Murdoch University Veterinary Trust
Chair's Annual Report
For 12 months ended 31st Dec 2013

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Murdoch UNIVERSITY

Background

The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust was established in 1997 under a Trust Deed. The Trust was developed to service the increasing needs of funding for the Murdoch University College of Veterinary Medicine (previously through the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences) important and growing work.

The cost of delivering high quality veterinary education is considerable. The breadth of disciplines, the need for clinical teaching facilities for both large and small animals and rapidly changing technologies that drive advances in veterinary sciences increase the cost of teaching at a time when the proportion of government support decreases. With these challenges, the need for private support for education and research becomes increasingly important.

The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust has aimed to provide for the veterinary needs of the community and primary industries, and make practical contributions towards advancing animal and human health and welfare. Contributions to the Trust support infrastructure improvements to increase the depth and scope of research and teaching activities. It is this support that allows Murdoch to lead the way and provide "International excellence in Veterinary Science".

The Board of Trustees has been responsible for supporting fundraising, acquiring assets, and promoting the activities of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The Board also oversees the assets and investment of these funds**.**

In 2013 The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust was an Australian Taxation Office endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient. The Trust is administered by an Executive Officer who ensures that all contributions to the Veterinary Trust go directly to nominated programs or projects.

During 2013, Murdoch University presented a proposal to the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust to transfer the assets of the Vet Trust to a sub-fund of the Foundation, to be known as the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust Fund. At the end of 2013 Trustees resolved to accept this proposal for the long term interest of the University, as a more sustainable and efficient way to administer both the Vet Trust and the Foundation. This change is planned to take effect in 2014.

This report covers the reporting period from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013.

2013 Board of Trustees

Chair	**Mr Brian Aitken**
	(May 1998 - present)
Trustees	**Mr Richard Alder**
	(May 1998 - present)
	Mr Malcolm Bawden
	(Mar 2013 - present)
	Dr Susan Beetson
	(Jan 2009 - present)
	Dr Paul Davey (OAM)
	(Oct 2011 – present)
	Professor David Hampson
	(Jun 2011 – present)
	Emeritus Professor John Howell (AO)
	(May 1998 - present)
	Mr Steve Meerwald
	(Feb 2004 - present)
	Dr Don Nickels
	(May 1998 - present)
	Professor Ian Robertson
	(Mar 2013 - present)

Assisted by the following staff:

Ms Ellaine Hislop	Executive Officer
Mrs Bree Johnston	Administration Officer
Dr Peter Elliott	Manager Development

Review of Activities

Since its inception, the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust has provided steady income to the College of Veterinary Medicine (or previously named division) for strategic investments to advance international excellence in veterinary science through research, education and clinical care.

The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust leads a number of development activities to support the College through charitable donations and sponsorship agreements. Most donations are used to support priority areas within the College; however, the Veterinary Trust has a long-term goal of building a substantial investment portfolio that can be used for major capital projects.

Contributions / Grants for 2013

The following provides an overview of income to the Veterinary Trust and grants to the School in 2013.

Donations and Bequests	$133,207
Sponsorships	$110,164
Grants to the University	$113,087

Listed below are a number of activities that have generated income to support priorities within the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Donation Programs

The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust receives generous philanthropic support from individuals and organisations who wish to help animals in various ways.

The Veterinary Trust greatly appreciates all donations which will be used to fund the areas of greatest need at the College.

Vet Gazette

The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust publishes a newsletter for donors, sponsors and alumni to inform of activities in the College and request funds for specific projects. Two issues of the Vet Gazette were published in 2013 and raised $30,000.

Caring for Pets Program

The Caring for Pets program invites veterinarians to make a donation to companion animal research through the Caring for Pets fund in memory of patients that have passed away. In 2013 this program raised over $15,000.

Bequest Program

The Murdoch University Veterinary Trust continues to assist a growing number of supporters who express an interest in leaving a gift to the College in their wills. Gifts of this nature provide an opportunity for people to make a gift that they may not be able to make during their lifetime and provide a meaningful way to celebrate a life-long commitment to the health and welfare of animals. In 2013 the Office of Development employed a Planned Giving Officer who will further develop this program.

Sponsorship Programs

Trustees and staff seek mutually beneficial partnerships that will provide key support for College priorities. The Trust seeks sponsorship support for projects ranging from continuing education events to sponsored chair positions. All sponsorships valued over $5,000 have sponsorship contracts reviewed by Office of Legal & Governance. Major sponsorships for 2013 included:

- Hill's Pet Nutrition - Multi Project Agreement
- [redacted]

[redacted]

Grants to Murdoch University

During 2013, the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust provided grants totalling $113,087 to the College of Veterinary Medicine for programs and items such as:

Prizes and Scholarships

Rewarding and inspiring students continued to be a goal of the Veterinary Trust. In 2013 the Trust worked with individual donors and organisations to provide prizes and scholarships to deserving students at its annual awards ceremony, postgraduate poster day and registration day ceremonies. The Trust also funded several awards for post-graduate students.

Equipment

Changes in technology and equipment are driving advances in veterinary science for research, education and clinical care. Ensuring the College has access to the latest and best technology remains a priority for the Trust.

Projects

The Veterinary Trust funded a number of projects with support from individuals or organisations such as:

- Murdoch Shelter Spey program provided students with knowledge of shelter issues and affordable speys for shelters.
- Continuing veterinary education events included DermClub, ClubMed, Surgery Series, Regional Surgery Series and online webinars.
- Veterinary Professional Life program provided students with business, communication and life-skills.
- Murdoch student attendance at the 2013 Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition.
- The treatment of sick and injured stray animals in the Murdoch University Veterinary Hospital.

Planning for 2014

As a result of the expected merge with the Murdoch University Foundation, Murdoch University Veterinary Trust looks forward to continuing to work with the College of Veterinary Medicine, through active engagement with corporations, the veterinary and agricultural industries, charitable foundations and animal lovers.

In Gratitude

On behalf of the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust Trustees, I thank the many individuals and organisations that have supported the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust through their financial contributions. We thank the staff of the Murdoch University College of Veterinary Medicine for using their time and talent to support world-class veterinary education, research and clinical care.

Mr Brian Aitken
Chair Murdoch University Veterinary Trust
March 2014