



ANNUAL HISTORY RECORD

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society will be holding its Annual History Session and Annual General Meeting as part of the AVA Conference in Sydney on Monday 18 May 1988. The speakers and their topics are as follows:

Dr John Auty - 'Spring' and other heroes of Australian exploration.

Dr RW Gee - Mutton done up as lamb.

Dr John Fisher - The origins of animal quarantine in Australia.

Prof. Ian Beveridge - Recollections of veterinary research in the 1930s.

Dr Doug Johns - The AVA archives.

Dr Des Dowling - The history of the paradigm shift in beef cattle in Australia.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 4.30 pm.

**REPORT ON THE 28TH INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF VETERINARY
MEDICINE**

[Our member John Fisher from the University of Newcastle attended this meeting of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine held in Vienna 16-19 October 1996-Editor.]

The 28th Congress was held in Vienna to mark the opening of the new University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna and not the least interesting feature of the Congress was a series of tours around what can only be described as a well-equipped even opulent site.

The tours also fitted into what can only be described as the mood of the Congress. Perhaps more than ever before, a number of the papers presented reflected the contemporary preoccupations of the veterinary profession and sought to use history in order to glance into the future. The best-known of these, of course, is BSE, Mad Cow Disease, and it is refreshing to see this discussed without any recriminations but rather in the context of the changing role of the veterinary profession.

The problems associated with BSE reflect the changes taking place in public animal health. In turn, these and others, are having a marked impact on veterinary education. Congress participants were most interested to see and hear about the

manner in which the new Veterinary University was responding to such changes - some features included a greatly increased emphasis on science rather than practice in the first two years of study (which reflects specific problems in the Austrian education system) and attempts to integrate information technology into teaching. It brought home to many participants that the profession is moving into a world which is very different to that which confronted them when they first graduated.

It should also be noted that the University has an excellent Library and, in turn, this has an excellent collection of historical veterinary texts which are well-housed and looked after.

The Congress saw a greater participation than usual from Australia: two papers were given, both on famous successes in the field of public animal health. John Fisher's paper revisited the eradication of scab in the nineteenth century; Hans Winter of Queensland covered the eradication of pleuro-pneumonia in the twentieth century. These came immediately before the World Association's General Assembly which was, as usual, dominated by financial matters. Many countries, like Australia, are reluctant to take out full membership because of the cost, and this was addressed at the Assembly (but with no major initiative taken to my knowledge).

The only minor problem was the location of the Congress. The old University was in the centre of Vienna, the new University is out in the suburbs, requiring a lengthy journey by underground, bus or tram (although the public transport system is excellent). Altogether, however, it was a rewarding experience, as convivial a gathering as usual.

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HISTORICAL ARTICLES

Reminiscences. of a veterinary surgeon in coastal New South Wales 1912-1958: A.E. Moore.

[The following short paper appeared in the Second Journal of the Gloucester District Historical Society, 1965. pp.50-52, and the Secretary, Mrs M. MacDonald, has kindly given permission for its reproduction. As a child, Mrs MacDonald knew Mr A.E. Moore as a pleasant old gentleman but, unfortunately (his son having left the region) it has proved impossible to find out more on his early life or his veterinary qualifications. - John Fisher, August 1996.]

[Mr Moore was registered under the NSW Veterinary Surgeons Act because he held the Certificate from the Stock Board of Examiners which allowed him to be employed as an Inspector of Stock.- Editor]

[The original paper has been amended by the Editor to exclude some matters not relevant to veterinary history.]

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Mr Arthur Ernest Moore died at the age of 84 years, on 13th June 1963. He was a just and honourable man always interested in the advancement of the welfare of this district.

Mr Moore was for many years Secretary of the Gloucester Hospital Committee, when the district was struggling to establish a hospital at Gloucester, and each year he donated Two Guineas for special prizes to the Gloucester A.H.& P. Association.

"I was not the first Registered Vet. to come to Gloucester.

About the year 1909, the Maitland Pastures Protection District was far too big, and so the Department divided a portion off what was called the Port Stephens P. P. District and appointed Mr. G.E. Furness, H.D.A. as first Stock Inspector, but he showed no liking for the position, and took up land opposite 'Yarrowonga'. Mr Furness continued to do Vet. work.

