Australian Veterinary Association–
Veterinary Student's Society of Victoria

To members of the class of 2012,

I would firstly like to congratulate each of you individually on becoming participant in the Bachelor of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne. Your achievement is to be acknowledged and has been by no means an easy one, as I am sure you appreciate already. Whether you are a new undergraduate coming straight from 1st year science or a mature age student returning for post graduate education, the Bachelor of Veterinary Science is extremely challenging yet deeply rewarding, as you will all soon find out. Veterinarians play a pivotal part in today's society and over the next 4 years you will gain the knowledge, ability and the confidence to treat all creatures great and small.

Another fundamental element of the veterinary science course that greatly distinguishes us from other university courses is the small year levels. As we are such a small faculty, it enables close friendships to develop and prosper and life long friends to be made. The people that you will meet and have to work in close proximity with during lectures, dog dissections, ICU rotations, anaesthesiology, equine surgery rotations and veterinary functions (just to name a few) will not only help you become a proficient competent veterinarian but also importantly, provide a pivotal enduring support network beyond your graduation day in December 2012.

2009 is in fact a very fortunate year for you all to be enrolling into, as it is the veterinary school's centenary year. As such, there are numerous festivities and 100-year celebrations being planned which we are all looking forward to participating in.

The Australian Veterinary Association - Veterinary Students' Society of Victoria (AVA-VSSV) is your student body and is run voluntarily by a committee of final year students (Werribee), and a sub committee of second year students (Parkville). It exists to ensure that your student experience is more enjoyable and enriching. There is no doubt that Veterinary Science is one of the more difficult courses that the university has to offer but it also provides numerous outlets where fun can be had if you become involved. The VSSV provides frequent events and services to all of its members, but especially first years as it helps to orientate you with the fantastic O – week program. Some of the other activities organized by the VSSV include the barn dance, vet dinner, vet ball, river cruise, and the opportunity to become a

member of a special interest group (e.g. Smallies, Horse Appreciation Group - HAG). Apart from the social aspect, the VSSV also assists in the publication of the veterinary student newsletter Femoral Pulse, and the end of year magazine Albeitera. The VSSV also provides services through the International Veterinary Student Association as well as issuing each student with a VSSV directory, through which you can obtain contact numbers and emails of all students.

As of this year, we have put together a new membership model (see attachment below). We have standardized membership fees and made Special Interest Group (SIG) membership free to encourage involvement in the activities. Every member each year will receive an item of equipment or clothing that will be useful and especially appropriate for the year's course content (see table below). The VSSV merchandise (no additional cost) will be available to VSSV members and will contain the University of Melbourne and VSSV embroidery. Additional to this merchandise, the VSSV will offer subsidization for all of the events, whether it be Parkville BBQs or the Vet Dinner. This is only a small glimpse of what the VSSV offers to make your university life a memorable one, and I do hope you consider a membership.

Finally, I would like to congratulate you all again on taking the first steps of a fantastic career and profession and encourage you to become involved with university life, whether it be via the VSSV or through Kendall Hall when you come to Werribee in the next couple of years. I know the veterinary course can be academically challenging for all, and rather confronting at times, but I am sure that between these moments you will be living a long held dream and have the time of your life.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your Parkville committee or myself and I do look forward to meeting all of you soon.

Regards,

Ben Kaye
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AVA-VSSV Membership 2009:

Year Level & Membership Fee:	What Membership Includes:
1st Year - $145	• O – Week ($60 - $80) • Overalls with Embroidery ($55 - $65) • Subsidization to all AVA – VSSV events o (average $20 – $30 per event)

2nd Year - $145	• Scrubs – 2 pairs, choice of colour, inclusive and embroidery
	  o (> $110)
	• Subsidization to all AVA – VSSV events
	  o (average $20 – $30 per event)

3rd Year - $145	• AVA VSSV Vest ($40 - $50) • AVA VSSV Rugby Jumper ($50 - $60) • Subsidization to all AVA – VSSV events o (average $20 – $30 per event)
4th Year - $145	• End of year gift • Subsidization to all AVA – VSSV events o (average $20 – $30 per event)

AVA-VSSV
Membership Information Sheet

What is Voluntary Student Unionism?

