

Chapter VIII

Professional Practice

Following Murray Bain's untimely and early demise John Morgan, Bill Howey, Nairn Fraser and initially also Tony Parker formed a new partnership. The Morgan/Howey/Fraser alliance endured from 1974 for most of the remainder of the dwindling century. Recognising the folly of prolonged vituperation Frank Williams was invited to re-join the 'new union' and rapprochement followed although Geoff Adams remained independent. Many outstanding veterinarians including Bill Stewart, Jamie Barnes, Alan Simson, Paul Adams, Nigel Scott, Mark Wylie and Jim Rodger enlarged, enriched and enhanced the team from this time. Many of these were also 'reverse shuttle' veterinarians who returned or recycled to the Northern Hemisphere and were in great demand in practices and studs in Ireland, England, France and the USA notably Lexington, Kentucky. At about this time the practice reached its geographical zenith with regular services being provided from the Horton Valley, Barraba in the north to Kulnura, Central Coast in the south. This is about equivalent to the full geographical extent of England. The western extremity began to contract from Mudgee and Coolah as veterinary services became available from these locations. In the late 1980's, when the number of brood mares in the Australian Stud Book (ASB) peaked at about 48,000, the Morgan/Howey/Fraser partnership had on its books more thoroughbred mares than there were in England and Ireland combined at about 10,000.

The practice also supplied services to Lawn Hill Station (owned by the Mackay family) in the Gulf Country when the BTEC scheme was operational. Sue McCubbery spent a hectic winter in the north in 1974. International contributions (Nigel Scott) were made in Papua New Guinea on behalf of the 'Rosemount' interests of Bob Oatley. Jim Rodger also worked as a locum in PNG.

One other by-product of this period of growth was to help in repelling the very real possibility that Mudgee would evolve as the acknowledged centre of thoroughbred breeding in NSW and Australia. This situation was very much in the balance with the egress of some major national and international breeding establishments in the Mudgee/Gulgong area. One impediment to the universal acceptance of this development was the relative 'minority' of veterinary services close to the action around Mudgee. The other 'portent of doom' successfully resisted was the assumption that private (on stud) veterinarians would prevail. While most major thoroughbred breeding operations retain one or more employed veterinarians there is still the great need - and demand - for specialist services provided only by large cooperative practices. This situation is equivalent to that found in the other major thoroughbred breeding regions throughout the globe and one suspects it is here to stay.

Social Impact

There have been approximately 180 veterinarians operating short or long-term in Scone over a 50+ year period from 1950. At present there are some 40+ veterinarians employed at various locations under the Scone Veterinary Hospital banner, including Denman. Many are specialists in their field. This figure does not include those engaged in private practice at Satur Veterinary Clinic or individuals employed on local studs. The cohort today is vastly different to the hard working, fast driving, hard playing, fast living and hard drinking good old 'rugger buggers' of yesteryear! The gender, generic and genetic core has endured a paradigm shift from the 'good old boys'. In a report I wrote for the 20th anniversary of the Scone Rugby Union Club in 1986 I counted as many as 20 veterinarians who had represented the club as players many of whom excelled such as Bill Stewart who captained the zone. In 2005 I doubt if there was one sole player but I may be wrong? Neil McRea says the last veterinarian to represent Scone was Don Crosby in about 1990.

Scone Rugby Club



Scone Rugby Club Premiers 1975

The three veterinarians are Angus Campbell, Coach (front left), Bill Stewart (back, with bow tie and 'mo') and Jamie Barnes (front, third from left).

There is no doubt veterinary practice and veterinarians in Scone have had enormous social, scientific, sporting, economic and cultural impact on the community, town and district as a whole. It is not inconceivable that over a fifty-year period veterinary practice has contributed in excess of \$120 million to local coffers and this figure is rising exponentially. This has come from income generated via thoroughbred clientele resident intrastate, interstate and internationally. Because so many veterinarians have come from so far they have imported with them rich diversity with lasting edifying and intellectual legacies for posterity. These will endure for as long as their superlative skills and expert services are required. The veterinary industry has emerged as one of the major businesses in the town and district and a 'jewel in the crown'. I think it is fair to claim that health services available for animals in 2005 might even challenge or rival those offered in human care. This could not have been claimed in 1950! Having outgrown its present premises the vast new expansion heralded for Scone Veterinary Hospital in 2006-2007 is the harbinger of the next great era!

