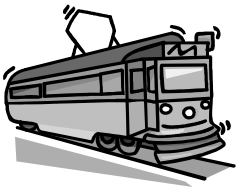
A FIRST-YEAR'S GUIDE TO

LIFE AS A VET STUDENT

THE PARKVILLE CAMPUS

As you probably know by now, the vet science faculty at Melbourne Uni consists of two separate campuses. For the next two years, your classes will be based at the Preclinical Centre in Parkville. The route 59 tram runs along Elizabeth Street and stops just outside the vet school on Flemington Road. You can also catch the route 19 or 57 trams, get off at Grattan Street and walk down past the *Royal Melbourne Hospital.* The route 55 tram also stops in front of the vet science campus. This tram runs along William Street via the Victoria Market to Flagstaff station.

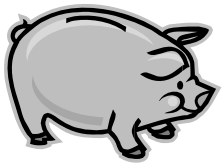


If you're planning on riding to uni, there are two bike sheds in the vet precinct (one just near the main entrance, the other halfway up the slope to the VRI). See Tammie in the library for a copy of the bike shed key.

The main Melbourne Uni campus is only a 5-10 minute walk away, so you'll still be able to head back to meet up with non-vet friends and use the university facilities… although after a few weeks, most people decide the commute is too far. With our own common room, kitchen, table tennis and pool tables, basketball courts and courtyard – what more could you want?

BANKS AND ATMs

The nearest ATM is a Commonwealth Bank ATM, located in the foyer of the *Royal Melbourne Hospital.* On main campus, the Commonwealth Bank is on the ground floor of the Architecture Building and the National Australia Bank is in the Old Botany Building. Both NAB and ANZ ATMs can be found on the ground floor of Union House.



FOOD

If you bring your own food to school, as many vet students do, the vet science kitchen is equipped facilities (four microwaves, hot water dispenser, a toaster, a fridge and the ever popular sandwich toaster) to suit your culinary needs. The AVA-VSSV also supplies the kitchen with tea, coffee, milk and sugar, which is free of charge to all students.

If you would like to buy food, *Avist Café* across the road is a great source for coffee and chips. There is a McDonalds at the Royal Children's Hospital down the road and in the opposite direction; the Royal Women's Hospital food court boasts a wide variety of food. If this is still not enough, Union House back on main campus may have what you're looking for.

More food may be found in the kiosk. The kiosk is a popular facility located in the common room that is run by the AVA-VSSV. It is mainly a collection of snacks, instant noodles and cold drinks. It is opened during breaks by committee members and a first year kiosk representative will be elected early in the year.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER SUPPLIES

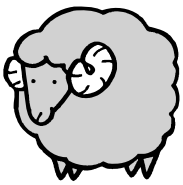
After taking a look at the extensive first-year 'recommended reading' list, most people become quite concerned at their finances… Don't worry! All the books you'll ever need can be found in the vet science library (where you'll spend a fair amount of time over the coming year). *Saunders Comprehensive Veterinary Dictionary* is a useful purchase, but copies

are also available in the library.
Visit www.bookshop.unimelb.edu.au for a list of items available. Your lecturers will let you know what other supplies you should have. For most pracs, you'll need a lab coat (available from the uni bookshop and Bullwinkle's) and dissection kit. For animal handling classes, overalls are an absolute must. Overalls are included in first year AVA-VSSV membership. The AVA-VSSV also runs bulk orders for other items, such as stethoscopes and boots which are only available to members at a discounted price.

WERRIBEE CAMPUS

The third and fourth years of the course are spent at the Clinical Centre in Werribee. This year you'll head down to Werribee for several animal-handling prac classes (herding cattle, catching birds, flipping sheep…)

Transport is not organised by the faculty, but the campus is only a 5-10 minute walk from Hoppers Crossing Station. The train takes about 40-50 minutes from the city and you can catch a Werribee-bound train from the city. Car-pooling is another option. Coming from the city, take the second Hoppers Crossing exit on the freeway and the vet school is on the Princes Highway (just past the Werribee hospital, on the left).

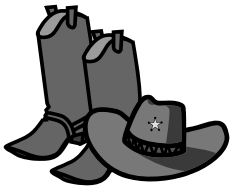


SOCIAL EVENTS

With about 25 contact hours per week and six end-of-semester exams (don't complain: second-years have ten!), you'll definitely need some form of social life… so why not spend even more time with the people you see every day in classes?

"Friday Things" are held twice a semester in the vet courtyard after classes. These themed BBQs include games and competitions, and are popular with both first- and second-year students (and lecturers…)

The annual Barn Dance is a long-standing tradition in the vet faculty, highly-anticipated by students from all four years of the course. Don't be afraid to dress for the occasion!



Other social events held throughout the year include the Vet Ball, Vet Dinner, River Cruise. and End-of-Exams functions.

THE AVA- VSSV COMMITTEE

Just in case we haven't completely saturated you with information about the *Australian Veterinary Association - Veterinary Students' Society of Victoria*… it's definitely worthwhile becoming a member. Starting with the popular orientation program, the AVA-VSSV has a huge role in the academic and social life of any vet student. There are two committees of elected student reps: one based in Parkville and one in Werribee. Feel free to contact us for any questions or queries that you may have (see below) Early in first semester, we'll be looking for two first year representatives to join the committee.

