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Preliminary Notice: Australian Veterinary History Society, 27 May 2013 [Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association Ltd]

The Annual Conference and General Meeting of the AVHS will be held on Monday 27th May 2013 during the Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference in Cairns.

The preliminary program for the History stream ia as follows:

- Anthrax in Victoria; Andrew Turner or
  Pioneering Veterinarians in the USA, Lesley Gentry (USA)
- Brunette Downs 1900-1970; John Armstrong
- History of veterinary activities at James Cook University; Graham Burgess
- History of Oonoomba Veterinary Laboratory/Tropical Aquaculture and Animal Health Laboratory, Townsville; Annette Thomas.

Annual General Meeting.
Dinner - venue to be confirmed.
HISTORICAL ARTICLES

This article was the basis of a presentation to the Annual and Scientific Meeting of the AVH SIG in Canberra on Monday 21 May 2012.

A CENTENARY OF VETERINARY EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, WITH A REVIEW OF EARLY VETERINARY EDUCATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Summary

This article presents what is known about the establishment and perpetuation of veterinary education in New South Wales through drawing on original records and interviews, where possible, and selected review publications. Where there are factual discrepancies between original records and review articles, the former have been utilised. Since its brief is to focus on veterinary education, particularly in Sydney and at the University of Sydney, it begins by reviewing the Veterinary Science course offered by the Sydney Technical College in the later 1800’s and early 1900’s. This is followed by a brief presentation on veterinary science teaching at Hawkesbury Agricultural College at the end of the 19th Century and then a more comprehensive discussion of the establishment of the University of Sydney’s Veterinary Science degree in 1910 and its continuation to the present day. Since no discussion of veterinary education in Sydney, and indeed Australia, would be complete without mentioning the establishment of continuing veterinary education through the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science (now the Centre for Veterinary Education) this concludes the article. Whilst the establishment of New South Wales’ second veterinary school at Wagga Wagga, Charles Sturt University in 2005, was a momentous occasion, especially now that it is graduating fully accredited veterinary surgeons, the discussion of its history is not included in this article and is left to others more able.
Introduction to Veterinary Education in Australia

Up until the late 1800’s, most veterinary practitioners in Australia were either formally trained in Great Britain or dubiously trained through an ‘apprenticeship’ to practising veterinarians. Whilst this appeared to provide the required veterinary care for Australia, it was soon found wanting when confronted by significant livestock disease. The introduction of bovine pleuropneumonia in 1858, the Foot and Mouth scare of the 1870’s, and the continuing impact of Cumberland disease (anthrax) first identified in 1847, to name a few, led to increased veterinary involvement in stock disease surveillance with the appointment of government veterinarians in the 1870’s and 1880’s. Employment was expanded to meet this demand and the growing demand for the export meat industry in the 1890’s. It was in this environment for the need for increased quality veterinary involvement that William Kendall opened his private veterinary college in Victoria in 1888; whilst the New South Wales Government first introduced a complete technical course in veterinary science in 1925, followed by a Veterinary Science and Practice subject as part of the curriculum of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1892.

Early Veterinary Education in Sydney, New South Wales

1. Elementary Veterinary Science at the Sydney Technical College

It is probably no coincidence that the opening of a limited, perhaps deliberately inadequate, veterinary science course by the Board of Technical Education, New South Wales in 1885 was at a time that anthrax was rife and on the rise in the State with devastating effect in the Murrumbidgee area. Original records and handbooks showed that the course in 1885 consisted of Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m at a Technical Institute and Saturday afternoon at the Botany slaughter-house, with a Certificate of Expert for Veterinary Science being awarded after 2 years. Whilst Mr BO Meek MRCVS (Lond), FVMA (Edin), FRMS and Mr Thos Green MRCVS (Lond & Edin) FEVMS (Edin) are listed as lecturers for the period 1885-1894, little could be found on the number of graduates and their likely sources of employment; but it is assumed that many became stock inspectors.

By 1896 the course, now run by Mr WC Quinnell MRCVS (Lond), bacteriologist (King’s college London), had been extended to a three year Certificate in Veterinary Education awarded by Technical Education Branch of Department of Public Instruction. However, Years 1 and 2 and Years 2 and 3 could be taken concomitantly. Public abattoirs and the Zoological Gardens at Moore Park utilised for practical instruction.
The horse was the major species of study, even though the course was ‘specially adapted to impart a sound education of practical utility to those interested directly or indirectly in the care and management of livestock’. Lectures in Year 1 included Anatomy and Physiology, lectures in Year 2 focussed on Veterinary Medicine and Surgery for the horse, ox, sheep, pig and dog, whilst Year 3 included Botany, Parasitism and Bacteriology (a specialty of Quinnell’s).

The major change to the direction of the course required the arrival of Mr JD Stewart MRCVS (Edin) as lecturer in 1897. Although he remained lecturer for less than 3 years, he proceeded to change the name of the course to ‘Elementary Veterinary Science’ and convert it back to a 2 year certificate that could be completed in one year, especially focussing on ‘educating Inspectors of Stock, Meat and Dairies’. Mr John Pottie MRCVS (Edin) acted as lecturer in 1900 and 1901, but for some reason the course was discontinued in 1902 but revived in 1905-6 under the direction of MR BB Loel GMVC and then in 1910 under Mr F Melhuish FRCVS until 1914. It perhaps is pertinent to mention that the curriculum information on the revived course in 1906 states that ‘these classes are not formed with the object of producing Veterinary Surgeons, but to impart a sound, practical and theoretical knowledge in Elementary Veterinary Science’. And it is also perhaps pertinent to state that at that same time the David Berry Hospital Act became law and the means to establishing a university veterinary school and degree.

