



## **Dr Fiona - Veterinary Director BVSc**

Dr Fiona is our Veterinary Director at AEC Gold Coast. She graduated from the University of Pretoria, South Africa in 2004. Over the past 18 years, Fiona has worked in various clinical settings including general practice, welfare and emergency. Having worked in environments where specialist and emergency resources were very limited, and some truly impoverished communities, Fiona has gained extensive experience in the field of emergency veterinary medicine.

She immigrated to Australia with her family in 2019, and began working in general practice with Greencross Vets. Fiona joined the AEC team at the beginning of 2022. She has a passion for emergency medicine and is working on gaining further qualifications in Surgery, as well as Emergency and Critical Care.



## **Dr Kinza - BVSc(Hons)**

Graduating from Sydney University in 2002, Dr Kinza worked for several years in rural practice in the UK. On returning to Australia she worked in mixed practice as well as one of Canberra's first afterhours referral hospitals, it was here that she developed an interest in emergency and critical care.

She then settled in Sydney working in a busy small animal practice for ten years. Her current areas of interest are emergency and critical care medicine, feline medicine and surgery and diagnostic imaging. In 2022 she completed a post graduate Master of Veterinary Medicine degree with a thesis subject on hypertension in cats.

For the last two years she's combined working in general practice with a return to emergency and critical care at the AEC. She loves being in a hospital environment that provides around-the-clock care to patients, that engages in best practice techniques in medicine and surgery and where she works with a team of vets and nurses who are dedicated to the best outcomes for critically ill and injured patients. There's no better feeling than being able to return those patients back home to their owners after recovery!



## **Dr Michelle - BVSc (Hons)**

Dr Michelle is one of our Senior Veterinarians here at AEC varsity. She graduated from the University of QLD in 2005. Starting work in general practice for the first two years before pursuing a career in emergency medicine on a part-time basis in 2007. Michelle gave up general practice entirely in 2011 to pursue emergency full-time. With a special interest in surgery and ultrasound, Michelle loves the fast paced and challenging environment of emergency medicine. and is studying for the emergency membership exams in 2022.

Her favourite moments working in emergency are seeing any critical patient fully recovered and walking out the door with happy owners.

Michelle lives on a hobby farm with her three children and owns 2 dogs, 1 cat, 7 parrots, 20 chickens, 2 horses, 5 alpacas, 1 python and 2 guinea pigs



## **Dr Candis - BVSc (Hons)**

Dr Candis is a University of Queensland Veterinary Science graduate that has been practicing in the general practice and emergency critical care industry since graduating. She enjoys emergency stabilization and surgical cases. She is about to start further education in emergency critical care for small animals.

Dr Candis loves seeing her patients return to their owners happy and healthy. When Candis isn't working she enjoys spending time with her husband, toddler and Great Dane, they especially enjoy going to the beach together and camping.



## **Dr Sarah - BVMS**

Dr Sarah grew up in the sunny city of Brisbane. She moved to Perth to study veterinary medicine and graduated from Murdoch University.

After graduating she spend a few years working in general practice in South Australia before transitioning to work in emergency medicine in Melbourne. Seeking bigger adventures, in 2018 she moved overseas and completed a rotating internship in Virginia, USA. She decided to stay in the US for a while after finishing the internship and worked in a 24-hr emergency/referral hospital in New Jersey. After travelling around the USA and seeking warmer climate, Sarah recently returned back to Australia and joined the team at AEC Varsity Lakes.





## **Dr Joyce - BVSc (Hons)**

Dr. Joyce graduated from the University of Queensland. Following graduation, she was selected to be in a 12-month rotating internship program at a veterinary specialist hospital. After spending a year in Perth, she returned to the Gold Coast and started working at AEC Gold Coast and Greencross Helensvale Square. Her professional interest is emergency and critical care and small animal surgery.

Outside of work, Dr. Joyce enjoys playing badminton and catching up with friends. Besides, being a winter sports lover, you may find her skiing and snowboarding in different snowfields during the winter months."



## **Dr Stephanie - BVSc (Hons), BHlthSc, BAppSc**

Dr Stephanie has been working in emergency veterinary medicine at Animal Emergency Centre since she graduated from the University of Queensland. Prior to following her dream of becoming a veterinarian, she completed degrees in Bachelor of Health Science and Applied Science (Hons).

