

Vets for Climate Action



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Vets for Climate Action acknowledges our First Nations Peoples, the traditional custodians who have cared for the country upon which we work and meet; its land, oceans and rivers, its trees and wildlife, for over 60 000 years. Our First Nations Peoples have long understood that healthy people, animals and country are deeply interconnected. This is reflected in the veterinary concept of One Health, an important tenet of our work at Vets for Climate Action.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Vets for Climate Action recognises the generosity of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its invitation from First Nations People to all Australians to walk together to build a better future.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that this land was never ceded.

Photo by Stefany Goldring , Gundungurra and Dharug Country

ABOUT VETS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is hurting the animals we love and care for. Vets for Climate Action represents concerned veterinarians, veterinary nurses, practices and industry partners across Australia who want immediate action on climate. We are mobilising the veterinary profession and broader animal care community to tackle climate change within and beyond our sector. We are educating the profession and Australian community about the impact of climate change on the animals. We are reducing the sector's greenhouse gas emissions through our Climate Care Programs. We are collaborating with like-minded, values-aligned organisations - because we cannot do this alone. And, we are advocating to government to drive policy change on behalf of all animals.

VISION

Our vision is of a world where animals and people thrive in a healthy climate.

PURPOSE

To lead those who love, care for and work with animals to act urgently on climate change.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

EDUCATION

We will ensure all vet professionals understand the impact of climate change on companion animals, livestock and wildlife, and support them with training, tools and strategies to act urgently on behalf of animals.

SUSTAINABILITY

We will mobilise our world-first online Climate Care Programs to assist Australian & NZ veterinary practices to provide more sustainable veterinary care, reduce emissions and move towards Zero

ADVOCACY

We will collaborate with like-minded organisations, and use the veterinary profession's influential voice to advocate for urgent action, strong leadership and strong policies to mitigate the impact of climate change on the animals we love and care for.



Founder, Dr Jeannet Kessels
with Dr Isao Kurauchi, WVA
President-Elect & Dr Rafael
Laguens, WVA Immediate
Past President

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Mr Malcolm Lazenby Chair

As I write this message reflecting on the 2024-25 year, our particular emphasis was stability, which was only possible through our Team's passion and commitment.

For any organisation working toward ambitious goals, there comes a time when you need to pause, take stock, and build the foundations that will support sustainable growth. This year, that's exactly what Vets for Climate Action has done—and I couldn't be prouder of how our team, volunteers, and supporters have risen to that challenge.

Building Strong Foundations

When I think about organisational stability, I think about people. This year, we've been fortunate to strengthen our small but mighty team. Steff Goldring continues to lead us with vision and determination as CEO, supported by Clare Drhlik as our Events, Programs & Partnerships Manager, and Dr Caitlin Wood driving the Sustainable Equine Futures program forward. While Dr Elise Anderson has been on sabbatical from her Rural & Regional role, we've been able to secure three years of funding from the Sunshine Foundation to support veterinary voices in regional areas—ensuring this vital work continues.

Running an organisation of our size requires more than paid staff, though. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of VfCA, and this year we welcomed eight new volunteers across communications, partnerships, and program delivery. The commitment of people like Dr Jeremy Watson, who chairs our Climate Care Program Advisory Committee, and Jim Mollison, who supports both the CCP and serves as Treasurer, alongside Dr Catherine Chicken chairing the Sustainable Equine Futures Program—these people give their time and expertise because they believe in what we're doing. That kind of dedication is humbling and energizing in equal measure.

Financial Resilience

Let me be honest: financial sustainability is an ongoing challenge for organisations like ours. This year, we've worked hard to diversify our income streams and build resilience. The support we've received from our community has been crucial.

Our donors have stepped up in meaningful ways to support us through this last year. Our new Membership Program has had a promising start and planted 200 trees—a testament to our community's willingness to invest in this work.

Corporate partnerships are growing too. Additional clinics have joined our bespoke Climate Care Program pathway, and we're in discussions with other major groups. Pangolin Associations has again provided our updated Carbon Calculator pro-bono as part of their 1% for the Planet contribution. These partnerships don't just provide financial support—they signal that the veterinary industry is taking sustainability seriously.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

cont'd

The Sunshine Foundation's multi-year grant for our Rural & Regional Program represents exactly the kind of stable, ongoing funding that allows us to plan ahead with confidence rather than constantly firefighting.

Keeping the Lights On, Looking Ahead

Organisational stability isn't glamorous. It's about payroll, systems, governance, and making sure we have the resources to do what we promise. It's about building programs that can scale sustainably rather than burning out our people or overextending our capacity.

This year, we've done that work. We've refined our Climate Care Program to make it more accessible and financially sustainable, with stand-alone modules that allow clinics to engage at their own pace. We've launched into New Zealand with proper support and planning. We've built the Sustainable Equine Futures program with pilot clinics and a roadmap for growth. This has only been possible due to the significant support of the Illawong Fund for our whole Equine Program. We've strengthened our social media presence and grown our database steadily and organically.

These might sound like small wins, but they're the building blocks of an organisation that will be here for the long haul—and given the urgency of climate change, we need to be in this for the long haul.

Gratitude and Looking Forward

None of this would be possible without our donors, sponsors, members, and every person who believes that veterinary professionals can lead on climate action.

You've helped us achieve stability in uncertain times. You've allowed us to support our staff properly, engage volunteers meaningfully, and build programs that make a real difference.

