

# AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY RECORD

JULY 2000

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Editor: Dr P.J. Mylrea, 13 Sunset Avenue, Camden NSW  
2570.

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Dr Paul Canfield

Dr Trevor Faragher

Dr John Fisher

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Melbourne - 2001

The next meeting of the Society will be held in Melbourne in 2001 as part of the AVA Conference with Dr Trevor Faragher as the Local Organiser. This is the first call for papers and those interested should contact Trevor (28 Parlington Street, Canterbury Vic 3126, phone (03) 9882 6412, E-mail faragher@netspace.net.au.

## ANNUAL MEETING – Sydney 2000

The Annual Meeting of the Australian Veterinary History Society for 2000 was held at the Veterinary School, University of Sydney on Saturday 6 May. There was a presentation of four papers on veterinary history during the afternoon. These were followed by the Annual General Meeting details of which are given below. In the evening a very pleasant dinner was held in the Vice Chancellor's dining room.

### MINUTES OF THE 9TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY: SYDNEY MAY 6 2000 at 5:00 pm

#### PRESENT

Bob Taylor; Len Hart; Paul Canfield; Rhonda Canfield; John Fisher; John Holt; Mary Holt; Keith Baker; Rosalyn Baker; Peter Mylrea; Margaret Mylrea; Doug Johns; Chris Bunn;; John Holder

#### APOLOGIES

Dick Roe; Bill Pryor; Max Barry; Keith Hughes; Harry Bruhl; Geoff Kenny; Bruce Eastick; Owen Johnston; Kevin Haughey; Bill Gee; Chas Sloan

## PREVIOUS MINUTES

Accepted as read on the motion of P Mylrea/ R Taylor

## BUSINESS ARISING

Raised during other business

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have very much pleasure in presenting my second presidential report to this annual meeting of the Australian Veterinary Historical Society. This time last year we ran a successful conference in Canberra with a programme of five speakers followed by a well-attended dinner that evening. The following morning a visitation to the Australian War Museum was arranged, which included a guided tour featuring the involvement of the horse in the First World War.

Again many thanks to Dr. Peter Mylrea who continues to edit our Australian Veterinary History Record. This is an important forum for the publication of articles of veterinary historical interest and hopefully he will undertake to continue in this role. Also our librarian, Dick Roe should be thanked for his continuing role in looking after our library. This year had its special problems, following the sale of AVA House in Canberra and arrangements had to be made to store our library until the AVA has a more permanent home. Our historical collection also had to be moved and at present some of it is displayed in two showcases in AVA headquarters in Canberra. Also some of our historical portraits are now hung at AVA house, Sydney. Not being privy to any further developments in Canberra, we await further decisions.

Again the decision was made in Canberra because of distance, not to hold our annual conference conjointly with the AVA conference in Perth, but to hold it in Sydney in

May 2000. Next year the AVA conference will be held in Melbourne and I suggest that we plan our 2001 conference to synchronise with the AVA conference in that city. Further I suggest that our Melbourne colleagues be asked to arrange our conference programme.

Last year in Canberra it was suggested that the veterinary profession's contribution to the pastoral industries should be suitably acknowledged in the Longreach Stockman's Hall of Fame. I followed that up with a visitation to that institution and found the CEO, Mr Peter Edwards was receptive to this concept. The AVA have now undertaken to follow up this initial contact and to provide funding for a suitable display. It is not moving, as quickly as I would like but hopefully a decision will be made by the end of this month.

Last year I mentioned my interest in initiating a program of recording veterinary oral history. Suitable recording equipment has now been purchased and Dr Peter Mylrea has undertaken the first steps in its use. May I remind any other members interested in this subject can borrow this equipment by contacting me.

It is pleasing to know some acknowledgment has now been given to the significance of veterinary history in the undergraduate course at Sydney University. Recently Dr. Ron Hyne gave a presentation to first year students on the history of the veterinary profession's contribution to the welfare of Australia. This was given as part the innovative personal development steam, which will feature in every year of the undergraduate course.

Finally I wish to thank our secretary/treasurer Dr. Chris Bun for attending so assiduously to the affairs of our Society and to thank you all for attending this meeting, showing your interest and support for our Society and the speakers for their

presentations. With your encouragement we can look forward to a successful year 2000/2001.

Dr. Keith Baker  
President

Discussion arose on the need for more members of the profession to be aware of the society. Suggestions were to put more material into the Australian Veterinary Journal, to use Divisional newsletters more; to send the History record to all four veterinary schools. Archival material is being placed onto the internet.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The society currently has 109 members a reduction of 2 from last year.

We regret the recent passing of Sandy Sutherland in October. An obituary was published in the January AVJ

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The society has two accounts an operational account with the ANZ and an investment account with the AVA. The two accounts have been combined in the attached Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. As at the end of March we had \$4963 in the investment account (at 4.4%) and \$795 in the current account.

