

Dr Christopher Smith
(Andrew Eastick – RDA 1976)

Dr Christopher Smith is the current president of the Roseworthy Veterinary Alumni (RVA).

The Roseworthy Campus Association (ROCA), a location-focused alumni network for all Roseworthy graduates, and the RVA, a profession-focused alumni network for Roseworthy Bachelor of Sciences (Veterinary Bioscience) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) graduates, enjoy a close working relationship as complimentary alumni networks.

At the end of 2025 ROCA and the RVA co-produced a brochure that was distributed to all graduating students at the Campus, resulting in a significant increase in the number of graduating students joining ROCA.

It is a fair bet a number of vets practicing today were motivated to enter the profession as a result of Harry's Practice (1997 to 2003).

Dr Christopher Smith (DVM 2018) is one such vet.

Chris was born at Ashford Hospital in 1994 and moved from Crafers to Strathalbyn as a three-year-old when his father changed careers from administration with the South Australian Railways to that of a weed spraying contractor.

Chris says from that early motivation from watching Harry's Practice, his focus on becoming a vet never wavered, and throughout his primary and secondary education he took every opportunity to interact with animals.

Chris's proud claim to fame whilst living at Strathalbyn was appearing as an extra when an episode of McLeod's Daughters was filmed in the town.

Following primary school education at Strathalbyn and secondary education at Cornerstone College at Mount Barker, Chris commenced his veterinary studies in 2013, initially studying science subjects at the North Terrace Campus, with one day each week at the Roseworthy Campus, before becoming a residential student at the Roseworthy Campus in 2014.

At Roseworthy Chris was awarded the Roseworthy Campus Association's 2015 Old Students Cup Prize. In 2017 Chris received Colebatch Prize, *awarded to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine student who truly reflects the spirit of Roseworthy with regards to involvement in campus and community life as well as contribution towards aspects of the veterinary program*, and in 2018 Chris received the Australian Veterinary Association Small Animal Prize, *awarded to the student who shows the greatest aptitude in small animal clinical subjects*.

Chris's receipt of the Colebatch Prize was at a time when he was on crutches having just dislocated his ankle while captaining the Hamley Bridge A-Grade football team. (The Campus had long ceased to field a football team in the local competition.) Colebatch descendant, Phil Colebatch, thought Chris's determination to attend was terrific under the circumstances and epitomised what the Colebatch Prize was about.

Chris's most vivid memories of his time at Roseworthy were being subject to the Stud Auction, playing in the back pocket in victorious 2014 Roseworthy versus Waite football match, and playing hallway golf!

Following graduation Chris went to Perth for 18 months and worked as an intern in several emergency veterinary care practices.

On his return to South Australia, Chris worked at Berri in a mixed animal practice for two years before moving to Adelaide, and for the past three and a half years he has worked at the Small Animal Specialist Hospital (SASH).

It was Chris's experience in as an intern in Perth that influenced his interest in his current position.

Chris is keen to continue the development of his career specialising in emergency veterinary care and plans to be examined by the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) for admission as a Member of the Emergency Veterinary Care Chapter.

Chris is engaged to partner, Bri, a Client Services Officer at SASH.

Apart from his Presidency of the Roseworthy Veterinary Alumni, Chris is the current captain of the Adelaide University Grade 4 cricket team and is a volunteer with the South Australian Greens.

Describing himself in three words - *composed, varied and fast-paced*, Chris acknowledges the words could be said to be somewhat contradictory.

The professional accomplishments of which Chris is most proud are the dedication he was able to show in participating in an on-call practice at Berri, with long hours and frequent stressful cases. It was at Berri however, that Chris found his career very rewarding, delivering services to patients and their owners that he got to know well through participating in the community.

Chris noted his current position does not generally provide the opportunity for longer-term relationships with patients and their owners.

A valuable lesson Chris has learnt so far in his career is that he can't fix everything, and that most of the time a person's reaction is not because of what you have done but because of something else happening in their life.

Advice that Chris would give a younger person is having the confidence to say when you don't know, knowing there's always going to be bad days, and it's important to have interests outside of the veterinary field.

Most enjoyable for Chris as a vet is helping people in very vulnerable moments.

Chris favourite memory in this career so far has been, whilst at Berri, working as a team with the nurses in the practice, undertaking his first canine caesarean, and achieving a positive result.



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