To our volunteers who give their time so generously—often on top of demanding clinical work—thank you. You inspire me constantly.

To our donors and sponsors, whether you give \$50 or \$50,000—thank you. Every contribution helps us keep our doors open, run our programs, and drive the impact we all desire.

To our staff who work with limited resources but unlimited commitment—thank you. Your professionalism and passion make this organisation what it is.

And to every veterinary professional engaging with climate action, whether through our programs or in your own practice—thank you. You're proving that sustainability and excellent veterinary care go hand in hand.

Stability might not sound exciting, but it's what allows us to keep showing up, keep innovating, and keep building toward the sustainable future veterinary practice needs. I'm confident that the foundations we've built this year will support even greater impact in the years ahead.



Malcolm Lazenby

Chair of the Board

Vets for Climate Action

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chair
Malcolm Lazenby



Director
Dr Helen Scott-Orr
AM PSM



Director & Founder
Dr Jeannet Kessels



Director
Dr Catherine Harper

WITH THANKS TO...



Treasurer
Jim Mollison



Assistant CoSec
Dr Michael Banyard AOM



**Chair, Climate Care Program
Advisory Committee**
Dr Jeremy Watson



**Chair, Sustainable Equine
Futures Advisory Committee**
Dr Catherine Chicken

STAFF



CEO
Company Secretary
Stefany Goldring



**Events, Programs
& Partnerships Manager**
Clare Drhlik



Program Development Manager
Sustainable Equine Futures
Dr Caitlin Wood



**Rural & Regional
Lead**
Dr Elise Anderson



Patron
Nobel Laureate
Professor Peter
Doherty, AC FRS FMedSci



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Steff Goldring

As I reflect on the year, I'm struck by both the importance of our mission and the remarkable progress we've achieved together.

This year has been defined by escalating climate impacts on the animals we care for. Record ocean temperatures triggered widespread coral bleaching from Queensland to Western Australia. Algal blooms devastated South Australia's marine life. The National Climate Risk Assessment confirms these risks are "cascading, compounding and concurrent"—affecting every species in our care.

Yet amid these challenges, our profession is responding with extraordinary leadership, rising together to reduce the impacts of the changing climate on our animals: locally and globally.

Guided by our Strategic Goals, Vets for Climate Action has worked tirelessly.

To **advocate**, we mobilised veterinary voices like never before. Our **Veterinary Voices to Parliament** event brought the profession's climate concerns directly to decision-makers, while submissions to inquiries and letters to Ministers amplified our call for stronger environmental protections. With the Federal Government announcing the overhaul of Australia's nature laws—the EPBC Act—we fought to strengthen Australia's national environment law to properly protect the animals that depend on healthy ecosystems.

To **educate**, we delivered 27 presentations and masterclasses, reaching hundreds of veterinary professionals nationally and internationally. We attended 12 major industry events from Sydney to Washington DC, sharing evidence-based climate information that creates ripple effects throughout our sector. And we continue to develop resources and front media to reach wider audiences.

As Australia's natural disasters worsen, 'vets carry on, even while their own clinics are under water' 

L-R VfCA Team:
Clare Drhlik, Dr Jeremy
Watson, Dr Caitlin
Wood and Steff
Goldring at Vet Expo

Annual Report

Vets for Climate Action

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

cont'd

To drive **sustainability**, the Climate Care Programme launched in Aotearoa New Zealand, while our Sustainable Equine Futures program visited clinics nationwide and is now being piloted by leading equine practices. Over 50 Climate Care Champions have implemented sustainability strategies, proving that climate care truly is animal care. And, importantly, we established the World Veterinary Environmental Alliance, uniting veterinary organisations globally around:

Climate / Sustainability / Biodiversity

We also invigorated our Membership Program, welcoming new and renewing members, whose support allowed us to plant 200 native trees with Greenfleet, creating vital habitat for wildlife. I invite you to join this growing community helping shape our future direction.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we'll revisit our strategic plan and engage members in this important process. Advocacy remains critical—we'll continue pushing for strong policy at every level that properly protect animals from climate harm. We hope to expand our team to drive Climate Care Program growth and business development.

And we'll be at all major veterinary events: look for us at the AVA and VNCA Conferences in Brisbane, and NZVA Conference in Auckland and others...



Come by, say Hi, and play Carbon Chess!



I'm profoundly grateful to our Board: Malcolm, Jeannet, Helen and Catherine, and Advisors; Jim and Michael, for their steady guidance and commitment. As I am to our volunteer Advisory Committees and their Chairs: Dr Jeremy Watson and Dr Catherine Chicken. And all our spokes, speakers, authors, event volunteers and general legends. I acknowledge that all these wonderful people gift their time and expertise while juggling businesses, families, and all that life brings.

My heartfelt thanks to our passionate, experienced and dedicated team for all they do. Clare, Caitlin and Elise create real impact by maximizing every resource, clever collaboration and careful innovation.

And to you: our donors, members, partners and supporters whose support makes this work possible.

Together, we're building the sustainable veterinary profession our animals need.

On behalf of the animals we love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steff'.

Stefany Goldring

Chief Executive Officer
Company Secretary

TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS, DONORS & MEMBERS

We are deeply grateful for the partnerships, gifts and contributions that have made this year of foundational growth possible.

