



AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 9 - MARCH 1994

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MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON
10 MARCH 1994 IN CANBERRA

PRESENT: Dr RI Taylor in the Chair, Drs M Anderson, WI Beveridge, J Aspley-Davis, RA R Everett, Robyn Giescke, H Gordon, M Heynes, M Lindsay, PJ Mylrea, D Rennell, R Roe, Barbara Wellington, J Wellington, Mesdames Jessica Taylor, L Taylor and M Anderson.

APOLOGIES: L Hart, J Fisher

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: These were published in Newsletter No 7 and were taken as read.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

This is the Third Annual General Meeting and follows the Inaugural Meeting in 1991 in Sydney. The year 1993 has been one of consolidation and progress. We have attempted to fulfil our objectives in several ways.

The publishing of our newsletter keeps the Executive in contact with members and provides a forum for members to submit articles of historical interest to the Editor for publication. These are always very welcome.

We have cooperated with the AVA as a Special Interest Group, and serve as a clearing house for matters related to conservation, overseas and local history enquiries, and the AVA Historical Collection of Books in the Max Henry Memorial Library.

We have provided information to the International Congress on Veterinary Medicine [history] which meets at Copenhagen in August 1994. The AVHS will be represented by one of our members, Dr JR Fisher of Newcastle University. He will present a paper on 'Politics, economics and the origins of the veterinary profession in Britain'.

The World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine has published a 'List of Veterinary Museums' which has been distributed world wide. Forty museums are detailed and Australia is No. 1 on the current list.

We have supported the concept of SIG participation in the Annual Conference of the AVA, and for 1994 we have been able to attract speakers with a variety of history papers. The majority have a core interest in the ACT and surrounds.

At the close of the year we had over 100 members. Sadly we have lost two members. Professor MAE Rex of Queensland and Dr John Shilkin of Western Australia. John published a veterinary history of WA some years ago. Vale Mike and John.

The work of the Society has only been possible with the great assistance and cooperation of our Secretary/Treasurer/Editor Peter Mylrea. I and I am sure the membership thank Peter for his active interest and involvement.

We did contemplate that at this meeting Peter and myself would hand over to a new President/ Secretary team. However despite a number of enquiries to date we have not been able to secure volunteers or even conscripts.

However I report we have an assurance that at the next AGM which will be held in Melbourne a Victorian team will volunteer to take over the administration of the AVHS.

Finally there are a number of members who have supported me over the last twelve months. My thanks and best wishes to all of you.

RI Taylor, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited financial statement for the Society is attached.

Income for the year was \$1 190.54 made up of \$20.54 as our share of the profit from the AVA Conference in Adelaide in 1992, a donation of \$50

from Dr J Holt and the balance from subscriptions paid directly to the Society.

Expenditure was \$826.92 of which about \$630 was spent on the printing and posting of the three newsletters published during the year. The remainder went mostly on other postage and stationery.

At the end of the year the Society had total financial assets of \$2 783.68 made up from an operating profit in 1993 of \$363.62, a credit balance from previous years of \$1 441.74, and a credit of \$978.32 held by the AVA from subscriptions collected directly by them.

PJ Mylrea, Hon. Treasurer.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 January 1993 to 31 December 1993

Receipts		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	1120.00	Printing	332.00
Adelaide profit	20.54	Postage	284.60
Donation J Holt	50.00	Stationery	144.40
		Govt charges	5.92
		Petty cash	60.00
	-----		-----
	1190.54		826.92
CR balance at		CR balance at	1805.36
1-1-1993	1441.74	31-12-1993	
	-----		-----
	2632.28		2632.28

Some subscriptions are paid directly to the AVA. These are held in their interest earning account on our behalf. The balance at 31-12-1993 was \$978.32.

BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank statement		Cash book	
CR balance at	1805.36	Cash balance at	1441.74
31-12-1993		1-1-1993	
O/S deposits	nil	Add receipts	1190.54
	-----		-----
	1805.36		2632.28
O/S cheques	nil	Less expenditure	826.92
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CR balance	1805.36		1805.36
PJ Mylrea Hon. Secretary/Treasurer			

I, Roy Nicholson of 26 River Road Camden NSW, have examined the books and records of the Australian veterinary History Society for the period 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1993 and have found the records to be in order and correct.

