

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY RECORD

July 2001 Number 31

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Annual General Meeting – Melbourne, May 2001

The Annual Meeting of the Australian Veterinary Historical Society for 2001 was at the Melbourne Convention Centre in conjunction with the Pan Pacific Veterinary Conference of the Australian Veterinary Association on 13-14 May 2001. Six papers of veterinary historical content were presented over the two days. The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held after the presentation of papers on the 13th. The details of the meeting are given below. On that evening there was a well-attended, very pleasant dinner held La Luna Bistro, Carlton.

Following the papers presented on the morning of Monday 14th, the group adjourned to the Plenary Session in the John Batman Theatre to hear an excellent talk by Professor Peter Doherty (Nobel Laureate 1998) and to attend the AVA Award presentations.

In the afternoon there was a field trip to the Historical Museum at Bundoora Park to visit the site where the index cases of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in Australia first occurred. Later that afternoon we were invited by Professor Ivan Caple the Dean of the Melbourne Veterinary College to attend the opening of the Parkville branch of the Veterinary Science Library named in honour of James Anderson Gilruth, first Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne (1908-1912). The Library is now housed in the refurbished Veterinary Research Institute Building and the foyer was crowded with members of the Veterinary Historical Society, the faculty of Veterinary Science, the University Library and other friends of the School including Dr William Chamberlain (centenarian veterinarian and alumnus) and Dr Ian Denney (AVA President).

Professor Ivan Caple introduced the Victorian State Minister for Agriculture, the Honourable Warren Hamilton, who spoke about the history of the veterinary profession in Victoria and its importance in society, including mention of Gilruth's role in the early 1900s. This provided the setting for the Chancellor of the University, Ms Fay Marles, to officially name the Library after JA Gilruth.

The Gilruth clock and Gilruth's portrait are now located in the reading area of the library.

Other great changes to the Historical Veterinary Precinct are described later in the Record.

MINUTES OF THE 10th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY: MELBOURNE 13 MAY 2001 at 5:00pm

PRESENT. Bob Taylor, Dick Roe, John Fisher, Keith Hughes, Keith Baker, Trevor Faragher, Jack Arundel, Chris Bunn, John Auty, Ian Parsonson, Trevor Heath, Geoff Kenny, Patricia Macwhirter

APOLOGIES. John Holt, Bruce Eastick, Robin Giesecke, Bill Gee, Bill Pryor.

PREVIOUS MINUTES. Accepted as read on the notion of J.Auty/B.Taylor

BUSINESS ARISING. Raised during other business.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001

I have very much pleasure in presenting my third president's report to this annual meeting of the Australian Veterinary History Society. We had a successful conference in Sydney last year and in Melbourne this year. I am pleased we are back to a meeting conjointly with the annual AVA conference.

Following last year's resolution to conduct an essay contest for Australian veterinary students in some aspect of Australian veterinary history, it was decided to confine this essay to "Some Aspects of Australian Veterinary History in Veterinary Parasitology." Novartis Animal Health has offered to sponsor this contest with five hundred dollars as first prize and five hundred dollars as expenses for the winning student to present their paper to the conference in Adelaide in 2002. All four Australian veterinary faculties have been approached and are favourably disposed for their students to participate. It is anticipated that the student numbers will not be over whelming but sufficient to make it interesting.

Our initiative to have the veterinary profession suitably acknowledged in the Longreach Stockman's Hall of Fame has, after long last, started to bear fruit. The Hall of Fame has finally decided that it is in a position to proceed with this project. The AVA Board has now asked Dr Bryan Woolcock to liaise with the Hall of Fame to transpose this project from what has been a long gestation period to hopefully a rapid and favourable parturition. He is now seeking suitable material for this display and preparing a case for funding from the AVA's communication fund.

Dr Bob Taylor has now finalised the list of the sixteen prominent Australian veterinarians who are considered to have contributed most to the advancement of veterinary science in Australia. These names have now been assigned to four members of the sub-committee to submit biographies of these veterinarians for inclusion in a world bibliography of significant veterinarians.

Our foundation secretary and editor of the Australian Veterinary History Record, Dr Peter Mylrea, is standing down after many years of service to our Society. It should be acknowledged that he has played a significant role in the viability and continuity of our Society. We are now seeking a new editor for our Record. I know this position won't be rushed but I am calling for just one member to undertake to carry on the position that Peter has so successfully carried out. Also our librarian, Dr Dick Roe, should be thanked for his continuing role in looking after our library and hope he will continue in this office.

