
AMA Member Update

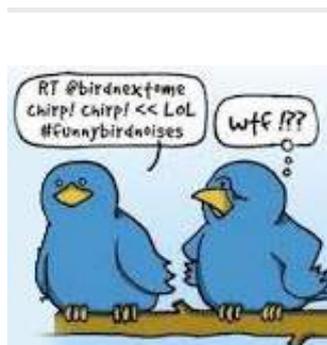
12 December 2017



Animal Medicines Australia
18 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600
animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au



Ben Stapley
Executive Director



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AMA events

Executive Director message

For my final message for this year, it is timely to reflect on some of our key achievements and successes, and also highlight our opportunities in key strategic areas in 2018.

In December 2016, we released the [Pet Ownership in Australia report](#). Our report was picked up by television, radio and print news services across Australia and overseas. The report has been extensively referenced in our advocacy efforts to highlight the benefits of pet ownership. Our efforts, in addition to that of our members, in highlighting the many health and social benefits of pet ownership assisted in securing a commitment from the [Victorian Government](#) to revise model strata rules that would end discrimination against renters with pets.

The APVMA's relocation to Armidale has been a core focus of our advocacy activity this year. AMA has committed to work with government, the regulator and other key stakeholders to facilitate an effective relocation process that works in the interest of AMA members. We continue to constructively engage with the APVMA's relocation committee and UNE's regulatory science industry advisory board.

Regulatory reform remains central to AMA's operations, and will continue to be a focus in 2018 as several initiatives and projects continue and commence. This year, we have been grateful for the meaningful engagement with DAWR and the APVMA on multiple policy and regulatory issues. Our engagement has resulted in:

- superior approaches to use and acceptance of international data, guidelines and assessments;
- APVMA efficiency reforms before Parliament; and
- improved guidance for applicants and approval holders through the APVMA's Top-20 process.

During November, AMA and it's members released its [Commitment](#)



AMA 2018 Annual Dinner
Thursday 22 November
Sydney

Issues Management Group (IMG) for 2018

28 February 10.00am to noon,
Sydney
3 May 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Canberra
2 August 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Canberra
11 October 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Canberra

Marketing Research Committee (MRC) for 2018

28 February 10.00am to noon,
Sydney

IMG and MRC Futureye workshops

28 February 12.30pm to 4.30pm,
Sydney
1 March 10am to 4.30pm, Sydney

Other industry events

Interested in innovation and technology in Agriculture? Do you live in the Canberra, Cooma and Bega areas? Come along to the [AgTech MeetUp Group](#) to discuss the latest in the **AgTech scene**.

Agsafe agchem online training

No time for staff training? Agsafe's new webinars are the most convenient and affordable way to keep your store staff up to date with agchem safety.

More information is [here](#).



Speaker Tony Smith & Energy & Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg with Tilly the wallaby (photo courtesy of Mike Bowers of The Guardian)

[and Actions on Antibiotic Use](#) outlining the principles that we will observe to meet the challenge of antimicrobial resistance and to ensure that antibiotics are used responsibly to protect the health and welfare of our animals.

Responsible stewardship of our products will continue to be a priority. AMA will continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders to incorporate our principles of responsible and sustainable use of veterinary medicines to help deliver genuine animal health and welfare outcomes.

AMA continues to establish itself as a trusted, persuasive and effective partner. Our task for 2018 is to build on this foundation to continue to deliver valuable outcomes for our members.

I wish to thank all our members for their support and engagement throughout the year. Your willingness to engage in AMA activities, committees, working groups and consultative processes has been critical to our success this year, and I look forward to continuing that success in 2018.

Finally, I also want to recognise the wonderful AMA team. The passion, enthusiasm and professionalism demonstrated by Vanessa, Charmian and Tirzah through this year have been immensely appreciated by both me and AMA's members.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to working with you again in 2018.



At AMA's AGM on 9 November 2017, Mr Andrew Palmer, Head of Animal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim was appointed as Vice-President.

Members also appointed two new Directors to fill existing vacancies on the Board. Mr Joe Bown, Head of Sales and Marketing at Jurox, and Lyndon Constable, Country Manager Australia and New Zealand at Vetoquinol were welcomed to the Board.

President Andrew Mason congratulated Mr Palmer on his appointment as Vice-President and congratulated Mr Bown and Mr Constable on their appointments to the Board. Mr Mason thanked the Board of

The political wrap

The New England by-election result on 2 December saw [Barnaby Joyce](#) returned. His primary vote of just under 65% was up from his 52.3% primary at the last Federal election. Mr Joyce was [sworn in](#) as Deputy PM and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources on 6 December.

