



## The network is building

The NABS Masterclass in Darwin last week was a great gathering of veterinary power across Northern Australia. Lots to take in and share over the coming newsletters. Of 43 participants, 17 were new to our network – so welcome to all.

Tristan Jubb challenged us to get our knives razor sharp – you can read a summary of his technique here.

Graham Mackereth described the nifty analyses he is now doing on disease investigation data to super-charge our ability to find outbreaks early and increase our confidence in claiming freedom from exotics. This reinforces the importance of our NABS SDI efforts. Everyone is fired up to go.

Wet weather in some areas across northern Australia may predispose to insect-borne diseases. A couple of tips below.

Cheers Kev

Newsletter #9 (28 February 2019)



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## Bovine Ephemeral Fever (3 day sickness)

Some tips from Lee Taylor – BEF may be part of the scene after the floods in Qld

- Botulism is not the only disease that causes lingual paresis – rule out BEF!
- Recent research shows virus enters the nervous system in a small but variable % of cases – causing non-suppurative encephalitis which combined with trauma, explains nervous signs and ‘bad’ cases of 3 day sickness. (Barigye et al, 2016 Aust Vet J, 94, 362-70)
- BEF virus has an affinity for Schwann cells – tracks along nerves - including the lingual nerve
- **Collect fresh spleen from downer/ataxic animals for PCR testing to rule out BEF**



This heifer had 3 day sickness 2 weeks ago. She was down for a week, then got up, but was not able to walk due to permanent spinal cord damage.

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## MVE in the Kimberley

Murray Valley Encephalitis virus activity has recently been detected in the sentinel chicken flock in Kununurra. This means that conditions in the Kimberley are now favourable for MVE transmission.

Last year a [NABS SDI in a stock horse](#) with neurological signs was confirmed MVE.

Precautions against mozzie bites are recommended – details in this WA Dept of Health [media release](#)



Culex annulirostris

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## NABS Masterclass 2019



**Front row:** Callan Solari, Toby Wass, Dave Morrell, Ian Braithwaite, Graham Mackereth, Sue Fitzpatrick

**Second row:** Trevor Smith, Zak O'Brien, Max Woods, Bill Tranter, Derek Lunau, Richard Sanders, Kevin Bell, Joanne Connolly

**Third row:** Peter Nugroho, Peter Trembath, Amanda Dunn, Rupert Trembath, Michelle Baker, Jess Rummery, Libby Harriman, Laura Adams, Shirley Turner, Lorna Melville

**Back row:** Cass Wittwer, Tony Kettle, John Hosie, Jack Daniels, Jonathon O'Donnell, Andrew Moss, Brendan Brieffies, Richard Knight, Lisa Stevenson, Ellen Buckle, Lee Taylor, Bryce Mooring, Marion Seymour, Lil Stedman, Tristan Jubb

**Missing:** Allison Crook, Pauline Brightling, Anne Hope

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### Happy to help

Let me know anything you'd like covered here or on the website

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or visit [www.nabsnet.com.au](http://www.nabsnet.com.au)

Newsletter sent on Kevin's behalf from the team at Harris Park Group