R. Nicholson J.P., 31-12-1993

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following officers were elected:

President: RI Taylor

Secretary/Treasurer: PJ Mylrea

Editor: PJ Mylrea

Committee members: Drs WI Beveridge, R Everett,
M Lindsay and Mrs Jessica Taylor.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. It was resolved that the annual subscription for 1995 be \$10-00.
2. It was resolved 'That speakers at this meeting who are not sponsored by another organisation be paid one day's registration at the concessional rate of \$75-00.'
3. It was resolved 'That the Society accept as a principle that it pays one day's registration at the concessional rate to speakers at the Annual Meetings who are not sponsored by another organisation.'
4. There was a discussion about the program for the 1995 meeting. It was decided that this should be a full day meeting with, say, two historical papers in the morning, followed by attendance at the Plenary Meeting, then two or three contributions in the afternoon. The Annual General Meeting would be held following afternoon tea. This was considered a better arrangement as the format used to date has been crowded and run over time.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 1995

As can be seen from the Minutes the annual subscription for 1995 will be \$10.00. This must make this Society unique with a reduction in fees.

FOR ITINERANT MEMBERS

There is a World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine. It holds meetings and members of our Society are entitled to attend and to contribute papers. The next two meetings are to be held in Copenhagen, 21-25 August 1994, and in Yokohama in September 1995 as part of the World Veterinary Congress. If you are interested contact our Secretary for further details.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Early development of veterinary services in the Australian Capital territory - AK Sutherland, 11 Epping Street, Malvern East, Vic, 3145.

The first veterinary appointment in the territory was Angus Conrad McKay, BVSc (Sydney 1925) who was appointed in 1926 by the Federal Capital Commission responsible for supervising the supply of meat and milk and for providing disease control and advice to livestock producers throughout the territory. Tuberculin testing of all dairy cattle commenced immediately and McKay carried out effective extension programs on liver fluke, black disease and hydatids.

Dr WAN Robertson, DVSc (Melbourne 1925) was appointed Director of Veterinary Hygiene in the Commonwealth Department of Health in 1926. The Federal Capital Commission was abolished in 1930 and AC McKay transferred to the Health Department under Robertson. In 1937 brucellosis occurred in people with no known exposure to livestock. The Health Department attributed these cases to the raw milk supply. A test-and-slaughter program was commenced in the ten dairy herds comprising about 1100 cows. In January 1938 the writer was appointed to carry out the brucellosis program. During 1938 a concerted effort was made to vaccinate all sheep flocks exposed to black disease.

In 1940 brucellosis was detected in the herd that was the major supplier of pork to the city and the disease was eradicated by test-and-slaughter.

Dr Robertson was succeeded in 1939 by RN Wardle B.V.Sc. (Melbourne 1917) as Director of Veterinary Hygiene. The writer moved to Queensland in 1942 and was succeeded by HR Peisley BVSc (Sydney 1938), who eventually joined AC McKay in the Army in the Northern Territory. Subsequent veterinary officers were GEH Shepherd BVSc (Sydney 1941) and RC Taylor BVSc (Sydney 1942).

A degree of choice: career paths of women in the Australian veterinary profession - Robyn Giesecke, 16 Gulfview Road, Blackwood, SA 5051

The conferring of degrees in science on women was not a foregone conclusion when the first universities were established in Australia. At both Sydney and Adelaide Universities women had no choice. They were not admitted. High level intervention became necessary for those universities to admit women and to confer science degrees.

When that situation was redressed Adelaide conferred the first degree in science on a woman in 1885. Edith Dornwell became Australia's first woman science graduate.

Australia's first woman to be trained in veterinary science - Miss Belle Bruce Reid - graduated from Kendall's Melbourne Veterinary College in 1906. The last trainees from the College were absorbed into the University of Melbourne in 1909. University trained women veterinarians graduated from Sydney in 1935, from Brisbane in 1940 and from Murdock in 1979.

In this paper the career paths of women within the profession will be followed, noting their achievements and their exploration of employment opportunities as we move towards the year 2000.

The origins and establishment of the Post Graduate Committee and Foundation in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney - VG Cole, 48 Kameruka Road, Northbridge, NSW 2063.

In May 1961 a group of veterinarians met in Sydney to examine the feasibility of forming a Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science to promote veterinary education. In November 1961 the Senate of the University approved the formation of the proposed Committee. The

Committee held three refresher courses in 1962 and several more in the following years. Finance was obtained from veterinarians initially but in September 1965 the Senate approved the formation of the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science to take over fund raising and provide money for the Committee's activities. In June 1968 the Committee appointed a part-time Technical Director (TG Hungerford) and from then on courses were expanded. The appointment was made full time in 1974. Today the founders of both the Committee and Foundation can feel satisfied that their aim, formulated over 30 years ago, to provide post graduate education has met with the success now widely recognised.