Scone Veterinary Hospital was to emerge from this period of unprecedented growth in the thoroughbred breeding industry as the largest veterinary practice in Australia (and indeed one of the biggest in the world) and one of the elite of its type on an international scale. While a 'break away' practice evolved at Satur, Scone Veterinary Hospital consolidated its global position providing expert services in surgery, imaging diagnostics, intensive foal care as well as all other facets of rural veterinary practice. Concomitant with the embellishment of veterinary services has been the emergence of astral careers in equine veterinary nursing. Beginning with pioneer Jeannie Crawford there has been a long succession of outstanding nursing practitioners with eclectic skills. Again the established principle of 'dual hemisphere shuttle' has accelerated the development of these 'new age' professionals including Carolind Strong (*nee* Pike) and Sascha McWilliam. Administration, management and supervision also endured the pangs of drastic expansion, revision and technology overhaul. Lorraine Skinner, Marge Gillett, Jackie Druery and Jan Brabant were solid foundation rocks on which the administration governance edifice was constructed. John Flaherty's unique combination of skills enabled the gradual evolution of the bricks and mortar construction component to flourish under his expert tutelage.

The companion animal specialist area demanded more detailed attention from the time visiting shuttle veterinarian spouse Helen Eaton-Evans developed this sector in the 'Jubilee Clap' season of 1977. Her successors have been Patricia Wilkinson/Carney and notably Jenny Jenkins. Facilities for companion animal care have evolved in 25 years from non-existent (ridiculous) to superlative (sublime).

The final decile of the 20th Century heralded the era of increasing specialisation. Equine surgery was the great growth spectacular where there are now several specialist equine surgeons operating in pristine facilities. There used to be none. The largest neonatal intensive foal care unit in the Southern Hemisphere evolved at Clovelly Stables with Karon Hoffmann the initial driving force. Catherine Chicken and latterly Jane Axon have nurtured the 'baby giant' into its current pre-eminent position. This spectacular growth could not have happened without a concomitant rise in the evolution of specialist veterinary nurses and/or foal care attendants. At all times the unit at Clovelly has been supported by an annual influx of equally dedicated professionals from northern climes mainly the USA, Ireland and the UK.

AEVA Anecdotal Reflections

My association with the Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA) began in 1973. I succeeded Virginia Osborne as NSW delegate. Virginia had been appointed to the inaugural Executive Committee in 1971. John Bourke and Tony Stewart were most surprised when I attended my first Executive Meeting at Parkville, Melbourne. I had great difficulty in locating them and would not have been able to do so without the timely assistance of undergraduate student Bill Harbison who was also looking for Tony. They were enjoying an impromptu and very well lubricated dinner clearly not expecting "outsiders"! Subsequent meetings were held in the private home of Honorary Secretary Andy and Sarah Black in Adelaide. These were usually over and after munificent dinners and lasted well into the wee small hours. There was great difficulty with accurate recall of any decisions reached in the cold hard light of dawn! Attendance at all these early meetings was entirely self-funded.

My first foray into expansion of the AEVA's profile was a letter under my signature distributed from my practice in Scone to all AEVA members located in NSW. This unearthed a feisty Peter Roach who was quickly appointed as Honorary Secretary in succession to Andy Black. Peter was a very proactive and proficient secretary although his term of office was not without its controversial moments! An article appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* by leading racing journalist Bert Lillye criticizing "official" veterinarians at Sydney Metropolitan Race Tracks (AJC and STC) citing the office of the AEVA as its information source. Percy Sykes, Bill Monk, Norman Larkin and Jim McFadyen were indubitably not amused to put it mildly! The latter resigned in protest from the AEVA never to return again. Peter resigned his position after this episode also.

It was the policy of the AEVA to invite an eminent overseas equine veterinarian to address members at its annual conference held during the AVA AGM each year. In common with other special interest groups (SIGs) we were allocated four one-hour lecture sessions only. Professor John Hughes (UC Davis) gave these lectures in Melbourne in 1975. Professor O. R. Adams was invited to "remote" Perth for a similar program in 1976. With admirable foresight Peter Roach distributed a generic letter asking if any other organization would like to access the expertise of Professor Adams in the eastern States and also share a proportionate portion of the costs. What is now a famous part of history is that the dynamic leader of the PGFVS Tom Hungerford seized the moment with great verve and admirable alacrity.

