VETS BEYOND BORDERS®

Vets Beyond Borders is an Australia-based, registered not-for-profit organisation. It was founded in 2003 by vets committed to improving animal and public health in developing communities and fostering the spirit of volunteering amongst their profession.

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The work of Vets Beyond Borders is proudly supported by

[Logos of supported organisations]
OUR MISSION

Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) exists to improve animal welfare and public health in developing communities. VBB aims to provide sustainable veterinary services to improve animal and community health in Asia, Australia and the Pacific.

OUR CORE VALUES

Vets Beyond Borders respects religious beliefs and is non-political; members respect the cultures within which they offer their veterinary skills.

OUR GOALS

We aim to work in areas of greatest need to:

- Establish, develop and support programs dedicated to improving the welfare of stray and domesticated animals and wildlife, including Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ABC-AR) programs, and programs targeting the control of zoonotic diseases
- Provide veterinary support to local animal welfare organisations in developing countries
- Co-ordinate the sourcing, placement and support of veterinary volunteers seeking to assist the work of animal welfare organisations nationally and internationally
- Develop and promote best-practice protocols for animal welfare work
- Develop and promote education programs designed to encourage respect, care and take responsibility for animals in the global community
- Develop strategic alliances with similar organisations in Australia and worldwide
- Develop and promote training programs to increase the skills of local veterinary and animal handling staff
- Assist in the provision of volunteers and veterinary support services for disaster relief, where and when possible, and promote veterinary input to wildlife conservation programs
- Secure ongoing funding for the governance of Vets Beyond Borders and programs with which it is involved
- Promote the concept of One World, One Health as appropriate.
REFLECTING ON THE work of Vets Beyond Borders over the past twelve months, it is encouraging to note that we have continued to expand our activities, improving the availability and effectiveness of veterinary care in parts of the world where such services are limited or sadly non-existent. Our involvement now extends to all continents - other than Antarctica.

Following the launch of our Affiliate and Partner Organisation registration scheme, there has been a steady increase in the number of animal welfare groups which have become formally associated with Vets Beyond Borders and are receiving meaningful and much-needed support from VBB and its volunteer community. Organisations are now able to request our assistance using an online application process accessed via the VBB website.

Under this format, Affiliate Organisations are able to obtain advice from VBB with respect to project operations and how to optimise the care they provide to animals in great need.

Partner Organisations have undergone detailed assessment and have demonstrated good clinical standards and operational efficiency, together with an ability to host VBB volunteers under our VetMatch program. This enables us to deploy our volunteers with a high degree of confidence that their skills and enthusiasm will be fully utilised and that placements will be positive experiences for all involved.

VBB Partner Organisations are also encouraged to host VetTrain post-graduate training courses, delivered by our highly qualified and experienced volunteer clinical instructors.

To maximise the reach and animal welfare benefit of these courses, in addition to their own clinical staff, Partner Organisations are asked to invite veterinary personnel from neighbouring animal welfare organisations to participate in the training. Thanks to the generous commitment of the ever-increasing number of VetTrain volunteer instructors, training is available in a wide range of topics and is tailored to the preferences of hosting Partner Organisations.

Although all of this vital work is performed by our wonderful volunteer community, the organisation and operation of VetMatch and VetTrain - and our Australia-based AVERT program - places great demands on our administrative staff. This workload will only increase as the programs mature.

Additionally, we will shortly be launching our online forum and library, created to give members and volunteers access to resources relevant to the work of VBB and to enable us to provide ongoing support to our Affiliate and Partner Organisations.

We continue to rely on the financial support of VBB members and donors to be able to maintain and grow these important and effective animal welfare initiatives. Every dollar donated helps us to do so.

On behalf of the board and staff of Vets Beyond Borders, I would like to express sincere thanks to all donors and volunteers.
2018 - 2019 has been a very busy year for VBB. We have been fortunate to maintain a good level of funding and have been able to expand our operations in overseas countries.

We would like to extend our thanks to our partner organisations, The Petbarn Foundation and Fondation Bridgitte Bardot, who have continued to support us with donations to run the VBB programs.

Work on our programs continues to increase with the need for more volunteers.