Victorian Senator [Bridget McKenzie](#) was voted as Deputy National Party leader on 8 December.

Queenslanders went to the polls on 25 November and Labor's incumbent Premier, [Annastacia Palaszczuk](#), was formally returned on 8 December making her the first Australian woman to be elected State Premier twice.

Australia signed a trade agreement with [Peru](#) on 10 November. A number of key agricultural commodities will gain duty-free entry to Peru including sugar, beef, rice, dairy, almonds, sheep meat and wine.

On 11 November, Trade Minister Steve Ciobo said he was confident Canada will sign up to the 11-country [free-trade agreement](#) that would give Australia access to markets worth \$1 trillion.

After having his UK citizenship confirmed, Tasmanian Liberal Senator [Stephen Parry](#) resigned from Parliament on 1 November. The Member for Bennelong, [John Alexander](#), resigned his seat on 11 November over UK dual citizenship. His Bennelong electorate is set for a by-election on 16 December and former NSW Premier, [Kristina Keneally](#), will be running for the ALP. Tasmanian Senator [Jacqui Lambie](#) resigned from Parliament on 13 November over UK dual citizenship from her father being born in Scotland. Her replacement is expected to be current Davenport Mayor [Steve Martin](#).

Former Senator Fiona Nash's replacement is expected to be retired Major-General [Jim Molan](#).

One Nation's new [Senator Fraser Anning](#) was sworn in (after taking

Directors, members and the AMA team for a successful 2017 and noted the strong foundation that has been established for further success in 2018.

Read more [here](#).



AMA Executive Director Ben Stapley & Life Member Mike van Blommestein

AMA life member Mike van Blommestein

Animal Medicines Australia President, Andrew Mason, presented Mike van Blommestein with life membership in recognition of his distinguished service to AMA and the animal health industry in Australia.

In congratulating Mr Blommestein AMA Executive Director Ben Stapley said Mike was recognised by the Board for his distinguished leadership and passion for the industry, and of the many achievements under his watch, including the growth of membership, increased political recognition, and overseeing the transition of Animal Health Alliance to Animal Medicines Australia.



Dr Chris Parker (photo courtesy Canberra Times)

Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

The APVMA has appointed Dr Chris Parker as permanent CEO.

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley, said that while Dr Parker was appointed the APVMA's interim CEO in June 2017, AMA welcomed the certainty that his permanent appointment now brings.

Malcolm Roberts' spot) on 13 November and then announced he was an "independent- until something else comes along."

In more dual citizenship fallout, SA Senator [Skye Kakosche-Moore](#) resigned on 23 November over her mother being born in Singapore when it was a British colony.

After MPs were required to table their citizenship status in Parliament's new [Citizenship Register](#) (for example, where they were born, their parents and grandparents), ACT Labor Senator [Katy Gallagher](#) was referred to the High Court as was the Victorian Labor MP for Batman [David Feeney](#).

Assistant Health Minister and Nationals MP for Lyne in NSW, [David Gillespie](#), is going to the High Court on 12 December over a financial interest in a shopping centre he owns where Australia Post is a tenant. His former ALP opponent, Peter Alley, is arguing the interest breaches the Constitution's ban on elected officials deriving any financial interest from the Commonwealth.

The ABS announced on 15 November that the [Wage Price Index](#) (WPI) rose 0.5% in the September 2017 quarter and 2.0% over the year. Commentators said it means we shouldn't see an interest rate increase in the near future.

The Government announced its [National Food Waste Strategy](#) on 20 November. The objective is to halve Australia's food waste by 2030. At the moment consumers throw away 3.1 million tonnes of edible food a year. Another 2.2 million tonnes is from the commercial and industrial sectors. The Government is asking us to rethink how food waste can be prevented and wasted food used for other purposes.

The PM Malcolm Turnbull flagged middle-income [tax cuts](#) on 21 November.

The PM announced a Royal Commission into the [banking sector](#) on 30 November.

"It is a critical time for the regulator as it seeks to reform its operations and relocate to Armidale."

Read more [here](#).



Victorian Government supports happy healthy pets

The Victorian Government has launched a [campaign](#) to inform and educate pet owners.

The campaign will promote better care for all Victorian pets by helping owners understand their pets' welfare needs – including diet, environment, behaviour and social needs.