With very few members able to travel to Perth because of a national air transport strike a record number of veterinarians attended Tom's promotion of the Lameness in Horses course at Sydney University. To this day this is still the record course for the PGFVS in terms of attendance (over 500) and profit margin (around \$60,000)! Recognizing a potential bonanza, to Tom's eternal credit and with remarkable prescience he wrote to O. R. Adams urging him to "get here even if it meant chartering an aeroplane"! Professor Adams advised he would not have bothered to come if he had not received this letter when temporarily stranded in Singapore and unable to fly to Australia because of the still extant national air strike. He managed to procure a seat to Perth for the AVA/AEVA AGM on a private charter flight at the end of which time the national strike was over.

The massive scientific and financial success of Tom's venture gave us an idea! We could do this for ourselves! First we needed to secure some core funding and seed venture capital to launch any new initiative. We did this in the first instance by promoting a program at the old Camperdown Travelodge (now Rydges) in Sydney utilizing free local talent. Speakers on this occasion include Professor David Hutchins, Reuben Rose, Phil Knight and Bill Howey. The net return to the AEVA was around \$3000.00. We were in the black and with funds! Previously the Equine Group of the AVA had run successful scientific programs in Canberra (1971), Brisbane (1972), Werribee (1973), Darwin (1974) and Hobart (1975). The establishment of the AEVA was first mooted in Canberra by John Bourke and others and cemented in Brisbane. The problem was that we did not make any money! The first proceedings of the Equine Group of the AVA (1971 – 1974) were produced by Honorary Editor Dick Dixon.

About this time and during the terms of office of Norman Larkin and Professor David Hutchins the AEVA was incorporated into the AVA together with other SIGs. This was a difficult, arduous and painful process and involved a long series of delicate deliberations and negotiations! Geoff Hazard succeeded Professor Hutchins as President of the AEVA (1977) and I took over the reins from Geoff in 1978. We made the collective decision to arrange our own stand-alone AEVA program in June 1978. Further funds were needed and so a two-day program was held at Scone in March 1977 featuring Percy Sykes, Professor Bill Pickett (Colorado State University, USA), Professor Cliff Irvine (NZ), Margaret Evans (NZ), Bill Stewart and Bill Howey. Bill Stewart presented on the only recorded case of grass sickness or grass ill ever diagnosed in Australia. Audrey Best had emerged by this time as an outstanding administration officer for the AEVA. This was indubitably one of the very best decisions ever reached by the executive! All scientific content was provided gratis at Scone and a substantial profit ensued. The second set of AEVA proceedings was printed in conjunction with the Scone meeting.

Later that same year (1977) John Morgan was visiting Newmarket (UK) and was asked to unearth a potential keynote speaker for June 1978. He returned with a list of 24 topics provided by Leo Jeffcott who was then at the Animal Health Equine Research Station in Newmarket. So began a virtual litany of aerogramme correspondence between the author and Leo in England. This was the genesis of what was to become internationally known as 'Bain Fallon'. The concept was set in stone at a seminal meeting of the AEVA Executive at the Windsor Hotel, Melbourne on VRC Derby Day 1977. I traveled by small aeroplane charter to be there and Galena Boy won the Derby! The 'brand name' decided for the AEVA 'special' was Bain/Fallon Memorial Lectures in honour of eminent equine veterinarians the late Murray Bain (died, Scone 1974) and Peter Fallon (died, Melbourne 1974).

I was employed by Murray Bain in 1967 and Geoff Hazard was a former associate and employee of Peter Fallon.



Sydney University First XV Premiers 1945

Peter Fallon is second from the right in the middle row.

Another “Rugger Bugger” veterinarian Peter Fallon was a great friend of Murray Bain.

Peter was one of a large number of ‘Kiwi’ (NZ) veterinary students to excel at Rugby in Sydney. This tradition continued for almost 40 years.

‘Wallaby’ Brian Piper is first on the left in the front row. His son Mick later worked at Widden.

1977 was the year of emergence of ‘Jubilee Clap’ (CEM) in England and also the first ostensible recorded case of Equine Herpes Virus Abortion in mares in Australia. This occurred on a stud near Scone in July 1977. A massive meeting of industry personnel was held at the Scone Bowling Club to discuss these vital issues at this time. Over 400 owners, breeders, and veterinarians attended the debate including AEVA President Geoff Hazard.