**Veterinary practice developments in the Canberra region -
D Rennell, 54 Arthur Street, Lyons, ACT 2606**

Recognition of veterinary expertise in New South Wales under the Veterinary Surgeons Act was the early basis of practice in the Canberra region. In 1882 Sheep District Inspectors became Inspectors of Stock and the Sheep Districts were changed to Pastures protection Districts in 1902. Max Henry, appointed Chief Veterinary Surgeon in NSW in 1924 gradually moved veterinary graduates into these positions. In Canberra officers were employed by the Commonwealth and one of these Angus Mackay was the first to establish a practice in Canberra. Client driven initiatives in an expanding urban population shifted the emphasis from rural to companion animal practice. The Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance 1965 replaced the NSW Veterinary Surgeons Act and provided local control. Currently about 30 practices exist in the ACT.

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor
AVHS Newsletter.

It was pleasing to read of the practical side of eradicating Swine Fever in N.S.W. in 1942-43 as outlined by Bruce King in Newsletter No. 8. At the time, it was practically established that a ship from the U.S.A., carrying supplies for American troops was en route to Singapore and had to be diverted to Perth. Some of the frozen pork on board was retained for use in Western Australia, and some forwarded to N.S.W., arriving in Sydney in November 1942.

The outbreak of Swine Fever in Western Australia resulted in much heavier losses of pigs than in N.S.W.

Jack Hayston and I did all the diagnostic work in N.S.W. and from each suspect case of Swine Fever a susceptible pig was inoculated intravenously with a bacteria-free filtrate (Elford membrane A.P.D. 0.7 microns), of laked blood, or tissue exudate. The amount of filtrate available rarely exceeded 1.0 ml and in one case 0.1 ml filtrate infected the injected pig. An almost constant feature in pigs dying of Swine fever was the presence of infarcts in the spleen.

The drastic action of slaughter and burn on site resulted in complete eradication within five months.

Details of the laboratory work are set out in a paper by Edgar, Hart and hayston (1949) International veterinary Congress, 14th, London, 1949, Section 3(e) p. 1.

L. Hart, 262 Attunga Road, Yowie bay, 2228.

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51 King Street,
Narrandera, NSW, 2700.

Dear Peter,

Reading your Newsletter No. 8 I was reminded of a small outbreak of Swine Fever in the Narrandera P.P.District - only a few properties were involved, one near Weethalle, one just west of Griffith and another near Yenda. For confirmation I took two pigs to Glenfield where they were examined by Jack keast. From memory I destroyed about 300 pigs. There was an outbreak near Albury about the same time. Departmental records would supply accurate details [most unlikely - Editor].

I well remember Mac Anderson floating around the County of Cumberland in RAAF uniform during the outbreak there. He was seconded from the RAAF.

Hal Ware.

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21 Canterbury Chase
Goonellabah NSW 2480

Dear Peter

I noticed in Newsletter No. 8 that mention was made of Swine Fever in the years 1942-43.

I cannot remember the exact details but when I was District Veterinary Officer at Cootamundra I became involved over the disposal of garbage waste from army camps at Corowa and Hay. At Corowa it was found that the food waste from the American Army camp was being dumped on the ground at one of the local piggeries. It was not until threats were made, that the garbage would have to be disposed of by other means, that the army authorities arranged for the waste to be boiled at the piggery. Fortunately no outbreaks of Swine Fever occurred at this centre.

Two suspected outbreaks had to be handled at Hay. The redoubtable Ken Bray, Inspector of stock at that centre assisted with the investigations. As might be expected disposal of garbage at one of the local piggeries left a lot to be desired and it took some time to determine if Swine Fever was in fact the cause of the heavy losses mainly in feral pigs. I would have to confirm it but I think that after a series of transmissions [trials] Swine fever was confirmed.

The other outbreak at the Hay prisoner of war camp was more clear cut but unexpected. The piggery there was very well run and the pride and joy of the Camp Commandant, Col Thane. Hygiene was excellent and the food waste properly boiled. The pigs in general looked a picture of health yet Swine Fever was confirmed by transmission following upon the death and sickness of several pigs.

The pigs had been run in open yards with Thatched huts for shelter. Italian prisoners of war who had looked after the pigs assisted with their destruction. The pigs were shot with 303s and then loaded into thatched huts, and set afire and incinerated. The day temperature was well into the 40 degrees C. and I must admit that the prisoners of war, armed with some of our 303s, proved most helpful in the destruction and burning of the pigs. Japanese prisoners of war at the same camp were not given this

privilege.

