

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY RECORD



JULY 2002 — NUMBER 34

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Dr. J H Auty, 3/400 Latrobe St Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

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**MINUTES OF THE 11TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY,
ADELAIDE MAY 6, 2002, AT 5.00 P.M.**

Present: T Faragher, J Auty, J Fisher, I Parsonson, P Mylrea, J Mills, P Macwhirter, W Pryor, C Evans, D O'Hara, A Turner, D de Frederick, J Ellis, J Holder, R Roe, T Rollins, G Alexander, J Bell, K Baker, J Apsley-Davis.

Apologies: G Kenny, R Taylor, B Angus, B Wellington, J Wellington, R Geisecke

Previous Minutes: Accepted as read. Fisher/.Auty

Business Arising: Raised During other business.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I welcome members to this annual general meeting of the Australian Veterinary History Society and am honoured to present my presidential report to you. We had a successful meeting in Melbourne last year and are enjoying another in Adelaide. Whether we will meet as part of the AVA National Conference next year will be for you to decide later today.

When in 1999 the AVA Board sold AVA House in Canberra, the AVA Veterinary History Library of more than 800 books were moved into a lock-up storage unit in a light industrial area of Canberra. Access is available through the good offices of the AVHS Honorary Librarian, Dr Dick Roe. However, the more remote the books are from members, the more remote will become their contents from the minds of members. The AVHS has written to the AVA Board asking what the AVA Board sees as the future of the AVA Veterinary History Library and by what means it intends to secure that future in the long term. The Board is still considering our questions. Dr Bob Taylor has continued his careful work as Curator of the AVA Historical Collection. Again this year, he has mounted a display for you and all AVA members to see at this conference. Please do so and remember, as others have done this year, that donations to this collection are welcome.

Dr Ian Parsonson was elected Honorary Editor of the Australian Veterinary History Record last year on the retirement of the foundation editor, Dr Peter Mylrea. Ian brought his well-known skills and care in writing to his task and we have benefited by the publication of three issues that informed us of current and past happenings. Many members are glad to see the Coat of Arms of the AVA given prominence on the front cover of each issue, even though it is printed in black and white for reasons of cost.

Our Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Dr John Auty, will present his financial report later in this meeting. He has worked assiduously to increase income but whether his actions have met with commensurate success he will tell us.

Late last year, your Society accepted an invitation from the Veterinary School of the University of Sydney to collaborate on a venture to print short articles on veterinary history on the back cover of the 47 or so handbooks that the staff are writing for undergraduates at Sydney. Members of the AVHS are providing the short articles, which include biographies of eminent Australian veterinarians and milestones in Australian veterinary history. The biographies are based on those considered for inclusion in the forthcoming International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography - a project that Dr Bob Taylor has organised. Dr Keith Baker is the coordinator of this enterprising association with the Sydney Veterinary School to make students more aware of their veterinary heritage.

The articles are also being published on the AVHS web page:

<www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/avhs>. This is another joint venture with the Sydney Veterinary School, by whose generosity this web page is being established and will be maintained. When you look at this web page, you will see sections about the Society itself with contacts, the Australian Veterinary History Record, the Historical Collection of the AVA, the Australian Veterinary History Library, links to other websites of veterinary historical interest, as well as the biographies and milestones that I mentioned above. One particular asset is that you can now peruse the catalogue of the Veterinary History Library and see the riches it contains. You may also see gaps in the collection that you are able to fill by donation from your shelves.

Your committee believe that this web page will not only inform members and others who read it, but also publicise the significance and relevance of our veterinary heritage.

I wish to record our appreciation of the initiative of Dr Paul Hopwood, Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, who originated this collaboration to establish and maintain the web page without cost to the Society. I thank Mr Federico Costa, Web Services Coordinator, Faculty of Veterinary Science, and Ms Jane Barton, Manager, Community Services, Veterinary Education and Information Network, Badham Library, University of Sydney, whose advice and work has culminated in the launching of this web page. Web sites have their uses and limitations. Not all members have access to the Internet or choose to read text on line. We will continue to inform all members of the activities of the Society through the Australian Veterinary History Record. Nevertheless, please look at your web page and let us know your comments and criticisms.

In conclusion, I thank our past-president, Dr Keith Baker, and all members of the committee of this Society for their work and their advice throughout the past year. As I have an occasional predilection for exuberant tangents, their wise counsel prevails so that, we hope, the needs and expectations of members of this Society have been met this year.