**VetMatch**

**India - Sikkim:** This project continues to grow with a constant stream of volunteers wishing to visit. Sikkim continues to be a popular destination for volunteers and spaces fill up quickly. The first deployment of Greencross Vets to Sikkim was a great success and they are currently organising the next group to travel to this area.

Work continues on the SARAH Program in Sikkim and thanks must go to Dr Thinlay, Dr Diki and their team. The management of street dogs and rabies prevention continues to work towards eliminating this dreadful disease.

**India - Ladakh:** We have only been able to send volunteers to Ladakh on several occasions this year as the area has been unsafe due unrest along the Pakistan border. We continue to monitor the situation and hope to deploy more volunteers in 2020.

**Cambodia:** Volunteer vets, nurses and students have been regularly deployed to the project throughout the year undertaking ABC-AR work.

**Sardinia:** Volunteers have continued to work on this project during the year and have a very rewarding experience working on this project. Due to the distance needed to travel to this project most of the volunteers come from the United Kingdom and Europe with only a few from Australia. Those that do travel from Australia often include Sardinia in their holiday travel plans.

**Botswana:** Volunteers have been deployed to the project in Botswana during the year and we anticipate this will continue into the future.

**Students:** The University of Sydney Veterinary School continues to send final year students to Cambodia. Negotiations are now taking place with the University of Melbourne and University of Queensland to also accommodate their students in 2020.

The students undertake various of roles - helping with pre and post-operative care of the animals, feeding and exercising, looking after their general health and undertaking administrative tasks. They also assist in work undertaken in the local temples and go on field trips.

The local vets tell us that having the students work with them has been a very rewarding experience for both students and vets. The exchange of skills, learning each other’s languages and culture has been wonderful and many of the students have returned with wonderful stories about their volunteering experience with some are hoping to return soon.

We continue to receive applications from prospective Partner Organisations in a variety of countries who are seeking our help.
VetTrain program in Cambodia successful

VetTrain

Cambodia: We deployed a team of Australian vets to our project in Phnom Penh to conduct a training course for Cambodian vets. Around 16 vets from different organisations around Cambodia were hosted by the Phnom Penh Animal Welfare Shelter to undertake a training course in plating and pinning. The seminar was a huge success and we have been asked to hold similar seminars in the future.

Fiji: We continue to work with the Fiji National University towards providing instruction on clinical techniques to vet students graduating from the University.

Samoa: Negotiations with Samoa have been delayed due to funding issues in Samoa. We are hopeful that this project will get underway in the not too distant future as the need for management of street dogs in Samoa is critical.

AVERIT (Australian Veterinary Emergency Response Team)

The program continues to attract a large number of volunteers and has become well known throughout government and emergency services contacts.

Weather forecasters are again forecasting a very high-risk bushfire season and with the lack of rain in many parts of the country, we need to be ever vigilant. We continue to work closely with government and industry to gain funding for this important program.

Thank you!!

To our wonderful volunteers:

I would like to personally thank all the fantastic volunteers who have worked with us again during the year. Without their help we would not be able to support our partner organisations in their work.

Mandy Lamkin, our long-time administrative officer retired in 2018. Mandy spent many tireless years working for VBB and took on the job with great enthusiasm. She has contributed hugely to the success of the VBB programs and projects.

Special mention as always must go to our volunteer co-ordinators, Arianne Jonneret and Janet Perry. They ensure we continue to send the most experienced volunteers to our projects.

To the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA):

The AVA generously allowed us to have the Community Stand at their conference again this year. This allowed us to promote our programs and projects to the industry. VBB attended the AVA Conference in Perth and we will be attending the ASAV Conference in Brisbane later in the year.

To wonderful staff:

A huge thank you to both Caroline Zambrano (Advertising and PR) and Kate Neal (Administration and Membership) for the many hours they spend working to keep the wheels in motion! They both work long hours, many voluntary, to make VBB the wonderful organisation it is today.

To the Directors: Thank you for your ongoing support during the year.
OUR AVERT DATABASE of volunteer vets and vet nurses continues to grow.

The program is becoming widely known and contact with governments continues. Recently the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has been in regular contact with VBB with bushfires already causing problems very early in Spring.

Many country areas are still suffering from the effects of the devastating drought and have little or no water or feed for their stock.

The lack of water leaves them very vulnerable to the devastation of the bushfires.