The federal government has introduced voluntary student unionism (VSU) legislation which means that:

- NO student will be forced to become a member of a student union (as they have in the past)
- NO student will be forced to pay compulsory non-academic fees

This means that *you will no longer have to pay the $400 Amenities and Services (A&S) Fee* at the beginning of the year.

Why do I have to pay to become a member of the AVA-VSSV?

In the past, the AVA-VSSV has received a portion of the money that you paid to the University in A&S Fees. As of 2007 however, this A&S Fee will no longer exist and so the AVA-VSSV will not receive any money from the University. Consequently, we lose our biggest source of income and in order to survive we need to charge students a fee to become members of the AVA-VSSV.

How much does it cost to become a member of the AVA-VSSV?

In 2009, AVA-VSSV membership will cost $145.

When is this payment due?

By the beginning of O-week 2009.
Late payment penalties apply.

What are the benefits of becoming a member of the AVA-VSSV?

The benefits of membership are numerous and are summarized below. Basically, members will be entitled to access events and services in the same way as you have in the past. Non-members will have to pay *at least* 50% more to attend every social event and will have to pay to use AVA-VSSV services or in some instances (e.g. Special Interest Group membership) will be prohibited from accessing a AVA-VSSV service altogether. Partners of AVA-VSSV members will be able to purchase tickets to social events at member prices. Partners of non-members will have to pay non-member prices when purchasing tickets.

Social and Education Events:

Event	***AVA-VSSV member***	***AVA-VSSV member family and friends****	***Non-AVA-VSSV member***	***Non-AVA-VSSV member family and friends****
The Friday Thing	$0	$5 for food, drinks, etc	$10 for food, drinks, etc	As for non-members.
Barn Dance	$5	Unlimited pay member price.	$25	As for non-members.
Vet Ball	Approx. $65	Up to 1 pay member price. Any additional pay non-member price.	Approx. $105	As for non-members.
Vet Dinner	Approx. $65	Up to 1 pay member price. Any additional pay non-member price.	Approx. $105	As for non-members
River Cruise	Approx $40	Unlimited pay member price.	Approx. $60	As for non-members

Special Interest Group Events

– Cattle Dinner	TBA	Up to 1 pay member price. Any additional pay non-member price.	TBA - At least 50% more than member price.	As for non-members
– B&S Ball	TBA	Up to 1 pay member price. Any additional pay non-member price.	TBA - At least 50% more than member price.	As for non-members
– Smallies Animal Emergency Centre tour	TBA	TBA	TBA - At least 50% more than member price	As for non-members
– Smallies Southern Animal Referral Centre tour	TBA	TBA	TBA - At least 50% more than member price	As for non-members
– Smallies Annual Speakers night	TBA	TBA	TBA - At least 50% more than member price	As for non-members
Trivia Night	Free	Unlimited pay member price.	$15	As for non-members

Services:

Service	***AVA-VSSV Member***	***Non-AVA-VSSV Member***
Student Directory	Free	$10
Femoral Pulse (email)	Free	Free
Albeitera (year book)	Free	Approx. $25
Conference Fund	Available	Will not have access to this service
SIG membership	Free	Will not have access to this service
Merchandise through VSSV (e.g. vests, jumpers, rugby tops)	Cost price / Discounted price	At least 50% more than non-members
Veterinary supplies through AVA-VSSV (eg. stethoscopes, anatomy posters, scrubs, overalls)	Cost price / Discounted price	Will not have access to this service or will have to pay at least 50% more than non-members
Kendall Hall Sport	Available	Can only participate if not enough people to fill the field
IVSA	Automatic membership (if international student)	Will not have access to this service

How do I become a member of the AVA-VSSV?

Fill out the attached form, select your preferred method of payment and make sure the AVA-VSSV receives it by the beginning of O-week 2009. Members will receive a membership package including a membership card at the beginning