



Veterinarians
for Climate
Action

A Voice
for all Animals

ANNUAL REPORT

2020, our founding year



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We hold a sacred place in the heart of communities.

Veterinarians are highly trusted professionals spanning multiple fields, with expertise in livestock, wildlife and pet health and welfare, epidemiology, public health and the environment. We can comfortably talk to millions of Australians about the health of animals, the importance of stable environments and the urgent need for climate action.



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FROM THE CHAIR



JEANNET KESSELS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Veterinarians for Climate Action (VfCA), as a Voice for All Animals, is harnessing the extraordinary energy within the veterinary profession to bring about real policy change.

We are devastated that, in 2019/2020 alone, three billion of our precious Australian wildlife were burnt alive or displaced in megafires. We have painfully witnessed livestock suffer in decade-long droughts that ravage rural communities. The link between catastrophic weather events, climate change and animal suffering is undeniable.

As trusted scientific professionals, veterinarians work day in and day out with animals, caring passionately about their welfare and the people who love and need them. Veterinarians for Climate Action communicates the urgency of the climate crisis and its impacts on wildlife, livestock and pets. We call for action to reduce climate pollution, preserve our environment and protect our animals. We listen to our fellow scientists calling for governments to regulate and reduce carbon pollution and stop global heating.

2020, our founding year, has been an extraordinary start to our journey. A year during which an idea has grown into a fully fledged advocacy organisation employing two full time staff. I would like to take this moment to recognise that our successes, now and in the future, come through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, our donors and our staff. I thank, personally, the many individuals and organisations who have, within one year, helped us achieve everything we have to date.

Jeannet Kessels,
Chair of the Board



OUR TEAM



BEN COX
CEO

With a background in project management and business, Ben's passion for climate action has led to him throwing himself fully into making VFCA a powerhouse both within our profession and within the climate movement. Ben is a strong believer in the power of Community Organising to achieve real and sustained change, and this is reflected in VFCA's focus on volunteer engagement, thus empowering the veterinary profession to work towards urgent change..



JEANNET KESSELS
Chair

Jeannet is responding with conviction and commitment to growing alarm at the effects of climate change on animals and the environment. She owns two awarded veterinary hospitals in Springfield, Queensland, engages in business consulting, and dearly enjoys her family. A driving force behind our organisation, she dedicates herself to VFCA on a full time basis.



ANGELA FRIMBERGER
Director & Public Officer

Angela is a biologist, veterinary oncologist, mother, small business owner and climate advocate. She brings years of experience in small-scale climate advocacy, ranging from her Climate Reality training, to regular speaking engagements, to founding Climate Vets, a global network of animal health professionals concerned about climate change



GARY BIELBY
Director & Secretary

Gary is deeply passionate about species extinction and sees the climate crisis as an enormous contributor to this problem. A practicing veterinarian, he is a multi-talented professional with a long and very diverse career ranging from visual arts to veterinary conservation science.



BRONWYN DALLOW
Invited Advisory Volunteer

Bronwyn brings extensive experience in governance, particularly in a NFP background. Her experience includes acting as a non-executive director of the YHA Australia, General Manager at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland and a masters degree in Management.



TIFFANY JACOBS
Invited Advisory Volunteer

Tiffany works at Perth Zoo, lectures in wildlife medicine at Murdoch University, is a co-director of her own practice and also finds time to advocate for climate action on behalf of the animals she loves so deeply. Tiffany brings experience with multiple small charities, such as Pets in the Park.