2. The Teaching of Veterinary Science at Hawkesbury Agricultural College

Hawkesbury Agricultural College was established in 1891 by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture to provide agricultural training and research opportunities. As part of the set up, the College had its own livestock and it was deemed useful to train the original intake of 26 male students in the fundamentals of veterinary science. Consequently, 1n 1892 Stuart C Pottie MRCVS (Glasgow) was appointed part-time to care for the College’s livestock and to teach a second year subject called ‘Veterinary Science and Practice’. Peter Mylrea³ recorded this course as consisting of about 25 lectures and demonstrations. Stuart Pottie was the son of John Pottie MRCVS (see the teaching of Elementary Veterinary Science at the Sydney Technical College) and later had a role in supporting JD Stewart when calling for the establishment of a university veterinary school. From the Annual Reports of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, Peter was able to glean that teaching was intertwined with running of a veterinary practice at Hawkesbury (to look after the College’s resident livestock), and that resident veterinary surgeons included
such notaries as F Whitehouse BVSc (1918-33) and TG Hungerford BVSc HDA (1940-45). Whilst Peter does not mention the period post WWII, it appears that veterinary science continued to be taught as part of the Hawkesbury Diploma of Agriculture until the late 1960’s or early 1970’s, but probably transformed into an Animal Health unit of study in the 1980’s (Stephen Blunden pers comm).

The Founding of the Sydney Veterinary School, University of Sydney

The School had been the dream of a New South Wales veterinarian since the beginning of the twentieth century. James Douglas Stewart, who was born in Windsor NSW in 1869, the son of veterinarian John Stewart, had been trained at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, and had received his MRCVS in 1893. After his return to New South Wales and brief involvement in veterinary practice, he subsequently joined the Department of Agriculture and, at the same time, took up duties in 1897 as the lecturer in charge of a Veterinary Science course organized by the Sydney Technical College. This was to be his first encounter with veterinary education in Australia but not his last. The inadequacies of the course led J. D. Stewart to crystallize his thoughts on the need for the university training of veterinarians in N.S.W, and in 1900 he was part of a Special Committee consisting also of the Superintendent of Technical Education, Director of Agriculture, Edwin Stanley MRCVS and Stuart C Pottie MRCVS, which unanimously recommended that a complete course of veterinary science should be provided by the Government. Unfortunately, the Government Report was followed by inaction. The establishment of a veterinary school required, of course, more than vision and enthusiasm: it required the support of the University of Sydney Senate and, naturally, money.

The money became available through the passing of the David Berry Hospital Act in 1906 (The David Berry Bequest of 1889 had made provision for the building of a Hospital at Berry and for the establishment and maintenance of an institution for the promotion of agriculture and veterinary science). The matter was then broached with the University of Sydney Senate who, realizing the significance of the occasion, immediately established a Special Committee of Enquiry. The Report of 1908 was favourable and recommended the establishment of Departments of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, provided, of course, that the Government of the Day increased the annual endowment to the University and supplied the necessary buildings properly equipped.
This was agreed - and perhaps it was rather fortuitous that the then Under Secretary of Agriculture, Mr H. C. L. Anderson, MA, was also a member of the University Senate.

![Figure 1: JD Stewart (centre, back row) and some of the first intake of students. Circa 1913. Possibly taken at Berry.](image)

 Appropriately, in May 1909 J. D. Stewart, by now Chief Inspector of Stock and Government Veterinary Surgeon, was appointed as the First Professor of Veterinary Science. With fulfilment of his ambition in sight he worked fervently to open the School in 1910. The occasion was perhaps a little overshadowed by the opening of the University of Melbourne Veterinary School one year previously but no one could doubt the enthusiasm of the first intake of sixteen students, some of whom had waited years for this moment. The buildings were incomplete and the staff limited and relatively inexperienced but the 'esprit de corps' was firmly and vigorously established (Figs. 1 and 2). In the next thirty years of the ‘Stewart reign’ the School, despite several obstacles, became firmly established in the realms of veterinary education and research.
Although the role of J. D. Stewart (later affectionately known as the 'Old Prof') in establishing and maintaining the School cannot be overstated, others gave him able support and loyalty during the time spanning the First and Second World Wars. From the start he was assisted by Horace Morgan Baker. VMD (a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania) and then in 1911 by Dr Sydney Dodd, a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the first holder of the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science awarded by the University of Melbourne. Tragically, both had their working lives shortened (H. M. Baker died while on active service during World War I; Dr S. Dodd died of illness in 1926) but not before they had the opportunity to encourage and entice graduates, such as Frank Whitehouse, Ian Clunies Ross and Harold Roy Carne to return to the Faculty and teach. All three had a long association with the Faculty with the latter two destined to become Professors and Deans of the Faculty. Another appointee to the Faculty in 1922, who brought much to the Faculty was Reginald Montague Cairns Gunn. He too was destined to become Professor and Dean of the Sydney School.