It is pleasing to know some acknowledgement has now been given to the significance of veterinary history in the undergraduate course at Sydney University. As part of the Professional Practice Program, last March I had the opportunity to address the new intake of first year undergraduates of the Sydney Veterinary School, on the "History of the Veterinary Profession." A big task to encompass in under an hour but I believe it was well received. Are the other Australian faculties following suite?

Finally I wish to thank our secretary/treasurer Dr Chris Bun for attending so assiduously to the affairs of our Society. After three years, he is handing on his baton and we will now need a member to take up this vacant position.

I have been president for three years and have enjoyed being back fulfilling this role in my old profession. I believe it is now time for another executive of our Society to be located in another State. And what better place now we are meeting in Melbourne for that to eventuate? My hope is this opportunity will not go unheeded.

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

As at the start of this year, our membership stood at 102 comprising the following categories:

Fellows	2
Life Fellows	17
Life Members	38
Ordinary Members	17
Retired Members	18
Retired Fellows	2
Non -AVA Members	8

We regret to record the passing of Dr Ian Davis from Canberra (a recent committee member) during the year.

FINANCIAL 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 2001, we had \$3594 (last year \$4963) in the investment account and \$508 (last year \$795) in the current account. Expenses have increased especially this year with extra production costs incurred by the Record.

Last year the Treasurer was asked to investigate the discrepancy between members and subscriptions. This is mainly due to Life Members not being charged by the AVA, which includes the SIGs. As can be seen from the figures above, Life Members and Fellows account for a considerable proportion of the membership. The Society needs to decide whether life members should pay dues either at the full amount or at reduced rates.

The Society also is facing a period of uncertainty in relation to costs, especially with the change of editorship of the Record. I therefore recommend the subscriptions should be increased to \$15 (including GST) for the next financial year, commencing in 2002.

C Bunn
Secretary/Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET - AVHS As of 31/12/00 (in Aus. Dollars)

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
AVHS	933.90
AHVS Investment-deposits with AVA	4,304.74
<hr/>	
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	5,238.64
<hr/>	
TOTAL ASSETS	5,238.64

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	5,055.83

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

5,238.64

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT - AVHS
1/1/00 through 31/12/00

INCOME/EXPENSE

INCOME

Conference	16.70
Interest	186.00
Subscriptions-Subscriptions	969.00

1,171.70

EXPENSES

Annual subs	48.43
Postage	223.58
Printing	544.70
Refunds	90.00
Stationery	74.25
Taxes-Taxes	7.93

TOTAL EXPENSES 988.89

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE 182.81

Discussion of the report ensued. The following motions moved by J.Arundel/I.Parsonson were put to the meeting:

The subscription should be increased to \$15 (including GST). Passed.

That all members, including Life Members and Life Fellows should pay the subscription. Passed.

The treasurer's report be accepted. Passed.

The treasurer noted that speakers that are not otherwise supported by an organization, should be paid one days' registration at the concessional rate. For this year this is \$120. Potential sponsorship for the society was also discussed.

HONORARY EDITOR'S REPORT

In the past year the normal practice was followed with the Record being published in March and November 2000 and March 2001. Originally the Australian Veterinary History Society's publication was called a newsletter and the first issue was dated July 1991. With Issue Number 18 of March 1997, the name was changed to the Australian Veterinary History Record. The issue of March 2001 was Number 30. Over the ten years of its existence the articles have ranged widely from personal reminiscences, anecdotes, some obituaries and detailed research papers. Apart from being of interest to current

members, the articles provided an invaluable and permanent source of historical information for those who follow us.

I have enjoyed the task of being editor but it is now time to pass the editorship to someone else and I will not be standing for the position at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Peter Mylrea

REPORT OF THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN, MAY 2001

The Association's historical library collection continues to be housed, along with the Historical Collection, in a lock-up storage unit in the light industrial area of Canberra.

Additions to the collection during the past year have been:

Of Vets, Viruses and Vaccines: the story of CSIRO's Animal Health Research Laboratory, Parkville by BW Butcher.

A History of the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps in the Great World War 1914-1919 by Cecil French, edited by CAV Barker and IK Barker.

Clearing a continent. The eradication of bovine pleuropneumonia from Australia by LR Newton and R Norris.

During the past year, books previously held in the Historical Collection have been transferred to the historical library. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done in checking these books against the historical library's holdings and cataloguing those not already included in the collection.