The inaugural Bain/Fallon Memorial Lectures were held at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney from 15th to 18th June 1978 (Thursday to Sunday). Leo Jeffcott was magnificent and with incredible zeal and admirable stamina filled the whole program. Notes (three booklets) were printed and handed out the day of delivery. Thanks to Tom Hungerford’s inadvertent expert tuition the ‘grand ship’ Bain/Fallon was launched to brilliant acclaim and the AEVA really attained its majority seven years after its birth! Dave Hutchins had presciently predicted that the AEVA “would not progress until it had its own full time fully paid administration officer”. We now claimed Audrey Best as our very own!



Professor Leo Jeffcott visited Scone on many occasions.

The next big thing the AEVA did was to host the Third International Symposium on Equine Reproduction in Sydney in 1982. To date this is still the biggest and best single achievement of the AEVA (in my opinion!). Following the Second Symposium at UC Davis (USA) in 1978 a core group of devotees managed to persuade a somewhat reluctant Executive to allocate \$10,000.00 of AEVA member's funds as initiating venture capital for the idea. A local arrangements committee was formed comprising Peter Irwin (Chair), Phil Knight (Treasurer), Rex Butterfield, Reg Pascoe and Bill Howey. There were three former AEVA Presidents (CPI, RRP, WPH) and two former AEVA Treasurers (RMB, PRK). Audrey Best was the expert and highly efficient Group Secretary. The symposium was a huge success and many Australian equine veterinarians were able to benefit from the accumulated wisdom of the eclectic international gathering. The proceedings were published as *Equine Reproduction III* by the Journals of Reproduction and Fertility Ltd.



Delegates for 14 countries at the Third International Symposium on Equine Reproduction, Seymour Centre University of Sydney 1982.

Rex Butterfield far left front row. Audrey Best far right front row next to the author. Professor John Hughes (USA), Professor Cliff Irvine (NZ), Professor Hans Merkt (Germany), Professor 'Twink' Allen (UK), Dr. Peter Rossdale (UK), Professor Bill Pickett (USA) and Professor Reg Pascoe (Australia) are all in the front row and all have visited and spent time in Scone

The First International Symposium on Equine Reproduction was held at Cambridge University (UK) in 1974. Murray Bain and Bill Howey were co-authors of two papers. The following obituary to Murray was printed in the *Journal of Reproduction and Fertility Supplement No. 23 – Equine Reproduction – Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Equine Reproduction*. An identical tribute appears every year in the annual Proceedings of the Bain-Fallon Memorial Lectures of the AEVA named in his honour.

Sociable Veterinarians

“Hogmanay”



“Ode to a Haggis” - R. T. Mackay and A. M. Bain at Tinagroo on New Year’s Eve 1969

Both were returned men from WWII in North Africa and Palestine.

Murray is addressing the haggis.

*Fair fa’ your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o’ the puddin’ race!
Aboon them a’ ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
As lang’s my arm.*

Robert Burns, “Ode to a Haggis”

'Hogmanay' celebrations at the Mackay's of Tinagroo were legendary and arguably the absolute apogee of the annual social calendar. It was worthwhile saving the best 'till last and in true Scots tradition you don't have to pay until the very end! The Bob Mackay and the Murray Bain families were on the best of terms. They shared a common consuming inherited and/or inculcated passion for all things remotely heritage Scots.

The billiard room at Tinagroo was widely and justly regarded as the number one private entertainment venue in the Upper Hunter. This was especially so when salubriously suffused with the warmest Ponty and Bob Mackay hospitality and richly embellished by Murray Bain's special brand of 'Atholl Brose'! Formal Scots dress uniform was mandatory with the ladies in beautiful full flowing long white dresses suitably enhanced with tartan sash and men enriched in clan kilts.

We do not know if the gentlemen were unencumbered beneath their kilts! Perhaps the ladies did? All this was *trés soignée*, extremely erudite and the epitome of eclectic bilateral cultural expression. The spacious dance floor in the billiard room provided ample theatre for Murray's proclivity to perform his best Nijinsky impersonation. I don't believe either the eponymous *ballet supreme* or Derby Winning Champion Sire possessed Size 13 shoes however! On one occasion Murray's erstwhile partner in veterinary practice Percy Sykes was to comment favourably on Murray's absence from the dance floor. It involved a particularly lubricious Sydney *soiree* which Murray had been unable to attend. The more "delicate" Percy wrote that "the small stage was adequate for full 'boogie' expression which Murray's inordinately large feet and physical presence would otherwise have precluded"!