Figure 2: Horse anatomy practical class in the basement of the then Fisher Library (MacLaurin Hall). Circa 1910.
Faculty Status is Achieved

With such support, J. D. Stewart undoubtedly found his task much easier. A turning point was the event in November 1919 when the Department of Veterinary Science was granted by the Senate the improved status of "The Faculty of Veterinary Science". The Faculty had its first meeting in March 1920, but all was not rosy as student numbers continued to be low and the School had been under continual review by the University and NSW Government. As early as 1918, the Premier of Victoria was advocating that all veterinary science in Australia should be taught at the University of Melbourne, a move which was supported by the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne but, thankfully, rejected by the University of Sydney. The rivalry between the two schools did not stop there and in one form or another continued - and indeed continues to this day albeit in a form of scholarly competitiveness, devoid of animosity. With the rise in student numbers during the 1920's and, ironically, the closure of the Melbourne Veterinary School to undergraduate teaching in 1929, the Sydney School’s continued existence had been justified.

The establishment of the Australian Veterinary Association and the passing of the NSW Veterinary Surgeons' Act in 1923, were events which sealed the perpetuity of the School and which had much to owe to the foresight and initiative of J. D. Stewart.

The Rise and Rise of Female Influence

In the 1930's student numbers continued to increase and by 1935 there were over 100 graduates. This mushroomed to over 150 in 1936, that being the last year of entrance for a four year curriculum. In the intake of students in the early 1930's members of a new 'minority group' appeared. Until then New Zealanders had filled that role - in fact one of the first group of graduates, Gerald F. Finlay, was born at Waiuku, New Zealand - but now they were overshadowed by the entrance of women into the Faculty. This, of course, was to have a greater effect on the School than the presence of the New Zealanders. So much so that today they comprise more than 75-80% of the undergraduate students (by 1986, women comprised more than 50% if undergraduates and it was never to be reversed). The female graduates have done much to enhance the reputation of the School and have pioneered new areas of animal care and research for the veterinarian.
As had been case for the New Zealanders, J. D. Stewart was enthusiastic about the entrance of women into the Faculty and continually encouraged them during the course. The first woman, Ann Flashman, entered the Faculty in 1930 and she was followed by Patricia Littlejohn in 1931 (Fig. 3). Despite the necessary requisition of the toilet facilities previously utilized by the (male) staff, both women received strong support from all the teaching staff especially Dr Gunn with whom they enjoyed many undergraduate hours. Due to unforeseen, but not uncommon, circumstances, Ann graduated in 1935 a year later than Patricia, but both proved to be capable veterinarians and both brought credit upon the School.

Ann Flashman moved to Victoria and despite her busy life as wife of Sir Arthur Rylah, Chief Secretary in the Victorian Government, opened one of the first small animal veterinary clinics in which she worked until her sudden, unfortunate death.

Notwithstanding the difficulties faced by Patricia Littlejohn in raising three children and in providing support to her husband, Dr Terry Abbott, whose
interest in Public Health meant continual movement between developing countries, she managed to achieve expertise in Veterinary Pathology, and was gainfully employed as a Demonstrator in Veterinary Pathology in the School right up to the 1980’s. Sadly, Patricia died in 1998.

**JD Stewart Retires**

In 1939 J. D. Stewart retired. While the School was saddened by the departure of the 'Old Prof’ it was excited by the prospect of Ian Clunies Ross becoming the next Professor and Dean of Veterinary Science. J. D. Stewart's era was marked by establishment and consolidation, but the eras of I. Clunies Ross, and following him R. M. C. Gunn and H. R. Carne, were more concerned with expansion and improvement. By the time I. Clunies Ross had resigned in 1946 moves were afoot to establish a second department related to Veterinary Pathology and Bacteriology. It was fitting that H. R. Carne was appointed its first Professor, and that R. M. C. Gunn became the next Professor of Veterinary Science. In this post-World II period, both men inspired and influenced the growth of the Faculty. Student numbers rose gradually so that by 1960 the School had 263 undergraduates. Earlier, a Department of Veterinary Physiology had been established in 1950 followed by a Department of Animal Husbandry in 1956; their respective Professors being C. W. Emmens and T. J. Robinson. On the retirement of R. M. C. Gunn in 1959, the Department of Veterinary Science was converted to one of Veterinary Medicine with David McFarlane as its Professor, although the teaching still embraced a wide range of disciplines which sat uneasily under the title of Veterinary Medicine. H. R. Carne retired in 1965 and was replaced in the Hugh Hughes Chair of Veterinary Pathology by C. H. Gallagher and in the next year two new departments were split off from Veterinary Medicine: these were Veterinary Surgery and Veterinary Anatomy with L. H. Larsen and R. M. Butterfield as the respective Professors.

**Present Faculty Structure and the Rise and Fall of Departments**

From 1966 until 1974 the Faculty operated with six departments, but amalgamations then began. 1975 saw the combining of the Departments of Veterinary Surgery and Veterinary Medicine into one of Veterinary Clinical Studies. In 1994 the Departments of Veterinary Physiology and Animal Science (the latter originally called Animal Husbandry) were combined, whilst the Departments of Veterinary Anatomy and Veterinary Pathology were amalgamated in 1997. In 2002, under the Deanship of Professor Reuben Rose, the Faculty decided to transform its departmental structure to one of functional
structure, namely research, teaching and clinical service. The Sydney and Camden Veterinary Teaching Hospitals were placed under one management structure, whilst research and undergraduate teaching were placed under Associate Deans. This structure, with some minor modifications, exists today. However, with the ever changing university structure, there may be a need to revisit the present structure to ensure that it delivers what is expected by our students, the University, the veterinary profession, animal industries and the community.