During 1999 we made a loss of \$709.55, although included was the purchase of recording equipment, which has an asset value. The books and records have not been audited for this financial year.

The society continues to be in a strong position. This is particularly from the profits accrued from involvement at AVA conferences.

Overall the society has funds as at December 31 of \$5055.83.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31/12/99 AUSTRALIAN  
VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts AVHS	796.09
AVHS Investment-deposits with AVA	4,259.74
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$5,055.83
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,055.83

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	\$5,055.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$5,055.83

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT 1/1/99 THROUGH  
31/12/99

INCOME/EXPENSE

INCOME

Conference	126.05
Interest	160.64
Subscriptions	650.00

TOTAL INCOME \$684.59

EXPENSES

Annual subs	41.24
Bank charges-Bank charges, fees	28.00
deposit	100.00
equipment	284.65
library	41.40
Postage	371.15
Printing	510.00
Stationery	9.50
Taxes	8.20

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,394.14

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE (\$709.55)

A query arose about the discrepancy between membership subscriptions and membership numbers. The treasurer explained that part of this is due the society have a number of life members.

Action: To check with the AVA if all members are being asked to pay the annual subscription.

The treasurer's report was accepted Moved Bob Taylor/  
seconded John Holder

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Association's historical library now contains over 800 books.

An interesting addition to the library in the past year was The Shepherd's Guide, a facsimile reproduction of a book by James Hogg first published in 1807, which was given to the Australian Veterinary Association by the President of the British Veterinary Association at the AVA conference in Hobart in May 1999. Books were also donated to the library during the year by Dr R W Gee, Prof I W Beveridge and the estate of Dr Vic Cole.

During the year Bob Taylor has sorted out the books previously held in the Historical Collection. These are being checked against the historical library's holdings and, where appropriate, books that are not already in the library are being catalogued and added to the library. A list of duplicate books will be circulated to provide members of the Australian Veterinary History Society with an opportunity to acquire these before they are otherwise disposed of.

AVA House in Canberra was sold during 1999 and the AVA moved into rented accommodation. The compactus and historical library collection were moved into a lock-up storage unit, as the rented office does not have room to house the library. However, the collection is still accessible. Members wishing to borrow books from the library can contact the Honorary Librarian by phone (02) 6251 3488, fax (02) 62519219 or e-mail [dick.roe@dynamite.com.au](mailto:dick.roe@dynamite.com.au)

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Three issues of the Record were published during 1999, each of about 20 pages in length. The editor is always looking for articles, including material from the talks given at this general meeting.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following officers were elected:

President:	Keith Baker
Secretary/Treasurer	Chris Bunn
Editor	Peter Mylrea
Librarian	Dick Roe
Committee	
	Patricia Mcwhirter
	John Fisher
	Paul Canfield
	Trevor Faragher

## GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Moved by the treasurer and seconded by Peter Mylrea that the subscription for the following year be \$11 (allowing \$1 for the GST). Passed
2. After brief discussion the location for the next meeting was to be Melbourne with a one day meeting to coincide with the annual AVA conference.
3. The secretary tabled a letter he had received from the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine seeking support for the production of an International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography. As a start they have proposed that each veterinary history society produces in the year 2000 ten biographies. A small group consisting of the President, Secretary, Bob Taylor and John Holt was formed to consider the request further.
4. John Holt proposed the society provide a \$500 student prize for an essay encompassing a

veterinary history topic. The motion was accepted in principle and a working group was formed to develop a detailed protocol. The working group formed was the President, John Holt, Paul Canfield and Bob Taylor?? A suggestion was made to contact other SIGs and the universities to check existing arrangements with these groups.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:50 PM.

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## HISTORICAL PAPERS

**ANN FLASHMAN :THE FIRST WOMAN TO ENROL IN THE SYDNEY VETERINARY SCHOOL: Dr Robin Giesecke  
16 Gulfview Rd Blackwood SA 5051**

[This paper was presented at the Annual Meeting held in Sydney in May 2000]

### Introduction

#### **The entry of women in to the Veterinary Profession in Australia.**

The first two women to enter the profession graduated from Melbourne institutions - Belle Reid from Kendall's Melbourne Veterinary College in 1906 and Margaret Gwendoline Keats from the Melbourne University Veterinary Faculty in 1923. What had motivated Belle Reid to enter the profession is not known but Margaret Keats studied Veterinary Science so she could look after the family's livestock (Jill Sutherland, personal communication, 1994). In neither case was their professional success followed quickly by the entry of more women in to the profession. Seven years were to elapse after Margaret's graduation before an opportunity was to arise in Sydney and was seized by Ann Flashman. The background to her entry to the Sydney School in

1930 makes as interesting a story as her career following graduation in 1936.