Your support has enabled us to strengthen our team and expand our reach.

The Illawong Fund's significant support has been instrumental in launching and developing our **Sustainable Equine Futures** program.

The Sunshine Foundation's three-year commitment to our **Rural & Regional Program** provides the stability we need to amplify veterinary voices in regional communities.

We're also grateful to Julie and Mark Mills from the Coniston Charitable Trust, Ripple Analytics and Goodles Australia for their seed funding that enabled the establishment of the **World Veterinary Environmental Alliance**, expanding our mission globally.

Our **Climate Care Program** continues to grow thanks to sustainably-minded clinics and practices, and corporate partners embracing climate action: BOVA Aus, Lyka and Zoetis, and CVS.

Pangolin Associations' ongoing pro-bono provision of our updated Australian Carbon Calculator, as part of their 1% for the Planet contribution, exemplifies the collaborative spirit driving real change in our profession. As does Vet Salus and Vet Sustain's permission to include their Veterinary Carbon Calculator for NZ in the CCP.

We must also acknowledge the in-kind support of Spinifex Communications, the Australian Veterinary Association, Vet Nurses Council of Australia, Evoke Projects, ELA, Vet Expo, ANZCVS, Vet Answers and others who are deeply appreciated but who remain nameless.

To our donors—your contributions, whether \$5 monthly or \$5,000, have sustained our operations and enabled us to refine our programs, expand into New Zealand, and build systems that will support our work.

And our members, who help shape our future direction and embraced our new Membership program: we have planted 200 native trees, with thanks to Greenfleet matching our contributions, in legally protected forests, creating vital habitat for wildlife and supporting the animals we care about

Thank you one and all for believing in this work and investing in our future.

You're paw-some!

OUR PROUD SILVER PARTNERS



OUR PROUD BRONZE PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR OTHER PARTNERS



TO OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

The achievements of Vets for Climate Action in 2025 would not have been possible without the extraordinary dedication and commitment of our volunteer community. This year, we welcomed a number of new volunteers, including international contributors, who joined our passionate team.

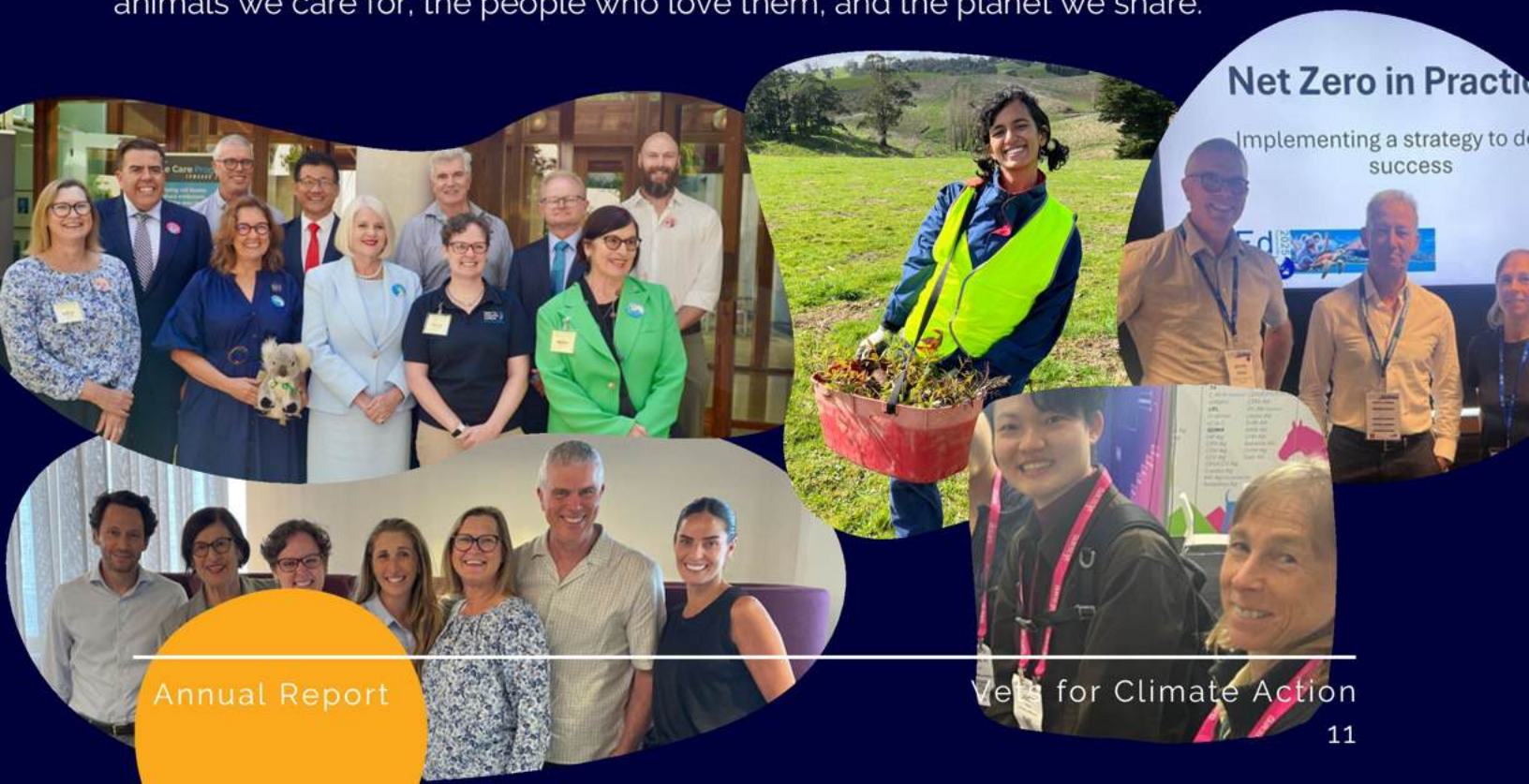
Our volunteers have been instrumental in every aspect of our work—from governance on our Board, to strategy, guidance and industry expertise on our Climate Care Program and Equine Advisory Committees, to presenting and representing Vets for Climate Action at major industry events including VNCA, AVA, and the standout success of Vet Expo.