She enjoys working in emergency practice due to the range of complex cases she sees. She has a special interest in ultrasonography and endoscopy.

Dr Stephanie prides herself on offering the care she would wish for her own pets. Away from the hospital she enjoys hiking and going to the beach with her beloved Labrador, Poppy.



## **Dr Robyn - BVSc (Hons), BSCv**

Dr Robyn grew up on outback cattle stations in Far North Queensland which fostered her interest in animal health and welfare from a young age. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in 2008, and went on to further complete a BSc (Hons) in 2009. She is a published research scientist (2011) on the Australian glow worms. She graduated from the University of Queensland's Veterinary School (UQ) in 2016, with a BVSc (Hons), also attaining the Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH) Student Award. She has worked as a small animal veterinarian in SE QLD, fostering an interest in soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery and critical care medicine. After developing and running a successful Veterinary Locum business over several years, and concurrent employment mentoring undergraduate students in soft tissue surgery at the UQ, she decided to come on board with AEC to focus on practicing gold standard medicine and provide emergency and critical care services for pets. She has completed further study in emerging animal diseases, emergency medicine and soft tissue surgery and is currently working towards her post-graduate Emergency and Critical Care Membership. Being an emergency clinician at AEC allows her to provide high quality care to pets and their owners - with the greatest reward being to see those sick pets returned to their owners. Robyn enjoys working with small animals including cats, dogs, exotic pet species and wildlife, and even the occasional ruminant.





## **Dr Aaron - BVSc**

Aaron was born in Sydney and grew up in Byron Bay. He wanted to be a veterinarian from a young age and finally achieved that dream in 2016, when he graduated from James Cook University.

Since graduating he has gone on to complete a rotating internship at the famous Small Animal Specialist Hospital in North Ryde Sydney. After finishing his internship in 2018, Aaron has exclusively practiced in emergency medicine at multiple hospitals throughout southeast Queensland.

He has a special interest in surgery, toxicology, and intensive care.

In his time off Aaron enjoys rugby league, photography, drawing, and looking after his many pet reptiles.



## **Jess M - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

I have always had a strong passion for helping animals, and achieved a huge goal of mine when I became an Emergency and Critical Care Nurse at AEC. I started veterinary nursing in general practices 8 years ago on the Sunshine Coast and have experience treating a variety of animals; from dogs and cats, large animals and wildlife. I then began working with an Bird and Exotics veterinarian and discovered my love for birds. Since then, I have adopted a Pineapple Conure parrot named 'Zazu' who has become my little sidekick.

In my spare time I love being outdoors in nature, doing yoga daily and socialising with friends and family. My favourite hobbies are ice skating and snowboarding, so I try to get to the snow as often as I can in the winter months



## **Jess C - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Jess grew up in New Zealand on a farm where her love for animals started before moving to Australia where she has called it home for the last 13 years.

She has been a Qualified Veterinary nurse for 12+ years and worked as a Veterinary Nurse in a general vet clinic for 7 years before transitioning to Emergency and has been loving it ever since. Jess enjoys Emergency and critical care nursing and loves being a part of her patients treatment and recovery, But the best part for her is always seeing them go home with their families.

She has a love for cats and will easily fall in love with all her feline patients on a regular basis, she has a special touch when it comes to caring for them/ handling them.

Jess is the owner of 5 very spoilt cats (Lily, Felix, Esme, Polly and Ernie), which she has accumulated over the years through work being strays and foster fails. They range from 1 year old to 15 years old and luckily they all get along so well.

Her and her partner are also soon becoming human parents for the first time.



## **Michelle B - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

I have been Nursing in a variety of positions in Veterinary Clinics for the last 25 years, including surgical nursing, hospital nursing and locum work for general practices.

For the past three years I have been working for Animal Emergency Centre as an ECC nurse and absolutely love the pace and interesting cases that we see. There is nothing better than a very unwell patient going home healthy and happy.

I enjoy spending time with my husband and two grown kids.

I have a variety of crazy furry, feathered and scaly friends at home.