KATRIN SWINDELLS
Contributing founder

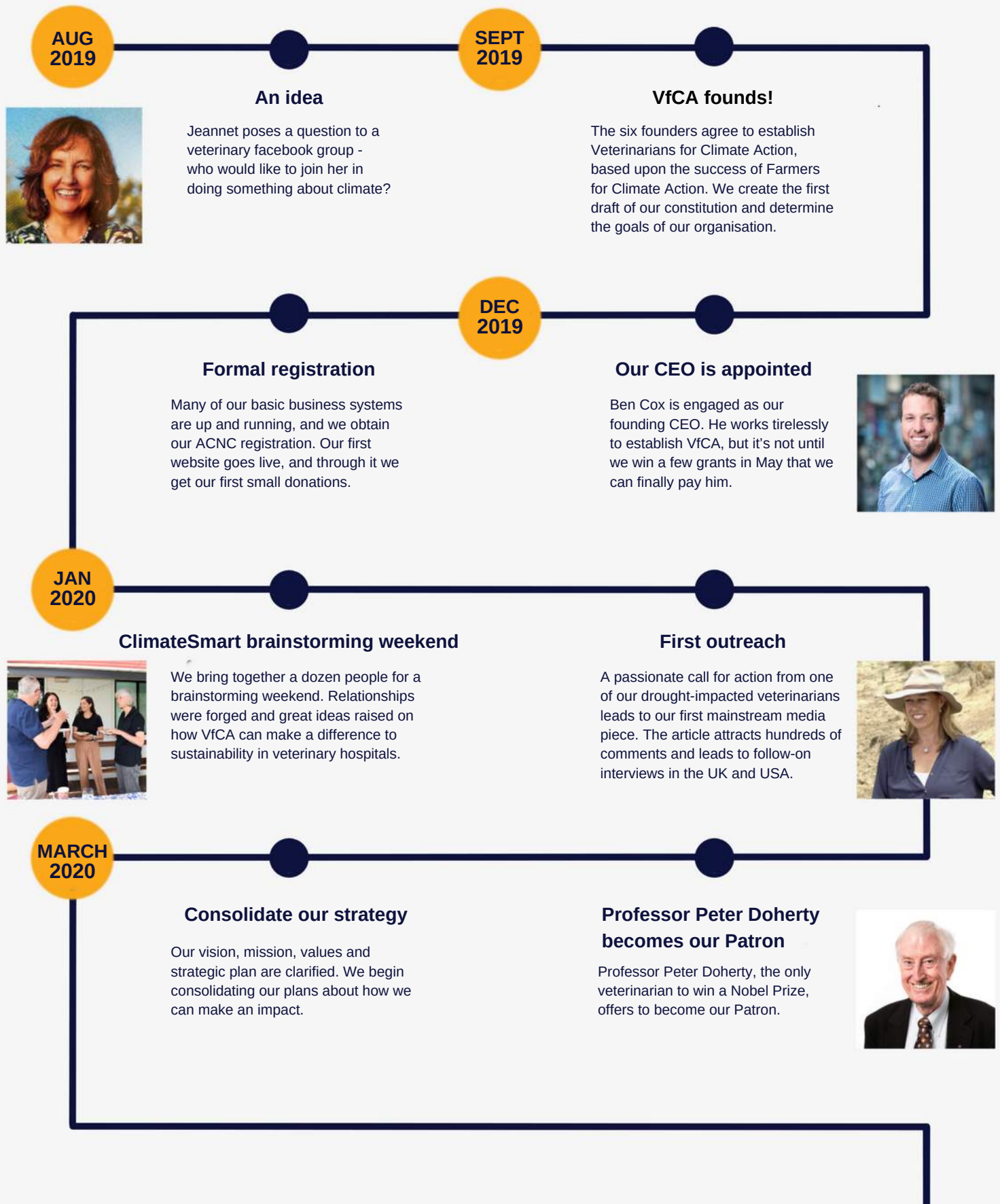
Katrin is a practicing emergency veterinarian and passionate climate advocate, Katrin is a powerhouse of energy and comes with a keen knowledge of climate advocacy and the myriad of ways we can work to pressure our politicians for better policy



GUNDHI RHOADES
Contributing founder

Gundhi lives in rural NSW and brings a unique perspective on how a changing climate impacts the rural landscape. Heavily impacted by the recent droughts, Gundhi is a powerful communicator and possesses a unique ability to connect to everyday Australians.

OUR ESTABLISHMENT JOURNEY





Strategy Camp

We hold our first Strategy Camp, attended by two dozen passionate volunteers. This leads to forming our first volunteer teams.

AUG
2020

MOU with the AVA

VfCA signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Veterinary Association and begins working with its many and varied Special Interest Groups.

JUNE
2020

SEPT
2020



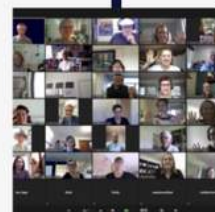
18 Chief Veterinary Officers begin advocating

Organised by VfCA, eighteen former Chief Veterinary Officers write letters to Scott Morrison demanding immediate climate action. This generates ten unique media pieces and appeared in 117 rural and regional newspapers.

