

NOSE 2 TAIL

MUVSA News



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I can't believe how fast the year has flown by! New first years running around already is making me feel older yet again (no snide comments about my age and balding please!).

Over the last couple weeks, we have welcomed in the new first years with the most impressive turn out to our MUVSA Welcome BBQ and vet hospital tours. From there, the MUVSA team had an amazing time with the new 1st year BVSc and BVT students at VetStart with the Karaoke night, that went late into the evening. They were then well dressed and partied into the early hours at the Mentor-Mentee happy hour, and properly welcomed with some traditional skull shots at the 1st Year-2nd Year party. The BVT guys and gals had their 100 days to go (with a few hangovers to follow), and the 3rd year BVSc students just had half-way day with an epic foyer trashing. To top it all off was the Vet Ball with an amazing Winter Wonderland theme put together by the 4th years, complete with a dance number and Drax Project as the private band; a night to be remembered by all.

Now all of the 2nd and 4th years are away on calving, and enjoying it for the most part (despite the weather). There have been some exciting stories of conjoined calves, double headed calves, twisted uteri, scouring calves and goat kids too! So much fun, and so much to look forward to. I think the majority of the 4th years are feeling the itch to get out of the classroom, and are hanging out to finish lectures in only a couple of months time.

A few things that I would just like to make mention of:

1. The MUVSA Collaborative Community Service project planning is well underway. Hopefully by now your class reps have spoken to you all about the project. Remember that your bids for your top 2 stations need to be in to me by the 19th Aug. This Family Fun Day should be a great one with face painting for kids, adoption tables and a bandaging station. The whole idea is to get out into the community, give a little back, and provide some basic foundation education around owning pets.
2. Not sure if you are aware, but every year there are awards for top students for specific papers. I have added in a list of all of these and the criteria used on the MUVSA website, so go and check out the 'Awards and Scholarships' section of the page.

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Julie Bates & Laura Graham had a wild mid-year break at Safari4U in South Africa.

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Recent graduate Chelsea Dillon recounts her experience volunteering on Anchor Island.

3. Just a reminder that we need to be looking after the Student Foyer, and more importantly the kitchenette. If you make a mess, clean it up, simple as that. Cover your food put in the microwave, pour all liquids into the blue bin on the counter (not the rubbish bins), label and date your food as anything not labelled, or older than that week will be thrown out (containers and all). Pick up after yourselves in the foyer, and please avoid putting your feet up on the tables as we don't want whatever you have tracked in from farms or labs to end up in our sandwiches.
4. Recording of lectures is not a right, it is a privilege and needs to be verified by the lecturer if they are happy to be recorded. Recording lectures without permission is a copyright, and Codes of Ethical Conduct infringement. If a lecturer says no they do not want to be recorded we need to respect this, and bullying of staff into allowing recordings will not be tolerated. A **'Do Not Record'** list will be circulated after staff have come back to me with who is not willing to be recorded. If you have any questions, please speak to your class reps, myself, or Jenny Weston.

Feel free to get in touch with me, your class reps, or Marc (VP) for anything that you might need to have a chat about.

Happy Studies!

- Corey



The difficulty with writing about VetStart is that "what happens at VetStart stays at VetStart". However, I doubt anyone will be upset about me saying that it was a lot of fun! There were wonderful sessions on skills that we will need to be successful vet students and veterinarians. We had the pleasure of watching the MUVSA team introduce our karaoke night with good tunes and high standards of musicality, which turned out to be one of the highlights of camp. Most importantly, we met fellow class-y students in a friendly environment which helped to break the ice and the competitive attitude of pre-vets. If we as a class can take anything away from the camp, it would be rule #6 which shouldn't stay at VetStart.

What am I most excited for about vet school? Clinical rotations, surgery, pathology, imaging, and even anatomy. It is all very exciting (and overwhelming) for us unknowing first years. Receiving our bone boxes and trying to identify bones was intriguing. Starting dissection on our cadavers in vet structure and function seemed overwhelming at first, but we were quickly enthralled by all the components which make a dog able to move its limbs. Additionally, I believe that the animal handling practicals will be highlights of the semester.

As a city-dweller, I have not had the blessing of much large animal handling experience prior to coming to Massey. Learning how to safely handle cattle, sheep, and horses is a fascinating challenge that I am looking forward to. Plus, we get to handle (play with) cats! How can one not love cats?

On a non-academic side of vet school, the skull cup, happy hours, vet balls, half-way day and the third year calendar are all things that we can eagerly look forward to. With all the clubs and societies that we can join, it will be a wonder if we get any study done at all! At least many good memories will be created, I can't wait!

- Faith Stevenson

Halfway Day 2016!