Col Thane was most disconsolate over the loss but on a personal basis proved most hospitable and provided us with every assistance.

Bert Harris

HISTORICAL ARTICLES

On getting around - Doug Johns, 13 Warri Crescent, Macmasters Beach, NSW 2251

It was War's end when I arrived in the City of Wagga to start the third country veterinary practice to exist in New South Wales at that time.

The vast area in which my services may be called would need considerable mobility but new motor cars of either local or overseas origin just did not exist.

By a stroke of luck I managed to become the proud owner of a sawn-off buckboard type 1927 Pontiac tourer which defiantly displayed its Indian Chief mascot on the radiator cap. Horse hair padding protruded from the worn upholstery and produced rashes on bodily sites distal to the pelvis.

The constabulary in charge of roads and traffic failed to find any category for veterinary surgeons in their instructions so classed me as a country dentist for the issue of petrol ration coupons and allocated six gallons (27 litres) per month. The Indian Chief's wings drooped but he thought it better than an empty tank.

Alternative transport was called for whenever possible so that the petrol ration could spread a little further and so with my little black bag of gear fitting neatly between the handle bars of a push bike I was to be seen on one occasion cycling down the main street to town cases. I had never forgotten my boyhood prowess as a cyclist among the sand and stones of Broken Hill.

A not so urgent call to a stud bull at Bundure needed considerable ability

to interpret railway timetables e.g. out of bed at 4:30 am, caught train to Junee, changed for fast 30 km/h express to Narranderra, changed to the 'tin hare' rail motor arriving at Bundure 11 am. At 4:30 pm reversed the journey, finally hitching in the Guard's van on a goods train arriving Wagga at 11:30 pm. Tired but job done and client satisfied.

Rain on the river roads meant leaving the car at the farmer's gate and riding to the dairy in a horse and sulky or on a kerosene tractor. Curious about the smell of burning feathers on the wind from the neighbouring dairy brought the reply that the herd owner was using the procedure to protect his cows against abortion. The pre-Strain 19 era did call for the invocation of witchcraft, various.

'Can you ride a horse?' asked one farmer as I arrived to investigate a sheep mortality on the far side of three to four kilometres of rain sodden hills. 'I arranged for a sack (pre-plastic era) to carry your gear in.' Army experience in balancing unusual things on horse back helped a little in this manoeuvre.

The second car enjoyed wind-up windows. One of its previous owners remarked that during the Great Depression personal fiscal policy dictated that when used as a taxicab he left it on the rank and rode his bicycle home for lunch. This car besides carrying me and my armamentarium was more effective in keeping out the very wintry blasts of the Riverine Plains and preventing the hot summer sun popping the cork from that messy but vital medication tincture of iodine. Among the inevitable jumble which precipitated on the back seat our first born was also warmer and a little more comfortable.

The problem of how to visit a case at Deniliquin 250 km away was solved by the inauguration of one of the first country airline services viz., Australian National Airlines.

As petrol flowed a little more freely and General Motors geared up for civilian production I indulged in a new vehicle - a G.M.C. panel van which was a useful carrier for keeping gear and family dry.

And then there was the night the river was in flood. Evening relaxation was again interrupted by a call to a dairy on one of the islands. The fences

having gone the cows had broken in and over gorged on grain. 'Just stop at the end of the track. Its easily found.' The owner was familiar with it but had forgotten that it was almost obscured by long river bank grass and herbage. 'I have left a rowing boat tied up to a River Gum - just aim for a hurricane lamp light up stream a bit.' It was clear full moonlight and peaceful which improved both mood and soul so I rowed a little slower while I enjoyed that beautiful scene.

The practice grew. The roads to the distant Riverina calls developed that flat sameness which prompted the idea of flying. Wagga Flying School provided the means by which one qualified to fly with the usual circuits and bumps, map reading, meteorology and the appropriate Civil Aviation theory examination. There were three Tiger Moths in the School - ex Air Force trainers. The small boat behind the pilot's seat was just big enough to hold the 'Black Bag' and enough casting ropes when needed. Thus equipped and licensed I flew to cases huddled in an open cockpit with several layers of wool, overalls, helmet and goggles. It was still very cold. The planes boasted neither heaters or radios. Any resemblance to Biggles is only in my grandson's imagination.

Thanks to road knowledge the finding of the various stations did not present problems. The criteria for landing called for the driving of a car at 35 m.p.h., 56 km/h, over the surface of a paddock without discomfort to the driver. Above all it had to be clear of horses and cattle in order to avoid predation on the plane's fabric while I worked.

It all added to the adventure of getting around - and I lived.