The creativity and energy of our volunteers brought ZerOctober 2025 to life, helping achieve growing clinic participation and making the Zero Heroes Celebration Night a memorable showcase of veterinary sustainability leadership.

From behind-the-scenes program development to frontline advocacy at Veterinary Voices to Parliament, our volunteers embody the compassion, collaboration, and commitment that defines VfCA. Their contributions have strengthened partnerships with organisations across Australia, New Zealand, and globally, and expanded our reach through media engagement, and inspired countless veterinary professionals to take climate action.

To every volunteer who has given their time, expertise, and passion to this movement—thank you.

You are building a more sustainable veterinary profession and a safer world for the animals we care for, the people who love them, and the planet we share.



CLIMATE CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Dr Jeremy Watson
Chair, Veterinarian,
Brimbank Vet Clinic VIC



Dr Marian Morin
Veterinarian, VIC



Louisa Farthing
Leadership & Development
Specialist, Vet Nurse, NSW



Alexandra Wallace
B.BioCons
Vet Nurse



Dr Annaliese Johnson
Veterinarian, QLD



Terry George
Advanced Senior Lecturer,
Veterinary Nursing,
TAFE WA



Dr Zali Brookes
Conservation Vet,
LLB (Hons)
Wildlife Health Australia

SUSTAINABLE EQUINE FUTURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Dr Catherine Chicken
Equine Advisory Committee Chair
Equine Veterinary Specialist



Dr Neil Walton
Veterinary Anaesthesiologist



Dr Finola McConaghy
Technical Service & Product
Manager, CEVA



Dr Sarah Van Dyke
Animal Health Specialist,
UN Food and Agriculture Org



Diane O'Connell
Program Manager,
Canter for Climate
Environmental Manager



Dr Edward Annand
Equine Veterinarian &
Epidemiologist



Dr Peter Curl
Regulatory Veterinarian,
Racing

12

National & International Veterinary and industry events attended

> In 2025 we actively participated in 12 key industry events, from the Northern Beaches of NSW to Washington DC in the USA! These included Vet Ed Down Under, the VNCA conference, Vet Expo, Science Week, AVA National Conference, the WVA General Assembly, and the Veterinary Green Discussion Forum. These involved staffing stands and presenting to those attending. Attending these important events provides the opportunity to talk directly with and engage thousands of members of the profession here and abroad: to share our mission, promote our Climate Care Program and collaborate on issues impacting animal health.

27

Presentations for our profession

> This year we have hosted 7 free, online Masterclasses and delivered (at least!) 20 presentations, in person and online, to the veterinary community, both nationally and internationally. As a result, we have reached hundreds of veterinary professionals on sustainability and climate issues through a diverse range of topics including Measuring Impact in Veterinary Settings, Net Zero in Practice, Sustainable Equine Futures, and Introducing CCP into Practice.

150+

Members of Parliament reached

> Following the Veterinary Voices to Parliament event in March 2025, VfCA's Policy Priorities document reached 150 MPs across all parties on the eve of the federal election. This strategic timing positioned animal welfare and climate action raised veterinarians trusted voices on climate policy and shared science-based evidence of the impacts of climate change on animal health and welfare.



200

Native Trees Planted

> Through our partnership with Greenfleet and the generous support of our members, VfCA planted 200 native trees in 2025. These trees sequester carbon, restore vital habitat for Australian wildlife, and support biodiversity recovery. Each tree represents our members' commitment to practical climate action, creating lasting environmental benefits for animals, people, and planet.



6600+

Strong Community

> With over 6,600 people following and sharing our mission across social media and newsletters, VfCA has significantly expanded our reach and influence. This growing community amplifies evidence-based climate information throughout the veterinary profession and broader animal care sector, creating ripple effects that inspire action, strengthen our advocacy voice, and unite veterinary professionals globally around meaningful climate solutions.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Climate Care Program

TOWARDS ZERO

The Climate Care Program remained the cornerstone of VfCA's impact in 2025, empowering veterinary professionals across Australia to integrate practical sustainability into daily practice.

A major highlight was the launch of our first stand-alone module, **Carbon & Cost Savings**. This innovative module includes a veterinary carbon calculator specifically for Australian practices and guides them through measuring their carbon footprint, transitioning to renewable energy, and achieving tangible cost savings alongside emissions reductions. It provides the easiest, most impactful entry point for practices beginning their sustainability journey.



We now also offer practices bespoke pathways through the Program, allowing them to focus on areas that matter most to their teams.

Dr Jeremy Watson and the **Climate Care Advisory Committee**, comprising six dedicated members, provided strategic guidance to keep the program evidence-based and aligned with veterinary sector needs.

