

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY RECORD

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ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE 6 May 2000

The Australian Veterinary History Society's Conference and Annual General meeting will be held in the Clunies Ross Lecture Theatre at the Sydney University Veterinary School on Saturday, 6 May, commencing at 1.00PM.

Four papers will be presented followed by our AGM. A dinner is being arranged in the evening at the adjacent Veterinary Science Conference Centre and on Sunday morning a visitation to the veterinary facilities at the Taronga Park Zoo is being organised.

Speakers presenting papers will be:

Dr Robin Giesecke: Ann Flashman – The first woman to enrol in the Sydney Veterinary Faculty.

Dr John Fisher and George McFarlane: History of Blue Cross Veterinary Products Pty Ltd.

Dr Arthur Webster: The Webster Business – The Long Distance Race

Dr Peter Mylrea: New Australian Veterinarians and the NSW Veterinary Surgeons Board.

These diverse papers should make for an interesting afternoon of veterinary history. Last year a successful dinner followed our afternoon conference and we are anticipating a successful occasion this year. Those attending the conference are therefore cordially

invited to attend or dinner at the veterinary Conference Centre. You will not have far to travel!

There are no registration fees. The cost of the dinner will be \$45.00

For catering purposes please contact Dr Chris Bunn 02 6272 5540 or for further enquiries or bookings myself. on 02 9327 3853.

Keith Baker. President

HISTORICAL PAPERS

The formation of the Australian Veterinary Association and its progress to incorporation under the New South Wales Companies' Act in 1932.. W.A.N.Robertson. Part 2 1918 to 1925

[Part 1 of this series appeared in Australian Veterinary History Record Number 26.]

With the return of the soldiers from the war, interest in the veterinary associations revived. In Sydney the first post-war meeting was held in August 1919, when F. Whitehouse was elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. This was the first appearance of an Australian graduate in an official position in the New South Wales Association. It indicated a turn of the tide, for the growing strength of this Association, and indeed of all the veterinary associations in Australia, was to come from the graduates of the Australian schools. The Victorian Association resumed its activities on March 31, 1920. This was regarded as an ordinary meeting and also as the First Annual General meeting of the Association formed in December 1913. In South Australia the Association met again on May 7, 1920 whilst in the same year in Perth the West Australian

Association was born at a meeting of five graduates in a private home.

On his return to his position in the Department of Agriculture in New South Wales, Max Henry, as Organising Secretary of the Australian Veterinary Association, began his task of arousing Australia wide interest in the formation of a national association. He wrote to the secretaries of the State associations and to representative men in States where there was no association, asking that delegates be appointed to attend a meeting that was to be called in Melbourne. This meeting was held in the lecture hall of the veterinary school of the Melbourne University on January 12, 1921.

Before proceeding to the formation of the association there was a preliminary meeting at which the Organising Secretary called the meeting to order and outlined the events which had led to the meeting. It had been proposed that the inaugural meeting be held in Hobart at the same time as the meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science and this was not found convenient. Professor H.A. Woodruff was then elected to the chair and he immediately called for the appointment of a committee of three to examine the credentials of those present and of any proxies held by them. The meeting then proceeded to the election of members in accordance with the resolution of the conference held in 1914 as modified by the authority of the State associations. for the inaugural meeting. The proposed rules were dealt with seriatim. The objects of the Society were stated to be:- "The promotion and advancement of veterinary and allied sciences and the maintenance of the honour and interests of the veterinary profession by" and there followed a number of clauses detailing means to the desired ends. In all, the constitution contained forty-one clauses. Those eligible for membership were:-

- a. graduates and licentiates in veterinary science of Australian universities

- b. members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of London
- c. holders of the diploma of G.M.V.C.
- d. persons holding a degree or diploma approved by the AVA on the recommendation of Council

There were two methods of application for membership, viz, directly to the AVA and through a State association. State associations were not divisions or branches of the AVA but were completely independent organisations. It was not necessary to be a member of a State association to join the AVA and State association members were under no obligation to join the AVA. Four members each to represent the States of Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland were elected to Council. There is no reference to the presence of a Queensland delegate at the meeting so that the nomination must have been made by post or by proxy. No nominations were received from West Australia or Tasmania. The officers elected were:-

President	Professor J.D. Stewart
Vic President	Professor H.A. Woodruff
Secretary	Max Henry
Treasurer	S.T.D. Symons

