



## Hungerford Award 2016 presented to

### Dr Terry King

Terry King was born and raised in Townsville, North Queensland. Not surprisingly he is a passionate Queensland, who has spent most of his working life in that state. His father was an emergency physician, and without doubt this had a significant impact on his son's career. He graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Queensland in 1975. Over 19 years in private practice in Brisbane's north western suburbs, Terry accumulated a wealth of knowledge and experience in all facets of small animal practice. Terry is and was a generalist – and early in his career he dealt with the full range of companion animals, doing medicine, surgery and anaesthesia. He also had very well developed skills in leadership and team building, and excelled at practice management. This was a time when he had a young family, and when veterinary practice was less complex than it is now. During that time he developed a strong and evolving interest in emergency medicine and intensive care. After a year spent between the USA and Brisbane's Animal Emergency Centre, where he honed his skills as a criticalist and observed the latest developments and trends from a variety of centres, Terry joined the University of Queensland Veterinary Teaching Hospital in late 1995 as a medical resident. A meteoric progression, based on clear and early demonstration of outstanding clinical acumen, combined with leadership and management skills, led to his appointment as the Director of the Clinic and Hospital from 1997 to 2002.

Many people consider these as some of the best years for the veterinary teaching hospital at UQ, despite the low morale and lack of academic cohesion because of the threat of moving the School to Gatton. Terry took that in his stride bringing together a team of loyal, keen, young clinicians, whose relative inexperience in no way hindered the quality of their work. Terry worked collegially with the academic staff while increasing practice income, improving morale and making the place buzz with enthusiasm. Finding dealing with the University administration frustrating, it was with some regrets he left, on good terms with the staff as he headed back to private practice. Many of the younger colleagues who spent time under Terry's wing have gone on to complete highly successful specialist training programmes in a variety of disciplines, in Australia and overseas, and are now on the Faculty at many universities or working in private referral practices.

In March 2002 Terry joined the team at Veterinary Specialist Services (VSS) as a Partner and Director, where he continued to fuel his passion for the emergency side of veterinary practice, particularly the intricacy of understanding and treating the critically ill canine and feline patient. Terry and Bruce MacKay were the founding medical partners, who developed the medicine service from the perspective of two guys who had started out in general practice, so they never took GP vets for granted. Stated another way, their feet were firmly planted on the ground; they knew what it was like to be a GP vet confronted with a difficult case, or a difficult client, or both! Bruce became a medical specialist, whereas Terry was happy to call himself a 'good vet' (or a generalist), although without any doubt he has performed at the specialist level, straddling the boundary between mainstream investigative internal medicine and critical care. He is especially interested in tick paralysis, snake envenomation, polytrauma – and any treatable critical care scenario. Terry practises at the cutting edge of the profession – and he is constantly looking for the latest developments which will improve patient outcomes. He has always read widely and has attended well over 50 conferences across a broad range of disciplines in Australia and overseas.

Terry has been active in organising and delivering continuing professional development at the local, regional and national level. He has given numerous presentations for the AVA, ASAVA, AVA regional divisions, UQ Veterinary Teaching Hospital, VNCA and at specialist seminars. Terry gained his Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in 1996 in Emergency and Critical Care and has been a regular presenter at College Science Week. He was a Councillor at the College from 2004-2006 and the secretary/treasurer of the Anaesthesia, Emergency & Critical Care chapter for many years. It is a testament to his stature that the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists looked to Terry to take over as Science Week convener after the legendary Geoff Robbins stood down. Terry has always been passionate about regional veterinary practice, and has gone out of his way to organise CPD for clinicians in far north Queensland and the Northern Territory.

In relation to the CVE, Terry has been, to borrow Lis Churchward's words, "a staunch supporter". We frequently use him as a devil's advocate, brains trust and corporate memory – all rolled into one. Terry has helped us convene several critical care conferences. On some occasions he has cancelled home-grown CPD to support the CVE / PGF in mounting national programmes, including well known international speakers. His first presentation for the PGF was a 3 hour masterclass in critical care, followed by presentations in 2004 (3), 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2016 with publications in related conference proceedings and numerous Control & Therapy articles and Perspectives. In 2005, Terry was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, for dedication to continuing professional development and as a generous supporter of the veterinary profession.

The Tom Hungerford Award has been given to many distinguished veterinarians over the years. Most have been from a traditional academic or veterinary specialist background, with an impressive list of publications as testament to their work and impact. Although Terry doesn't fit into that mould, he does fit into a mould that was first established by the great man himself: Tom Hungerford! Tom was a talented generalist who was passionate about improving the quality of veterinary practice through establishing innovative approaches and nurturing ongoing training for veterinarians. I know that Tom would approve of Terry for this prestigious award, for Terry has strived for best practice through thoughtful, compassionate care of animals and their owners, and through encouraging and mentoring students and colleagues to achieve their full potential. I always remember Terry telling me words to the effect that "if you look after your team of vets, the pennies will look after themselves". He has always presented a caring, thoughtful and paternal presence wherever he has worked. His job is his life, although he is a happily married family man with two daughters and a son who has followed in his father's footsteps as a veterinarian. I have heard many wonderful things about Terry over the years, but never a bad word. That's rare. Terry rarely displays self-interest in his desire to make a difference. The only thing he wants is the best outcome for his patients, and his colleagues. He completely embraces lifelong learning, and has done so much to facilitate this by acting as a role model. Consequently, there isn't a facet of companion animal practice where Terry doesn't have an informed view.

On 30th June 2016, Terry King and Bruce Mackay retired as Directors of VSS but are continuing to work in the practice on a job sharing basis.



Hugh White

Director, CVE