Trevor Faragher
President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In the past it has been the custom to report the membership by category. In my view this has little value. The real division is between those who pay their dues through National office and those who pay direct to the Society, and non-financial members.

In 2000 it appears that 90% paid.

In 2001 this fell to 30%.

In 2002, to date the figure is of the order of 25% to National office, whereas of those billed direct, 90% have paid.

Since at \$15 per annum, i.e. \$1500 gross and outgoings of at least \$2000, our position is not sustainable.

I recommend:

1. We start with a clean slate.
2. We advise National office we will be billing direct
3. We forward a card with the last Record of the year stating that dues are now payable, and should be paid to the Society
4. That a notice be inserted in the October AVJ describing the Society and inviting membership.

John Auty.

Motion: That the Sec/Treasurer write to the Membership Secretary requesting advice of the names of members who have paid their AVHS subscriptions with their AVA subscriptions and subsequently send an invoice to those on the list of the AVHS who have not paid.

Roe/Apsley-Davis.

Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Subscriptions.

As shown in the Membership Report, the situation with subscriptions appears to continue to deteriorate and a proposal to remedy this has been made. A decision as to who pays dues is required. Since our membership is likely to remain skewed towards older and retired members, and our total membership may remain small, and our fees are not onerous, I believe that except for our Honorary Life Members, all members without exception should pay subscriptions.

Trust Account.

Interest is low and appears likely to remain so. The movement to a permanent national headquarters building remains uncertain. I suggest we might examine donating a sum from the Trust Account to the Benevolent Fund.

John Auty.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31/12/2001

Australian Veterinary History Society.

ASSETS

Cash and Bank accounts.	\$
AHVS	750
AVA National	5112
Receivables	(11)
TOTAL	5851

LIABILITIES

GST paid	(56)
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NETT ASSETS	5907
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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

1/1/2000 - 31/12/2001

INCOME

Sales	351
Member subscriptions	350
Interest	134
Other	4030

TOTAL	4866
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EXPENSES

Interest	0
Other	4186

SURPLUS	680
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Accumulated funds brought forward	5227
Accumulated funds	5907

Expenses Other: Printing \$1367, Purchases \$338, Bookbinding \$710, Postage \$431
Speakers \$600, Dinner \$608, Discrepancy \$63

Income Other: Novartis \$1000, Conference Subsidy \$2200, Conference Profit \$323

Dinner \$600, Discrepancy \$24

REPORT OF THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN

It is pleasing to note an increase in the usage of the library in the past year, mainly by AVHS members researching articles or books they are writing. There have also been a number of inquiries from outside the veterinary profession from people endeavouring to find historical material.

During the year the library was the recipient of a number of books donated by Brian Setchell and Margaret Carruthers. The library catalogue now lists 809 publications, with a number of books transferred from the Historical Collection still to be catalogued.

Arrangements are in train for a listing of the holdings in the Veterinary History Library to be placed on the AVHS web-page being set up through the University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science. The listing of the library on the web-page is likely to increase interest in accessing material from the library and raises a number of issues in relation to access, security and costs. To date no restrictions have been placed on to whom books are loaned. The AVHS has borne the costs of packaging and postage of books to borrowers with the borrower paying the return postage. It is suggested that this policy continue for AVHS and other AVA members but that a fee, of say \$15, be charged for loans to non-AVA members to cover packaging and postage.

As there are a number of books in the collection that are of great value because of their rarity and some that are fragile because of their age or condition it is also recommended that the honorary librarian be given discretion not to permit the loan of some items. This, however, will create some difficulties in regard to access to the contents of these valuable or fragile items given the current location of the collection. The Veterinary History Library continues to be housed in the "temporary" accommodation in a lock-up storage unit in the light industrial area of Canberra to which it was moved when the National AVA Office building in Canberra was sold in late 1999. Although a table and chair have been acquired for the unit, it is not a convenient place to sit and make notes for any length of time and is subject to the Canberra's extremes of temperature in summer and winter.

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

Dick Roe
Honorary Librarian

EDITOR'S REPORT

Three issues of the Australian Veterinary History Record were published in 2001-2. Some changes were made to the format, including making the AVA Coat of Arms a feature of the cover. Members provided some very interesting articles for these issues, however, may I stress that articles of general interest are always greatly appreciated, as are suggestions for modifications and improvements for future issues of The Record. Ian Parsonson.

Awards

Life Membership

Dr P J Mylrea

Dr PJ Mylrea graduated in veterinary science from Queensland University in 1951. The University of Sydney has awarded him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his studies into neonatal diarrhoea of calves.