Members wishing to borrow books from the library can contact the Honorary Librarian by phone (02) 6251 3488, fax (02) 6251 9219 or e-mail dickroe@netspace.net.au.

Dick Roe

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

The following officers were elected:

President:	Trevor Faragher	Taylor/Arundel
Secretary/Treasurer	John Auty	Macwhirter/Roe
Editor	Ian Parsonson	Arundel/Taylor
Librarian	Dick Roe	
Committee	Patricia Macwhirter	
	John Fisher	
	Paul Canfield.	

It was moved and seconded that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Peter Mylrea for his years of service to the society. Taylor/Auty. Passed unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Coat of Arms vs AVA logo

The President tabled a letter from a practitioner expressing concern at the replacement of the coat of arms with the AVA logo. The meeting felt that the logo is attractive and that changes to more frequent use of the logo compared to the Coat of Arms is not surprising. The meeting noted that the Coat of Arms has not been abandoned. The meeting decided not to pursue this matter at this time.

2. After brief discussion the location for the next meeting was to be Adelaide to coincide with the annual AVA conference.

The meeting ended at 5.40 p.m.

Next Annual Meeting of the Australian Veterinary History Society will be in conjunction with the Australian Veterinary Association Meeting in Adelaide South Australia, 5 to 10 May 2002. The deadline for abstracts of papers for this meeting is November.

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the Annual Meeting, Melbourne 2001

Yamerboke's Dogs, a reflection on the human animal bond in a nineteenth century Aboriginal community.
Patricia Macwhirter

Dogs were closely involved in Aboriginal culture, including that of the Bunurong tribe of Western Port Bay, Victoria. Early explorers observed dingoes with the Bunurong in the early 1800s and later the Bunurong traded their women for kangaroo dogs from sealers. When a settler shot a Bunurong dog for killing chickens, the Aboriginal people buried the animal with great ceremony. Yamerboke, one of the last of the Bunurong people to live on Western Port, always travelled with a faithful troupe of dogs to which he was devoted. When he died in 1877 from hydatid cysts, a disease introduced by Europeans and transmitted through sheep and dogs, his white 'friends' allowed his body to be decapitated and his skull to be dissected 'in the interests of science'. His loyal dogs, on the other hand, grieved profoundly and refused to leave the hospital grounds, perhaps suggesting, in the context of this case, a greater value in the human-canine bond than in human-human relationships.

1901: The revolutionary year.
John Auty

In 1901, the year of federation, the Australian veterinary profession had unknowingly reached a watershed. It has become the received wisdom that the internal combustion engine was to bring revolutionary change to a transport system that had for millennia been largely based on horse power and then steam. However, a more important revolution had already taken place: the invention of the pneumatic tyre by veterinarian, John Dunlop. This made possible the practical bicycle, the car, the rapid carriage of heavy goods on roads, and the tractor.

In South Africa, the loss of horses to disease and poor husbandry, which occurred at such a level that the war against the Boers was almost lost, was sheeted home to a command

structure with veterinarians responsible to regimental commanders rather than to veterinarians.

This lesson learned, veterinarians in the First World War joined a Veterinary Corps with status similar to that of the Medical Corps. Australian veterinarians responded to the call of Prime Minister Fisher and virtually all served. This ensured the safe shipment of horses in very large numbers, but more importantly their health after arrival and their rapid return to duty after sickness and injury. The epic nature of this service was seen in the charge at Beersheba. The confidence engendered in our profession by these successes ensured that the challenges of the postwar period were met and overcome.

Another important change, which can be traced to the experience gained in war, was the breaking down of those divisions that had made the formation of a united profession through the establishment of a national association impossible.

This paper will examine the social forces that influenced federation and the emerging role of our profession.

Veterinary Medicine at the University of Utrecht: Past, Present and Future.
John Fisher

The paper provides a short introduction to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, one of the great centres of veterinary research and teaching in Europe. It has a long and distinguished history from its foundation in 1821 to the present day. It has recently been subjected to a searching quality assurance evaluation by a team of veterinarians from the leading American universities and emerged with flying colours.

There are a number of interesting trends that have emerged in recent times, most dramatically the feminisation of the student intake. This will mean, inevitably, the feminisation of the veterinary profession in the near future. These trends will be reviewed here, in the light of Australian experience.