In the first year of its life the association was not very active. Only two council meetings were held. Two matters which exercised the minds of members were the status of the Army Veterinary Corps and the need for legislative control of biological products. The first Annual General Meeting was held in Sydney from April 11 to 13 1922. Papers of professional interest read dealt with:-

Control of Bovine Pleuro-pleuropneumonia
 Forage Poisoning
 Warbles in Cattle
 Stallion Registration
 Control of Biological Products

That the newly formed association intended to play an active part in protecting the interests of the profession is shown by the large number of resolutions requiring representations to the Commonwealth Director-General of Health and the Departments of Agriculture of the several States. The most important of these referred to biological products. The officers elected were.--

President	Professor H.A. Woodruff
Vice President	Dr. L.B. Bull
Act.Hon.Secretary	G. Heslop
Hon.Treasurer	S.T.D.. Symons

The constitution in force at the time made it obligatory that all the officers be elected from the membership of the Council. This made the election of Dr.Bull-to the Vice Presidency and that of Mr. Heslop to secretaryship invalid because neither were on the Council. To put the matter in order, a special General Meeting was held in Melbourne on September 22, 1922. Curiously, although the amendment to the constitution carried at the meeting made provision for the secretary to be elected from the general membership of the Association it maintained the limitation of the election of the Vice President from the general membership of the Council. At this meeting Mr. Heslop resigned from the secretaryship and Mr. Max Henry was elected in his place.

At the next Annual general Meeting – the second but incorrectly referred to in the minutes as the third – was held on August 16, 1923 in Melbourne, the following officers were elected:-

President	Dr L.B. Bull
Vice President	Mr W.A.N.Robertson
Secretary	Mr Max Henry
Treasurer	Professor J.D. Stewart

Again no nominations to Council were received from Tasmania and West Australia. At this meeting attention was drawn to the provision of the constitution which laid down that election to Council must be by postal ballot, but so far no postal ballot had been held. The only solution which the meeting could find to this irregular situation was to decide that the rules dealing with this provision for the election be suspended, although the constitution made no mention of suspension of rules. In the course of the discussion Dr Gilruth strongly urged that the Australian Veterinary Association be made into a 'real association' instead of the existing conglomeration of State associations. However three years were to pass before agreement was reached between the States on the matter of closer union. At this meeting too, the first reference was made to the drafting of a code of ethics.

Again there was a lot of discussion on the control of biological products and the need to impress on various, governmental authorities the necessity to take action to ensure the purity, efficiency and safety of these preparations.

At the first council meeting after his election as President, Dr. Bull said that it was imperative that the AVA 'commence the issue a professional journal as the organ of the Association and that "we would probably find the best arrangement to be one association with branches in all of the States". As a result of his advocacy, Council instructed the President and the Secretary to report on desirable amendments to the constitution. It also appointed a committee with a membership of both Sydney and Melbourne members to report on the possibility of commencing the publication of an Association journal

The next Annual General Meeting was held on August 28, 1924 in Adelaide. The officers elected were:-

President	Mr. W.A.N. Robertson
Vce President	Mr. I. M Davidson
Secretary	Mr. Max Henry
Treasurer	Professor J.D. Stewart

This was the first occasion in which all the States were represented on the Council. The meeting discussed a recommendation from Council there be one veterinary association with branches in all the States. The discussion was long and animated. New South Wales members pressed for amalgamation of the State associations into one federal body and Victorians fought just as strongly for the retention of the *status quo* since they feared that the State associations would lose their individuality if they became branches. The division of opinion was so strong that it was feared that there would be a serious split in the AVA if the matter were decided forthwith and it was decided to refer the matter to the incoming Council for further investigation.

However, the meeting endorsed the action taken by Council for the establishment of a veterinary journal as the official organ of the Association under conditions proposed by the Council but limited the per capita obligations on the State associations to five shillings.

At the council meeting held in Sydney on 19 December, 1924 it was resolved "that in view of the fact that the majority of the State associations representing over four fifths of the membership of the AVA had accepted the proposals adopted by the Association in Adelaide on the recommendation of Council on the establishment of a journal, such establishment should be carried out". The recommendation of Council contained the provisos that no additional subscription to the AVA would be involved, the journal would be distributed free to members of the AVA and the State associations undertake to contribute on a per capita basis to assist if necessary, in defraying the cost of the journal. Regarding this

decision of Council the first issue of the Journal of the Australian Veterinary Association contained this comment:-"the council acted very independently in deciding to establish the journal on a majority vote, both as regards State and members, instead of waiting for a unanimous one. Whether such action was justified or not remains for the future to decide. It certainly shows that the Council possessed the courage of its convictions, and was willing to run a possible, though an improbable risk in order to move forward in this matter without delay."