According to more than 50,000 pet resumes with [rent.com.au](#), cats account for 32% of Victorian tenants' pets. This is consistent with AMA's [Pet Ownership in Australia](#) survey that shows cat ownership in Victoria (34%) is higher than New South Wales (25%).

For more information go [here](#).



Health for Animals

Our International partner organisation HealthforAnimals has worked with us this year to promote issues around animal health including vaccinations and the responsible use of antibiotics to help keep pets and livestock healthy.

If you want to subscribe to their eNewsletter, the link is [here](#).

An interim report by the ACCC suggested a mandatory code of conduct to help dairy farmers get a fairer deal would help them negotiate with processors. The ACCC also found that Coles' and Woolworths' move to \$1 milk had not had an impact on the price farmers get for their milk.

Newspoll of 4 December saw the Coalition gain some ground. The numbers are now ALP still in the lead with 53% compared to 47% whereas the last Newspoll was 55% and 45%.

Economic Indicators:

Underlying cash deficit: \$29.4 billion (26 Sept at \$33.2b)

Net debt: 19.5% of GDP

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) seasonally adjusted: 2.8

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) nominal: September quarter the economy grew 0.6%

Consumer Price Index (CPI): Up 0.8% in the September quarter and up 1.8% over the last 12-months (the RBA has a target of 2% to 3%)

Wage Price Index: 2% over the year

Unemployment: 5.4%

Interest rates: No change at official cash rate of 1.5%

Exchange rate: 0.75 USD



Industry news

The Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) has transitioned to Sheep Producers Australia. AMA looks forward to working with the organisation in its new format.

And congratulations to Margo Andrae on her appointment as CEO of the Cattle Council of Australia.



National Farmers Federation (NFF) National Ag and Related Industries Day

The industry came together on 21 November to celebrate the inaugural National Agriculture day.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences said the value of Aussie farm production reached a record \$63 billion in 2016/17.

Beef production was our most valuable sector at \$13.1 billion followed by wheat at \$6.2 billion. Agriculture makes up 15% of our exports with China, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Indonesia making up the top five destinations.

And, AMA used the day to remind the community of the value healthy animals contribute to farm-gate productivity.



National AgDay #agday photo competition winners

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) announced the results from the inaugural AgDay Photo Competition, with an amateur photographer from Hughenden, Queensland taking out top honours.

With more than 300 entries submitted via Twitter, Instagram and direct submissions, the first ever AgDay Photo Competition was considered a great success.

NFF President Fiona Simson said it was all about telling the industry's story.



Mars One candidate Dianne McGrath & AMA Life Member Claude Gauchat

AMA 2017 Annual Dinner

Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) held their Annual Dinner this month at a spectacular venue overlooking Sydney Harbour.

AMA members, stakeholders and special guests heard from Mars One astronaut candidate, Dianne McGrath. Ms McGrath is one of only seven Australians of the final 100 candidates seeking to be on the first trip to Mars. She spoke to attendees about the one-way journey and her selection from amongst 200,000 potential candidates for the privately funded mission.

Photos from the dinner can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).



The down under delegation (L-R): Mark Ross (Agcarm NZ), Warren Hughes (NZ Ministry for Primary Industries), Chris Parker (APVMA), Glen Bradbury (NZ Ministry for Primary Industries) & Charmian Bennett (AMA)

International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH)

AMA's Science and Technical Manager, Dr Charmian Bennett, attended the recent [VICH](#) Steering Committee Meeting and Outreach Forum in Japan.

VICH is a trilateral cooperation programme between the EU, Japan and the USA to harmonise the technical requirements for the registration of veterinary medicines. Australia is an official observer on the

"In the lead up to AgDay, we wanted to show Australia the real story of our farming community."

The photo winners can be viewed [here](#).



Antibiotics Awareness Week (13 Nov to 19 Nov)

During antibiotics awareness week AMA highlighted the need for responsible and judicious use of antibiotics to prevent antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

AMA also encouraged the Government to invest in better AMR surveillance programs with a particular focus on animals.

"Our members are working to ensure that veterinary antibiotics retain their value as a therapeutic tool to support animal health and welfare and to ensure safe and sustainable food production," AMA Executive Director Ben Stapley told Farm Online.

AMA also went onsite and visited a piggery in Young to see for ourselves how responsible use of all veterinary medicines can increase arm-gate productivity and lower input costs.

Read more [here](#).



Dog owners have lower risk of death

A new study has found that if you own a dog then you are likely to live longer.

VICH Steering Committee (along with New Zealand, Canada and South Africa). The Outreach Forum promotes the adoption of VICH guidelines in non-member countries and delegates from Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand and China attended the Forum this year.