Sydney University had been the first Australian university to admit women "equally with men" - as far back as 1881- through Chancellor Manning's memorandum to the University Senate. But despite this legislative acceptance the obtaining of degrees had proved a discouraging effort for women in all faculties but particularly so in Science, Medicine and Law when these degrees were first opened to women. A Department of Veterinary Science had been established at Sydney in 1910: by 1921 it had become a Faculty, but had not enrolled any women. The companion degree courses in Agriculture , Dentistry, Economics and Architecture – had. A reason for this lack of women in Veterinary Science was not apparent (Bygott and Kable 1985) and may have been of some concern to the Sydney Faculty given that one was already proceeding through the 'rival' Melbourne School.

In 1927 R.M.C. Gunn, of the Sydney Faculty staff, wrote an article reviewing veterinary education in the new Australian Veterinary Journal and reported the relative scarcity of women veterinarians in Britain and Australia . It was his belief that "suitable fields for their (women's) activities could easily be selected." (Gunn, 1927)

Maybe that expressed belief provided encouragement at a critical point of time - the start of the Great Depression - but it had to reach the ears of educators of young women at the time.

By the late 1920s, private secondary schooling had been made more accessible for girls and university education had become possible with the promise of professional careers in other than teaching or nursing. Sciences were still rarely on the school curriculum - possibly in deference to prevailing views about careers in sciences for women - but also to the cost of maintaining laboratories for the few who might seek a scientific education ( Kyle, 1986)

## **The story of Ann Flashman – the first woman to enrol in the Sydney Veterinary Faculty**

Ann Froude (Flora) Flashman, who was born in Sydney in 1911, received a good education through two private schools for girls in Sydney - "Shirley" and Ascham School for Girls, from which she obtained her Leaving Certificate in 1929. (*Ascham Charivari*, May 1930,4). Under the headmistresship of Miss Bailey, "a brilliant educationist .... and years before her time" pupils at Ascham "were not only taught academically but taught to be good citizens with wide interests" (Cullen and Abbott, 1986) . The aim of the school was "to give to its pupils the type of education which lays emphasis on thorough work, while allowing opportunity for physical and aesthetic development." (*Ascham Prospectus*, p7)

Ann, who lived with her mother at Woollahra in her final years at Ascham, gained the senior netball prizes in 1928 and 1929, and was co-editor of the School magazine *Charivari*, in 1929 . She gained her Leaving Certificate in that same year with passes in English, French, Modern History, Botany and Lower Maths. (*Ascham Charivari*, May 1930 p 2,4 ).She had developed a great interest in the Girl Guides and in her final year was a very popular leader of the Schools own Company (*Ascham Charivari*, May 1930, p 11). This was the first inkling of her interest in journalism and the beginning of a lifelong devotion to the Girl Guide Movement .

### **But what had influenced her to do Veterinary Science?**

The subjects taught may not have been a major influence but the circumstances of her being at Ascham at that time and under the influence of Miss Bailey might have provided both the opportunity for her to go on to University and the challenge of doing Veterinary Science.

At the time there was a very close friendship between Miss Bailey and Linda Littlejohn - Pat Littlejohn's mother - who was then a

noted Sydney feminist activist (Dupree, Ferguson, and Fairfax, 1986) and broadcaster. It is possible that Pat, a year behind Ann at school, was encouraged by her Mother. Pat told me some years later (P. Abbott personal communication, 1994) that she had always been very annoyed with Ann because she, Pat, had been the first to consider doing Veterinary Science. Whatever the true story, Miss Bailey was reported to have been very supportive of both Ann's and Pat's wishes to do Veterinary Science (Dupree, Ferguson and Fairfax, 1986) and Ascham was to exert quite an influence on the early intake of women to the Sydney Veterinary School - for it contributed not only Ann, who enrolled in 1930, but Pat, who enrolled the following year, and Beth Harvey, who enrolled in 1934. (Ascham *Charivari* May 1934.p 25)

### **But how did Ann fare at University ?**

On the basis of her Leaving results Ann was able to proceed to University and enrolled in the Veterinary School in 1930 for the four year course. Her fees were apparently paid by Legacy, her father having died of injuries received in the first World War (Abbott, personal communication, 1994). The enrolment of Ann, and then Pat in 1931, made a substantial impact on the School - eclipsing the hitherto minority position of the Kiwi undergraduates and (after a while) requiring the requisition of male toilet facilities for their use (75th Anniversary Handbook, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, 1985). The women had to eat their lunch segregated from the male students but apart from this were given no special treatment and no discrimination in classes (Pat Abbott, personal communication 1994). Kath Farr, who enrolled in 1934, recalled that, at the time, the girls in the faculty were given "the bottom lockers at the top of the stairs. When she complained they were given a small room of their own which was an improvement on the former situation where men coming up the stairs could look up the girls' backsides." (Kath Farr. personal communication, May 1994).