In NSW we are regularly kept up to date on the fires. Daily reports on the latest emergency situations are sent to us with updates.

We also continue to work with other states and territories advising them of the program and the availability of our volunteers.

THE VETMATCH PROGRAM launched in early 2016 and has since proved to be a successful remodelling of VBB’s fundamental strategies and created a revitalised mission for all stakeholders, not least our excellent volunteers.

We continue to have a highly respected reputation for recruiting and placing exceptional veterinarians and veterinary nurses who bring capability, ethical practice and dedication to the projects to which they are assigned.

Through VetMatch, VBB has this year recruited and helped to place veterinary volunteers in Cambodia (for Phnom Penh Animal Welfare Society), Sardinia (for LIDA Olbia), Botswana (for the Maun Animal Welfare Society), as well as Sikkim and Ledakh in India.

Types of volunteer work through VetMatch include medical and surgical, general nursing, animal birth control and anti-rabies vaccination camps.

Over the past year VBB received many applications from the operators of animal welfare projects to become a VBB Partner Organisation, which means they are approved to host VBB recruited volunteers for their work. Some of these are still in the process of evaluation and review.

VBB VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

“VBB does wonderful work! I volunteered in the SARAH (Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health) program in Sikkim, India in 2017. I enjoyed it so much, I went back again in 2019. I plan to return to continue volunteering for VBB to improve knowledge and animal welfare. I would highly recommend to others to experience volunteering for VBB and contribute to a rewarding experience.”

Helena Coaley, Veterinary Nurse, UK
Sikkim, India 2017 & 2019

VetMatch could not have the success it has without the input of some extraordinary volunteers who run its administration by processing volunteer applications and provide endless support in various ways.

Hence, we would like to especially recognise and thank Ariane Jonneret (Europe co-ordination); Bronwyn Sharman (SARAH project), Janet Perry (volunteer screening & approval) and Linda Hart (alumni & project evaluation).

For more details on how to volunteer for the VetMatch program or to apply to become a VBB Partner Organisation please see the website: www.vetsbeyondborders.org/programs
WITH THE SUPPORT of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, VBB established a pool of volunteer trainers (including veterinary specialists, veterinarians with other relevant post-graduate qualifications and highly credentialed veterinary nurses) willing to travel to animal welfare projects run by VBB’s VetTrain-registered Partner Organisations around the world to deliver VetTrain courses to veterinarians and veterinary nurses working with these projects.

These courses are free of charge to personnel working with animal welfare groups in locations where veterinarians and allied personnel have little or no access to continuing professional development programs.

VetTrain offers clinically focused courses in a range of disciplines, such as surgery, internal medicine, dermatology and diagnostic imaging. It has been designed to deliver much-needed training to improve the health and welfare of animals in developing communities, which typically only have access to very basic veterinary care.

We are excited to continue to accept expressions of interest from veterinarians, with appropriate post-graduate training and experience, who are considering joining the VetTrain “faculty”.

Feedback for VBB’s first VetTrain course

VBB’s long-time Partner Organisation Phnom Penh Animal Welfare Society (PPAWS) in Cambodia became the first venue for the VetTrain course in November 2018. A team of volunteer VBB clinical instructors were appointed and an appropriate curriculum determined, given the facilities available on-site.

Training was delivered to veterinarians from several animal welfare organisations active in Cambodia and included a combination of lectures and practical sessions.

We received positive feedback from Alan Sinfield from PPCAWS about our first VetTrain program!

“The VetTrain initiative was/is superb and the training we received from the three highly qualified Vets who you sent raised our standards and those of the other Animal Charities we were able to involve. We’d welcome the chance to participate in such a programme again.”

VBB VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

“I feel that the VetTrain program provides an opportunity to interact with veterinarians and help them gain professional skills and advance the veterinary profession as a whole.

I would without doubt recommend vets to volunteer for VBB. In simple terms it’s an opportunity to really make a difference. Without question more dogs will be saved, have their pain managed more appropriately and survive surgery, and this will be a lasting change that will only improve in time.

It is an opportunity to show an emerging profession what is possible even with limited resources.”