The Editorial Committee appointed consisted of:-

The Editor	Max Henry
The Business Manager	I.C. Ross
The AVA Treasurer	J.D. Stewart
One other Member	R.M.C. Gunn

On assuming his editorial duties Mr. Max Henry resigned from the post of Secretary and Mr. H.C. Belschner was elected to succeed him. On his appointment to a country position in the NSW Department of Agriculture Mr. Belschner resigned in June and Dr H.R. Seddon was appointed in his place.

In September 1925 the Business Manager reported that the new journal was being circulated to 130 AVA members, 73 outside subscribers, 79 exchanges and 14 advertisers, a total of 296. It is estimated that the total expenditure would be 153 pounds for the year, income from advertisements and outside subscribers was 114 pounds and the net cost to the Association would be 39 pounds.

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The development of conditions for the importation of horses for the Olympic games: Kevin Doyle, Australian Veterinary Association Canberra.

[A paper given at the Annual General Meeting, Canberra, 1999.]

Introduction

The path to the Olympic Games began with a phone call from a Mr Dickie, Victorian Minister for Sport in 1981.

Mr Dickie indicated that Melbourne wished to bid for the 1988 Olympic Games but could not do so unless they were able to hold the equestrian events. The International Olympic Committee would not allow the Equestrian events to be held in another country, as had happened at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, when the equestrian events had been held in Stockholm.

He was aware that Australia's horse quarantine rules were strict and wanted to know whether holding the equestrian events was a possibility i.e whether the quarantine requirements be adapted to allow this to happen?

Quarantine policy

In the early 1980's under Australian's quarantine policy, horses could be imported only from the UK and Ireland, New Zealand and Canada. Canada had been added in 1980 and imports could leave Canada only during the Canadian winter - November to May. This was because of the presence of vesicular stomatitis which was believed to be insect borne though the actual vector had not been elucidated at that time.

Horses had to be resident in an approved country for two months before departure for Australia and the last month of this time in quarantine isolated from all horses, not part of the shipment. The route of the aircraft was from UK via Canada to Fiji and then Australia as the planes could not land in countries with insect transmitted diseases. Horses did two weeks post arrival quarantine (PAQ) in Australia in a government quarantine station.

I described these requirements to Mr Dickie, but said I felt that conditions could be created to allow horses from all countries that normally competed in the Olympics to come. Our experience had been that horses recovered quickly after the plane flight allowing them to compete effectively. I felt the critical issue was to allow the horses to train while in quarantine overseas and after the arrival in Australia. Horses from countries that could not be approved could come via

approved countries. Horses from a number of non-approved countries would be competing on the European circuit, which would reduce their quarantine periods.

Mr Dickie said he needed to have an outline plan immediately and asked me to formulate a way to enable the horses to come for the event without placing Australia at risk and to ring him back in half an hour. This I did with the following plan:

- an expanded number of countries to be approved for the residency period.
- an expanded number of countries to be approved for pre-embarkation quarantine (PEQ)
- PAQ premises be set up in a number of approved countries to accept horses from their region. Premises would be under Australian supervision.
- PEQ premises would have facilities for show jumping, steeple chasing and dressage and a space to allow horses to "stretch out" at the gallop (this allows the three day event horses to remain in competition condition).
- Horses to fly from PEQ to Australia by approved routes avoiding countries with insect borne diseases.
- PAQ to be carried out at the Olympic site which would be closed and operated as a quarantine station till the two week quarantine period was complete.
- The horses could practise during quarantine with only quarantine staff riders and grooms admitted entry.
- Risk could be minimised by grouping countries of like health into particular facilities.
- Australia's good animal health status enabled exports to initially all countries so that all horses could return home without difficulty.

In the event the Federal Government decided not to proceed with the bid for 1988. This was influenced by a number of factors including the Hilton bombing and concerns to security and the costs of the Olympics.

Other bids and acceptance by the Federation Equestre Internationale

The impetus was not lost as Brisbane won the right to bid for the 1992 Games, and though unsuccessful, significantly progressed the equestrian quarantine issues.