Murray was indubitably the consummate party animal! He would snort derisively if pressured to leave early: "As soon as the men start to enjoy themselves the women want to go home"! It wasn't always easy to extricate him from Tinagroo. Mace would telephone seeking his presence and he would retort: "Tell her I'm in the Widden Valley"! On other occasions if he had been at the RSL Club Morag would meet him and very sweetly say: "Mummy is not very pleased! I think you should say you've been in the Widden Valley"! On another occasion Murray arrived back at Chivers to discover tiny daughter Fiona was being admonished by banishment to the back steps. Undaunted she was reciting repeatedly the three worst words she could summon: "Damn! Bugger! Shit!" Murray did not have it in him to be angry! Fiona wins again!

There was also a very fine swimming pool at Tinagroo. Yes, the inevitable did happen! The author was 'in the drink' as well as 'drink taken' although this was not the norm! Ponty was distinctly "not amused" in her very best Queen Victoria ersatz! This made it a notable double entendre for the author having made a comparable debut at St. Aubins in company with mine hostess Katherine McMullin!



Hogmanay at 'Hepple Farm' Moobi, 1989.

Anzac Day



Three generations on the front lawn at Tinagroo
Cardiff RSL Pipe Band on parade before the Patron.

*Whiles glow'rin round wi' prudent cares,
Lest bogles catch him unawares;
Kirk-Alloway was drawing nigh,
Where ghaists and houlets nightly cry.*

*Now, do thy speedy-utmost, Meg,
And win the key-stone o' the brig;
There, at them thou thy tail may toss,
A running stream they dare na cross.*

Tam O'Shanter.

Anzac Day was marked by similar celebrations. Sadly one Anzac Day 'Black Douglas' of the Cardiff RSL Pipe Band failed to negotiate the harrowing twists, turns and gullies of Thompson's Creek Track when beating a retreat from Tinagroo to Newcastle. The 'ghaists, houlets, warlocks and witches' secreted in Murray's lethal 'Atholl Brose' mix may have got to him and his Holden version of sturdy Meg before the creek! Happily the whole contingent was inured to pain and no one was seriously hurt!

How do I know all this? As a 'Sassenach' I married Sarah Mackay of Tinagroo the day after Anzac Day in 1975. Fiona Bain was our bridesmaid with Ian Robertson of Cardiff RSL Pipe Band the obligatory lone piper!



What's a bloody Sassenach doing in a skirt!

The author 'in drag' addressing 'Scone Scots' at the Scone Bowling Club

Bit of a worry?

Boating at Lake Glenbawn

With the filling of Lake Glenbawn as a dam on the Hunter River weekend boating and sports such as water skiing were very vogue with the Scone and Upper Hunter communities in the 1950's and 1960's. Families would often combine resources and water sport in summer activities succeeded the winter passion for Polo. Some individuals became very adept at some disciplines and even attained representative status.

The Bain and Rossgole Bragg families were no exception and the joint venture team boat was moored in dry dock at Chivers. They would be joined by the Belltrees Whites, Dunwell Archibalds and Tinagroo Mackays for a weekend of hilarious cavorting on water. The addition of the juvenile offspring from the fecund families added another dimension of fun! The Darrell McInnes and Col McRea families were also similarly addicted and would provide an element of competition on most summer Sundays.

Racing at Randwick and Rosehill

Murray Bain and Arthur Bragg were firm friends. Although Murray enjoyed great success in breeding and racing notable thoroughbreds such as 'Tod Maid', 'Obelia', 'Little Gum Nut' and notably 'Dark Eclipse' the Bain/Bragg/Howey syndicate were conspicuously less successful with 'Blossom Lady' and 'Camomile'!



Arthur and Dordie Bragg at the Sydney Turf Club Golden Slipper meeting at Rosehill Gardens on Saturday 8th April 2006

The Bragg's previous visit to the Slipper was in 1969 when 'Obelia' ran sixth to champion colt Vain. To the delight of owners Bain and Bragg 'Obelia' won the Keith Mackay Handicap at Royal Randwick two weeks later.

