td>
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<td>Student one day registration</td>
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<td>(1–3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early bird full new grad registration &lt; before 5 August 2016</td>
<td>$420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full new grad registration &lt; after 5 August 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>New grad one day registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVA member full weekend registrations for accompanying nurse</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday night dinner (discounted nurses / additional guests)</td>
<td>$99</td>
<td>$198</td>
<td>$99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full registration includes Saturday night dinner, lunches and teas.
Single day registrations do not include Saturday night dinner.
Please note discounted nurse registration does not include Saturday dinner. These need to be paid separately. Prices include GST.

Special offer
All full weekend paying AVA member veterinarians may bring 1 veterinary nurse for the discounted rate of $100
*Does note include Saturday night conference dinner