And with thanks to our volunteers, we continued to amplify the benefits and opportunities offered by the Program through strategic presence at key veterinary events. At the Northern Suburbs Vet Summit, Program participant Alexandra from Mona Vale Veterinary Hospital shared her experience, and demonstrated the program's real-world impact. Jeremy presented at Vet Expo, showing how Net Zero approaches deliver better animal health, cost savings, and client trust. Terry George spoke to at the VNCA Conference and the VetEd Down Under Symposium featured multiple Climate Care-focused sessions by Jeremy, Dr Neil Walton and Dr Rebekah Brown.

With over 50 Climate Care Champions adopting various strategies recommended through the Program, we are proud to be helping the veterinary profession save carbon, and costs.



Congratulations to **AES Jindalee** who won the **Brisbane City Council WasteSMART Award**!

By partnering with Vets for Climate Action, their team have reimaged what sustainability looks like in emergency veterinary care, from introducing new recycling streams to switching to compostable alternatives.

Join us for **ZerOctober**

EVERY PRACTICE COUNTS

LEARN

ACT

INSPIRE

Our now annual **ZerOctober** campaign reached new heights in its second year, achieving record-breaking clinic participation nationwide! Veterinary teams across Australia embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, taking tangible action to reduce waste, energy consumption, and emissions while proudly sharing their inspiring journeys across social media and throughout the VfCA community.

The momentum was palpable as practices transformed knowledge into real change, demonstrating that sustainable veterinary care is not only achievable but already happening. From simple switches to innovative solutions, clinics proved that every action counts towards protecting the future for animals and the ecosystems they rely on.

Our vibrant Zero Heroes Celebration Night brought the community together online to recognise outstanding contributions from sustainability leaders blazing the trail forward.

Zero Hero Award Winners:

-  **Outstanding Individual Effort:** Shalinie Navaratne (Brimbank Veterinary Clinic) for planting trees, creating sustainability videos, and daily climate actions
-  **Sustainable Practice:** Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic for introducing Royal Canin recycling, air drying, reducing plastic products, and decreasing isoflurane use
-  **Innovation Award:** Wattle Grove Veterinary Hospital for almost halving emissions through water heater upgrades, equipment management, recycling, and composting
-  **Team Spirit:** Emergency Vets 24/7 Cairns for their staff beach cleanup at Holloways Beach

Join ZerOctober in 2026!
www.vfca.org.au/zerOctober

RURAL AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Following the successful pilot of the **Rural & Regional Program** in 2024, we're committed to returning with an enhanced program in 2026.

During this election year, Program Lead Dr Elise Anderson took a sabbatical. In her absence we have secured multi-year funding from the **Sunshine Foundation** to continue our rural and regional engagement. Watch this space!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

 **Vets for Climate Action**

Climate Care Programme

Aotearoa New Zealand

2025 marked a transformative milestone with the launch of the **Climate Care Programme: Aotearoa New Zealand**, developed in collaboration with **NZVA, Vet Sustain, and Vet Salus**.

This first international expansion of Vets for Climate Action's flagship sustainability program represents a shared commitment to global veterinary climate action.

Unveiled at the NZVA Conference in Wellington in June, and officially launched in October, the Programme has been thoughtfully adapted for New Zealand's unique context, including access to renewable energy and local environmental priorities. A standout feature is the **New Zealand Veterinary Carbon Calculator**, developed specifically for Aotearoa practices to measure and monitor their carbon pawprint.

Led by NZVA Climate Change Ambassador Jane Ough, South Wairarapa Vet Services piloted the Programme, and 3 additional pioneering clinics: Kowhai Vet in Christchurch, Elles Road Veterinary Centre in Invercargill, and Vet South in Winton have subscribed, demonstrating leadership in veterinary sustainability.



The Programme has received positive media in New Zealand, including VetScript magazine and The Post, showcasing practical sustainability wins like reduced water usage, solar installations, and improved staff morale.

This trans-Tasman collaboration strengthens veterinary sustainability across both nations, proving that climate care truly is animal care. The Programme equips New Zealand veterinary professionals with practical tools to reduce emissions, lower costs, and build climate-resilient practices for animals, people, and planet.

Visit: www.climatecareprogram.co.nz



L-R South Wairarapa Vet Services' Drs Jane Ough, Richard Kirton & Climate Champion Sam Cook

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SUSTAINABLE EQUINE FUTURES



The Sustainable Equine Futures (SEF) initiative extends the reach of VfCA's Climate Care Program into the Australian equine sector - a vital and passionate community deeply connected to the health and wellbeing of horses, people, and the land that sustains them.

Grounded in the principles of One Health and sustainable veterinary care, SEF will educate and empower equine veterinary teams, horse owners, and industry partners to take meaningful steps towards environmental sustainability. By providing accessible learning resources, facilitating team engagement, and fostering collaboration between practices, SEF will reduce the carbon hoofprint of equine veterinary care and support the transition toward a more sustainable and resilient future for Australia's equine sector.

Collaboration and Engagement

Early in 2025, Dr Caitlin Wood was appointed as the Program Development Manager. An Equine Advisory Panel was subsequently established, bringing together a network of veterinarians working in development, industry and academia, and environmental scientists - all united by a shared vision of a climate-resilient equine sector.