Dr Mylrea had a distinguished career with the New South Wales Department of Agriculture. After working as a field veterinary officer and then a veterinary research officer at the Veterinary Research Station, Glenfield, he was appointed as the first Officer in Charge of the Veterinary Research Laboratory at Wollongbar.

Subsequently he was promoted to the position of Director of Veterinary Research, then Deputy Chief and ultimately Chief of the Division of Animal Health of NSW Agriculture.

Peter had been a member of the Australian Veterinary Association since 1951. He became the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Australian Veterinary History Society on its formation in 1991 and continued in this position until 1999. As Secretary of the AVHS he initiated the AVHS Newsletter, which later became the Australian Veterinary History Record in 1999. After handing over the reins of the Secretary/Treasurer's office, Peter continued in the role of editor of the Australian Veterinary History Record until 2001.

Peter was instrumental in salvaging a large part of the Max Henry Memorial Library when the AVA proposed to dispose of the library. He catalogued the veterinary history library collection and negotiated with the AVA for its safe housing.

Dr PJ Mylrea is a most worthy recipient of the award of Life Membership of the Australian Veterinary History Society for his services to veterinary history in Australia and to the Australian Veterinary History Society in particular.

JT Faragher
President

JH Auty
Secretary/Treasurer

6 May 2002

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following were elected:

President	T Faragher	Auty/Macwhirter
Secretary/Treasurer	J Auty	Faragher/HugheS
Editor	I Parsonson	Pryor/Auty
Librarian	R Roe	Parsonson/Mylrea
Committee:	P Macwhirter	Faragher/Turner
	J Fisher	Auty/
	P Canfield	Fisher/Holder

Place and time of next meeting:

The meeting voted to hold the next meeting to coincide with the AVA Annual Conference in Cairns 24-30 May 2003

The Meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE GLENFIELD VETERINARY RESEARCH STATION Part B 1959-1990 PJ Mylrea and D Dredge

The staff at the NSW Department of Agriculture's Glenfield Veterinary Research Station and the scientific work undertaken from its founding in 1923 up to 1959 was presented in a previous article (AVHS No. 33). This account carries the story forward to 1990 when the Station was moved to Camden.

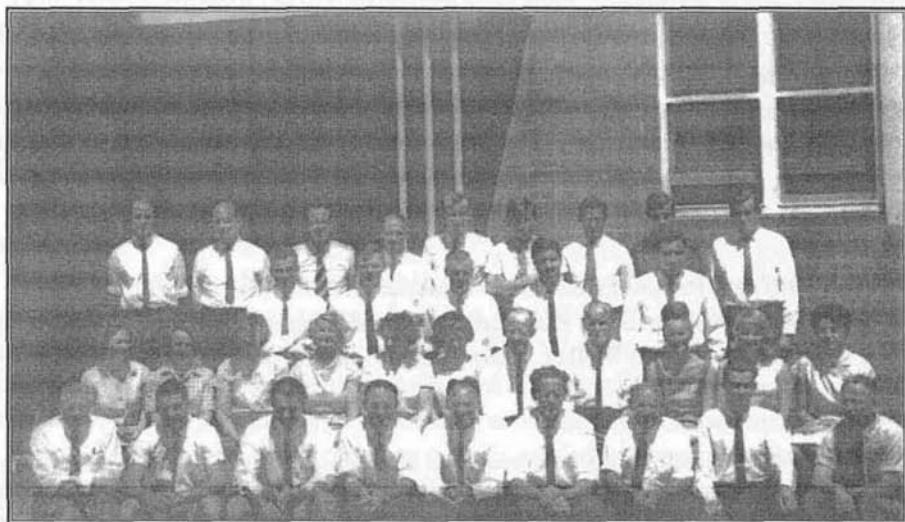
THE PERIOD 1959-1990

The period 1959 to 1990 saw major scientific developments, disease eradication programs, the construction of many new buildings and a large increase in the number of staff. The directors of Veterinary Research were JC Keast (1959-1976), Peter Mylrea (1977-1984), Tony Shannon (1985) and Malcolm Smeal (1985-1990).

In the 1960s the Department of Agriculture adopted the policy of decentralising veterinary laboratories. Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVL) was built at Armidale in 1965, Wollongbar (near Lismore) in 1968, Wagga Wagga in 1974 and Orange in 1981. In 1977 the system at Glenfield was reorganised and a Regional Veterinary Laboratory was established as a functional unit. The role of these decentralised laboratories was to handle disease diagnostic work for regional locations and to undertake research into local animal health problems. The RVL at

Glenfield was responsible for the New South Wales coastal area from Bega north to Taree. Establishment of the regional laboratories increased the state wide diagnostic and research capabilities of the Department of Agriculture.