On the 29th July it was time for this year's BVSc III class to partake in one of the vet school's fantastic traditions – halfway day. 5.30am, and everyone was excitedly waiting outside the Fitz to the board the buses that would take us to Taupo, and an activity-packed day to celebrate reaching the halfway point of our vet degree. Some were going white water rafting, some were going for a spa day and some were going ski diving!

As it turned out, the weather was unfortunately not on our side, and ski diving had to be cancelled. Some elected to join the white water rafting instead, whilst the others spent a day exploring Taupo.



involved having your back scrubbed, rubbed and wrapped in plastic for a whole hour. The entire experience was completely decadent, and just what everyone was after to celebrate such a milestone.

The day was finished with a delicious buffet dinner, before it was time to head back to reality, and the Vet Ball, the next morning.

- Rachel & Olivia

White water rafting was a ton of fun, an awesome mix of excitement, teamwork, laughter, and a perfectly timed 'hot Milo and chocolate fish' stop. Paddling down the picturesque Tongariro River felt like a world away from Palmy! To top it off, we warmed up afterwards with a soak in thermal hot pools and a cup of hot soup.

Meanwhile, those who choose to go to the spa had the choice between outside hot pools, spa pools and even private indoor pools to soak in while we waited for our treatments. The revival back treatment

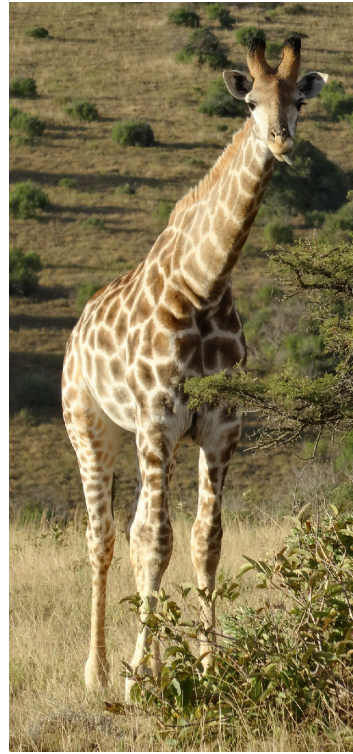


South African Wildlife Experience

During the recent holidays we went on an amazing 2-week volunteer trip with Safari4u in South Africa. We helped out not only with domestic village animals, but with some of their incredible wildlife. The first week was spent in the villages surrounding Coffee Bay on the Eastern Cape, dipping and worming the (vast) local dog population, and treating horses for ticks and various general ailments.



It was so humbling to see first-hand the state of some of these animals, and be able to make a difference in a community where vet care is virtually unheard of. Back in Cintsa we had the opportunity to visit a snake park – helping to treat a mouth abscess in a Rattlesnake,



which was a bit of a change from New Zealand! We were then lucky enough to spend the weekend at the local game reserve, Inkwenkwezi, where we saw lions, giraffes, zebras and a whole host of other native species.

The following week was more action packed, including antelope game captures both from helicopters and vehicles. From the helicopters, we caught Nyala and Waterbuck for transport to a new reserve, and from the cars we caught Blesbok. It was incredible to work so close up with these wild animals and it gave us plenty of hands on experience, including injecting and handling. Between captures we visited a few local farms, including a dairy farm and a pig & beef farm, where we were able to A.I. pigs and carry out cow pregnancy detection. Finally, we rounded off a wonderful trip with a horse ride along the coast in Cintsa.

- Julie Bates & Laura Graham



Kakapo Recovery Programme

I had the amazing opportunity to volunteer with the most unique parrot in the world: the kakapo. It's difficult to put this once-in-a-lifetime experience into words, but I'll do my best.

With only 157 individuals, the kakapo population is intensively managed by the Kakapo Recovery Programme and DOC. All kakapo live on predator-free islands, and I was lucky enough to travel to a place few people get to see. In the far South-West corner of Fiordland, I was flown with the team by helicopter to Anchor Island. As we emerged from the clouds, I was immediately taken aback by the beauty of the lush native forests. As beautiful as it was in the daylight, when darkness fell, our work began.

For 2 weeks, I spent most nights hiking in the dark, rain pouring down, along very steep and muddy tracks in order to reach various nesting and feeding sites of the kakapo. Despite the challenges, I had the incredible opportunity to work with kakapo in their native habitat. Having the chance to be part of such an extraordinary programme inspired me to continue my journey in becoming a wildlife vet and I wouldn't have traded it for anything.

Kakapo Recovery is still in need of volunteers on Anchor Island this year. Visit **kakaporecovery.org.nz** for info and feel free to email me any questions at **dillon.chelsea@gmail.com**

- Chelsea Dillon, BVSc Class of 2015