By all accounts Ann was a sociable, entertaining and popular student. She played intervarsity hockey and remained very involved with the activities of the Guiding Movement. Physics and Chemistry in the first year apparently proved daunting (*Charivari*, May 1931, p23) but in second year she was reported to be 'revelling in an orgy of dissections' (*Charivari*, May 1932, p 25). Unfortunately she had to repeat the first year and second years but moved into third year in 1934 and to final year in 1935. In her final year, under R.M.C. Gunn's supervision, she researched duodenal ulcers in dogs - her final year essay on the subject being printed in the Australian Veterinary Journal in 1935 (Flashman, 1935). In that final year students also had to work at the Berry Experimental Farm and Ann had to be chaperoned on this exercise by Pat Littlejohn, who by then had graduated and was working as a demonstrator in Anatomy at the School. Ann was awarded the S.T.D. Symons Memorial Prize for clinical subjects and graduated in 1936 with some 30 men including Vic Cole, John Henry, Jack Keast, Marshall Irving, Arthur Webster and Noel Wellington.

Both Ann and Pat had received encouragement on the way through from the staff - particularly from R.M.C. Gunn. This active encouragement was likely to have been a big factor in their success and in the willingness of others to enrol.

Ann's entry to Veterinary Science appeared to be the key that unlocked the gate for many women. Enrolments at the Sydney School gained momentum. By 1949 the School had trained 29 women, by 1985 it was noted that

"women comprise more than half of the undergraduate students. The female students have done much to enhance the reputation of the School and have pioneered new areas of animal care and research for the veterinarian." (75th Anninversary Handbook, Faculty of Veterinary Science University of Sydney, 1985).

In 1986 Veterinary Science recorded 52 women in the Faculty - sharing the reputation of having a majority of women in their undergraduate ranks with the Faculties of Arts and Education. (Sydney University *Gazette* June 1987, p 11). Reinforcement may also have come from Aileen Cust, whose status as a veterinarian in her own right in Britain had finally been recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1922. In 1934 - while both Ann and Pat were proceeding through the Sydney course- her letter of encouragement to her British women colleagues was reproduced in the Australian Veterinary Journal (Cust,1934.) introduced by an editorial penned by Ian Clunies Ross on 'Women in Veterinary Science' in which he pronounced that

“There are few today who would deny the possibility of women finding useful employment in our profession, while there are many who would affirm that in the fields of research or clinical practice there is no conceivable reason why they may not achieve a distinction equal in all respects to that of their brother members.” (CluniesRoss,1934.)

Ann's career was to amply fulfil the expectations of her educators.

### **Ann's Veterinary Career**

On graduation in 1936 Ann accepted a position as the first fully paid veterinarian at the recently opened 'new' Lort Smith Animal Hospital established by the Animal Welfare League in Villiers St. North Melbourne. Ann presided over this new venture and also the Lost Dogs Home and Animal Hospital (*Aust. vet. J.*, 1936) The Animal Welfare League Hospital operated on a non-profit basis seven days a week replacing the hospital which had operated out of the first School of Veterinary Science on Flemington Rd. Parkville since 1930 with a trained veterinary surgeon (Hazzard, M. 2000). (It is interesting that with the growth in veterinary services since, the 1936 hospital is about to be replaced by another, due to open in May 2000. which operated on a non profit basis , seven days a week. The

hospital replaced the one which had operated out of the first School of Veterinary Science, on Flemington Rd Parkville since 1930, with a trainee Veterinary Surgeon ( Hazzard, M , 2000) and it is interesting that with the growth in veterinary services since, the 1936 hospital is about to be replaced by another, due to open this month.

At the time of her registration with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Victoria on 10 January 1936 Ann gave her address as 41 Sydney Rd. Brunswick (Wilson, personal communication 2000) but eighteen months after moving to Melbourne she married Arthur Rylah, a Melbourne solicitor with whose family she had earlier been billeted during an intervarsity hockey tournament. (*The Age*, 17/3/1969) They moved to Caroline St South Yarra and then, in 1939, to 15 Victor St Kew where Ann set up her own practice. She designed and decorated the surgery and much of the house herself.

While her husband went on to a high profile career in Victorian State politics, rising to the position of Chief Secretary and Deputy Premier and being rewarded with a knighthood in the Queens Birthday Honours list of 1968 (*Melbourne Herald* 8/6/1968). Ann filled her life with her own passions - veterinary practice, the Guiding Movement, journalism and her family of two. Through all this activity she remained the official partner and hostess for Sir Arthur at political and high profile social events. In her own right she earned the respect of her colleagues and amassed a devoted following in Victoria through her tireless devotion to the care of animals and young people.