The project has greatly benefited from the leadership of Dr Catherine Chicken, Chair of the SEF Advisory Panel, and the ongoing guidance of panel members who ensure the program remains practical, inclusive, and impactful.



Drs Caitlin Wood (Program Development Manager) & Catherine Chicken (Chair, SEF Advisory Panel) at Bain Fallon

Equine veterinary clinic visits, conference presentations, and direct engagement with equine practitioners have been instrumental in raising awareness, inspiring participation, and establishing the foundations of a growing community of sustainability-focused veterinary professionals.

Special thanks to the EVA - Equine Veterinarians Australia (the Equine special interest group of the AVA - Australian Veterinary Association) for providing SEF with a platform at the **45th Bain Fallon Memorial Lectures** - the southern hemisphere's premier equine veterinary continuing education event. At this event, Dr Wood presented a scientific poster outlining the goals and objectives of the SEF program and promoted participation in the Equine Clinic Sustainability Survey.

Dr Wood also presented on SEF at the NSW Upper Hunter regional AVA meeting - Equine Health & Research Insights in October 2025.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SUSTAINABLE EQUINE FUTURES CONT'D



Quick Survey Insights

The Equine Clinic Sustainability online survey captured current practices, perspectives, and barriers related to sustainability within equine veterinary practice. Taking 5–10 minutes to complete, it gathered information on clinic demographics, sustainability awareness, current initiatives, and support needs. Thirty-four equine practices across Australia responded between May and August, representing diverse clinic sizes and ownership structures.

- **Ownership:** 82% privately owned; 18% corporate.
- **Fleet vehicles:** All clinics operated at least one fleet vehicle, averaging five per practice.
- **Existing sustainability strategies:** 37% reported having sustainability strategies; 63% had no formal measures.
- **Key barriers:** Absence of clear industry guidance, lack of knowledge in sustainable practices, lack of time, and staff engagement. Financial constraints were cited least often.
- **Program interest:** 51% expressed interest in joining an equine emissions reduction program, 37% were unsure, and 11% were not interested.

These findings highlight opportunities to strengthen resources delivering clear, practical guidance and sector-specific tools supporting clinics in taking meaningful sustainability action.

Resource Design and Program Development

2025 marked a period of focused program design for SEF. Building on CCP's foundations, the team adapted and developed course content to meet equine veterinary practice needs with tailored learning modules including: How to Measure Your Clinic's Carbon Hoofprint, and Healthy Soils, Pastures and Stables.



In October, SEF launched its initial pilot phase, with several equine veterinary clinics trialling early versions of the first modules to provide feedback for refinement.

Equine Veterinary Clinics Visited by SEF team in 2025

- WestVets - Anstead
- WestVets - Marburg
- Scone Equine Hospital
- Avenel Equine Hospital
- Tamworth Equine Veterinary Centre
- Ballarat Equine Clinic
- REC Equine Specialists
- Wyong Equine Clinic

The Year Ahead

In 2026, SEF will continue program development and expand the pilot phase to additional equine veterinary teams, building the evidence base for national roll-out of the full suite of online learning modules for the **Climate Care Program – Equine Edition** by late 2026.

The next phase will then focus on opportunities to develop engagement, resources and sustainability frameworks for horse owners and equine industry groups.

The coming year will see the launch of "The Sustainable Equine Series" - a combination of online webinars and expert panel discussions.

By embedding sustainability and carbon-reduction practices across equine veterinary clinics and the broader horse community, Sustainable Equine Futures is supporting the equine sector to become leaders in climate action for animal health.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



World Veterinary Environmental Alliance

Climate | Sustainability | Biodiversity

Dr Jeannet Kessels

Vets for Climate Action was established to educate the veterinary profession on climate change and its impacts on animals; to advocate for urgent response as trusted professionals; and to lead by positive example in emissions reduction. In six years, we have substantially shifted culture across the Australian veterinary profession. Congratulations to the VfCA team for this extraordinary work.

As VfCA has matured, the need for a coordinated global veterinary response became clear. Through presentations at major congresses, meetings with leaders of national and multinational associations, and countless conversations with veterinary sustainability organisations worldwide, a consensus emerged: our profession needed a unified global platform.

A pivotal moment came at the World Veterinary Association Congress in Washington DC, where Jeannet presented to presidents of veterinary associations from across the globe. This gathering provided the opportunity to share VfCA's learnings and explore how they could be scaled internationally. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Now, VfCA is leading this mission globally through the **World Veterinary Environmental Alliance**. Established by Dr Jeannet Kessels and Chloe Morris the Alliance focuses on **Climate | Sustainability | Biodiversity**

It's new, innovative, and profoundly important.

The Alliance facilitates veterinary organisations to **Act Locally, Collaborate Globally** through six focus areas:

Education	Global Policy	Biodiversity
Sustainability In-Practice	Sustainability On-Farm	Sustainability Equine

Dr Jeannet Kessels presented to Presidents of national and multinational Veterinary Associations at the World Veterinary Association Congress in Washington DC.



WORLD VETERINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

cont'd

Almost every veterinary sustainability and climate organisation globally is now a member, alongside the World Veterinary Association, Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, and numerous national associations.

WVEA has attracted prestigious patronage including Prof Peter Doherty (Nobel Laureate), Dr Mark Schipp (Former President OIE), Dr Rafael Laguens (Immediate Past President, WVA), and Prof Mark Howden AC (Vice Chair IPCC Working Group II).