Dr Gordon Corfield, Veterinarian, Australia

VetTrain Cambodia Nov 2018
A Unique VBB Experience, Day Field Camps in South Sikkim, India

By Dr David Gray

THE ANIMAL BIRTH Control Anti-Rabies (ABC-AR) program has now been operational in Sikkim, India for almost 15 years. Over that time the Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health Program (SARAH) initiated by Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) in association with the Sikkim Government and the financial support of Fondation Brigitte Bardot (FBB) has established an effective unit working throughout the State of Sikkim. SARAH is now an integral part of the Sikkim Department of Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services (AHLF&VS) supported by volunteers from VBB and ongoing financial support of FBB.

Since 2010 I have participated in the SARAH experience, though on previous visits I have only been at the headquarters in Gangtok. On this occasion I have had the privilege of working on day field ABC-AR trips in the beautiful area of South Sikkim, based in Namchi at the AHL&VS polyclinic and regional headquarters, completed earlier in 2019 so that all disciplines within the department are based in the one building. Volunteers are able to stay in an adjacent accommodation facility which is very comfortable.

I had the privilege of working with the two original SARAH para-vets, Buccu and Ishey who, I have met on previous visits to SARAH and are brilliant in their roles. Controlling SARAH operations in Namchi is Dr Menuka who has been with SARAH for around two years and performs her roles admirably.

Field camps require considerable pre-planning as locals need to be advised of the impending visit and all equipment, medications and surgical instruments need to be transported to the site of the day’s operations. Dr Maneka organises the site for the visit and informs the local village head of our plans whilst Hishey organises the materials needed for the day’s activities. The SARAH dual cab vehicle is loaded with the tables, a cage, the vaccines, medications & suture materials before departure.

I experienced five field camps at locations outside of Namchi and mostly approximately one hour’s drive from headquarters in relatively isolated villages. The venues included outside a local village community hall, a village school, construction sites where houses had been started but not completed and a storage facility for produce from farms. Water availability for scrubbing up can be a challenge but a solution is always found.

The operating tables, preparation areas are set up, signs erected, medicines prepared by which time villagers start arriving with their dogs, the current camps cover mostly owned dogs; the message seems to get around and soon we have enough to begin.

The first role, most capably performed by SARAH vet Dr Maneka, is to explain to the villagers the procedure and the reasons why we are doing it. In most cases the locals seem to be aware of the campaign due to the previous outstanding work SARAH have done in promotion and they see the advantages of having desexed dogs happily co-existing within the community rather than the aggression seen prior to the SARAH intervention.

Dogs are then sedated, an intravenous catheter inserted, intravenous anaesthetic administered, this being topped up as required during procedures, the wound area clipped & prepared for surgery by the para-vets. Females are done by the flank approach and males prescrotal. A notch is removed from the dogs ear so that it can clearly be identified that the dog has been neutered.

Meanwhile the surgeons are scrubbing up in preparation for surgery, sterile gloves applied, dogs are transferred to the operating tables, intravenous fluids administered and surgery begins, anaesthetics supervised by the most capable paravets. Rabies vaccine, pain relief and an Ivomectin injection for internal parasites are administered to all dogs.
Enthusiasm for SARAH is quite apparent with locals

The dogs are then transferred to the recovery area where the locals usually keep them under observation whilst recovering, supervised by the ever vigilant para-vets.

Once recovered the dogs are taken back to their homes with owners instructed to report any complications that may develop but such is quite rare. One big difference I have noted since I first volunteered at SARAH some 9 years ago is that the locals are no longer afraid of the dogs but more freely interact with them now that the scourge of Rabies is now largely under control thanks to the invaluable work of the SARAH team. Some innovative transport is often seen.

Once the last dog is finished it is time to clean up, ensure that everything is removed and the venue restored as it was. Villagers are usually most helpful providing resources, cups of tea and usually some home prepared lunch. The removed bits are buried, in the case below, a stone placed on the “grave” which a local lad chose as a seat.

The views from the venues can be quite a distraction and reinforces the sense of privilege one feels in being able to participate in such programs with VBB.

Life on a SARAH project is not all work but volunteers are given other opportunities and experiences; in my case an invitation to address the staff of the Polyclinic in Namchi on VBB and Animal Advocacy, dinner with the local SARAH staff and a tour of local points of interest.