Some indication of her style, her direct approach, her feelings about her profession and her flair for journalism can be gleaned from her regular midweek column "Pet Talk" in the *Melbourne Herald* where, writing as 'John Wotherspoon' she gave practical advice about choosing, training and caring for animals. Many of these columns were devoted to the care of dogs, to their psychology and to their interaction with people.

Of herself she wrote, in an article about her approach to the misguided care of pets which offered no companionship to their owners

“I have known and admired and even loved a great many animals in my time but ( though I have often been accused of it) I do not love all animals.” *(Melbourne Herald 1963. June 19. p19).*

and of veterinary practice

“It is a curious anomaly that a veterinary surgeon devoting his life to the study and care of animals finds that one of the fascinations of his job is not the study of animals at all - but the clear light his work throws on the odd vagaries of human nature.” *(Melbourne Herald.1963. Nov 27. p23).*

In 1963, she also voiced her concern about an issue which remains a dilemma for vets and has become the focus of their renewed attempts to educate the public. She was talking about owners who insisted on having pup's tails docked

“Is there any point in letting my irritation at the idea of this senselessness spill over on to them. They are either owners who imagine that there must be some reason why it should be done, or breeders who believe they will not be able to sell the puppies unless they have their tails chopped off - and who are unfortunately probably right. At least having decided to subject their dogs to this particular form of vivisection (to give it its right name) they took them to a veterinary surgeon to have it done as painlessly and efficiently as possibly and I let them see I am angry about it, it may be backyard butchery next time.” *(‘Anger any Use ?’ Melbourne Herald. 1963 Jun 26.p23)*

Apart from these columns, which ran well into the 1960s, she wrote two books on animal care under that pseudonym - "*The Australian Pet Book* - in 1962 with photographs by A.F. Flashman BVSc. and *The Australian Dog Book*, published posthumously in 1971.

Ann joined the Victorian Division of the Australian Veterinary Association in 1938 (*Aust. vet J.* 1938, 142) and became a regular contributor at meetings. She attended national conferences, along with Margaret Keats and Honorary Member Miss Georgina Sweet. In 1969 she was elected Vice President of the Victorian Division. (*Aust. vet J.*, 1969. ).

### **Ann's other passion - Guiding**

As if her professional life did not offer enough challenge Ann indulged in her other passion - Guiding. She had joined the Movement as a schoolgirl in 1925, gone on to be the leader of the Ascham School company and, throughout her University years, Lieutenant of the first Bondi Company and Captain of the second Randwick Company. In Victoria she was Captain of the 4th South Yarra Company from 1936/7, District Commissioner, Kew, 1944-1948 and from 1948-53 Division Commissioner, North East Suburbs. From 1954-1962 she was Captain of the First Melbourne Cadet Company and from 1956-58 District Commissioner, Northcote. From 1962 to 1967 she held the position of Senior Branch Adviser for Victoria. In 1968 still held the post of Lieutenant of the 4th South Yarra Company and Training Adviser for Victoria. She loved her guides, often took them on camps and was recognised as a

“strict disciplinarian expecting a very high standard and (was) always ready to give understanding help and advice. She took the Guide’s credo of a Good Turn very seriously and in 1956 was awarded the ‘Beaver’ in acknowledgment of her outstanding service to the Guide Movement.” (*Matilda*, May 1969. pp 315-320)

Her book on guiding – “*Australian Adventure*” - was written and photographed under the name of Ann Rylah. Full of the joys of guiding as well as practical advice, this book was published in 1963.

### **Her careers cut short**

Ann died at the early age of 58, in March 1969.

Melbourne was shocked with the news of her death. The circumstances were considered suspicious. The *Melbourne Herald* of 15 March 1969 reported that early that day Lady Rylah had been found dead in the backyard of her home by two kennelmaids. It was not until a year later and in response to an earlier column in the paper headed ‘Nation - The Rylah Affair and Kew’ that the Coroner publicly declared she had died of a cerebral haemorrhage, that there had been no suspicious circumstances and that proper legal procedures had been followed at the time of her death. He apparently felt it necessary to also state that there had been no pressure on the office of Coroner to hush up her death. (*The Age* 25/12/1970). Her estate was left to her two children, Michael and Annabel. Annabel and her husband Lindsay Brownell continued the practice Ann had built up and run for 30 years. (*The Age* 7/6/69)

At her funeral, held at Holy Trinity Church, Kew, on the 18th March (*The Age* 16/3/69). the Reverend Gordon Brown said of Ann

“she was one of those people possessed of a driving force which would not let her rest. In her professional and private life she was a human dynamo who could not rest until she had accomplished what she set out to do” (*The Age* 19/3/69)

. Those who knew the one we remember today would agree that she was such a person, who would not let them pass by a duty, or neglect a service to others or fall short of the standards that by inner necessity they know they must try to achieve ..... She leaves lively and treasured memories with all who were in any way associated with her .. ..... Her

concern for the growing child and her care for the hurt or ailing animal were both aspects of a single deep concern to serve others, where ever her skill, sympathy and experience were needed .. ..... She was forthright and down to earth - qualities much needed in any leader.”(*Matilda*, May 1969 p 317).

