



Vale Professor Andrew Fisher



Professor Andrew Fisher passed away on Friday the 1st of March 2024. Our thoughts continue to be with his family at this sad time. The suddenness of his passing has left us contending with the magnitude of loss for both his loved ones and our community.

Andrew joined the Melbourne Veterinary School at the University of Melbourne in 2009, in a position co-funded by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. He was appointed Director of the Animal Welfare Science Centre in 2017. Andrew had an excellent scientific mind and a deep commitment to improving animal welfare. His research interests included the impact of housing, transport and husbandry practices on livestock health and welfare. This extended to exploring analgesia for painful husbandry procedures, virtual fencing, public attitudes towards animal ethics and welfare, and animal welfare scientific methodology. His research significantly improved the welfare of sheep, dairy and beef cattle, and poultry.

Andrew's advocacy for animal welfare in Australia's livestock industries has brought about tangible practice change that has improved the welfare of animals in these industries. He has been instrumental in driving Research and Development corporations and industry organisations for greater recognition of the importance of animal welfare to livestock industries. His service also extended to a range of local, national and international committees, that benefited greatly from his expertise and counsel. He has provided policy

advice on the development of animal welfare standards in Australia and internationally. Andrew's impact to animal welfare was considerable, advancing livestock welfare in Australia and around the world.

Andrew was a team builder and a mentor to many, colleagues and students alike. At the University of Melbourne, he led the Animal Welfare Science Centre and Mackinnon Project, building strong future-focused teams. His dedication to teaching and developing the next generation of animal welfare scientists and veterinary professionals was evident to all who knew him. Andrew was committed to supporting and mentoring students, graduate researchers and early/mid-career academics, not just in his own groups, but across the Melbourne Veterinary School, Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, and beyond. He shaped many careers and learning journeys, and enhanced passion, understanding and influence for animal welfare impact. Andrew was genuinely committed to supporting and empowering others to succeed.

Outside his busy University schedule, Andrew also worked to directly improve the lives of others, including volunteering at a food charity and writing letters for Amnesty International.

Andrew's love, dedication and pride in his family were evident to all who knew and worked with him. He spoke of them fondly and often.

Beyond his profound professional and personal achievements, we will remember Andrew for the person he was to work with and for. He was incredibly intelligent, and, more importantly, he was a good person. He was direct when it mattered and diplomatic, eloquent and calming in the most difficult situations. People always felt that Andrew had time for them, and he entered every room with a warm smile. His presence brought positivity to every team he was a part of, whether as a leader or a collaborator.

Andrew leaves behind a remarkable legacy that includes his dedication and contribution to advancing animal welfare science, as well as his profound impact on the individuals he mentored and worked alongside. Our commitment to continuing his vision and drive will ensure that his efforts to improve the lives of animals will endure.

We are proud to have called Andrew a colleague, mentor and friend. He is greatly missed.

The Animal Welfare Science Centre Team