Barcelona was awarded the 1992 Games and Sydney and Melbourne competed for the opportunity to bid for the 1996 Games. Melbourne won the right and planned

for the equestrian events to be held at the National Equestrian Centre at Werribee, Victoria. Melbourne lost to Atlanta leaving Sydney to bid for 2000.

During the course of these bids and until Sydney won the 2000 Games, viz 1981 to 1996 efforts were made to use the holding of other international equestrian events in Australia to demonstrate our ability to host the Games despite distance and our quarantine requirements. Some of these efforts are discussed below.

The Sixth World Three Day Event was held at Gawler, South Australia in 1986 as part of the State's Sesquicentenary celebrations was significant in demonstrating that international equestrian events could be held in Australia. This event is discussed later in this paper.

During the event, I was asked to meet with HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Federation Equestre Internationale (International Equestrian Federation-FEI), to discuss the quarantine requirements which he felt were unnecessary. I outlined the epidemiological basis of the quarantine requirements.

On the morning of the third day, after the veterinary check and before commencement of the show jumping phase, the 1992 Brisbane Bid team lead by Brisbane Lord Mayor, Sallyanne Atkinson gave a presentation to the press and FEI officials on planning for the equestrian events should Brisbane win the right to host the Olympic Games. During the questions and answers session, the Duke of Edinburgh outlined with great accuracy the epidemiological basis of the quarantine arrangements and suggested that we put our case to the FEI Veterinary Commission.

While the championships at Gawler were a success the FEI had to be able to advise the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that the Olympic equestrian events could be held in Australia. It was decided that Wayne Backhouse, Olympic Team Veterinarian and I would attend a meeting of the Veterinary Commission of the FEI in Leningrad to seek its endorsement of the plans.

The FEI Veterinary Commission covered all veterinary aspects of the equestrian events from control of scheduled substances to animal health and quarantine arrangements. The Commission accepted that under the arrangements, horses could compete fairly despite the long distances travelled. The FEI accepted this view which opened the way for the Brisbane bid.

Countries which had concerns were visited and the technical basis of the quarantine explained. The UK, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, USA, Canada and Belgium (re the EU) were among the countries visited.

Quarantine / Epidemiological Strategy

In 1980, The Victoria Racing Club had sought special quarantine arrangements to allow an international horse race in Melbourne. Conditions were developed which were similar to those used by other countries for such events. This involved the animals competing during the PAQ (post arrival quarantine). They would have had brief contact with other horses during the race. It was planned that they would leave Australia immediately after the race - never having been released from quarantine. This would have allowed the competing horses to be away from home and competition for a shorter period and the elimination of tests for reproductive diseases.

Consultation with the horse industry and the state authorities through the usual Chief Quarantine Officers (Animals) forum indicated that the wider industry did not accept the concept.

It was clear, following the failure to have an "event in quarantine" approach for the VRC international race accepted, that horses would have to complete quarantine before the event.

Transport

The carriage of horses from the UK to Australia by air commenced in 1973. The route involved landings in Canada (usually Toronto and Vancouver but occasionally Gander, Nova Scotia) and then Hawaii, sometimes Fiji (to refuel or to meet the Sydney curfew of 6am).

The route was chosen for freedom from insect borne diseases of horses. The journey took 39 or more hours depending on winds and refuelling.

Investigations into use of the shorter west to east route commenced in 1991 -2 and the route was used for the first time in July 1993 using the insect proof air stable which was able to maintain a stable micro climate for the horses. This route took only 29 hours, causes less stress and assisting in the maintenance of competition of the horses.

The use of the cargo holds of 747 Combi passenger aircraft on a scheduled flight travelling the shorter west to east route, because of the insect security of the aircraft, has facilitated movement of the horses for special events. The route via Manchester, Amsterdam and Singapore was commenced in 1995

Countries

From the time of the origin decision to bid for the 1988 Olympic Games and subsequent withdrawal, imports of horses were allowed from an increasing range of countries.

The Brisbane bid for the 1992 Games and the Melbourne bid for 1996 and finally the successful bid by Sydney for 2000 were assisted by this increase in countries from which horses could be imported or undergo residency as pre embarkation quarantine.

Countries which competed in Atlanta in 1996 or which had horses in preparation for those Games.