The SARAH program would not be the success it is without direction, since inception of Dr Thinlay, pictured here with the para-vets, Hishey, driver Som, Bucchu and vet Dr Manuka.

Thank you to the SARAH program team!
By Dr David Gray

THE COLLABORATION WITH the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Ladakh Department of Animal Husbandry (LDAH), Leh Municipal Council, Fondation Brigitte Bardot and the Live To Rescue organisation has seen the project continue and expand operations in Leh and surrounding areas over the past year.

It has been pleasing to see local authorities put significant additional resources into the project over recent years and a more collaborative effort on the part of local stakeholders. The project is progressing to self-sufficiency and VBB sees its ongoing role to be one of support as needed whether it be advice, person power or appropriate training.

Animal birth control

Over FY19, a total of five VBB volunteers worked on the project in the period from June to October along with the local vets from LDAH continuing the program year-round. The cumulative total of ABC surgeries performed to June 30, 2019 is around 4,000. Despite this effort dog populations remain high in some areas of Ladakh.

An exciting development has been the funding by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council, Leh of a vehicle designated for ABC-AR work in villages and outlying areas; the vehicle has been fitted out with an operating table and refrigeration facilities.

All animals treated are vaccinated for Rabies and awareness programs on rabies prevention, dog bite prevention and animal welfare are part of the program. Specialised eye instruments purchased in Australia and funded by Fondation Brigitte Bardot were supplied to the project in May, 2019; many cases of “cherry eye” and similar eye injuries are seen due to the harsh climatic conditions.

Animal welfare

The creation of the Leh SPCA in 2018, membership including LDAH veterinarians, Live To Rescue, Young Drukpa Association personnel, representatives from the Leh Municipal Corporation as well as animal lovers in the general community has seen the establishment of a community network of eyes and ears reporting cases of injured animals and cases of cruelty.

Live To Rescue operates a pick-up service both for smaller animals as well as cows, mules, ponies, etc. Animals are examined by LDAH vets for assessment and, if necessary, transferred to the shelter facility at Nang, outside of Leh for further treatment and rehabilitation.

The Community Education program has progressed, targeting appropriate interaction with street animals and explaining the ABC-AR program; brochures have been produced and are distributed mainly through SPCA members & community events.

Some special thanks go to the expert VBB volunteers who travel at their own expense to support the aims of the project. We are indebted to Fondation Brigitte Bardot for their continued support of this project, to Dr Stenzin Rabgais, director of animal birth control operations for LDAH, Dr Tsewang Dorjay, controller of clinic operations, Dr Ishey Namgyal from L2R for volunteer support and the ongoing support of the Chief Veterinary Officer in Leh, Dr Mohd Iqbal.
VETS BEYOND BORDERS’ partnership with the University of Sydney began early this year with the VetMatch placement of two veterinary students in Cambodia and it was a great success! Final year Sydney University students Emily Bidgood and Elise Sury travelled to Phnom Penh where they volunteered for three weeks at VBB’s Partner Organisation Phnom Penh Animal Welfare Society’s clinic assisting veterinarians, consultations, general medicine and care of resident animals.

Each Thursday, the volunteers spent the day at a local pagoda providing health care and desexing to local monks. They also got the chance to take a trip to smaller rural towns where they did house calls and set up a temporary clinic for people to come visit.

Elise said, “My goal was to improve both my veterinary skills and communication skills. I believe I have achieved these goals and much more through this program! The pagoda work was incredible. Being able to vaccinate, assist the vets and make a difference to animals who live in poor conditions, all the while meeting monks and being in a beautiful location was amazing.”

Elise was also surprised the clinic had limited access to equipment and drugs, and how they just had to solve problems with what they had.

“I was surprised by the extent of disease that is around Cambodia. Every day there were new dogs/cats coming in with diseases, such as parvovirus, canine distemper and cat flu - things which are uncommon in Australia due to vaccination - but is just everywhere over there.”

Elise highly recommended the program to other volunteers, adding “Not only does it improve your own skills, but you also get to meet some amazing people, animals and really feel like you are making a difference. My overall experience was amazing. Everyone was lovely, I learned a lot and hopefully made a difference.”
**BOTSWANA**

IN BOTSWANA, VBB collaborates with Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS), a mobile organisation that works across the remote Chobe, Delta, Makgadikgadi, and Kalahari landscape of the country to care for free-roaming dogs across busy towns and remote villages.