At the same time as the RVL was established at Glenfield specialist laboratories (Biochemistry, Mastitis, Microbiology, Parasitology, Pathology, Serology and Virology) were grouped to form the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL). The CVL had the responsibility of providing specialist services for the State as a whole plus carrying out research on livestock diseases within the individual disciplines.



Some of the professional officers, laboratory and office staff December 1964. The professional officers shown are M Lindtner (front row, third from left); in the second row Joan Kater (right end), J Keast (fourth from right), E McBarron (next to Keast); third row from left R. Bayfield, I Hotson, R Falk, D Helwig; back row S Hebden (second from left). Absent Veterinary Research Officers P Claxton and HER Beattie.

As a generalisation it can be stated that most of the important diseases of livestock and poultry, which occurred in New South Wales over this period, were investigated in the laboratories. The following notes give a brief outline of the staff and activities of the different laboratories.

Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Glenfield.

The RVL was formally established in 1977 but, in effect, it was responsible for the work that had been performed at Glenfield since the Station was established in 1923.

All diagnostic material from the region came to the Laboratory. Some of the

procedures were conducted within the RVL but other specimens were referred to the CVLs for examination. The demarcation between the RVL and the Microbiology and Pathology sections was not as defined as between the RVL and the other CVLs. Staff members tended to work between the three sections. Rod Falk was Officer in Charge from 1977 to 1981 followed by Malcolm Smeal from 1981 to 1984 and Keith Walker, Peter Harper and Tony Ross on rotation until 1990.

Microbiology

Microbiology was the basic discipline at Glenfield throughout its entire history. Microbiology played an important role in diagnostic work and was a major discipline in research projects. Many of the officers appointed early to Glenfield undertook bacteriological work among their other duties. Later appointees who played important roles in microbiology were Ian Littlejohns, David Helwig, Peter Claxton, Ken Beh, Mary Barton, Michael Hornitzky and Graham Eamens.

Pathology

Like microbiology, Pathology had been undertaken from the earliest days of Glenfield. Some of the officers that had specialised interests in pathology were: Joan Kater, Bill deSarem, Keith Walker, John Seaman and Tony Ross.

Poultry

The Poultry Laboratory could be considered the 'senior' of the special laboratories because it could trace its history back to about 1929. Beri Sinkovic who had worked on poultry diseases since 1951 moved to the University of Sydney in 1961. The main research officers in subsequent years were: Miran Lindtner, Clive Jackson, Gary Cross, Edla Arzey and Ian Bell. Over these years many of the diseases of commercial poultry were investigated, improved diagnostic procedures developed and studies made on vaccines and vaccination procedures. Newcastle disease, Marek's disease, reticuloendotheliosis, infectious bronchitis, haemorrhagic enteritis were just a few of the diseases investigated.

Biochemistry

The Biochemistry Laboratory evolved from the Nutrition Laboratory. Work on animal nutrition moved to other parts of the Department of Agriculture more relevant to animal production though Ray Bayfield continued working on vitamin A. The Laboratory undertook clinical chemistry examinations for the Glenfield RVL and more complex analyses for other RVLs. Rod Falk BVSc was in charge from 1962 until he transferred to the RVL in 1977 and Sandra Claxton undertook much of the clinical chemistry work. In research the main emphasis moved to studies of genetic diseases of livestock with work by Peter Healy and Julie Healy. The first

disease identified was mannosidiosis in Angus cattle which led to an industry-based control program. Numerous other genetic conditions were identified in subsequent years, for example, Pompe's disease in Shorthorn cattle and Maple Syrup Disease in Polled Herefords.

Parasitology

The Parasitology Section began with the appointment of Sid Hebden as a specialist parasitologist in 1959. Over the years officers who worked in Parasitology were: Ian Hotson, Noel Campbell, Malcolm Smeal, Cliff Hall, Joe Boray, James Watts, Peter Johnson and Peter Rolfe. Apart from providing a diagnostic service to the Glenfield RVL the staff undertook a number of research projects. These dealt mainly with problems in cattle (e.g. management control procedures for Ostertagiosis) and sheep (internal parasites, anthelmintics and anthelmintic resistance, blowfly strike, itch mite and drug resistance).