In his obituary notice Harold Albiston referred to her contributions as a veterinarian. She was

“a first class diagnostician with a highly developed attention to detail ... whose professional attitude to clients, associates and colleagues brought great credit to the profession. She was an active and participating member of the Australian Veterinary Association- always willing to speak at scientific sessions ..... With her wide experience and skill as a small animal practitioner she was able to make a significant contribution to knowledge .... It is difficult for the ordinary person to realise how much worthwhile activity Ann Flashman was able to pack into her life .... it can truly be said that she made the most of her life .....” (Albiston H.E., *Aust vet J* 1969. 45. 4 p 205)

There can be little doubt that Ann, the first woman to enrol at the Sydney Veterinary School in 1930, had not been afraid of a challenge, and had developed a clear perspective on her ability to contribute and to serve from an early age. She had proved worthy indeed of the expectations of Ian Clunies Ross when he wrote there is

“no conceivable reason why they (women) may not achieve a distinction equal in all respects to that of their brother members”. Clunies Ross, I., Editorial, *Aust. veterinary. J.* 1934. 10 p4 ) in the veterinary profession in Australia.

## Acknowledgments

I give grateful thanks to my colleagues the late Pat Abbott and Kath Farr whose reminiscences contributed to the story of the experiences of the women at the Vet School in the 1930s, and to Peg Christian for her assistance in documenting Ann's Guiding career and publications. The staff of the State Library of Victoria., Gerri Nicholas the Archivist of Ascham School for Girls., Renata Mancini from the University of Sydney Archives Office, Margaret Wilson the Registrar of the Victorian Veterinary Surgeons Board, Carol Hutchins of the Lort Smith Animal Hospital and Dr Gerald Clarkson of the Board of the Animal Welfare League of Victoria are gratefully acknowledged for their assistance in locating material which enabled me to piece together the story of Ann's schooling, her University life, her time in Victoria and her untimely death.

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Melbourne

*The Melbourne Herald*

1963, June 19, p 19 Pet Talk. 'Rule Your Pet - Yes, he prefers it!'

1963, June 26, p23. Pet Talk. 'Anger Any Use?'

1963 November 27, p23 Pet Talk. 'The Pain of Losing a Pet'.

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### **THE FORMATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION. W.A.N Robertson. Part 3 1925 to 1932**

[This is the third and concluding part of Robertson's paper. Part 1 was in AVH Record no. 26 November 1999 and Part 2 in no. 27 March 2000.]

Meanwhile the Secretary had written to the State Associations suggesting amendments to the constitution with a view of creating closer unity in the profession in Australia in accordance with the resolution of the Annual Meeting. At the November meeting of Council he reported that South Australia favoured the conversion of their state Associations into branches of the AVA, New South Wales was agreeable subject to certain amendments but Victoria rejected the move. In view of the definite antagonism of Victoria to the proposed scheme Council asked that Association to suggest an alternative proposal for consideration of the other States. Victoria agreed and in due course the proposals drafted were presented to the Annual general Meeting in March, 1926. The chief difference between the Victorian plan and that previously discussed was that the State Associations affiliate with the AVA instead of becoming branches. Although New South Wales and South Australia still favoured the formation of branches they agreed to accept the Victorian proposal as a step to greater unity in the profession. It was

then formally resolved "That this meeting recommends the adoption of the new constitution along the lines suggested and that the proposal be forwarded to all State Associations and that Council submit the finalised amendments for consideration of all members at least sixty days before a special General Meeting which is to be convened for their consideration".