MAWS’ clinic in Maun provides free vet care to the animals of low-income individuals and runs Botswana’s only CNVR (collect, neuter, vaccinate, return) operation: sterilising and vaccinating the region’s large dog and feral cat population. The clinic also provides an ‘emergency first-response’ service to injured livestock.

MAWS President Penelope Widmer said about their partnership with VBB: “VBB volunteers spend their whole time with us sterilising and vaccinating dogs. The sterilisation prevents indiscriminate breeding of dogs and subsequent unruly packs that roam around hunting, and of course the vaccinations are preventing disease spreading. We try to do outreaches into the areas that border on the wildlife areas to target dogs in those villages.”

**VBB VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL**

“Absolutely I recommend volunteering for Vets Beyond Borders. It will help you learn and grow in ways you would not expect. I thought I was pretty adaptable, but I was really challenged in the beginning and had to stop and realise that I had to change myself or I was in for a tough month. I did that and loved the rest of my time. I learned about diseases I do not get to see in Australia. I met people who I hope will stay friends for life. I worked very hard but had a wonderful time doing so. I have fallen even more in love with Africa and its people and animals.”

Dr Debbie Delahunty, Veterinarian, Australia
Botswana, 2019

**SARDINIA**

THE ITALIAN ISLAND of Sardinia is home to VBB’s VetMatch Partner Organisation, LIDA Olbia Shelter, a no-kill shelter that cares for 800 stray dogs and cats. LIDA Olbia clinic also focuses on neutering projects, which involves VBB volunteers.

Australian vet nurse Helen Spry took her first VBB VetMatch volunteer trip to Sardinia where she had an inspirational experience that broadened her horizons.

“I enjoyed meeting the local residents, making new friends and connections and most of all helping VBB to make a difference for others and helping make a better life for the animals we treat,” said Helen. “The staff at the LIDA Olbia shelter were dedicated and wonderful to work with. They were very helpful and appreciative of our time with them.”
Dr David Gray (Hon Treasurer)

I AM PLEASED to report that the 2019 Financial Year has seen our organisation again return a significant surplus for the period.

Fortunately for VBB, over the course of FY19, CEO Maryann, Administration Officer Kate Neal, Marketing Officer and Honorary Finance Officer Nicola Kapa have provided stability and continuity to our procedures.

The year saw a major overhaul of our website and the introduction of a new payment portal which has resulted in some unexpected “teething” issues in regard to financial matters. It is a truism that change is seldom achieved without unforeseen consequences.

We are indebted to PetSure for provision of a significant contribution and to other individual donors who continue to support VBB’s work. Fondation Brigitte Bardot (FBB) has continued their consistent support of the animal-related aspects of VBB’s work, for which we are most grateful.

VBB’s revenue flow remains of concern with a relatively low regular donor base, a focus on securing effective regular fund raising and higher value corporate donors must continue, requiring a renewed focus by the Board and Management.

Some acknowledgements:

- The continued sponsorship from the Australian Veterinary Association gives us a most valuable stage on which to promote our organisation to the profession.
- The ongoing support of Fondation Brigitte Bardot allows us to continue to fund long standing projects.
- The Boston Consulting Group for their work on a Strategic Review of VBB activities.
- The ongoing commitment of our staff, Maryann Dalton, Kate Neal and Marketing/Social Media Coordinator, Caroline Zambrano.
- The generosity of Nicola Kapa for providing the bookkeeping services to VBB on a voluntary basis.
The Governance and Risk Committee has been active through 2019 focusing on the development of a risk identification, assessment and management plan for VBB. The risk register and management plan will apply at the organisational level, noting that each project that VBB is involved in has a project-level risk plan. Risks categories include corporate governance, financial, reputational and legal compliance.

The committee has also reviewed the insurance cover for the organisation and is developing a more structured induction package for new Directors.

The more routine work of the committee continues with the review of applications/approvals regarding partner and affiliate organisations, referred to it from the Programs Committee.

Hugh Millar took over from Denzil O’Brien as Chair in July following Denzil’s retirement from the Board.