Virology

With the recognition of the importance of viral diseases in livestock the Department took steps to develop expertise and facilities. In 1964 Ian Littlejohns commenced post-graduate training in virology at the CSIRO Virus Research Centre in Melbourne. By 1969 the recently constructed Virology Laboratory was occupied. It was built to enable a higher level of security so viruses of increased virulence could be handled safely. Over the succeeding years it carried out specialist diagnostic procedures on a large number of specimens and undertook research on numerous viral diseases of livestock especially pestivirus and arbovirus infections. Geoff Gard worked in the Virology Laboratory from 1970 to 1980 and other professional officers were Janet Sharp, Tony Shannon and Peter Kirkland.

Serology

Serology involved the testing of blood samples from animals to detect possible infectious agents. The first serological testing at Glenfield was for bovine brucellosis in 1923 in the first year of operation of Glenfield. Over the years diagnostic tests became more sophisticated and the serological detection of a number of diseases increased greatly. A special Serology Laboratory was built in 1969 with Peter Claxton in charge. Some of the other tests carried out were for ovine brucellosis, leptospirosis serotypes, sporadic bovine encephalitis, toxoplasmosis and erysipelas.

Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Laboratories

In the early 1970s a national campaign was commenced to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis from the National cattle herd. Laboratory diagnostic support was required for both diseases. For tuberculosis this required detailed bacteriological and

histopathological examination of lesions from suspected field cases and in animals slaughtered at abattoirs. In the Tuberculosis Laboratory special procedures were used with the work for safety reasons. Bovine brucellosis testing at Glenfield was done in a special Brucellosis Laboratory as the testing of blood samples was necessary to diagnose the disease. Cattle had to be tested regularly until the disease was eradicated. To do this effectively several tests were employed such as Rose Bengal, complement fixation and ELISA procedures.

The laboratory involvement in the eradication campaign against tuberculosis and brucellosis continued through the 1970s into the middle 1980s by which time both diseases had been eradicated from cattle in New South Wales. As an indication of the magnitude of the campaign against brucellosis 27,000,000 blood samples were tested at Glenfield and the other four regional laboratories.

Peter Claxton played a major role in establishing the tuberculosis and brucellosis facilities and others who were involved at various times, especially in tuberculosis bacteriology, were Mary Barton, Michael Hornitzky and Graham Eamens.

Mastitis Laboratory

Mastitis had been a subject of research in the first years of Glenfield and again for a few years prior to World War II. It became a major area of research when the Mastitis Laboratory was established in 1975. Rod Hoare, Richard Sheldrake and Diane Ryan worked in this section at various times until it closed in 1989. Over the years the work covered field trials on methods of mastitis control, the use of antibiotics and improved milking hygiene procedures.



Most of the professional officers, laboratory and office staff in 1977. In the front row from left Malcolm Smeal (8th), Peter Mylrea, Director of Veterinary Research (10th) and Eddie McBarron (11th).

In the early 1980s the staff at Glenfield reached maximum numbers. There were then more than 20 research officers and a total staff of over 130. Many were temporary laboratory and office staff involved in the Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication Campaign.

THE MOVE TO THE ELIZABETH MACARTHUR AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE AT CAMDEN

The final phase in the history of the Glenfield Laboratory site began in 1984 when the New South Wales Government purchased 1583 hectares at Camden. The land was originally part of the Camden Park Estate, the site of early agricultural development in Australia by John Macarthur and family and was purchased for its heritage value.

This property was passed to the New South Wales Department of Agriculture to manage. At the time there were problems at Glenfield from approaching urbanisation also there was a need for improved laboratory facilities; a decision was made to move the Laboratory to Camden. In 1985 a site for the new Institute was chosen and Government approval given for the building of a new complex. Construction was completed in 1989 and the staff, and all removable materials were transferred to Camden in late 1989 and early 1990.

On 24 April 1990 the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Neville Greiner MP officially opened the new establishment named the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute. This ceremony marked the official beginning of the new Institute and the formal closure of the Glenfield Veterinary Research Station after a history of 67 years.

Sources and acknowledgements

Limited data was obtained from Departmental Annual Reports and Departmental records. Much of the information, however, came from the memories of a large number of past and present staff members who were consulted. Their assistance is greatly appreciated. It was difficult, however, to gather many of the relevant facts so we apologise for any errors and omissions that occur in this article.

The Editor

Australian Veterinary History Record.

I was very interested in the article by John W. Evans on *Infectious Laryngotracheitis* and Pullorum Disease.

