



# MEDIA RELEASE



25 July 2005

## **AVA and Mackay City Council launch new Pet Education Program**

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and Mackay City Council have teamed up to deliver the AVA's Pets & People Education Program (AVA PetPEP) to local primary schools in the Mackay area.

AVA Queensland Division President, Dr Alan Cornick says that the program is a Preschool to Year 7 education program developed by the AVA to help young people to understand and appreciate their responsibilities towards pets. In Queensland, the program is sponsored by the RSPCA and DPI and has the support of Mackay City Council and 22 other local councils across the state.

"AVA PetPEP aims to encourage responsible pet ownership and the harmonious integration of pets into the community," says Dr Cornick.

"It's very satisfying to be able to support schools in developing social responsibility in children in a fun and hands-on way.

"The opportunity for a partnership with Mackay City Council is fantastic as we both have similar objectives which are to teach children how to understand and appreciate their responsibilities towards pets."

Mackay Mayor Julie Boyd says that AVA PetPEP links in with the Council's own animal management program which aims to educate the whole community about such issues.

"We are very excited about working with AVA PetPEP, it will tie in very well with the policies that Council's Local Laws Officers already implement," says Mayor Boyd.

Interactive school visits give children an opportunity to become involved in practical demonstrations and presentations by local veterinarians, Council Officers, dog trainers and representatives from the RSCPA and the DPI.

Mayor Boyd will officially open the Mackay City Council and AVA PetPEP Launch on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am at Glenella State School, Hillend Road, Glenella. Come and hear from AVA PetPEP's Queensland Education Officer Ms Sarah Thackray and local veterinarian Dr Rowan Pert about the benefits of this program. Witness AVA PetPEP in action with Glenella State School students and attend an information session about how the program works in schools. Morning tea will be served.

Schools wishing to hold their own AVA PetPEP School Visit or obtain information on Responsible Pet Ownership Education are welcome to contact the AVA on (07) 3423 1788 or Mackay City Council on (07) 4968 4444.

### **For further information contact:**

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*The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd is the national organisation representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession in Australia. Founded in 1921, the AVA today represents nearly 5,000 members. Its mission is to provide support, identity, fellowship, direction and growth to members; expert advice and service to governments; and services to the community.*

AVA2005/026