The Squatters and the Blowflies
Trevor Faragher

Cutaneous myiasis in Australian sheep became an increasing problem in the early years of the 20th century after the import of the wrinkly Vermont Merinos and the introduction of *Lucillia cuprina*. WB Abbott, a successful pastoralist in the Upper Hunter at that time, wrote a little-known and unusual description of early methods of control - a parody based on an episode in *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll. The plight of sheep and the lives and times of Abbott, several other pastoralists and the entomologists of the NSW Department of Agriculture are illuminated as the Walrus and the Carpenter walk again across the grasslands of New South Wales.

Graham Mitchell FRCVS - Pioneer Veterinarian.
Ian Parsonson

As a recent graduate of the Edinburgh Royal College, Graham Mitchell arrived in Victoria in 1854 with a Diploma of the Highland and Agricultural Society. Times were harsh in the colonies for the early veterinarians and Mitchell had to work as a part-time gold escort and pound keeper until he could establish his practice at Kirk's Bazaar in Bourke Street, Melbourne. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia was introduced in imported cattle in 1858 into Victoria. Mitchell played an important part in establishing the contagious nature of the disease and later of its control by vaccination.

Mitchell alerted the farming community to the dangers of introduced animal diseases to their livestock and tried to obtain support from the authorities for animal quarantine. He advocated the establishment of veterinary education in Australia, the founding of a professional association, and the publication of a veterinary journal. When the veterinarian WT Kendall arrived in Victoria in 1880, Mitchell at last had an enthusiastic companion for advancing the veterinary profession into a cohesive group. Between them they laid the foundation for others to develop the professional body of to-day. Mitchell unfortunately died before seeing his greatest wish fulfilled, the commencement of veterinary education in Australia.

Herbert Robert Seddon DVSc – A Great Veterinarian
RI Taylor

It is time that eminent members of the veterinary profession who played a very important role in the scientific development of this country, are fully recorded and their life's work recognised. Bert Seddon was such a man. Seddon was born in New Zealand. In 1907, he was Laboratory Assistant to JA Gilruth at the Wallaceville Research Station. When, in early 1909, Gilruth left New Zealand to become Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and Director of the Veterinary Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, Seddon accompanied him and graduated BVSc in 1913. Following service in the Australian Army Veterinary Corps in the Middle East, Seddon was appointed Senior Lecturer in Pathology and Bacteriology at the University of Melbourne, where he was awarded a DVSc in 1921.

Seddon was Director of the Veterinary Research Institute, Glenfield, NSW, from 1923 to 1936 when he was appointed to the Chair of Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland. After the faculty closed in 1942, Seddon moved to the Department of Veterinary Hygiene, Canberra, where he completed eight outstanding publications on Animal Diseases in Australia. He later became director of the McGarvie Smith Institute and pioneered veterinary practice at Campbelltown, NSW, until his retirement in 1963. Seddon was Honorary Secretary of the Australian Veterinary Association 1924-28, and President 1929-31. The AVA awarded the Gilruth Prize to him in 1954 when he was also made a Fellow of the association.

News on Progress of the AVA/AVHS Exhibit in the Stockman's Hall Of Fame – Longreach

AVHS initiated a project to develop an exhibit at the Longreach Stockman's Hall of Fame to illustrate the contribution of the veterinary profession to the development of the livestock industries of Australia. The AVA Board has given approval in principle for the

expenditure of about \$15,000 to mount this display and the consultant curator and the Management of the Hall of Fame have agreed to the concept. Plans for the exhibit include two consoles with a backdrop identifying the AVA as the exhibitor and featuring photographs of prominent veterinarians with short captions describing their contribution. One console will feature short 3-4 minute DVDs of exotic diseases such as FMD, screwworm, scrapie and pleuropneumonia, and the other endemic diseases such as footrot, internal parasites of sheep and a film on horses. The intention is to cover sheep, beef cattle and horse industries.

The AVHS and the AVA requested Bryan Woolcock to undertake this project. He has had no problems obtaining suitable film material on the exotic diseases from CSIRO but despite an appeal through the AVJ has had considerable difficulty with films or videos on endemic conditions affecting livestock in Australia that have been controlled as the result of veterinary endeavour. Bryan would appreciate any help in locating any such material and he can be contacted on, 'phone 07 3378 4227 Email: woolco@smartchat.net.au

Bio 21 brings Big Changes to the Melbourne Veterinary Precinct

In June, the Premier of Victoria, the Honorable Steve Bracks MP, together with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, the Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Professor Suzanne Cory, and Professor Graham Brown representing Royal Melbourne Hospital, launched the Bio 21 project. Bio 21 is a joint venture between the University, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne Health (Royal Melbourne Hospital) and the State Government. Its focus will be on commercialising research in biomedical and health-related areas.