Competing countries for which Australia has importation conditions in place.

Austria	France	
	Ireland	
The Netherlands	Spain	
	Denmark	
Germany	Italy	
	Sweden	
Belgium	Canada	
	Japan	
USA	Ireland	UK
Portugal	Switzerland	

Competing countries which Australia does not have importation conditions.

Argentina	Colombia
	Poland
Hungary	India
	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Mexico
	Bermuda
The Philippines	

Dr Frank Doughty who supervised the import quarantine and exports of our horses advises that about 90% of the horses competing at Atlanta had come from Europe. Others had been competing or training in the USA for some time before the Games.

The need for charters to leave from central locations suggested that horses could undergo residency "at home" then aggregate in a central (approved) country for PEQ in the quarantine facility for practice.

As very few horses are accredited for performance at the Olympic level many compete on the level European or North American circuits. This means that horses from non approved countries are generally located in approved countries. Thus horses from Central and South America, South Africa, Asia and Central Europe would be able to come to Australia with few impediments.

This also provides a means of addressing the insect vector borne diseases as the animals will be away from potential infection for the residency and PEQ periods. This allows those diseases to be addressed by testing or vaccination or for the potential period of viraemia to be passed.

Protocols during the early 1980's, for horses from Canada and USA allowed imports only during the northern winter (November - May) when the vectors of the insect borne viral diseases are inactive. More recently vaccination and testing agencies and strategic placement of PEQ stations has allowed year round imports. Thus North American horses can readily enter for the Games.

The structure of the quarantine requirements addresses the exotic diseases of major concern to Australia. Restriction of the horses to the competition arena and denying release from quarantine into Australian horse population, allows tests for reproductive diseases such as CEM to be dropped.

Diseases of concern

The following diseases were usually addressed on the basis of freedom of the country of origin.

- African horse sickness
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
- Dourine
- Glanders
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Borna
- Surra

The following were normally addressed by vaccination

- Equine influenza
- Japanese encephalitis

Western equine encephalomyelitis
 Eastern equine encephalomyelitis
 Rabies

The following were addressed by freedom of the premises of origin and the notifiability in the country of origin.

Contagious equine metritis
 Epizootic lymphangitis
 Equine infectious anaemia
 Equine piroplasmiasis (*Babesia equi* and *B. caballi*)
 Horse pox
 Lyme disease
 Potomac fever
 Rabies
 Equine viral abortion (EHV - 1)
 Equine rhinopneumonitis (EHV - 4)

Diagnostic tests were usually required for:

EIA - Coggins test or ELISA
 EVA - Virus neutralisation test or virus isolation
 CEM - Bacterial culture
 Piroplasmiasis - CFT or IFAT

Two concerns remain:

- a) Equine influenza is a major problem for equestrian events in endemic countries. Vaccination does not confer complete protection and vaccinated horses may carry the virus and potentially put others at risk. Use of inactivated vaccine against types a1 and a2 together with quarantine isolation has been Australia's traditional protection. Antigenic drift occurs so European countries are looking to adapt the vaccine to be homologous with the currently circulating virus.

EI is the most serious threat to Australia, but vigorous attention to vaccination history (through horse passports) and isolation will provide suitable protection.

- b) Piroplasmiasis, horses in some countries are serologically positive to piroplasmiasis. Because of the restricted areas in which the competing horses will be held and the low likelihood of a native tick becoming infected and conveying the protozoan to a domestic horse after the

Games, Australia's initial stance was to allow temporary importation of seropositive horses.

More recently, a major risk analysis has been undertaken for the Sydney Games and, at the time of writing no decision has been taken on requirements for piroplasmosis.

Strategy for the bid process

This involved convincing the FEI that Australia could host the events and that despite the distance and the stringent quarantine rules, all countries could compete fairly.

Overcoming the problems of distance and long quarantine periods required practical demonstration of practicability of an Australian event. This was achieved through a number of international events which involved the proposed Olympic quarantine conditions.

The World Three Day Event. Gawler, South Australia, 1986.

In 1982 the South Australian Government and the Equestrian Federation of Australia formed an organising committee to bid for the Sixth World Three Day Event Championships, 1986.

I was asked to join a delegation to attend the 1982 Championships at Luhmuhlen, Federal Republic of Germany to put Australia's case. The rules for the Championships provided for the country winning the event to stage the next championships if they chose to do so. A major lobbying exercise was staged at Luhmuhlen including a video from Prime Minister Fraser and a presentation on the quarantine arrangements that would enable overseas horses to attend and compete effectively. The quarantine arrangements were as planned for the Olympic bid.