NOV
2020

Spring Seminar Series

We educate the profession through online seminars, presenting climate science to more than 160 attendees.



We reach our 100th paying supporter

A fantastic milestone. A massive thank you to all our generous supporters!

Our volunteer base grows

Our focus on Community Organising has created a base of 25 active volunteers, working with a Rural team, a Social Media team, a team of former CVO's, Vigil Team, a volunteer onboarding team and a group running our online seminars.

DEC
2020

Comms and Campaigning Hire

A major donor enables VfCA to recruit a second full time staff member of a very high calibre.

Zoos Bushfire Vigil Mourning the lives lost in the bushfires

VfCA's volunteers collaborate with zoos across Australia, the RSPCA, WIRES and Animals Australia to prepare a coordinated event commemorating the devastating loss of our wildlife in the 2019-20 bushfires.

The event, scheduled for early 2021, will recognise this inconsolable loss and purposefully move us towards change.

WHO WE ARE

Australians love animals and are concerned for their welfare. We are a nation strongly connected to our natural environment, built on agriculture, and with homes filled with companion animals. However, the growing climate crisis threatens our wildlife, livestock and pets.

Veterinarians for Climate Action represents concerned veterinarians, veterinary nurses, practice and industry partners across Australia calling for urgent climate action:



We work to help everyday Australians understand the need for urgent climate action.



We train people within our industry to become advocates for action.



We set up Community Impact Groups to help create champions.

We call for a future where animals thrive.

Climate breakdown creates more extreme weather events - heatwaves, droughts, floods and bushfires – which threaten the lives and wellbeing of Australian animals. We're seeing the impacts around Australia, from over a billion animal lives lost in catastrophic bushfires to the destruction of our beloved Great Barrier Reef. Our livestock die slowly in decade-long droughts and our farmers' livelihoods suffer. We support policies to protect all animals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions - bringing about a rapid shift to 100% renewable energy and stopping new coal mines and exploration - and improving forest management and agriculture to be climate positive.

We have a strong member base and passionate volunteers. We are honoured to have Professor Peter Doherty, Nobel Prize Laureate and veterinarian, as our Patron.

Vets and animal experts have a special place in the heart of communities.

As highly trusted professionals spanning multiple fields, we have expertise in farm and domestic animal health and welfare, public health and the environment. Veterinarians hold a trusted place at the heart of local communities, and we can talk to millions of Australians about the health of animals, the importance of stable environments and the need for climate action.

Veterinarians for Climate Action is mobilising the entire animal health sector to advocate for climate action:

- Increasing awareness of the impacts of the climate crisis on wildlife, livestock and pets.
- Mobilising our entire professional community to champion this cause.
- Supporting policies to reduce carbon emissions.
- Declaring a Climate Crisis on behalf of Australia's animals.

We welcome all who love our creatures great and small and invite you to become champions in your communities and strengthen our Voice for all Animals.



OUR VISION

We work towards a future in which humans have solved the climate crisis to protect the animals we love.

OUR MISSION

The climate crisis is hurting the animals we love, so we inspire the veterinary profession to advocate for and achieve progress in tackling the climate crisis within and beyond our sector.

OUR APPROACH

We provide opportunities for veterinarians, veterinary support staff and the broader animal care industry to tackle the climate crisis both within and beyond veterinary practice. We help veterinarians reduce their own personal and workplace climate footprint, and advocate for policies to reduce Australia's climate pollution at local, state and federal levels. Our expertise with animals makes us trusted voices with our clients and in our communities. We support our members to educate and engage people within their own circles of influence, and influence politicians in taking action to tackle the climate crisis.