We invite you to join us in endorsing WVEA's strategy, and stay informed. We'll update you on global research and solutions, collaborative round tables, and those undertaking outstanding work like WVEA Ambassador Dr Mariam Kihika's UN Environmental Assembly participation, and Vétérinaires pour la Biodiversité in France.

Obviously WVEA's audacious mission takes time, patience, deep thought and employed staff to bring to fruition.

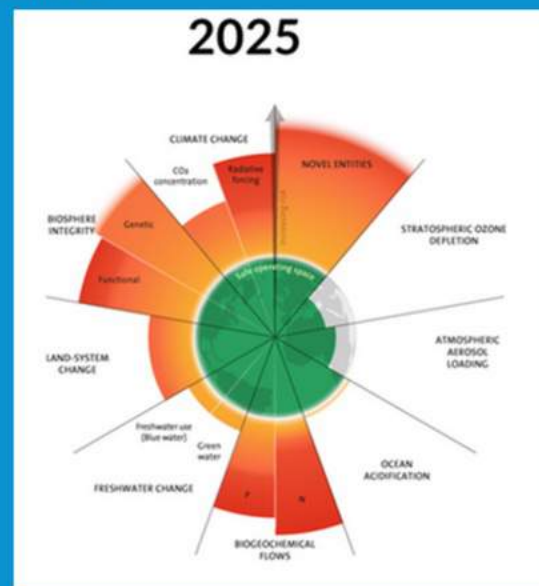
As an initiative of VfCA, WVEA is governed by the Board. However, we fundraised specifically to support this global work and ensure VfCA can maintain its essential, foundational work in Australia without compromise. I would like to personally thank the generosity of Julie Taylor Mills and Mark Mills from Coniston Charitable Trust, Ripple Analytics and Groodles Australia for their belief and initial seed funding to enable WVEA to be established, and request the profession's ongoing support in bringing the vision to reality. I urge you to be generous in your support and courageous in your generosity.

VfCA intends for WVEA to evolve into an independent global organisation, facilitating the veterinary profession to act locally, and collaborate globally.

Embracing something so important brings a surprising, rewarding, adventurous element to life, and enables deep, life-long connections with kindred spirits.

Visit: www.worldvetalliance.org

Six of the nine planetary boundaries essential for maintaining a stable and resilient Earth have been transgressed. These boundaries mark a critical threshold for risks to societies and the biosphere.



Source: Credit: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. Based on Sakcewski and Caesar et al. 2025

The World Veterinary Environmental Alliance focuses the global veterinary profession on championing urgent action on climate, biodiversity and sustainability. Using education, advocacy and practical leadership, we will influence our profession, communities, industries, and governments to take action to protect animals, people, and the planet.



TREASURER'S REPORT

2024-2025 Financial Year

Jim Mollison



Overview

Vets for Climate Action had a successful year financially, but not without some challenges. This result was supported by strategic grant funding, significant donor contributions, and ongoing community support. We extend our sincere gratitude to our members, supporters, donors, and volunteers whose financial contributions and dedicated service have been instrumental to our success. While volunteer contributions are not accounted for in the financial figures, their contributions of time and expertise are crucial and greatly appreciated.

Profit & Loss

Total revenue for the financial year was **\$418,265**. After expenses of **\$270,808**, the remaining profit for the year was **\$147,457** (please see Profit and Loss statement below).

Revenue Analysis

Major revenue sources for the year included:

- **Strategic Grant Funding (\$200K):** A substantial donation received in two installments to support the development of our Sustainable Equine Futures program. The second installment of \$100K, received in June 2025, is designated for expenditure in the 2025/26 financial year.
- **Ignite Ideas Fund Grant (\$40K):** The second installment from Round 10 of the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas Fund, supporting the commercialization and expansion of our operations.
- **Climate Care Program (\$43K):** Representing approximately 10% of total income, demonstrating the growing market acceptance of this initiative.

- **Community Contributions (\$107K):** Generated through donations, memberships, and initiatives such as Containers for Change, highlighting the critical importance of grassroots support to our ongoing operations.

We extend our appreciation to all individuals and organizations who contributed financially during 2024/25.

Expenses

Wages and superannuation account for the majority of expenses - approximately 85% of the total. This is not unexpected and demonstrates how lean the organisation runs while still achieving great impact. Our experienced staff maintain high program standards and organisational effectiveness while exercising rigorous fiscal responsibility.

Profit

The reported profit of \$147,457 includes \$100,000 received in June 2025 for work scheduled in 2025/26. Excluding this deferred revenue, the adjusted net profit for 2024/25 would be \$47,457, representing a marked improvement from the previous financial year.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income		
Broad Donations and Crowd Funding	106,916	146,840
Major donor		20,000
Grants	265,000	50,000
Interest received	2,320	1,460
Speaker fees & events	1,080	5,250
CCP sponsorship	16,000	2,500
CCP subscription fees	26,949	57,711
Total income	418,265	283,761
Expenses		
Accountancy and consultancy fees	3,957	16,077
Advertising & promotion		794
Bank fees & charges	(16)	479
Consulting, audit - grant		9,690
Filing fees	44	
General expenses	1,705	658
Insurance	1,713	6,351
Interest paid		1,195
Office expenses		34
Printing & stationery	1,657	666
Subscriptions	10,082	16,277
Superannuation	24,332	23,142
Training	500	1,611
Travel	14,405	4,763
Wages	212,429	217,382
Total expenses	270,808	299,119
Profit/(loss) from Ordinary Activities	147,457	(15,358)

Financial Position

Total equity at year-end was \$143,119, a significant improvement from the prior year's position of -\$4,338. Even excluding the deferred grant revenue, the organisation would maintain positive equity of \$43,119, demonstrating improved financial stability.