Growth of Facilities at Camperdown

The JD Stewart Building (initially called the Veterinary Science building) remained the major building for pre and paraclinical teaching and administration right up to the end of World War II. To keep pace with the growth in staff and students it was natural that there was an expansion of facilities. In the 1930's The McMaster Animal Health Laboratory (part of the CSIRO started sharing their facilities with staff members and towards the start of the Second World War southerly extensions to the main veterinary science building now the JD Stewart Building) were initiated, which now house Veterinary Anatomy. In 1946 temporary buildings for the Departments of Veterinary Pathology and Bacteriology and Veterinary Physiology were constructed. The temporary building for Veterinary Physiology continues to stand, albeit virtually condemned whilst the temporary Veterinary Pathology building was demolished in 1995 and the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Bacteriology rehoused in the McMaster Building. The present Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Sydney (UVTHS - in the Evelyn Williams Building) replaced a long-serving antiquated hut and veterinary surgery in 1967. In 2002-3 considerable refurbishment began to the UVTHS with the assistance of the University, the Faculty’s Veterinary Science Foundation and generous alumni and donors, especially the Postgraduate Foundation in Veterinary Science (now called the Centre for Veterinary Education). Today there is now a Valentine Charlton Feline Clinic, a completely modernised canine clinic and state of the art imaging and surgery facilities.

The early 1970's saw the construction of the combined Veterinary Physiology-Animal Science building (R. M. C. Gunn Building), but the Faculty had to wait until the mid 1990’s before a new building arose on campus: the Veterinary Science Conference Centre. This building was important for several reasons. Firstly, it provided the Faculty with the opportunity to re-engage with its Alumni and benefactors through the establishment of the J. D. Stewart Foundation (the forerunner of the Veterinary Science Foundation). Secondly, it
provided an opportunity for the University of Sydney’s Postgraduate Foundation in Veterinary Science to return to the Camperdown campus and to strengthen its ties with the Faculty. And thirdly, it completed the current quadrangle configuration, which, coincidentally, had always been the vision of Professor J. D. Stewart. Whilst this progress occurred at the Camperdown campus, the University and Faculty did not neglect its responsibility for heritage buildings. The J. D. Stewart Building is jealously protected and has recently undergone considerable restoration of its glorious sandstone frontage, whilst the original lecture theatre (now named the Sir Ian Clunies Ross Lecture Theatre) has been carefully rejuvenated along with the original student graffiti carved lovingly on bench tops. Meanwhile, the Caretaker’s Cottage and the Horse Observation Box (Roundhouse), both designed by Professor Leslie Wilkinson in the early 1920's, have been painstakingly maintained for future generations. The latest refurbishment of the Roundhouse, due to the generosity of the University, began in 2009 to be completed in time for the Centenary celebrations. Many past students will remember it with fondness as the spot to celebrate end of exams with the mandatory keg. No wonder it has become the symbol for our 2010 celebrations!

**Growth of Facilities at Camden**

Whilst attention was being paid to the Camperdown campus, there was also a need to establish facilities to allow students adequate access to livestock production and medicine. From the start, students were given the opportunity to visit farm facilities provided at Berry, but the tyranny of distance led to the University providing access to farms and a simple veterinary clinic at McGarvie Smith Farm, Badgery’s Creek in 1937. By the 1950's the McGarvie Smith Farm facilities were providing inadequate access to livestock for teaching and research purposes. Consequently, in 1954 the Australian Dairy Produce Board and the Australian Meat Board and the Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committee on Wool Research gave the University of Sydney two Camden farms, totalling 324 hectares, for the use of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The name of the JL Shute Building honours the then Chairman of the Australian Meat Board. From the start, the Camden site near Cobbity was designed to house at Nepean Hall final year Veterinary Science and Agricultural students, and to provide them with quality education in livestock production and health. Part of this, was the building of the Rural Veterinary Centre, (now known as the University of Sydney Veterinary Teaching Hospital Camden [UVTHC]), which provided the veterinary students with access to sick livestock, horses and small animals. The site was open to
teaching in 1958 and quickly grew as the University accessed more than 1400 hectares of land in the Camden district due to generous bequests and astute purchases.

Research at the Cobbity site continued to grow during the 1960’s, 70’s and 80’s, primarily due to the joint efforts of the Faculties of Veterinary Science and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The J. L. Shute Building became the main research and teaching centre for the Departments of Animal Husbandry (later called Animal Science) and Veterinary Clinical Medicine (later called Veterinary Clinical Sciences). However, May and Corstorphine farms were also important research and teaching sites. The MC Franklin Meat Research Laboratory, The Dairy and Poultry Research Units and the Breakwell Building (primarily agronomy) contributed to the research capacity for the site. However, the late 1980’s and the 90’s saw a decline in many of the facilities at the Camden site. It is perhaps poignant that the two Faculties who were girded through a founding bequest became the driving force for the rejuvenation of the Camden site. Deans Reuben Rose (1998-2003) and Leo Jefcott (2004-2009) galvanised all the veterinary staff, and aided and abetted by Agricultural deans, Les Copeland and Mark Adams, convinced the government, University and other stakeholders of the importance of investing in the Camden site. As a consequence, and since 2000, The JL Shute building has been completely refurbished, the Wildlife Health and Conversation Centre built and new teaching laboratories and lecture theatre completed. In 2008, the Camden site was officially recognised as a University campus with subsequent planning for new accommodation facilities and new veterinary teaching hospital facilities. There is still much to complete at the Camden campus, but it’s future growth is assured, so much so that from 2010 there will full Year 4 Veterinary Science teaching, in addition to expanded Year 5 Veterinary Science and Animal and Veterinary Bioscience teaching.