Dr Hugh Millar
Chair, Governance Committee

VBB volunteers visit local schools to help educate children about animal safety.
VETS BEYOND BORDERS has been very active in social media and media (pet/vet and mainstream) in spreading the word about the fantastic work VBB undertakes, its programs and the invaluable contribution made by dedicated and loyal volunteer vets and vet nurses.

VBB promoted its programs through volunteer interviews, awareness campaigns and media articles with content being published in:

- VBB e-newsletters and social media
- General media - newspapers and magazines - online and in print
- Pet/vet media - online/websites, print and social media
- Pet/vet industry e-newsletters

Social media
VBB has Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts.

- [www.facebook.com/vetsbeyondborders](http://www.facebook.com/vetsbeyondborders)
- [https://twitter.com/VBBAustralia](http://https://twitter.com/VBBAustralia)
- [www.instagram.com/vets_beyond_borders/](http://www.instagram.com/vets_beyond_borders/)
- [www.linkedin.com/company/vets-beyond-borders](http://www.linkedin.com/company/vets-beyond-borders)

Facebook followers has increased by 11% since 1 July 2018 (6,230) to 30 June 2019 (6,936).


VBB development / networking
VBB has been represented at events this year:

- AAP Media Masterclass in Sydney. Involved workshop with Mike Osborn, Editor of AAP, Deborah Clay, National News Director at Australian Radio Network, Charles Miranda, Senior Australia Correspondent at News Corp and Sharon Labi, Features and Investigations Journalist at Nine News.
- Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA) event ‘Creativity for Good - How to create award-winning campaigns to change the world’ (Sept 2018)

VBB Media Stories
Articles about VBB’s programs have been published in many Australian media, such as [Hinterland Times](http://Hinterland Times), [Hawkesbury & Hills Independent News](http://Hawkesbury & Hills Independent News), [Mirage News](http://Mirage News), [Australian Veterinarian Magazine](http://Australian Veterinarian Magazine), [Australian Dog Lovers](http://Australian Dog Lovers), [Veterinary Practice Magazine](http://Veterinary Practice Magazine), [Pet Industry News Magazine](http://Pet Industry News Magazine)

VBB was also featured on various Australian radio, such as ABC Sydney, ABC Gold Coast, ABC Illawarra Mornings, 2SER 107.3 FM Sydney and East Side Radio 89.7FM Sydney.

Also, Dr David Gray was featured in 7Plus’ News of the Wild TV show (Episode 50)!
VBB Campaigns

VBB ran a World Rabies Day National Awareness Campaign in September 2018 in partnership with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC).

This campaign received publicity in several national pet and general media outlets, social media posts and vet/pet industry e-newsletters.

VBB also ran a Christmas 2018 Appeal campaign, which attracted coverage in general media (ABC News) and vet/pet media, such as Australian Veterinarian Magazine.

In April 2019, VBB ran an awareness campaign for World Veterinary Day, shining the light on our amazing volunteers.

VBB also sent a press release out in the lead up to Dog Bite Prevention Week (April 7 – 13) and World Health Day on April 7th to raise awareness about rabies prevention in countries where dog bites lead to thousands of human deaths ever year!

VBB Special Presentations

At the AVA Conference in May 2019, VBB volunteer Dr Peter Van Orsouw from Belgrave South Veterinary Clinic held a special fundraiser to raise money for VBB.

Dr Pete cut his long hair with the aim of raising $5K for VBB and donate his hair to people who have lost theirs through cancer or Alopecia.

Vets Beyond Borders were also invited to present at Future Vet Kids Camp in Sydney during the summer school holidays. Maryann Dalton, Kate Neal, Dr Robert Johnson presented to about 50 kids aged 12 - 14 about VBB and its programs around the world.
Chair: DR IAN DOUGLAS
VBB has been an important part of Ian’s veterinary life since 2005, when he was elected its inaugural president and commenced work, together with Sikkimese veterinarian, Dr Thinlay Bhutia, to establish the now highly regarded SARAH Program, India’s first state-wide ABC/AR project. Ian has devised and delivered several surgical training courses in the Asia-Pacific region, is the author of widely referenced publications on clinical aspects of ABC/AR programmes and has been a regular guest speaker at animal welfare meetings. He is a strong proponent of the ‘One Health’ philosophy, promoting the collaboration of veterinarians, doctors and other health professionals in efforts to combat disease. Ian is principal of a clinical neurology and advanced imaging practice in Adelaide, South Australia.