In 1912, while I was on a station property near Rockhampton Queensland, I was offered the position as Stock Inspector for the district of Port Stephens, later the name was changed to Gloucester so I took office in February 19th, 1912 and I was a registered veterinary surgeon also appointed to the Gloucester P.P. Board, and never left the district for 33 years, although when Tom reached the age of 12 years and could go to High School, we shifted our home to Taree with the approval of the Department.

As there were no Registered Vets in the Gloucester District at the time the Stock Inspector gave what vet services he could in conjunction with his P.P. Board duties.

My district extended as far in the north as Kendall and Laurieton and Port Stephens in the south. All the stations were around about Gloucester, but most of the dairy farmers were on the lower rivers. Later on with the division of the Gloucester Estate, dairying became general around Gloucester. I used to do a lot of speying and castration for my ratepayers

In the early years I rode the whole district on horseback, and later had two horses in a sulky and out rigger, carrying a bridle and saddle in the sulky. Later again I changed to a buggy, and as the duties became more exacting and demanding, I purchased

my first car a Dodge in 1927 and carried on with cars, having had 15 years with the horses.

When I visited the district first, I found a hostile element in the P.P. Board, and its officers. As the years went by the older hands died and the younger generation accepted me and made my work much more pleasant.

As regards disease I found Gloucester for the early years very free from T.B. but later on with the introduction of infected store bullocks from other centres I had quite a lot of pleuro...; in fact in the worst years I had 42 holdings in quarantine, and shot many diseased bullocks.

The Lower Manning had a good deal of Tuberculosis and a lot of cattle were condemned. Slowly the diseases were eliminated in most cases, and when in 1952-57, the Cattle Diseases Compensation Act was passed, a great number of dairymen on the Manning, Hannan Vale, Comboyne and other places were tested voluntarily. I personally tested over 2,100 head and put out about 1% of this number; 200 going to the Wingham Abbatoirs for confirmation of the tests. ...The other Vets., Messrs. Bruhl and Deer also tested large numbers and large numbers were condemned until now there seems to be only an odd pocket of disease (T.B.) left.

Lumpy Jaw (Actinomycosis) has been in the district since my arrival and efforts to eradicate it seems so far abortive, but on the whole it can be said that the Pastures Protection District of Gloucester is a healthy one for all classes of stock.

After I had been in Gloucester and visited nearly all localities, the Secretary then Mr. J.C. Munro was secretary for my first

fifteen years of office, reported that the rate per head for larger stock would have to rise by a halfpenny, it was then rated at one penny half penny per head, and the suggested rise by the secretary to two pence was necessary ...During the outbreaks of disease I got to know the ratepayers well and the class of land they grazed, and the condition and health of the stock grazing thereon

The owners often diagnosed wrongly cattle troubles. When the bees were bad on the clover, one owner rang me up and said that his cows udders or quarters were being affected by the bees. I went down and found that he had an outbreak of mammitis among his cows and put him on the right track....

Although it seemed a long time, thirty three years passed by. I had to retire in 1944. I carried on a private practice until 1958, when failing health made me retire from work after forty-six years with the farmers and graziers of the Gloucester Pastures Protection District."

**Salute the old vets: NB King, 9 Neverfall Place, Oatley,
NSW 2223**

I am sitting in my old armchair, and thinking of the past,
A jumper around my knees for warmth, the day is fading fast.
I lifted my little dog, she's never far away -
For she's my mate, my friend, my soul, forever and a day.
We think about the early folk who called themselves a "Vet".
They plied their trade without degree, they cared a lot and yet,
They'd learned their skill beside the fire, the anvil and the coals,
"Burning in" the glowing shoes, the acrid smoke enfolds.
They knew about the Strangles, the pleuro and TB.

They stitched the wound with horsehair, it wasn't bad you see,
They used the magic "Blisters", with ointments, drenches,
draughts
and Patent Colic remedies today would bring some laughs.
But, as I say they did their best, outside they hung a sign:
"Joe Blow R.V.S" it said, each day consult from nine.
They knew each horse and dog and cat and every owner too.
They even gave their skills at times, when needed at the Zoo.
Then came "The Act" Vet Surgeon's Act, 'round 1923,
That made it, well, mandate-ory to put above the gate-
A sign that said, this guy inside has got a Vet's degree,
He's well and truly versed in things, a Vet's life ought to be.
So like myself, we have the place of modern "repartee"-
Of hospitals A,B, and C and Clinics 2 and 3,
With gleaming stainless benches, X-rays and Ultra V-
With masks and coats and nurses, a lovely sight to
Think back my friend, to days gone by, appreciate.