Leadership in the Faculty Post World War II

In their time as Professors and Deans, R. M. C. Gunn and H. R. Carne had presided over many changes and had influenced many students during the mid-1940’s, 1950’s and early 1960’s. As the post-World War I period has spawned many of the future staff of the faculty, so too did World War II and immediately subsequent years. R. M. Butterfield, M. J. Edwards, C. H. Gallagher, L. H. Larsen, and D. A. Titchen were all products of that era and went on to become Professors and many to serve their time as Dean. With the retirement of Gunn and then Carne in the mid 1960’s the Deanship passed to Professor D. McFarlane in 1962 and then to Associate Professor R. V. S. Bain
in 1964, a brilliant bacteriologist who was the only dean in the Faculty’s history to be appointed holding a non-professorial title. He served for two two-year terms before being replaced by Professor R. M. Butterfield for two further terms (1970-73), followed by Professor C. H. Gallagher for another two terms (1973-77). It was under their stewardship that the Faculty saw unprecedented growth in both staff and facilities. Moreover, significant appointments were made in Chairs in Veterinary Clinical Studies (J. R. Egerton in 1972 and M. J. Edwards in 1975). Both men were to hold office as Dean, with Professor Edward’s steering the Faculty through a difficult period of devolution in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s.

By the time Professor David Fraser was appointed in 1995, the role of Dean had moved from a part time ceremonial and principally academic role to a full time executive management position. The shift in emphasis from pure academia to academic business was a great challenge for the Faculty, particularly during the harsh political wilderness years of the 1990’s. However, Professor Fraser established the groundwork, which was capably built upon by Professors Reuben Rose and Leo Jeffcott. When Professor Rose took up the mantle of Dean in 1998, the Faculty required complete rejuvenation, especially at its Camden site. The radical transformation of the Faculty over the next five years owes much to the vision and energy of Professor Rose. Many of his initiatives are now embedded, but much of that embedding required dogged tenacity and brilliant opportunism from Professor Jeffcott during 2004-2009. The Faculty now faces new challenges, but with its new Dean, Professor Rosanne Taylor, supported by a structure based more on function rather than traditional academic divisions, its future is assured. That is not to state that transformational change does not continue for the University, and the Faculty will need to be vigilant, pro-active and visionary to meet all future challenges.

Academic leadership for the Faculty has not only come from our alumni but also from graduates from other schools and universities. Presently, we are a Faculty that now teaches two degrees: the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and the Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Biosciences; and this creates a need to have a wide range of expertise and input from veterinary, agricultural and the pure sciences. An example of this would be the broad range of academic disciplines represented by the animal sciences (nutrition, genetics, reproduction, animal behaviour, welfare and handling), a group that makes up close to a third of our teaching and research staff. This is a far cry from the days when Frank Whitehouse taught an all-embracing animal husbandry course called Zootechny in the 1930’s and 1940’s for veterinary science students. In
fact, there was such a need for academic training in animal husbandry that a Department of Animal Husbandry was established in 1956 under the guidance of Professor T. J. Robinson. This department provided teaching to both the Veterinary Science and Agricultural Faculties as an independent unit until its incorporation into the Faculty of Veterinary Science around 1974.

**The Globalisation of Veterinary Science**

Whilst the significant contributions of other graduates to the development of the Sydney Faculty should not be forgotten, nor should the value of Sydney graduates to the development of other veterinary schools. Currently, Sydney graduates fill professorial positions at the University of Queensland, Charles Sturt University, University of Melbourne, Royal Veterinary College London, University of California at Davis, University of Illinois and University of Guelph, just to name a few. Perhaps the groundwork for this global influence can be attributed to Prof J. D. Stewart, for it was through his vision and labours, education in N.S.W. was established and perpetuated and has long been recognized at an international level. The acceptance of international students from as early as the 1950’s has long established the Faculty’s overseas alumni base, whilst the incorporation of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as part of the Australian veterinary schools accreditation process provided international credibility. Today the Faculty is now well accepted by the international veterinary community having achieved accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2004. The Faculty can now boast having a truly global curriculum with over 20% of its undergraduates in veterinary science from the World community, including representatives from all continents. Moreover, the Faculty’s research has embraced the importance of veterinary public health and the concept of one-health on a global basis. Our researchers now have significant international collaborations, particularly in South-East Asia, Europe and the Americas.

**Where to now?**

The Faculty has seen, survived and overcome many changes over the past 100 years. The next 100 years will no doubt be just as eventful. However, the Faculty is blessed with a superb staff and students, capably and strenuously supported by alumni, ex-staff, industry, the veterinary profession and benefactors, who will ensure any future challenge is met with optimism and dynamism. Gazing into the ‘crystal ball’, it is likely those challenges will come from changing national and global community needs; further, and continual, higher educational reform; and increasing demand for scientific rigour in
training and research. The Faculty may feel many emotions in the 100 years, but it will never feel boredom!

The Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science is but one of seven veterinary schools now established in Australia. It is perhaps parochial to regard this Faculty as the best but we are sure that all will understand and forgive the prejudice and self-indulgence of Sydney graduates on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Postgraduate Veterinary Education in NSW and the Establishment of the Post-Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science.8

Up to the early 1960’s continuing education for New South Wales veterinarians relied heavily on university lecturers providing courses. However, this was often informal and inadequately organised. Apparently, a similar situation applied in Queensland and Victoria, so in the early 1960’s a group of veterinarians, with the blessing – if not formal involvement - of the Australian Veterinary Association, approached the University of Sydney and requested the establishment of the Post-Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science (PGCVSc). Permission was granted in 1962 and the first formal course open to all Australian and New Zealand practising veterinarians followed soon after. To ensure that the PGCVSc was viewed as an organisation benefiting all Australian and New Zealand veterinarians, the first Chairman of the Committee was R. E. Churchwood who was then also the Executive Director of the Australian Veterinary Association. For the first few years, it was difficult to ensure that all costs of courses were covered, and it was soon realised that another source of funding, apart from fees, was necessary to attract the best speakers and to take the courses to other places than Sydney. Consequently, in 1965 a Post-Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science (PGFVSc) was established to support PGCVSc activities.

In 1968, TG Hungerford was appointed as a 0.33 Veterinary Director of the PGCVSc, which became a 0.5 appointment in 1970 and ultimately a full time appointment in 1974. In 1975, Tom was appointed Director of both the PGCVSc and PGFVSc and it was through his long stewardship and vision that the University of Sydney organisation grew in stature and activity and was accepted as a truly Australasian organisation showing no particular favour to any one veterinary school. In 1987, Tom passed on the mantle of Veterinary Director to Douglas Bryden who during the 1990’s proceeded to grow the range of continuing education activities and to move offshore into the Asian market place. On Doug’s retirement in 2000, his initiatives were refined and

By the 1990’s, it was realised that the PGCVSc was no longer necessary for the operation of continuing educational activities and was disbanded. All decisions then rested with the PGFVSc Board and the veterinary director and deputy director. In 2008, the PGFVSc name was replaced by the Centre for Veterinary Education (CVE), which obtained a new constitution but retained the same functions and objectives. The CVE continues to serve all Australasian veterinarians (and veterinary nurses), but has now extended its tentacles, particularly through on-line distance education programs, to veterinarians in both Asia and Europe.

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Other Sources of Information

- Centaur, 1937-2010, the Student Magazine for the Veterinary Society, University of Sydney
- Faculty of Veterinary Science Year Handbooks, 1910-2010
- Records from the Faculty of Veterinary Science Archives, University of Sydney
- Senate Minutes 1908-1960, University of Sydney
- The University Year Calendars 1909-2010, University of Sydney
- 1910-1985, 75th Anniversary Handbook, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney

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CORRECTION

VETERINARIANS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AUSTRALIAN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Geoff A Reed, BVSc, Dip Agr Extn, FAVA

On p13 of AVHR 62, the reference to Francois Ray, under the heading Arthur Webster should read:

‘In about 1928 he met Francois Ray, a representative of the Pasteur Institute who had come to Australia in 1906 to make bovine pleuropneumonia and anthrax vaccines for cattle.’
Jerome Lawrence Burns was born in Ireland in 1867 and commenced veterinary training at the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh in 1886. After two years he moved to Victoria and continued his veterinary education at Kendall’s private Melbourne Veterinary College. There he joined the first cohort of students and passed the final examinations in December 1891. Burns applied for registration under the Victorian Veterinary Surgeon’s Act 1887 but the Registration Board turned down his request on the grounds that the Act required four years of study in Victoria. However he was granted a certificate that allowed him to practice.

Throughout his professional life Mr Burns maintained a strong link with the press. He supplied reporters with information which included articles on veterinary topics, news items and replies to letters from animal owners requesting advice. The Western Mail had a long running column named “Mutual Help” where reader’s letters were published and those concerning animal health were answered by Mr Burns. Problems concerning horses were most common with quite a number involving cattle and a lesser number relating to sheep, pigs and dogs.

Table 1: Newspaper publications involving Mr Burns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Veterinary articles</th>
<th>News items</th>
<th>Replies to letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maitland Mercury</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Advertiser</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Mail</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Australian</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Times</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily News</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The publications can be accessed by searching the digitised newspaper collection at the National Library of Australia.

**Practice in New South Wales and South Australia**

After graduation Mr Burns started practice in West Maitland, NSW and advertised his address as the Grand Central Hotel, offering to visit sick animals or give advice by letter for five shillings. While in West Maitland, he wrote an article for the Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser on the similar pathology of animal and human disease – a subject still under discussion today.

Around 1895, Mr Burns moved to Adelaide, SA where he advertised his practice address as Victoria Square. Here he became involved in the export of Australian horses and accompanied at least two shipments to India. The Adelaide Advertiser in 1899 noted that Mr Burns had carried out the first tuberculin test on cattle in South Australia. Mr L H Darlot, a grazier with a large holding at Port Hedland in Western Australia bought two bulls and twenty two heifers with a stipulation that they pass a tuberculin test. The rectal temperature was measured every three hours for twenty four hours before the test. The animals were then injected with seven minims of Koch’s tuberculin diluted with a one percent solution of carbolic acid. One cow was removed from the consignment when its body temperature rose to 106 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Boer War 1899-1902**

Mr Burns enlisted as a lieutenant in the army in 1900 and was attached to the contingent of South Australian Bushmen. His responsibilities involved the transport of horses collected from a number of Australian ports to the troops in Southern Africa and he supervised five shipments to various ports from Cape Town to Beira. On his return to Australia he spoke to journalists about the horses and the conditions on ship and land.