St. Andrews Race Meeting

*The Joint Committee of the Leene Race Club and the Leene Scots
would welcome the pleasure of the company of*

at a

LUNCHEON

to celebrate the occasion of the

INAUGURAL ST. ANDREWS RACE DAY

*which will be held on Saturday, 1st December
at the new White Park Racecourse, Leene*

*Luncheon at the Leene Golf Club, 12 p.m. sharp
preceded by "Athol Brose" at 11.30 a.m.*

*R. S. V.P.
16-11-73*

*Please Return
Card Enclosed*

Social Cachet: The Invitation to the St Andrews Race Day Lunch



Mace Bain and Julie Rose: Fundamental in arranging the invitations to the St. Andrews Day Luncheon.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY DINNER



27th November, 1971

THE FARIN'

COCK-A-LEEKIE SOUP

"MA CERTIE, THIS WULL WARM YER HART"

HAGGIS WI' TATTIES AN 'NEEPS

"BUT, IF YE WISH HER GRATEFU' PRAY'R GIE HER A HAGGIS!"

ROASTIT BUBBLY JOCK WI' TRIMMIN'S

"YE'RE NAE CHICKEN FOR A' YOUR CHEEPIN'."

DUNFERMLINE DUMPLINS WI' SNAW FRAE BEN NEVIS

"THIS AULD FARRANT SWEETIE MAY BE NEITHER MEAT NOR
DRINK — BUT IT'S GUID."

HIELAN' COFFEE

"MAN — SIC A DINNER! LET'S HAE ANITHER DRAM"



CHAIRMAN	MR. R. T. MACKAY
GRACE	REV. B. DRUERY
THE QUEEN	MR. A. S. CUNNINGHAM
ADDRESS TO THE HAGGIS	MR. A. M. BAIN
SCOTLAND	SIR ALISTER McMULLIN

The St Andrews Day Dinner (Scone Scots) was the precursor of the Race Day.

There is a very strong veterinary influence with Murray Bain and Angus Cunningham performing officially on the night. The Reverend Brian Druery 'married' the author and R. T. Mackay's daughter Sarah at Tinagroo on April 26, 1975.

I am indebted to Bert Lillye for the following dissertation on the inaugural St. Andrews Day Race Meeting in 1973 only three months before Murray passed away.

The Sydney Morning Herald, November 1973

Written by Australia's leading Racing Journalist Bert Lillye

"The racing world owes Murray Bain a favour"

The bright eyed Scot was the driving force behind the Summer Cup Meeting. Jimminy Cricket, in a quaint outburst of Disney doggerel, figured that the universe was in hock to him for a living which is a trite piece of logic and strictly from the realms of Fantasyland. But to my mind, there is no doubt that the racing world owes Murray Bain a favour which is why everyone with an interest in NSW's thoroughbred breeding industry should do his best to be at Scone on Saturday. The attraction is the inaugural St. Andrew's race meeting which is being staged by joint committees of the Scone Race Club and the Scone Scots. The driving force behind the novel race meeting is Murray Bain, a bright-eyed Scot whose veterinary genius has won renown for the Hunter Valley as a nursery of the thoroughbred.

Dream of a Scot's Day

For years Murray has dreamed of a Scot's Day on White Park racecourse which he loves so much. On Saturday his dream will be realized when every Scot in the district will go racing clad in the kilts of his homeland. There will be a pipe and drum band from Newcastle; the winning owner of each race will receive a half-gallon flagon of Dewar's whisky, and the horse will be decorated with a tartan sash. Similar awards will be made to the successful trainer and jockey of the day. The feature race, the John Dewar Whisky Cup (1400m) is worth \$1,750 in stakes but its real attraction is a magnificent trophy a silver statuette of a kilted highlander. Other races on the program include the Armstrong Flying (\$1,000 – 1000m); Charles David Country Stakes (\$1,000 – 1800m); Caledonian Improvers' Handicap (\$750 – 1000m); Scottish Improvers' Handicap (\$750 – 1000m); and the Moncrieff Maiden Handicap (\$750 – 1200m). The meeting next Saturday will be run on the new course proper which is sorely needed in Scone. Thanks to a gift of land from Sir Alister McMullin**, there is now a 1400 metre schute which has eliminated the former hazardous "saucer" track. Other improvements include an aluminium running rail and banked turns into and out of the straight.*

Murray Bain, a committeeman of the Scone Race Club, played a leading role in the improvements of the track, but that is not the reason why everyone is working hard to ensure St. Andrew's Day is Scone's most memorable race meeting. Their purpose is to say "thank you" to Murray Bain, who has worked tirelessly for the past twenty odd years to assist Hunter Valley breeders and cattlemen in their times of trouble.