Assets

Current assets consist primarily of cash holdings totaling \$174,518. The organization maintains no other financial assets, reflecting a conservative and liquid asset position.

Liabilities

Total liabilities include tax obligations (\$11,399) and an interest-free loan (\$20,000) from a supportive donor. Liabilities decreased by \$25,000 year-on-year following the repayment of an interest-free loan..

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash assets	74,518	50,515
Receivables	100,000	1,000
Total Current Assets	174,518	51,515
Total Assets	174,518	51,515
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	258	3,997
Current tax liabilities	11,141	6,856
Total Current Liabilities	11,399	10,853
Non-Current Liabilities		
Financial liabilities	20,000	45,000
Total Non-Current Liabilities	20,000	45,000
Total Liabilities	31,399	55,853
Net Assets	143,119	(4,338)
Equity		
Retained profits	143,119	(4,338)
Total Equity	143,119	(4,338)

TREASURER'S REPORT

cont'd

CASH FLOW ANALYSIS

Cash on hand at year-end was \$75K, representing a modest increase from the previous year. It should be noted that the \$100K grant installment recognized as revenue in June 2025 was physically received in July 2025, and therefore appears in the 2025/26 cash flow rather than 2024/25.

Operating activities generated a cash surplus of \$49K. After accounting for the \$25K loan repayment, net cash increased by \$24K, bringing the year-end cash position to \$75K from an opening balance of \$51K.

DETAILED CASH FLOW

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	316,945	289,551
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(270,262)	(330,821)
Interest received	2,320	1,460
Interest and other costs of finance		(1,195)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	49,003	(41,005)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities		
Proceeds of borrowings		45,000
Repayment of borrowings	(25,000)	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(25,000)	45,000
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	24,003	3,995
Cash at the beginning of the year	50,515	46,520
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	74,518	50,515

TREASURER'S REPORT

cont'd

Strategic Financial Outlook

Vets for Climate Action primarily relies on three revenue streams: grants, donations (including membership fees), and Climate Care Program fees. All three are crucial to Vets for Climate Action's existence.

Grant Funding: Writing grant applications is a time consuming process, often without financial reward. We will continue to pursue strategic grant opportunities, focusing on applications that offer optimal return on investment of time and resources.

Donor Development: While we are deeply grateful for the generosity of major donors, we recognise the need to diversify our donor base. Future development efforts will focus on identifying new major donor prospects while cultivating relationships with smaller recurring donors and expanding our membership base.

Climate Care Program: Although well-received, program uptake has been below projections. We are developing enhanced packaging and promotional strategies, including international market development, to increase revenue from this innovative program.

Volunteer Contributions

The substantial value of volunteer contributions, while not quantified in these financial statements, is critical to our operational capacity. Volunteers have been instrumental in developing and maintaining the Climate Care Program and supporting numerous other organisational functions. Without this dedicated professional expertise provided on a voluntary basis, our financial position would be significantly challenged.

Conclusion

Vets for Climate Action continues to deliver exceptional value, achieving substantial outcomes in advocacy, education, collaboration, and governance from a modest resource base. We encourage continued support from individuals and industry stakeholders for Vets for Climate Action either financially or through volunteering, so that our important work may continue on this fragile and small planet we call home.



Jim Mollison

Acting Treasurer (Volunteer)



L-R VfCA Volunteers
at the AVA
Conference: Jeremy
Watson, Finola
McConaghy, Louisa
Farthing & Helen
Scott-Orr

PLAY A KEY ROLE IN OUR SUCCESS

DONATE

Vets for Climate Action is a DGR-registered charity. This means every donation over \$2 is tax deductible.

Donations enable us to continue our vital work, attend events, employ experienced staff and maintain our programs .

We are also an Environmental Partner with 1% for the Planet.

PARTNER WITH US

Be part of our vision (it's big!) and put your product, service or innovation in front of Australia's veterinary and animal care industry.

Business partners can help us tackle the biggest health and welfare threat to the animals we love and care for: climate change.

VOLUNTEER

Our wonderful volunteers are responsible for our success. Volunteering with VfCA gives you the chance to take meaningful climate action and can take many forms.

Volunteering can look like facilitating webinar, delivering presentations, writing articles, educating clinics, talking to veterinary professionals at conferences, and so much more.

TAKE ACTION

Advocate for sustainable veterinary practices by participating in campaigns like ZerOctober, sharing climate care resources with your network, signing up for the Climate Care Program, engaging with policy initiatives, and amplifying our mission on social media.

Every voice strengthens our collective impact for animals, people, and planet.



**Vets for Climate Action mobilises the
veterinary profession and
broader animal care community
to tackle the climate crisis
within and beyond our sector.**



www.vfca.org.au



Veterinarians for Climate Action Ltd (ABN 16 636 944 191) is an ACNC registered charity with Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Address U1, 21 Technology Drive, Augustine Heights QLD 4300