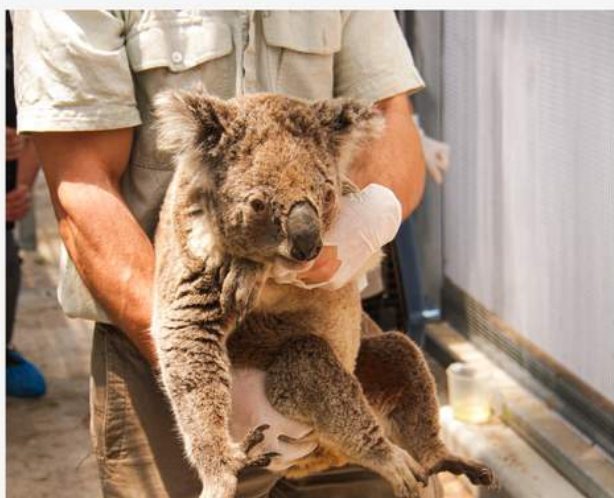
OUR FOCUS AREAS

- 🐾 Build a powerful movement of veterinary and animal care professionals
- 🐾 Shift the veterinary profession and broader animal care sector to be climate champions
- 🐾 Use the power of veterinarians' voices to influence the general public
- 🐾 Encourage politicians to support climate mitigation
- 🐾 Organisational growth to magnify our impact

OUR VALUES

- 🐾 We rely on the best available science. We care deeply about the environment as well as human and animal health and welfare. Consistent with the One Health paradigm, we recognise that
- 🐾 the three are inextricably linked. We measure our impact and adapt our model and activities to continually improve.
- 🐾 We work collaboratively and put our mission first. We respect the trust that our communities have in veterinarians.





Climate change
is hurting the
animals we love

Veterinarians for
Climate Action



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our successes this year wouldn't have been possible without incredible contributions from each and every one of our wonderful volunteers, be they vet nurses, vets or the animal-loving public. Thankyou for your passion, your energy and your friendship.



thank you!



OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank all of our supporters in our founding year for their support, their belief in our cause, their encouragement and their friendship. In particular, we would like to thank the following businesses who made significant financial contributions towards our success:

ANIMAL HAPPINESS VET,
Manning, WA



ANIPAL



BrimbankVet Clinic,
Sydenham, VIC 3037



Eclipse Park Veterinary
Surgery, Highfields QLD



Gowrie Vet Clinic,
Inverell, NSW



Greater Springfield Veterinary,
Springfield, Qld



Murray Bridge Vet Clinic,
Murray Bridge SA



Summer Hill Village Vet,
Summer Hill, NSW



Veterinary Oncology Consultants,
Lake Innes, NSW



Pace Foundation

Rendere Trust

OUR MENTORS

This has been a formative year for our organisation, and we couldn't have done it without assistance from a myriad of individuals and their organisations. Some of these people simply helped us with a guiding conversation, others dedicated weeks of their lives to get us to where we are today.

To all of you, including those not listed here, please accept our gratitude, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in 2021.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In its founding year Veterinarians for Climate Action raised in excess of \$300,000, putting us on a sustainable foundation and ready to grow our impact

Total Income and Expenditure, cumulative since our inception in Sept 2019 and current as of 31-Dec-2020.

INCOME

Donations	\$233,056.50
Grants	\$33,200
Interest Income	\$7
Other Revenue	\$39,500
Total Income	\$305,763

EXPENSES

Admin Expenses	\$15,037
Wages and Salaries	\$90,162
Total Expenses	\$105,199

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2021

COMMUNITY IMPACT GROUPS

We will continue our work to grow power and support through a Community Organising approach. We will focus heavily on supporting our volunteers to work together to realise the policy change they want to see.

CLIMATE SMART PROGRAM

Our hospital sustainability program will launch in 2021. This project will guide veterinary hospitals to build sustainability and carbon neutrality into their everyday operations, and to do so in a way which empowers vet nurses and vets.

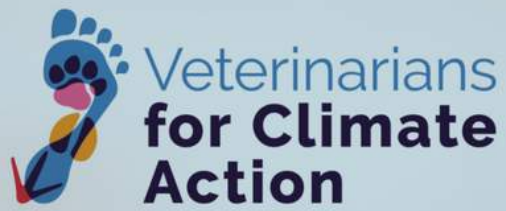
COMMS AND CAMPAIGNING

In 2021 we will develop influential, targeted campaigns which work to realise the policy changes needed to protect the animals we love. Watch this space!

EXPANSION AND GROWTH

With our foundations established, and following resounding feedback about the strength of our theory of change, we're working to rapidly grow our staff numbers and thus our reach.





A **Voice**
for all Animals

vfca.org.au
info@vfca.org.au
facebook.com/VetsforClimateAction