The British team won in Luhmuhlen but, with UK agreement, Australia was awarded the event which enabled it to be held in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time.

The Torrens Island Animal Quarantine Station, South Australia, was adapted to provide dressage and show jumping arenas and a cross country track with jumps across the nearby sand dunes. Bill Roycroft, former Olympic gold medallist, was used as a consultant for the construction of these facilities. They were also inspected by the FEI.

Eight countries attended the Championships at Gawler with the event being won by the British team. This demonstrated that overseas countries could meet the Australian quarantine requirements and compete effectively. The countries concerned were Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, USA and Australia.

The Trans Tasman Cup 1989

This three day event was held at the National Equestrian Centre, Werribee, under the proposed Olympic quarantine conditions, at the event site. The site was closed till quarantine was completed. Horses practised on site. British horses competed successfully in this event.

The Tancred Stakes (later the BMW Stakes), 1998 - present

This international race was conceived by the Sydney Turf Club (STC) and is held at Rosehill Gardens, Sydney.

It is based on PEQ in quarantined racecourses in the United Kingdom (Manchester) and France (Arcachon). The horses come by charter jet by an approved route. They undergo PAQ at Eastern Creek Animal Quarantine Station and after the first five days, are taken in an enclosed horse float to Rosehill each day, when the track is unoccupied, for practice. An accompanying pony is sometimes kept in quarantine with the imports. Horses from the UK, France and Germany have competed.

The use of the cargo holds of 747 Combi passenger aircraft on a scheduled flights on the west to east route has facilitated movement of the horses for this event

The Melbourne Cup (1993-present)

International horses have been competing under "competition horse quarantine conditions" since 1993. The Irish Horse Vintage Crop won that year after coming to Australia by the new west to east route.

PAQ is performed at Sandown Racecourse when the course is closed to visitors and other horses. This allows the imports to train and do track work required to recover from the journey and remain in race condition.

Summary of the Strategies

The following measures were involved in supporting the various bids.

1. Emphasising Australia's success in Olympic events despite distance from the events.
2. Experience in flying horses to Australia since 1973 and their quick recovery from the journey.
3. A public presentation of the proposed arrangement at the Fifth World Three Day Event Championships at Luhmuhlen, Federal Republic of Germany in 1982 and winning the right to host the Sixth Event in Gawler in 1986 and success of overseas horses in Gawler.
4. Hosting of the Trans Tasman Cup, a three day event with invited third country horses.
5. Bids for other international equestrian events such as the World Show Jumping Championship. These bids were not successful but drew attention to the Australian cause.
6. The holding of international races in Australia. These included the Tancred and BMW Stakes in Sydney and the inclusion of overseas horses in the Melbourne Cup.
7. The development of PEQ premises which would allow the horses to practise and stay in competition condition.
8. The performance of PAQ at the Olympic site, closed to the public till the completion of quarantine, with only feed and equipment and riders, grooms and officials allowed access.
9. Quarantine protocols which allowed horses from non approved countries join the charter flights by residence and PEQ in approved countries.
10. Emphasis on Australia's good animal health status, allowing all horses to return home immediately after the event .

11. Visits to countries which had concerns including UK, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, USA, Canada and Belgium (re the EU).
12. Hosting visits from overseas officials to display the quarantine facilities and proposed sites for the events. Visits to Sydney and Werribee were conducted.

Sydney 2000

The successful bid by SOCOG followed careful planning including the equestrian arrangements. The facility developed for the events, will provide excellent opportunities for practice and conditioning during quarantine.

A Quarantine Committee effectively addressed concerns arising during the bid process. As with other bids, equestrian representatives from overseas were met and the arrangements explained.

Through the course of the bids for the Olympic Games from 1988 to 2000, Australia's bid strategy in respect to the quarantine arrangements for the equestrian events was refined.

The holding of other international equestrian events and the acceptance by the FEI convinced the international sporting community that nations could compete fairly and effectively in Australia.

The Australian community was also assured that the Olympic Games could be held without undue risk to our horse population. The holding of the 2000 Olympics will be the final chapter in Australia's entry to world equestrian sports. It will build on the success of Australian equestrian teams over many years.

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