Experiences of an early veterinarian in industry - HT Carroll, 2 'Miramar' 7 Ashton Gardens, Bellevue Hill, NSW 2023

[According to Hugh Gordon, Harry Carroll was one of the first veterinarians in industry - Editor.]

As it was intended that I would pursue a career on the land I entered Hurlstone Agricultural High School (1925/26) and with the Intermediate Certificate enrolled at Hawkesbury Agricultural College for two years (1928/29) where Freddie Whitehouse was a better teacher of animal

husbandry than he was ever given credit for. The practical training I received at these two schools was a big factor in my comparative success in the national and international fields where a knowledge of animal husbandry and production was essential – and rare.

I obtained full board and lodgings for the equivalent of \$2.50 per week in Arundel Street directly opposite where, today, the overhead bridge crosses Parramatta Road to the University. Due to lack of self discipline I failed, passed and failed again and it became necessary to find employment (when there was up to 30% unemployment!). I was given an introduction to H.A.Vernon a well known layman who had just left Vitalick Limited in Kent Street to join Wilcox Mofflin as Technical Adviser. He referred me to the founder and Managing Director of Vitalick, (manufacturers of anthelmintics such as Tetrachlorethylene {Wurmezol}, Carbon Tetrachloride and Bluestone and Bluestone and Nicotine Sulphate as well as stock foods and etc.), Charles Blaxland, a grazier of Barraba and descendent of Blaxland who crossed the Blue Mountains. He reversed the employment trend and gave me a job (1933) at the equivalent of \$10.00 weekly wage, \$10.00 car expenses (but I had to buy the car) and 15% commission; my area was all N.S.W. north of Tamworth. I borrowed \$100.00 to buy a 1926 Morris Oxford tourer and set off to perform my first job but the role of farm to farm salesman was not attractive so after one month I returned to Sydney and informed the management that I wished to change my position from salesman to technical adviser! My suggestions were –

1. Give lectures and post mortem examinations in centres throughout my area.
2. Refuse to accept orders and, if necessary, refer graziers to local Vitalick agents.
3. If opposition products were superior I assumed the right to recommend them instead of our products.
4. I would need a microscope for faecal examinations.
5. I would receive commission on sales made by agents in my area.

The Vitalick Board was very dubious but luckily the Managing Director and manager had faith in this brash young man and consented, but I had to buy the microscope! – Esdailes in Hunter Street.

The idea became a fantastic success and later southern Queensland was

added to my area. After three to four years I had saved sufficient money to enable my return to the University. I informed Charles Blaxland of my decision! He was astounded and observed that 'you are forsaking the substance for the shadow'. However, I insisted and the board offered to retain me at \$4.00 per week and \$2.00 each time I visited the office plus the services of a secretary to type my lecture notes. In return I pledged to return to their employ after graduation. I did not fail this time! During the mid'30s I travelled on the midnight boat to Newcastle for the NENCO sales. One lot of medium fine wool was auctioned to 24 pence a pound and the sale was stopped by clapping and cheering. The Depression was over!!!

A South African Veterinarian, Brandsen, had become Technical Adviser and on graduation (1938) I became his assistant. Two years later Brandsen returned to South Africa and I became the Technical Director. Incidentally, I established a free animal clinic at the factory to help the impoverished residents of that area.

In 1941 I was invited to Western Australia by their agents Goldsborough Mort and Company for one month which extended to three months and I lectured all over the state still refusing to sell or recommend and I received much assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the Director of Veterinary Services, Cyril Toop. In 1942 I resigned and joined the A.M.F. Veterinary Corp, but with my rank of Captain, was unable to go overseas in the A.I.F. It took twelve months to be demoted to Lieutenant and I served in independent companies etc. Finally I became O.C. of farm units in Moresby, Madang and Aitape growing food for the troops and in 1944 was transferred to the Medical Corp as Research Nutrition Officer in Moresby and carried out research on tissue saturation of ascorbic acid in Papuans.

After the war Goldsborough Mort and Company expedited my discharge from Moresby and I became Veterinary Adviser to Goldsborough Mort and Co. in Western Australia and South Australia. In 1948 I registered Veterinary Products Company with the trade mark TOP FORM and appointed Goldsboroughs sole agents - ten years later the name was bought by Mercke Sharpe and Dohme.

In 1952 I was invited to be on the board of N.M.Symington and Company,

spirits, cigarettes and etc. importers and in 1953 I was invited to join the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United nations.

Despite my associations with commercial life I used my veterinary qualifications as a scientist not a salesman which I would have considered unprofessional.

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