Deputy Chair: DR HELEN BYRNES
DR BYRNES has been actively involved with VBB since 2006 when she first volunteered in the VBB SARAH Program. She subsequently volunteered in VBB’s Ladakh and Bylakuppe projects and was program coordinator for the SARAH program for a number of years. Helen has a strong clinical and animal welfare focus while being actively involved in program and practice management. She has significant expertise in human and veterinary public health, and infectious disease and zoonoses. She has been a guest speaker at a number of conferences and workshops, and worked in dog population programs across the Asia/Pacific region. In 2016, Helen’s work was recognised when she was awarded the David Bayvel Memorial Award for Excellence in Animal Welfare presented by Australia, New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Animal Welfare Chapter and World Animal Protection. Helen operates private veterinary practices in Brisbane, Australia.

Treasurer: DR DAVID GRAY
After graduation from Sydney University in 1969, David embarked on a career in mixed rural practice, for most of his career on the South Coast of NSW. Always looking for a challenge, he completed an MBA through University of New England in 1996, participating in a People to People study tour of endangered species in China in 1993 and led an AVA team to assist in the Foot & Mouth disease outbreak in UK in 2001. Now semi-retired, VBB has become a particular interest for David and he has volunteered in the ABC-AR programs in Gangtok, Sikkim (2010, 2012, 2013 & 2019); Bylakuppe, Karnataka (2012); Vanuatu (2014) and Ladakh (2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019). He also participated in the 2012 VetTrain programs in Gangtok and in 2013 in Jaipur. David has served on the Board of VBB since July 2012 and has held the position of Hon Treasurer since October 2014.

DR ROBERT JOHNSON (BVSc MANZCVS CertZooMed BA Grad Dip Asian Studies)
DR JOHNSON graduated from the University of Sydney in 1977 and has worked in mixed, small animal, zoo, wildlife and reptile practice. Robert is a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Feline Medicine) and holds a Certificate in Zoological Medicine from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In May 2015 he was elected President of the Australian Veterinary Association (2015-2017). He is currently an AVA Board director and a member of the Management Committee of Wildlife Health Australia. Robert has extensive clinical experience in zoo animal medicine and has presented and written widely on reptile, zoo and wildlife medicine. In his spare time Robert draws cartoons and tries to learn stuff.
DR HUGH MILLAR (BVSc MANZCVS PSM)

DR MILLAR is a highly regarded veterinarian and biosecurity professional who has worked extensively over 35 years in biosecurity management and animal disease control. Hugh was Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer for 11 years and for 5 years was the Executive Director for Biosecurity Victoria, responsible for policies and programs for plant and animal biosecurity, animal welfare, invasive plants and pest animal management, domestic animal regulation and control of use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

He is a member, by examination, of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, Epidemiology Chapter, and was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2011 in his role as Chief Veterinary Officer for Victoria. Hugh has extensive professional networks within government and with industries at the national and state levels.

Hugh has had considerable experience in the area of One Health, forging links over his career with his counterparts in public health and infectious disease management. He is a strategic thinker, not afraid to ‘think outside the square’. Hugh is currently working as a biosecurity and disease management consultant to government and industry.

DR CHARMAINE THAM

DR THAM has been involved with VBB since 2009, beginning as a field and head office volunteer. She has since served on the board since 2011 and was Chair from 2012 to 2015.

She has spoken on behalf of VBB on TEDxMacquarieUniversity 2012, TED@Sydney 2012 and TEDxTheRocks 2014. She is currently working in fintech startup Trade Ledger and was formerly a strategy consultant in financial services at the Boston Consulting Group. She has also previously worked in animal health divisions of Blackmores, Zoetis and Pfizer.

She began her career as a general practitioner emergency veterinarian for four years in Melbourne. Charmaine has degrees in Veterinary Science (Melb), Veterinary Pharmacology (ANZCVS), Business Studies (Monash) and a Global Executive MBA (INSEAD).

CAROLINE ZAMBRANO
PR & Social Media Co-ordinator

KATE NEAL
Membership & Admin Officer
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