His first shipment went to Beira in present day Mozambique and the horses were transported by rail to Marandellas, (now Marondera), on the route to Harare in present day Zimbabwe. The conditions were very poor, particularly the railway, and the death rate in the horses was very high. Mr Burns reported that in two weeks 100 horses and 250 mules were lost due to African Horse Sickness. Mr Burns developed malarial fever at that time and was sent to Cape Town for treatment. He recovered and while waiting for a berth back to Australia he helped with an outbreak of glanders in horses in Cape Town.
The third shipment left Brisbane on the steam ship Sussex with 1000 horses, 86 cattlemen and 3 foremen. The ship encountered severe weather in the Indian Ocean and 50 horses died or were destroyed as a result of their injuries. The remaining three voyages were accomplished with minimal losses and in total over 4000 horses were transported under Mr Burns’s supervision.

Lieutenant J L Burns, South Australian Bushmen, Boer War 1899-1902. Boer War Memorial Association
When interviewed by the press about the horses sent to South Africa, Mr Burns said the Australian horses were generally of good quality but such was the demand for horses that they were arriving at the rate of 10,000 per week from New Orleans, Argentina, Austria and England and some were not suitable for the conditions. He also pointed out that 30 days at sea was too long and that horses from Argentina had only to travel for 20 days. Ventilation below decks needed to be improved.

Mr Burns returned to Australia after his last voyage in 1902 and resumed practice in Adelaide. His war service was recognised by the award of the Queen’s South African Medal with clasp.

**Move to Fremantle**

The West Australian newspaper announced on the 4th November 1903 that Mr J L Burns had accepted the positions of Inspector of Stock at Fremantle and Government Veterinary Surgeon. The salary was to be three hundred and fifty pounds per annum plus allowances and he would work under the direction of the Chief Inspector, Mr R E Weir. Mr Burns held this position until he retired in 1926. In 1907 and 1914, he was Acting Chief Inspector while Mr Weir was overseas. While acting as Chief Inspector, Mr Burns prepared reports on the activities of the Stock Department and they were published in the local press.

During his time at Fremantle, Mr Burns kept a letter book containing copies of the letters he wrote concerning his work. One volume of nearly one thousand pages covering the years 1913 to 1917 has been kept in the State Records Office of Western Australia. Most of the letters were sent to Mr Weir reporting on Mr Burns work, or statistics on the number of animals passing through Fremantle port. These documents contain interesting information on the animal disease situation in Western Australia one hundred years ago.

This letter, written in 1913 demonstrates the formal style of the reporting.
Fremantle 10th February 1913

The Chief Inspector of Stock

Sir,

I have the honour to report the arrival here yesterday of the SS “Western Australia” from Wyndham with 228 cattle for Messrs Connor Doherty & Durack. 240 animals were shipped, 12 being lost on the voyage.

I understand all were dipped and inoculated. They are from Wave Hill and Victoria River stations and look a fine shipment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J L Burns

Duties as Stock Inspector

The main responsibility of the stock inspector was to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases not at that time endemic in the southern part of Western Australia. Animals arrived from all parts of the world but the greatest number came from ports in the northern parts of the State such as Wyndham, Derby, Broome, Port Headland, Cossack and Carnarvon.

Cattle from Argyle station swimming ashore at Fremantle after an eight day voyage from Wyndham.

State Library of Western Australia, image number 061547PD.
Mr Burns produced regular returns on animals passing through Fremantle port. Here are two examples.

**Table 2: Return of Stock Landed at Fremantle from North-West Ports**  
From 1st July 1912 to 30th June 1913

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port of shipment</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Camels</th>
<th>Dogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wyndham</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15926</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15318</td>
<td>16953</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broome</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt. Hedland</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5169</td>
<td>35460</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cossack</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>5544</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onslow</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnarvon</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>21706</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldton</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>295</strong></td>
<td><strong>37509</strong></td>
<td><strong>79663</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sundries - Eastern States only - 1 Ostrich, 4 Deer, 1 Penguin, 1 Hyena, 2 Wolves, 25 Monkeys, 2 Hawks, 1 Eagle, 2 Tiger Cats, 4 Parrots

**Table 3: Return of Stock Exported from Fremantle**  
From 1st July 1912 to 30th June 1913

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Pigs</th>
<th>Dogs</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern States</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batavia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>102</strong></td>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The major illnesses which caused the stock inspector concern were tick fever, tuberculosis and pleuropneumonia in cattle and swine fever in pigs. Tick fever, caused by protozoa and transmitted by ticks was prevalent in the East Kimberley region and cattle had to be dipped before shipment to Perth. Mr Burns stated
publicly that ticks were not present in the West Kimberley region but in 1916 a boat from Derby arrived in Fremantle with 170 cattle heavily infested with ticks.

Cases of suspected tuberculosis occurred sporadically and Mr Burns performed tuberculin tests to confirm the disease. Animals with pleuropneumonia were also encountered from time to time and the diagnosis was often confirmed at slaughter or necropsy. In 1907, Mr Burns estimated that the annual mortality rate in pigs due to swine fever was around 1%. Importation of pigs from the Eastern States was prohibited but in 1915, while Mr Burns was Acting Chief Stock Inspector there was a serious outbreak of the disease which he succeeded in controlling.