A pet Blue tongue called Ollie, 2 wirey coated rescue mutley's called Luna and Scruffy, 2 black cats called Mindy and Stix and a white silky chicken called Raven. Between the kids, my husband, the pets and work I am very busy.



## **Alex - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Alex is one of our amazing permanent vet nurses. She grew up on the Gold Coast and first entered the veterinary industry in 2012, working at a mixed-animal practice in Roma. In 2015 she became a trainee Vet Nurse at the Alice Springs Veterinary Hospital, and became qualified in 2018. After 2020 she left Alice Springs and travelled back to the Gold Coast, to take up a job at a general practice vet, and also began working as a casual Vet Nurse for AEC. You will normally find her working late nights, as she is one of our night owl nurses.

Her aim is to provide gold standard care to every patient, and she loves to see them go home to their family!

Alex has also just started a Bachelor of Nursing, to eventually help humans as well as our fur babies.

She keeps super busy with her mixed breed, 4year old dog named Gilly and a foster-fail Kitten, named Jelly. She likes to spend her time stand-up paddle boarding, with her fur babies and friends.





## **Kaylla - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

My name is Kaylla. I work as a Veterinary Nurse at the Animal Emergency Centre.

My love for animals ignited at a young age and all I ever wanted to do was care for them. This passion led me to the career I have today. Veterinary nursing is such a rewarding job.

I've been in the veterinary industry for 16 years and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

On days off I enjoy spending time with my family. After losing the feline love of my life "Simba" a year ago, I find comfort in snuggling my family dog called "Bucky".



## **Sonita - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Hi, I'm Sonita. I've been Veterinary Nursing for 4 years. I got into the industry after my beautiful Golden Retriever, Angus, got unwell with an unknown toxicity and I couldn't believe how well he was treated. I decided that it was something I wanted to be able to do for other peoples fur babies. I came into emergency to build my nursing skills, be kept on my toes and continue to be to excited to come to work everyday. I'll never shy away from a cuddle with any kind of animal, but particularly love dogs.

Outside of work, I am heavily involved in Surf Life Saving and passionate about beach safety. I am a Rescue Crewperson in the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service and spend my spare weekends at or above the beach in the red and yellow.



## **Cassie - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Cassie has been a veterinary nurse for 10 years. She started out cleaning catteries to support her love of animals and progressed through volunteering which then lead to study opportunities.

She obtained her Certificate IV in 2014 and then updated her Certificate IV in 2020.

During this journey, Cassie continues to complete numerous courses to ensure she remains as knowledgeable as possible, so she can provide the best care for her patients.

She has a passion for all fields in nursing, but in particular, emergency and critical care. She treats every animal she cares for as her own, because she understands the emotional stress of having an unwell pet.

When she's not nursing animals, she has 2 small children who keep her busy.



## **Elisha - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Elisha is one of our qualified veterinary nurses. She has been working in the veterinary industry for 7 years. Starting in a general practice and then transitioning into a role as an emergency and critical care nurse.

Elisha is passionate about emergency and critical care and loves the fast paced atmosphere and diversity that the role presents.



## **Megan - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Megan is a Certificate IV qualified Veterinary Nurse with extensive experience in emergency and critical care (ECC). 13 years ago (2008) Megan joined the Animal Emergency Centre team and didn't look back. She has a special interest in all things ECC and loves that no day at work is ever the same

Megan's love of animals extends way beyond the walls of our veterinary hospital, and when she is not at work Megan enjoys spending time with her own animals on her small hobby farm.





## **Caitlyn - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Caitlyn has been passionate about helping animals since a very young age and qualified as a vet nurse in 2014 in New Zealand.

After working as a vet nurse in New Zealand for a couple of years, Caitlyn moved to Australia in 2016 where she had the opportunity to work full time in a clinic with a variety of interesting species including snakes, lizards, turtles, guinea pigs, birds along with cats and dogs and many more, while also completing her Australian Cert IV in Vet Nursing part time.

Always having a love for emergency and critical care cases, Caitlyn then moved to work as an emergency nurse back in New Zealand in 2019, and has now been with AEC since February 2021 where she gets to provide a high quality of emergency patient care in a fast-paced environment.

Caitlyn loves living on the Gold Coast with her two housemates and their chonky ginger cat Broc, who demands for cuddles and food at all hours of the day (and night).