Some of the topics discussed included antimicrobial resistance, registration requirements for vaccines, electronic standards implementation for pharmacovigilance, and bioequivalence.

Dr Bennett reported that it was extremely valuable being on the frontlines with global regulatory scientists and decision makers to support the registration of veterinary medicines based on rigorous scientific evidence and globally consistent standards.



(photo courtesy ABC)

Biosecurity is everyone's business

If you are thinking about a camping trip over the Christmas break, you may want to read this article about the importance of observing biosecurity guidelines (even on the road) to help protect our livestock [here](#).



More Australians taking out pet insurance

The Adelaide Advertiser reported more people taking out pet insurance.

Comparethemarket research found 54% of pet owners have, or would

Read more [here](#).



Australian poultry standards consultation

Public consultation for the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry is now open.

The consultation runs from Monday 27 November 2017 to 5pm Monday 26 February 2018.

Read more [here](#).



Improving agricultural export legislation

The Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 7 December to streamline the rules around the export of agricultural products.

There are currently 17 Acts and more than 40 legislative instruments dealing with the export of fish, eggs, dairy, beef meat, lamb meat, goat meat, rabbit meat, pig meat, wild game meat, emu meat, and live animals.

For more information, go [here](#).

consider, pet insurance.

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley, told the Advertiser that similar figures were reflected in the AMA's [Pet Ownership](#) survey that found 26% of households with dogs had insurance, compared to 19% of those with cats.

Read more [here](#).



Government allocates funds to help livestock industries access innovative veterinary medicines

More than \$1.7 million in grants is available through industry Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) to help livestock industries access innovative veterinary medicines.

Read more [here](#).



Some of the more unusual calls this year

The work of AMA involves representing the interests of members involved in animal health. But, sometimes the public, in their search for animal health information, call us.

Over the past 12-months, we have fielded calls about:

- How do you care for baby rats whose mother isn't around anymore?
- How do you care for a huntsman spider (from a caller that was trying to tame a huntsman to keep as a pet)?
- Do you sell Dencorub for pets?
- Do you do cat grooming? (note: one person has tried,



Chemical safety a must in summer

Agsafe is reminding agricultural and veterinary chemical store owners to conduct safety checks on their premises in preparation for fire and cyclone season.

General Manager, Alison Carmichael, said late spring and early summer is a great time for chemical handlers and users in every agricultural sector, to ensure chemical inventories were current, labels intact and storage sheds clear of combustibles.

"It's easy for drums and chemicals to mount up on farms during busy post-harvest periods and Agsafe's waste management programs are ideal for keeping them under control," Ms Carmichael said.

A 5-point checklist can be put up in the workplace as a reminder to keep people, premises and property safe this summer. Download [here](#).



(graphic courtesy of RSPCA Darwin)

Reminder to prepare pets, livestock and your home for cyclone season

The Northern Territory's Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Ken Wowles, reminds us to [prepare](#) our pets, livestock and your home for cyclone season.

And while some of us may not live in cyclone areas, the advice is still relevant and to have a plan for our animals in the event of a disaster including [bush fires](#).

- but hasn't been seen since)
- How many dogs are in every suburb in Victoria?
 - What dog food do you sell?
 - Do you sell kittens (no, but we have a tame spider we can sell you)



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Caring for llamas

Glynda Bluhm from [Alpaca Magic](#) told AMA about looking after llamas.

Llamas are the larger "cousin" of alpacas. Both alpacas & llamas are relatively easy – but "easy care" doesn't mean "no care".

They need to be wormed, vaccinated, need two Vitamin D shots over winter, toe trimmed and annually shorn. Paddock feeding is usually sufficient if the llama doesn't have to work for a living, but we love to feed our pets and they love to get treats – food as a treat just makes them want to be with us even more.

Unlike the much smaller alpaca, which has been principally bred for fleece, the much larger llama (standing around 2 metres tall and weighing somewhere between 160 – 200 kgs) has been used for thousands of years as a beast of burden – transporting goods from one place to another in Peru, Chile and Bolivia.

Naturally selective breeding has produced animals being bonded to humans. This is why these gentle giants are a great companion for humans. They can be used to pull a cart or carry a pack on a trek, not to mention as a wonderful very big "cuddle toy" and as with most animals, one of my students remarked "they are very Zen, aren't they?" I totally agree – they are wonderful for human stress reduction.

Their fleece can be spun, felted, needle felted, dyed, so you could (literally) take your llama to work with you.....as a jumper.



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