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Post Graduate Education - Sydney Veterinary School

[Since Vic Cole's article on the history of the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney appeared in Newsletter 17, November 1996 two other contributions have been received and are reproduced below. - Editor]

Graduate Committee on Horse Breeding and Management and the early days of the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney: H. McL. Gordon 4 Krui Street, Fairlight, NSW 2094.

GRADUATE COMMITTEE ON HORSE BREEDING
AND MANAGEMENT

COURSE OF TEN LECTURES

at

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

8th Sept. to 10th Nov., 1952

Fee £1

N^o. 257

Admit One

Please present this card at each Lecture

The Graduate Committee was formed by Dr G F Finlay (Sydney 1914) in 1952 when he was lecturing at the Veterinary School. He planned a course of ten lectures for people interested in horses with the assistance of Victor Cole (then in

practice in Dubbo), Des Dowling, Bruce Forsyth, MC Franklin and Hugh Gordon (all at the McMaster Laboratory, CSIRO). These lectures were given in the University of Sydney. The lectures were very well attended, indeed the Zoology Theatre overflowed, the Union Hall was packed. The final lecture was given in the Sydney Town hall by Dr Finlay with an accompaniment of 'horsey music'. The hall was well filled. Later the Committee published a number of pamphlets dealing with the breeding, nutrition and parasitic diseases. As I recall the Faculty was not entirely supportive of this Committee.

While this Committee is scarcely the precursor of the Post Graduate committee in Veterinary Science, there is little doubt that its success was a stimulus to the concern shared by many of us in relation to what we now term *Continuing Education*. I had many discussions with other members of the Committee and especially with Victor Cole about expanding such activity. My letter in Aust. Vet. J., August 1959, has a hint of these thoughts.

Butterfield (1970), Aust. Vet. J. 46 (11), refers to the activities of the University Extension Board in 1924 when lectures were given by Prof. JD Stewart and Dr RMC Gunn. Sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s, I think, I went to Rylstone, NSW, to participate in an Extension Board course for local people including graziers. I think it was organised by Dr Gunn.

In the fairly early days of the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science, I went with, as I recall with some uncertainty, Ron Churchward and Mr Butt to give lectures to

graziers and others in Wagga and Yass as an advertising and fund raising exercise.

Hugh McI Gordon
February 1993.

References:

GF Finlay Obit., AVJ 52(9): 429.

Report by VG Cole on Establishment of a Post Graduate Committee, AVJ 39 (5):209.

Some History - Butterfield, AVJ 46 (11): 553.

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**Post graduate education: AN Sinclair, 22 Bligh Street,
Seaforth NSW 2092.**

This note complements the article by Victor Cole in Newsletter 17. It was in 1958-59 that I was convenor of a committee of the NSW Division of AVA appointed to consider the formation of a College of Veterinary Surgeons. From memory others on the committee were Professor Carne representing the University of Sydney, Dr D.F. Stewart representing CSIRO, Richard Boone and Hugh Deakin representing the practitioners. Our discussions covered two major roles for the proposed college. One was to provide a vehicle for registering Veterinary Surgeons from all States of Australia. It seemed to us a preferable alternative to the system of requiring different registrations for each State. The model for this was the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons which covers all UK. The other role was that of providing a means for veterinarians to obtain higher qualifications outside the academic sphere, much as it is with the present College.

After a number of meetings it was decided that we should make contact with other professions on this matter, particularly the one of uniform registration throughout Australia. This approach was to be done by Mr Fred Hulls who then ran the AVA office.

Unfortunately this approach did not seem to occur, and we also felt that perhaps we were possibly a little over ambitious in hoping to achieve these outcomes by people who did not have the time available to tackle such a major project. The committee was disbanded though Dick Boone continued to give the matter a mention when he was President.

It is difficult to say whether our efforts had any stimulatory effect on the later positive work described by Victor Col.

I believe the minutes of our discussions are held by the College.

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