In 1948 I was seconded to Western Australia to investigate a widespread virulent outbreak of a respiratory disease. The farmers were claiming it was a new disease and that it must have been introduced from outside Australia (they were clamouring for compensation). A milder outbreak the previous year had been diagnosed by a visiting scientist as *Coryza*, although he had not cultured *Haemophilus paragallinarum*.

Post-mortem examination of hens infected by intra-tracheal injection of the bacteria free filtrate from typical cases resulted in cases of peracute ILT 1

Inoculation of embryonated eggs showed lesions on the CAM typical of ILT.

I had blood samples from fowls collected from widespread areas of Western Australia And several contained antibodies to ILT.

I did isolate *Haemophilus paragallinarum* from a case of *Coryza*.

My recommendation was to use blanket vaccination with CSL egg grown, freeze dried ILT virus. Some three or four years after my visit I was informed that the vaccination program had been carried out, and that ILT was no longer a problem.

PULLORUM DISEASE

In 1937 I had produced a stained Pullorum Antigen for use in a rapid, slide agglutination test on the farm. I supplied it to TG Hungerford who used it, testing two Pullorum-infected flocks, reporting them free of *Salmonella pullorum*, in the Australian Veterinary Journal in 1941 and 1943.

In 1960 all commercial poultry flocks in Australia were, by agreement of the owners, to be pullorum free. This was an enormous task using stained, pullorum antigen, by registered Veterinary Surgeons successfully, so that in 1970 all commercial poultry flocks in Australia were declared pullorum free.

The antigen had been prepared by CSL and Arthur Webster.

Testing by tube agglutination would have been quite impractical. The fowls would have been leg-banded and the blood samples taken to be delivered to a laboratory the same day.

The tested flock would have to be caught again to remove the positive reactors.

Signed – L.HART, B.V.Sc., H.D.A. (hons)

Editors note: Dr. Len Hart was one of the veterinary pioneers in the poultry industry and his contribution to the Late Dr. John Evans article (AVHS No.33) is most valuable. Dr. Hart graduated from Sydney Veterinary School in 1932 and is now aged 93.

HORSE BACK RIDING AND WARFARE

Horse-keeping, perhaps just for food, might have begun in a limited way in the European steppes about 5000 BC, when horses were first included with cattle and sheep in ritual graveside deposits. By about 4000 BC, the range of uses for horseback riding probably expanded to include mounted warfare in the context of inter-tribal raiding. Riding on horseback appeared in the steppes east of the Ural Mountains by 3500-3000 BC, where bit wear on lower second premolar teeth is documented.

Gradual expansion in the social and economic role of the horse led to the development or adoption of the chariot around 2000 BC. After 1000 BC the composite recurved bow was invented and, simultaneously, the method of mass-producing cast bronze socketed arrowheads. A horseman could now shoot accurately, with power, over a full 180 degrees of arc, including to the rear, and he could carry dozens of standard sized bronze-tipped arrows. Somewhere in the steppes large groups of horsemen were trained to attack and retreat together, firing clouds of arrows in unison, a tactic that announced the end of the era of the heroic single warrior. Single combat remained important for the establishment of individual prestige, but the defining element in steppe warfare now became the massed attack by mounted archers. With this technological and tactical change, cavalry became important in wars involving civilised states. From that moment until late in the 19th century cavalry remained one of the essential parts of "civilised" warfare.

Source: The Institute for Ancient Equestrian Studies (IAES) based at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, USA. The IAES is dedicated to conducting archaeological research concerning the origins of horseback riding and its impact on human societies. The website for IAES is located at <http://users.hartwick.edu/iaes/index.htm>.

Editor's note: This fascinating website presents information about evidence of bit wear in prehistoric horse skulls excavated from archaeological sites, the horse in mortuary symbolism in the European steppes, and the social impact of horseback riding, warfare and chariots at the dawn of the era of the horse. The November 2001 issue of EQUUS magazine also contains an interesting article about how horses and the foodstuffs required to sustain them played an important role in deciding the destiny of nations, quoting the Director of IAES, Dr. David Antony as saying "Feeding has had a tremendous impact on history".

Source: Horse Health News, DNRE. Dec 2001, p 3.

Visit to Bundoora Park AVA Conference Melbourne May 2001

AJ Turner

On the first day of the AVA Conference in Melbourne in 2001, a group from the Australian Veterinary Historical Society visited Bundoora in North East Melbourne to see the site from where contagious bovine pleuropneumonia spread across the Australian continent starting in 1858.

The farm alleged to have become first infected was Boadle's farm at Preston. The exact site was not recorded until the author was attending a Probus walking outing to Bundoora Park. In an exposition on a history of the Park, the name Jonathan Boadle was mentioned as having leased the farm.