**Duties as Government Veterinary Surgeon**

In his role as Government Veterinary Surgeon Mr Burns investigated illness and deaths in animals in the southern areas of Western Australia. Some cases of poisoning were recorded due to the ingestion of toxic plants or contamination of watercourses with arsenic used as a wood preservative. He also examined horses and issued certificates of soundness before they were sold.

A small number of animals used for entertainment visited Western Australia. This is his report on the death of a performing pig.

> “I have the honour to report the death yesterday from enteritis of one pig the property of Mr Van Camp. The animal arrived here per SS ‘Karoola’ on 1st MAY (in quarantine) via the Eastern States from AMERICA and was one of the performing pigs, six in number. I had the carcase destroyed by fire adjacent to the Princess Theatre, Fremantle.”

**Retirement**

Mr Burns retired due to ill health in March 1926. The Western Mail reported that “At the annual picnic of the Department of Agriculture at Point Walter on March 5, Mr St. Clair-Jones, Under Secretary for Agriculture presented him with a valuable aneroid barometer, mounted on a carved oak frame. The gift bore an engraved plate with his name and the statement that it was given as a token of esteem by his fellow-officers from the department after 23 years of service.

Mr Burns died on 22 March 1929.
Acknowledgements

Assistance with this article was provided by the staff at the State Records Office of Western Australia and staff in the Registrars’ Offices of the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria, the Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales, the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London.

Professor R A Swan provided information on cattle diseases.

Sources of information

National Library of Australia Digitised Newspaper Archives

State Records Office of Western Australia: Letterbook (outward correspondence), Consignment No 6536, Record Series 2554 LETTERBOOK


RINDERPEST IN W.A.

OUTBREAK DESCRIBED.

At the monthly meeting of the Veterinary Association of New South Wales, held at the Royal Society’s rooms, Mr. W. L. Hindmarsh, who has recently returned from Western Australia, where he had been a member of the veterinary staff engaged in the eradication of rinderpest, read a paper on the outbreak.

Mr. Hindmarsh sketched the course of the outbreak from the time the first diagnosis of rinderpest was made on November 20, till the last case occurred on the mainland on December 18. An illustrative of the highly infectious nature of the disease as well as the heavy mortality it occasioned, he stated that on four farms in the Fremantle area, 119 out of 151 cattle either died of rinderpest or were destroyed, and showed lesions of the disease on post mortem examination. In addition to the outbreak on the mainland further heavy mortality was experienced among the cattle on Rottnest Island, necessitating the destruction of all cattle there.

Among the drastic measures instituted by Mr. W. A. N. Robertson, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Board of Control were: (1) The destruction of all animals, whether cattle, sheep, goats, or pigs within a mile of any infected farm; (2) a strict quarantine of the whole area within a radius of 30 miles of Fremantle post office, and (3) the examination of all sick animals not only within this area but throughout a large part of the western half of the state, by members of the veterinary staff. So effective did these measures prove that the last cases of rinderpest occurred a little over one month after the first diagnosis was made. Compensation was paid to farmers for all stock destroyed during the outbreak.

Mr. Hindmarsh then dealt with the possible mode of entry of rinderpest into Australia, and stressed the danger that existed of the introduction of disease by means of ships trading with the East, and the careful quarantine and veterinary inspection required to prevent this.

In thanking Mr. Hindmarsh for his paper, the President of the Association, Dr. Sydner Dodd, paid a tribute to the effective manner in which Mr. Robertson and his veterinary officers had stamped out this most serious disease. Professor Douglas Stewart expressed his gratification that the veterinary profession had demonstrated its value to the community in such a signal manner, and emphasised the inestimable loss to the live stock industry that would have occurred had rinderpest not been eradicated so rapidly.

The following motion proposed by Professor Stewart, and seconded by Mr. Max Henry (Chief Veterinary Officer, N.S.W.), was then carried unanimously: “That this Association record its appreciation of the work of Mr. W. A. N. Robertson and his veterinary staff in combating the recent outbreak of rinderpest, and thus again effectively demonstrating the value of scientific veterinary knowledge in safeguarding the flocks and herds of the Commonwealth.”
Max Henry Memorial Library

The Max Henry Memorial Library is a collection of over 1000 books and manuscripts. It includes early veterinary textbooks, books about animal health and veterinary science in Australia and books written by Australian veterinarians.

The library was formed in 1931 by Mr Max Henry from books received by the Australian Veterinary Journal for review. Originally known simply as the AVA Library, it was renamed the Max Henry Memorial Library in 1961 to commemorate the life's devotion of Max Henry to veterinary science in general, and to the AVA, its journal and the library in particular.

With the growth of the Max Henry Memorial Library, a collection of 559 books of historical value was transferred to the Fisher Library of the University of Sydney in the late 1970s.

In 1995 the AVA Executive decided to disband the Max Henry Memorial Library. Most of the books and journals were donated to the Veterinary School in Zambia. Custody of the historical component of the Max Henry Memorial Library, comprising over 600 books, was given to the Australian Veterinary History Society.

The size of the Max Henry Memorial Library has grown slowly through the donation of books and some purchases made by the Australian Veterinary History Society.

The Max Henry Memorial Library is currently housed in the Gilruth Library at the Veterinary School of the University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria. The collection has grown to over 1000 items. The collection is open to the public. AVA members and students and staff of the University of Melbourne are able to borrow selected items from the collection.

A listing of the holdings in the library is available on http://www.unimelb.libguides.com/maxhenry and clicking on the catalogue link on the menu. The lists are in word document, excel and PDF format and are freely available for downloaded.