As part of the Bio 21 project, the University has established a new Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology to be housed in a new building on the former Veterinary Precinct site, now known as the Western Precinct. The Precinct fronts Flemington Road, Park Drive and Story Street, Parkville.

Novartis Australian Veterinary History Prize

The Australian Veterinary History Society aims to stimulate interest in the history of the veterinary profession and veterinary science. The Society, in conjunction with Novartis Animal Health is sponsoring an essay contest for Australian veterinary students. First prize is \$500. The winner will also receive sufficient expenses to present their paper at the annual meeting of the Society, held in conjunction with the AVA's annual meeting in Adelaide, May 2002.

This year the essay contest will be focused on "Some Aspects of the Veterinary History of Parasitology in Australia," a field in which Australian veterinarians have been pre-eminent. The essay should be confined to 3000 (plus or minus 10%) words. The pages should be numbered and a word count given at the end of the essay. Sources of information should be cited in the text and listed in a bibliography. The essays should be sent to the President of the Australian Veterinary History Society, Dr Trevor Faragher, by Monday 3 September 2001. Dr Trevor Faragher, <faragher@netspace.net.au>

The Honour Board in The Gilruth Library, Melbourne Veterinary School

ROLL OF HONOUR UNIVERSITY VETERINARY SCHOOL IN MEMORIAM

Cyril Robert Seelenmeyer M.C. Major A.A.V.C.

Graduated B.V.Sc. 1914

Killed on Active Service, France, August 8th 1918

Adeney, A.W.	Humm, C.	Reynolds, J.T
Albiston, H.E.	Johnstone, R.N.	Robertson, F.G.
Andrew, C.E.	Jones, D.T.	Robin, A.H.
Barbeta, A.J.	Jones, W.A.	Rudd, J.A.
Barnes, J.	Kelley, R.B.	Rudduck, H.S.
Bennetts, H.W.	Kelynack, P.T.	Runting, H.G.J.
Bishop, F.A.C.	Kendall, E.A.	Seddon, H.R.
Boreham, G.	Kendall, J.	Seelenmeyer, C.R.
Callow, C.N.	Kendall, W.A.	Shew, W.D.
Callow, A.E.	Leitch, J.B.	Spence, R.M.
Carroll, J.W.M.	Legg, J.	Stanhope, R.A.B.
Clarke, R.	Le Souef, E.A.	Stuchberry, H.M.
Collins, F.V.	Lukey, E.J.	Symonds, S.L.
Cook, W.S.	MacDonald, N.	Strong, C.D.
Cother, W.J.	MacGregor, W.	Talbot, R.J. deC.
Davidson, J.M.	Macindoe, R.H.F.	Thwaites, A.H.
Dickinson, C.G.	McNicol, D.A.C.	Todd, B.
Dodd, S.	Manchester, L.L.	Tomlin, E.
Empey, W.A.	Matson, T.R.	Tucker, H.
Faulkner, H.A.	McKenna, C.T.	Wardle, R.N.
Fethers, G.E.	McLennan, G.C.	Weston, E.A.
Fletcher, S.	Mitchell, E.W.	Whitworth, S.H.
Filmer, J.F.	Morgan, W.S.T.	Whitfield, L.C.
Finney, W.H.B.	Mountjoy, S.A.	Wilson, A.C.
Fyans, H.R.N.	Murray-Jones, F.	Wood, E.F.B.
Grant, R.	Mylrea, E.A.	Wood, E.N.
Hankin, T.H.	Page, G.C.	Woodruff, H.A.
Heslop, G.G.	Patterson, L.L.P.	Worthington, H.
Heywood, R.H.	Penrose, J.S.	
Hore, R.M.	Phillips, A.E.	

The Australian Veterinary History Society is a Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association. All who are interested in any aspect of veterinary history may

join. Annual subscription is \$15. Enquiries to the President, Dr Trevor Faragher, 28 Parlinton Street, Canterbury, Victoria 3126, Australia. Tel/Fax 61 3 9882 6412. email<faragher@netspace.net.au>

The Australian Veterinary History Record is published by the Australian Veterinary History Society in the months of March, July and November.
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Secretary/Treasurer: Dr JH Auty

Librarian: Dr R Roe

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