A history compiled by the Local Municipal Council recorded that Robert Hoddle, the first surveyor of Melbourne, detailed the local area as a sheep station occupied by 'Smith the publican'. Smith held one of the first six licensed hotels in Victoria. Hoddle subdivided the area between 1838 and 1839 and the subdivisions were sold off.

At the Bundoora Park subdivision of 418 ha a Sydney merchant named John Brown purchased Lot 10. Bundoora Park now occupies 450 acres of that site. The price paid was 9s 6p per acre in 1839. It is understood that John Brown never saw the land and promptly leased it to Horatio Cooper in 1840. Horatio was the auctioneer's clerk at the land sales. Horatio ran dairy cattle on what became known as Cooper's Hill and later Prospect Hill.

Jonathan Boadle took up the lease from 1850 and farmed the area until 1870 with Shorthorn cattle, including the imported cattle that were presumed to have introduced CBPP, Leicester sheep, Clydesdale horses and trotting horses. Boadle was a successful and conscientious breeder of animals and it was from an import of 5 head of cattle in 1858 that CBPP was assumed to arise in Australia. Boadle died in 1870 whilst rounding up stock in preparation to go to the Heidelberg agricultural show. Boadle's widow held a very well promoted clearing sale with horse-drawn omnibuses leaving Bourke Street Central Melbourne for a round trip to the sale for 5s. The clearing sale was recalled as one of the major events at the time. More can be read about Boadle and the introduction of CBPP in 'Clearing a Continent, the eradication of bovine pleuropneumonia from Australia' by LG Newton and R Norris, CSIRO press.

The occupant of the land from 1870 to 1877 is not recorded. In 1877, the property was purchased by Samuel Gardiner who renamed it "Bundoora Park." Gardner was famous for his shorthorn beef cattle and traded under the name "The Brunswick Herd". Gardner also bred racehorses including Sydney cup winner Darebin. Disastrous land deals by Gardiner in the mid-1890s forced him off the

property. Mr Neil Prowse leased the property for four years.

In 1899 Bundoora Park was purchased by Mr John Smith who built a mansion on Mount Cooper that still stands. He built the stables and purchased the stallion Wallace, sire Carbine, who proved a successful racehorse and sire of many winners. Bundoora Park is now a museum grounds and golf course. The original house lived in by Cooper and Boadle and the stables built by Smith are still standing. Also in the grounds are horse graves established by John Smith.

In 1920, the Commonwealth government acquired the property for a Repatriation Mental Hospital for shell-shocked soldiers from the First World War. It was used until 1930.

From 1930 until 1952, the property was operated by the Victorian mounted police as a horse training and breeding complex. Horse breeding was largely from the grey stallion Sasedon and a chestnut stallion Gortland, donated by Mr AG Hunter of Seymour. Presumably this is the AG Hunter whose name appears on the trotting cup raced for and won each February or March. A police blacktracker lived on the property in a hut still standing in the museum grounds. Some former famous racehorses were trained for police work, including Shadow King who is buried next to Wallace in the horse graves area. Shadow King was placed in four consecutive Melbourne Cups and spent his retirement in the police force.

From 1952 to 1972, Bundoora Park was again used by the Department of Health and the Victorian mounted police Centre was moved to Westmeadows where it remains with the dog squad kennels on the corner of the Victorian Institute of Animal Science site. In 1972, the Government established a Committee of Management which has developed the Park to its current form. The intention of the Committee is to preserve all of the original buildings and historical data available and continue to add to exhibits depicting the history of the Park. The mansion on Prospect Hill is being restored to its original form and will be used as a community centre. The surrounding area has been subdivided and housing is being established.

Following the visit to Bundoora Park, historians returned to the old Veterinary Research Institute site for the opening of the Gilruth Library in the remaining building of the original University Veterinary School in Australia. John Gilruth was the first Professor of Veterinary Science.

ISABELLE BRUCE REID GMVC – FIRST WOMAN VETERINARIAN REGISTERED IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

H J Wirth BVSc Hon DVSc (Melb)

185 Whitehorse Road Balwyn 3103

Isabelle Bruce Reid, known to all as Belle, was born on 21 December 1883 in Melbourne, the youngest of ten children of Robert Joseph Reid, a merchant from Scotland, and his Victorian-born wife Mary Jane, nee Clancy. The family owned a large property in Balwyn, bounded to the north by Whitehorse Road and to the south by Mont Albert Road. Growing up in a viticultural (Balwyn means "home of the vine"), market gardening and dairying district, Belle developed a passionate interest in animals, particularly horses. She was educated at Genazzano convent school, Kew, where she did well academically, became an accomplished needlewoman and showed potential as a soprano. She wanted to continue to study singing, but her parents considered a career on the stage unsuitable for a young woman of social standing. They did, however, support her decision to enter the Melbourne Veterinary College, Fitzroy, in 1902.