The AVA-VSSV Parkville Committee 2009

		Email
President	Katherine Adams	katherineada63@hotmail.com
Secretary	Vincent Leung	v.leung3@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au
Treasurer	Riian Lee	zhanhonglee@hotmail.com
Education officer/ Sports rep	Ash Phipps	a.phipps@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

Fundraising Officer	April Mathur	amathur@student.unimelb.edu.au
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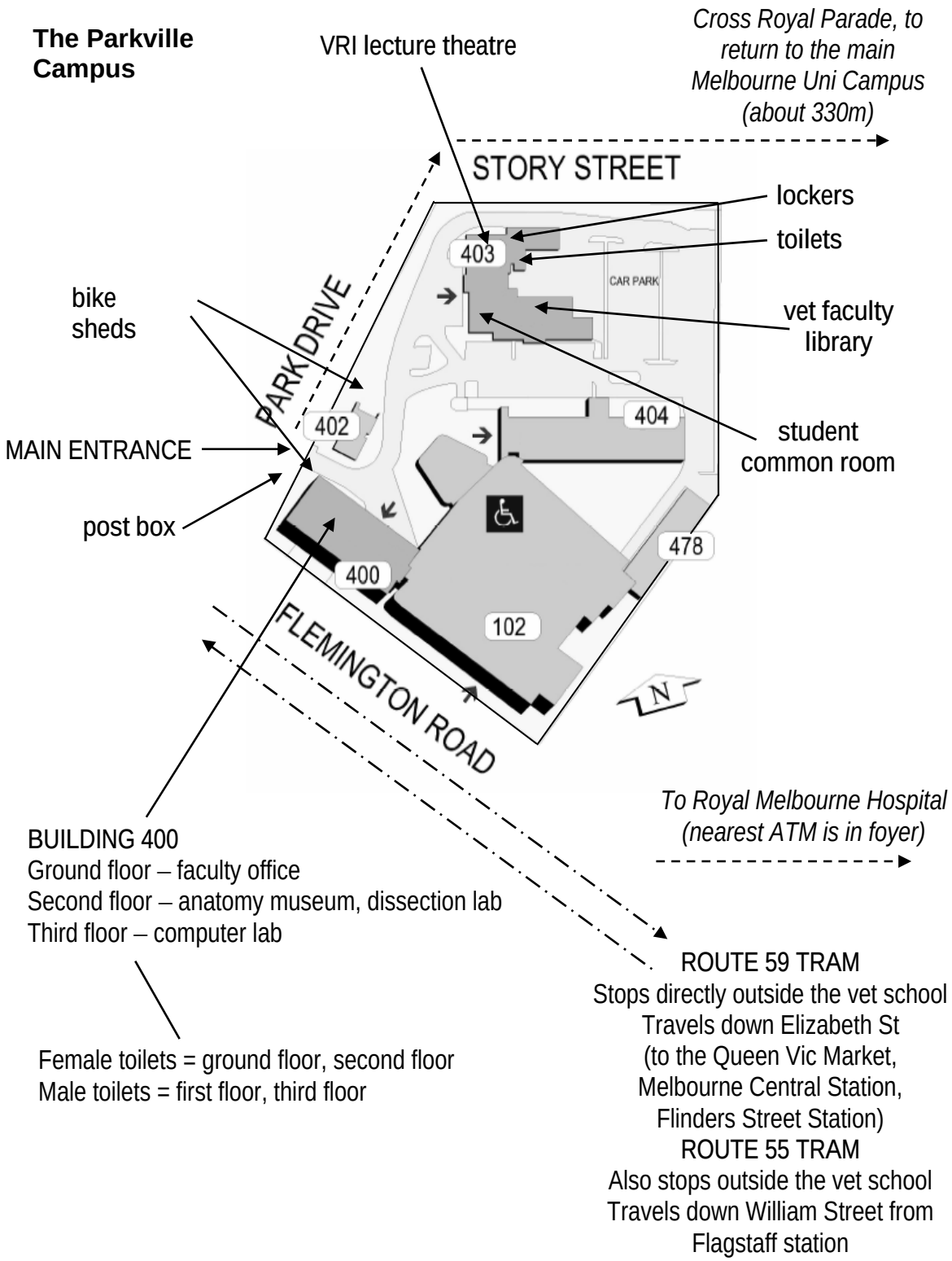
AVA Rep	Lisa Di Vitto	l.divitto@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au
Second year rep	Gong Yue	yue.moonbeam@gmail.com
	Cristina Rosales	crosales@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

The Parkville Campus



BUILDING 400
Ground floor – faculty office
Second floor – anatomy museum, dissection lab
Third floor – computer lab

Female toilets = ground floor, second floor
Male toilets = first floor, third floor

ROUTE 59 TRAM
Stops directly outside the vet school
Travels down Elizabeth St
(to the Queen Vic Market,
Melbourne Central Station,
Flinders Street Station)
ROUTE 55 TRAM
Also stops outside the vet school
Travels down William Street from
Flagstaff station