At this General meeting the Business Manager reported that the loss of the Journal for the year was 30 pounds 13 shillings and one penny. He pointed out that the size had been increased from 24 to 40 pages. The income estimated for the coming year was 110 pounds and the expenditure 165 pounds. He discussed ways of meeting the expected deficit. He was opposed to reduction in the size of the journal, he pointed out that the existing subscription which included the free supply of the journal, was quite inadequate and suggested that the annual subscription be increased to one pound. However the only action taken at the meeting was to change the name of the journal to that of 'The Australian Veterinary Journal'. The officers elected were:-

President	Mr. Max Henry
Vice President	Dr. W.A.N. Robertson
Honorary Secretary	Dr. H.R. Seddon
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. I. Clunies Ross

At a meeting of Council in October 1926 the Editorial Committee reported that it would be unable to finance the December issue of the journal. It was decided to send a circular to all unfinancial members formation of branches they agreed to accept the Victorian proposal as a step to greater unity in the profession. It was then formally resolved "That this meeting recommends the adoption of the new constitution along the lines suggested and that the proposal be forwarded to all State Associations and that Council submit the finalised amendments for consideration of all members at least sixty

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At a meeting of Council in October 1926 the Editorial Committee reported that it would be unable to finance the December issue of the journal. It was decided to send a circular to all unfinancial members "requesting immediate payment of their dues." In the following month Council carried a resolution requiring all members to pay a levy of five shillings to finance the production of the journal.

The Secretary reported to the council on October, 31, 1927 that the special meetings held in Sydney and Melbourne had agreed to the adoption of the new constitution, as published in the September issue of the Australian Veterinary Journal. The Council therefore resolved that the new constitution come into force as from the first of January, 1928. Under the amended rules membership of the

Australian Veterinary Association was restricted to members of affiliated Associations although provision was made for areas where there was no State Association. At this meeting a recommendation from the Editorial Committee that binders be purchased for journals received as exchanges and that the journals be made available for consultation by members was adopted and herein was the beginning of the Association library.'

In the discussion of the alteration of the constitution and subsequently reference had been made to the desirability of the registration of the AVA under the New South Wales Companies' Act. Council decided that this subject be listed for discussion at the Annual Meeting to be held in Melbourne in February, 1928, and instructed the Secretary to notify all affiliated associations so that there would be opportunity for consideration of the matter before the meeting took place.

At the 1928 General Meeting the officers elected were..-

President	Mr. Max Henry
Vice President	Mr J.S. Primrose
Honorary Secretary	Lieutenant Colonel L.C. Whitfeld
Editor and Business Manager	Mr B.Missen

The applications received for affiliation from the States Victoria New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia were accepted by the meeting pending confirmation after the consideration of the constitutions of the State bodies and the guarantees necessary under Rule 8 of the Constitution of the AVA as accepted on June, 22, 1928. With regard to registration of the AVA under the New South Companies' Act, the incoming Council was directed to institute enquiries and if feasible to proceed with registration.

A list of veterinary schools and colleges, recommended by Council for recognition under Rule 6 of the new Constitution was accepted. Victorian members reported that the closing of the Melbourne Veterinary School was under serious consideration. The meeting considered this as a retrograde step and carried a motion that action be taken to impress on the University and the State Government and also the general public the necessity to Australia of continued and increased support for the Melbourne School.

At the Council meeting of June 22, 1928 a Sub-committee was appointed to report upon the applications for affiliation received from the State Associations of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia.

At the next Council Meeting held in September the Sub-committee reported that the constitutions of the four State Associations were in conformity with the AVA constitution except in regard to the qualifications for membership. A qualification acceptable to one association might not permit membership in another. To overcome this difficulty and because members of affiliated associations automatically became members of the AVA, Council resolved that each State Association be asked to add a clause to its constitution to the effect that the qualification of each full member be approved by the AVA. The matter was not finalised until May 1929 when the Secretary reported that the four State associations had signified agreement with the Council's request.

The Annual Meeting for 1929 was held in Sydney commencing on May 8. Dr. H.R. Seddon was elected President and Mr. W.L. Hindmarsh-Honorary Secretary. The latter was to retain the secretaryship for the next nine years. Affiliation having been granted to the State Associations in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, the new council was instructed by the General Meeting to proceed with action for the incorporation of the

Australian Veterinary Association under the New South Wales Companies' Act.

As the Editor and Business Manager had accepted an assignment to report on the wool industry in Korea, leave of absence was granted, Mr. Henry undertaking to act as Editor and Mr Misson as Business Manager during the period of absence.

The Treasurer, Lt. Colonel Whitfeld, drew attention to the improvement in the financial position of the Association. This had resulted from the increase of the annual subscription from ten shillings to one pound. He recommended that in the future the Treasurer and the Business Manager be appointed from members resident in Sydney since the Journal was published in the city and most of the expenses were incurred there. This recommendation was adopted.

In August the Secretary reported to Council that he had made enquiries into the proposed incorporation of the Association, he submitted a copy of the Companies' Act and drew attention to that section of the Act under which scientific societies could be incorporated. He was instructed to proceed with steps for incorporation and was authorised to engage legal assistance. Two months later, the Articles of Memorandum of Association were drawn up and a copy sent to each State Association with the suggestion that any suggestions for amendments be posted to the Secretary within three weeks of receipt.

