



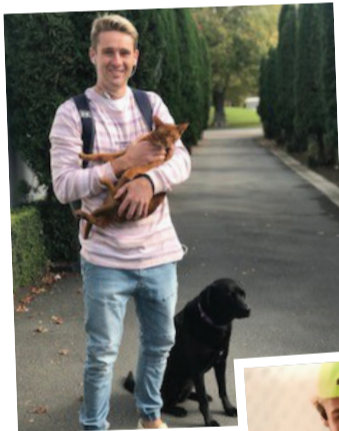
McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE

ANOTHER HEAP VET IN THE FAMILY....

Our son Connor has just been accepted into the Veterinary Programme at Massey in Palmerston North. Steve and I are super proud as we know how hard he's worked these past 5 months to make



the cut. A big part of the selection process now is a weekend of interviews involving real life situations and personality testing which accounts for a large percentage of your final grade. This is new but I think essential in choosing the kids with the right set of skills and personality traits to move into a very select, challenging and not easy profession. In our experience the best vets we have encountered were not the cleverest kids by any means. The unforgettable students were relatable and practical, enjoyed solving problems quickly and talking to people, cared about animals in general, loved the team environment and were hard workers. You have to have fantastic work ethic in this profession and not be a complainer – the hours are long, the days throw at you many real life emergency's constantly but the rewards personally are huge. Its not a job – it's a way of life and it's a privilege to care for pets and their owners.



All our 3 three sons have loved animals from day dot. All their lives they have grown up with cats and dogs and horses (through my parents). All three boys have always been kind, caring and respectful of all our pets and taken responsibility for them. Our pets have come away on holiday with us and we are not complete as a family without them. Right from small children they spent a fair bit of time at the vet clinic, whether it be afterhours callouts, watching their dad operate on eyes, coming in to medicate and feed sick patients in the weekends, helping me clean and feed our cattery cats on public holidays or being an extra pair of hands at a caesarian. They have never resented the amount of time we spend at the clinic and they have always wanted to hear about interesting cases and be involved.

Up until this year Connor was at UC Berkeley in San Francisco on a tennis scholarship, playing for the Cal Tennis team and studying

an undergraduate degree in sciences. He spent 18 months of a 4 year scholarship there and loved it but had decided he'd had enough of tennis and wanted to give Veterinary science

a crack. Connor had given his life to tennis, first playing at age of 3 and I think he'd simply had enough. Time for a change and to move forward with his life. He could have finished his Undergraduate degree at Berkeley but then he still needed to do the first semester of prevet at Massey to gain entry into the course. So he decided at Christmas to enroll in prevet and put his Berkeley qualification on hold. He loved studying at Berkeley – ranked the 6th Best College in the world. He can finish his undergraduate studies back there whenever he wants.

A lot has changed since Steve and I were at Vet school back in 86 and 87. Many of my

classmates are now lecturers and the Vet faculty has had a massive much needed revamp. The campus is much the same and from what Connor has reported the campus food is still average – main problem being “not enough food” plus no one cooks like his dad.

Believe it or not, Connor has the same room in the same hostel his dad 31 years ago.



The campus is pretty and Connor is enjoying exploring all the old places in town his dad and I did on a Saturday night. It hasn't changed

much in nearly 30 years.

Its going to be great having Connor in the same country for the next 4 or so years. I'm sure he'll get lots of visitors. Another “Heap” one day at McMaster & Heap, and I know for sure he'll not disappoint. Here's to a fantastic succession plan. It gets to stay in the family for the next 60 years or so. We bought the practice in 1999 – I wonder what it will look like in 2099. Probably a lot different but I hope its still called McMaster & Heap, even though I'll be long gone!

Dr Michele McMaster

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Cnr Hoon Hay & Coppell Place
Phone 338 2534, Fax 339 8624

E. mcmasterandheap@yahoo.co.nz
www.mcmasterheap.co.nz



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