## **Louise - Cert IV Veterinary Nurse**

Passionate about animals since before I was crawling, my obsession grew and by obtaining my Vet Nurse Certificate in New Zealand in 2005 I was able to enter and make my mark in the Veterinary world.

Having predominantly worked in general practice I have recently taken up exciting Vet Nurse role here at AEC in emergency and put my passion towards the care of my patients.

I am naturally a creative person who loves to construct things and does not shy away from getting dirty. In my spare time I enjoy the company of my family, cake art and painting.

Proud pet parent to Lexi, 7yo Am-staff cross and Smit'n, 12yo DSH – both pet rescues through my nursing career.



## **Penee - Cert IV/ Diploma Veterinary Nurse**

Penee is one of our newest members of staff, starting with AEC in 2022. Penee is our liaison nurse and the person that you will most likely speak to regarding your pets stay and their discharge. Penee is also our main nurse for referring veterinary clinics to speak to. She ensures our days run as smoothly as they can and that all owners are kept informed about their pets journey.

Penee is from New Zealand originally but has been living in Australia for the past 11 years. She is a diploma certified Veterinary Nurse with 12 years experience. She has a background in Emergency and Critical Care, as well as Shelter medicine

She loves coming home to her fur family after a long day at work. She is particularly passionate about our feline friends. In her spare time, you can find Penee pottering around home in her garden or tending to her Tropical and Goldfish aquariums.



## **Emma Dries - Business Manager**

Emma's career in the animal industry began at a young age and started with working at pet stores after school.

Emma quickly developed an interest in animals' welfare and shortly after the arrival of her two children she pursued the path of becoming a vet nurse.

Emma spent some time in general practice over the Gold Coast both nursing and managing teams before she found her love for the fast-paced life of emergency. After completing a Diploma in leadership and management Emma expanded her role to Business Manager.

Emma thoroughly enjoys the flexibility and lifestyle that emergency shift work has to offer as well as mentoring her peers to become the best versions of themselves.

When not working Emma enjoys spending time with her Husband, children and two Dachshunds by the water or exploring what the Gold Coast has to offer.





## **Melissa Hall - Nursing Manager**

Melissa grew up in rural Victoria where she first started her career as a Veterinary Nurse in the year 2014.

After being in the industry for 4 years Melissa then relocated to Melbourne to expose herself to what else the industry has to offer.

In Melbourne Melissa worked at a very fast paced clinic that was heavily involved with sports medicine, orthopedics and reproduction.

Melissa then set out to further her skills which lead her to working at an Emergency Centre in Melbourne where she got her first taste for the fast paced first response atmosphere.

Melissa learnt very quickly that emergency was her passion and in 2019 took a massive leap and moved away from her friends and family to live on the Gold Coast where she could pursue her career at the Animal Emergency Centre.

Since then, she has progressed to Nursing Manager and enjoys upskilling others to deal with the fast pace nature of emergency.





## **Lisa - Customer Care Team Member**

Hey I'm Lisa and one of the Receptionists at AEC Varsity Lakes. I enjoy the fast paced environment and the rewarding feeling when pets come into our clinic unwell and go home healthy and on track. I love being at the front and being able to greet the clients and support them through the very tough and stressful time of being at a emergency Centre!

My home life is with my daughter and partner in Elanora Queensland we love adventures on the weekend!



## **Jamie - Customer Care Team Member**

Jaime began her career in the animal industry after achieving her Bachelor of Architecture and Interior Design.

Jaime is a crucial part of our customer care team and enjoys seeing her patients go home happy and healthy so much, so she has commenced her studies in Certificate 4 Veterinary Nursing. Outside of the Animal Emergency Centre, Jaime enjoys creative design, drawing and spending time outdoors.



## **Kath - Customer Care Team Member**

Hi I am Kath and I may talk to you on the phone initially and then meet you at reception. I have worked in animal training, health and welfare for over 30 years. I understand how incredibly scary it is when your fur baby is unwell! I will always do my best to listen to you and support you through all the whole process and keep you as informed as I can. I love being able to help everyone who walks in the door and will always try to minimize you and your pets anxiety during a stressful time.

I own 1 dog and 2 birds and they are my everything!