Completing the course in 1906, Belle Reid was one of five final-year students who were examined, and the only one to pass, graduating with second-class honours. When she was registered by the Veterinary Board of Victoria on 21 November she was said to be the first formally registered female veterinary surgeon in the then British Empire. British female veterinary graduates were not admitted to registration by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons until 1924.

Belle Reid immediately set up practice in a small cottage in Whitehorse Road that had formerly accommodated her family's chauffeur. Driving to her calls by pony and trap, she became a familiar sight around Balwyn. In 1923 she retired and left the practice in the hands of Phillip T Kelynack BVSc, a 1916 Melbourne graduate, husband of her favourite niece Katherine Sylvia, nee Bates. The original practice building, stables and kennels, and some of her instruments, can be seen at the Balwyn Veterinary Surgery.

In 1911 Belle and her sister Mary, known as May, had bought one thousand acres (405 hectares) of farmland at Bundoora, 20 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD, and named it Blossom Park. Belle later bought May out and commenced construction of a large home. She moved to the farm in 1925. Edna Walling was engaged to landscape the garden of her new home. Belle had stables built to accommodate both her own horses and others on agistment and supervised the construction of a large dairy. A keen breeder of animals, she imported an Irish cob stallion, Hafron Sensation, which provided the main bloodline for her stud. She also

bred stud Jersey cattle using the Jubilee prefix. As a dog-breeder, she initially bred Pomeranians, but soon turned to Irish wolfhounds. A member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, Belle regularly exhibited her cattle, dogs, pigs and harness horses with excellent results. She rode with the Findon Harriers Hunt, took part in showjumping and played polo, often at Blossom Park.

Late in life Belle Reid still managed the farm with the assistance of Sylvia Kelynack. She died of a coronary thrombosis on 13 December 1945 at Canterbury and was buried in Box Hill cemetery; her estate was sworn for probate at 101 pounds. A formidable woman, Belle only gained limited status in what was then a highly conservative male-dominated profession, partly because she retired from practice early. Nonetheless, Belle Reid is remembered in the historical records of the Victorian RSPCA, Melbourne Lost Dogs' Home and the Animal Welfare League of Victoria as having rendered a singular service to those organizations in the early development of veterinary services. Her veterinary practice has survived and is now the oldest continuing practice in the State, operating from the original site, although while the original premises and outbuildings have been maintained they have been greatly extended to meet modern requirements. The practice also continues the tradition established by Belle of involvement in the Australian RSPCA movement. In 1996 Belle Bruce Reid's name was included in the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

References:

- 1 Melbourne Sun News-Pictorial, 5 September 1924.
- 2 Records of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London.
- 3 Records of the Veterinary Practitioners Board of Victoria.
- 4 Records of the Melbourne Veterinary College (held by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the University of Melbourne).
- 5 Information from the Trustees, Estate of the late Dr PT and Mrs KS Kelynack.
- 6 Pers. Comm. Mrs J Taylor, Foster, Victoria.

Author's note:

This paper was originally written at the request of the Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography and is due to be published in the "R" volume later in 2002

Annual Meeting of the AVHS Cairns – May 2003 Call for Papers

The Australian Veterinary History Society agreed at the annual general meeting in Adelaide in May 2002 that the next meeting will be during the AVA National Conference, 24-30 May 2003, in Cairns. Later this year, the AVA will send a preliminary conference brochure to members.

AVHS will arrange a programme of papers about our veterinary heritage to begin the AVA Conference on Monday 26 May in Cairns. We intend arranging a convivial dinner for members and their friends. All members of the AVA will be welcome to participate in this programme.

Members of the AVHS are invited to present a paper to this meeting. Contributions on any aspect of veterinary history, particularly those relating to north Queensland, will be welcome. Please send an abstract of your intended paper to help with arrangements for the programme. Abstracts should not exceed 150 words including the title, author's name and address.

Please send your abstract
with your name, postal and email addresses,
telephone and fax numbers to:

Trevor Faragher,
preferably by email
<faragher@netspace.net.au>
or by fax to 03 9882 6412
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