Council applied for membership of the International Veterinary Congress in the name of the AVA and drew the attention of the Commonwealth and State Governments to the desirability of their

representation. As a result most of the governments concerned informed the AVA that their Chief Veterinary Officers had been nominated for membership.

As indications of the growing consciousness of the AVA of its responsibilities as the mouth piece of the profession in Australia the following examples of matters in which it took action are mentioned. The C.S.I.R. proposed to appoint a non-veterinarian to the post of Chief of the Division of Animal Health. As result of the , representations made, the C.S.I.R. invited the AVA to discuss the matter with their executive. The result was pleasing to the AVA because the C.S.I.R. decided not to proceed with the appointment and later a veterinarian was appointed to the position. In Western Australia the Chief Veterinary Officer was retired compulsorily and the Western Australian Association asked the AVA to make representations to the State Government in the officer's interest. Council not having knowledge of what had lead to the dismissal hesitated to commit the Association to what might be a false position. A telegram was sent to the Premier of Western Australia pointing out the strategic position of his State in relation to the introduction of animal diseases and requesting that the veterinary staff not be weakened. On receipt of a letter from the Minister of Agriculture, Perth, which stated that the Minister was fully alive to the importance of maintaining an adequate staff and that the retirement of the Chief Veterinary Officer was decided only after full consideration and the matter could not be reopened, the Council took the matter no further.

Although the Annual General Meeting of 1929 had resolved that the next Annual General Meeting should be held in Canberra Council had to reconsider the matter on receipt of letters from the Association of South Australia and Victoria expressing the view that it would be inadvisable to meet in Canberra in September 1930. However Council decided that the decision should stand.

At a Council Meeting in July, in response to further representations by the South Australian and Victorian Divisions it was decided to cancel the Canberra meeting.

In October the Secretary received a letter from the Under Secretary of the Department of Justice in connection with the proposed Articles and Memorandum of Association which had been submitted with the application for incorporation under the N.S.W. Companies' Act. The Under Secretary required a number of amendments. Most of these were acceptable to Council but the Secretary was instructed to seek an interview with him in respect to certain of the points raised. In February, 1931 the Secretary reported that the Certificate of incorporation would shortly be issued. He pointed out that under the new regime the first general meeting must be held within four months of the granting of the certificate and that this would have to be considered in fixing the date of the Annual General Meeting. Council thereupon decided that the Annual General meeting be held in Melbourne on or about the dates of May 4 to 8 1931.

In March the Secretary informed the Council that the Certificate of Incorporation had been received and that the new Articles and Memorandum of Association would now apply. He pointed out that the Association would require a Common Seal and was instructed to arrange for the supply of one. At the same meeting Mr. R.M.C. Gunn asked that steps be taken to form an Australian Benevolent and Defence Society. A Sub-Committee was appointed to look into the matter.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Melbourne on May 25 1931 and following days. A recommendation from Council for the management of the Association was adopted. This laid down that:-

1 A Business Committee consisting of the members of Council resident in Sydney be appointed to manage the business affairs of

the Association. This Committee would report to Council on all action taken.

2. Members of Council of the State where the President resided would form the nucleus of Council and deal with all matters of policy.

3. An assistant secretary be appointed in the State where the President resides to undertake the secretarial work for the Council.

It was decided that a levy of four pounds per head be made to cover the costs of incorporation.

There was a lengthy discussion on veterinary education. Finally the meeting carried a motion recommending that the Federal and State Governments should subsidise the teaching of veterinary science. Another resolution requested that all Government veterinary services appoint a veterinary pathologist to conduct investigations into poultry disease and field extension officers to assist in the application of knowledge in the field of poultry industry.

When the new Council met in August 1931 it was resolved that all State Associations be requested to make immediate formal application for affiliation with the A.V.A. under the new constitution. In December Affiliation was granted to the Victorian Association but action in regard to the other Associations was held up pending the perusal of their respective rules and regulations.

The cost of production of the Journal was causing some anxiety and consideration was given to meeting the position and at the same time to the issue of the Journal six times a year instead of four. State Associations were asked whether they would agree to increase the number of issues and if they would approve of an increase of 4/- to 5/- per year to meet the added costs. In the meantime enquiries were made in Melbourne to ascertain if the cost of production could be reduced. In December the Assistant Secretary informed the Council that all States except South Australia approved the more frequent

publication of the Journal and were willing to contribute to the additional costs. In April 1932 Council was informed that the Business Committee had been successful in arranging for the Journal to be published in Sydney six times a year at a greatly reduced cost,

The Annual General Meeting was held in Sydney in 1932 commencing on September 16. At this meeting it was announced that affiliation under the new Articles and Memorandum of Association had been granted to the Veterinary Associations of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.

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