‘Sentry Duty’: St Andrews Race Day November 1974

Mr. Bain, now in his late fifties, is a graduate of Scotland’s Royal (Dick) Veterinary College. In World War II he served in the British Cavalry first as a trooper, then in the Veterinary Corps. “We were Hitler’s secret weapon,” recalled Murray with a laugh. After his discharge Murray went to work on the famous Claiborne Farm in Kentucky. From there he went to New Zealand where he managed Sir James Fletcher’s Alton Lodge Stud for three years. He was still in charge of Alton Lodge when he made his visit to Australia, traveling to Scone to inspect the thoroughbred breeding set-up compared to the New Zealand way. He was amazed to find that there was no resident veterinary surgeon resident in Scone, which is the hub of the Hunter Valley breeding industry. Mr. Bain went back to New Zealand, resigned from Alton Lodge, and set up practice in Scone in September, 1950. He has been there ever since, extending the practice to its present status of being one of the most efficient in the world. Which means that for 23 years Murray Bain has been at the beck and call, night and day, of every horse breeder and cattleman in and around the Hunter Valley.

The stories of his wonderful veterinary deeds are legion, but Jim Gibson, the manager of Kia-Ora Stud, instanced a typical testimonial to Murray Bain’s veterinary skill. Back in 1965 (at Woodlands Stud), Murray Bain saved Regal Peace when Jim Gibson thought the mare was dead. Jim Gibson recalled the story:

“Regal Peace stopped breathing while she was under anaesthetic and, to all intents and purposes, she was dead. Murray worked feverishly to give Regal Peace artificial respiration, how he revived her I’ll never know...it was long after midnight and Murray worked non-stop for at least two hours before he got her to her feet, confident the mare would live.”



Presentation of the Dewars Progressive Cup, December 2 1978.

Club President Bill Howey, Mrs. and Mr. Alec McPherson, Sarah Howey, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McPherson

Mr and Mrs McPherson's daughter Jean (not pictured here) was the inaugural Miss Golden Slipper in 1968 and went on to represent the Sydney Turf Club at Hollywood Park, LA, CA, USA.

There is not a studmaster in the Hunter Valley who has not got a similar story to tell about Murray Bain's devotion and dedication to the thoroughbred. Naturally there have been some wonderful rewards for his expert horsemanship. Such as the mare Ragged Blossom, who was given to Mr. Bain by Jim White when he despaired of breeding from her. Ragged Blossom won only one small race at Tamworth and earned a total of fifty eight pounds and fifteen shillings (= \$117.50) in her 13 starts. She missed in her first three matings, but then Murray Bain developed his "gift" mare into one of the Stud Book's great bonanzas. But there is an air of sadness over Scone at the present time because Murray Bain is suffering from a serious illness. Which is why everyone plans to make St. Andrews Race Meeting a memorable race meeting. All that remains to make the day complete was for Murray Bain to be well enough to "go on parade" in his blue and green kilt of the Mackay clan. And his fortune toasted in a magical Scotch potion known as Athol Brose. Good on you Murray.

* Murray was patron of the City of Newcastle Pipe Band

** Murray and Mace Bain also 'donated' a portion of a 'Chivers' back paddock adjacent to White Park

I felt it justified to add this article written by Bert Lillye, a man whose passion for racing in Scone was probably only rivalled by the man it was written about, Murray Bain.

Unfortunately Murray was not well enough to attend his race meeting but club stalwart Arthur Banks recorded a special audio tape for his special consumption at home. The inaugural meeting was an unqualified triumph. The St. Andrew's Race Meeting endured successfully for several years as a special day on the local racing calendar imbued with its own unique flavour. Ultimately a rather extravagant display by the then Drum Major of the City of Newcastle Pipe Band led to its demise! On a very hot late November day the "leader of the pack" imbibed an excess of Athol Brose. Mixed with copious quantities of Toohey's Special this constituted a potentially lethal bolus and the inevitable brawl ensued. While scrabbling on the dusty ground in undignified fashion for a potentate "Black Watch kilted highlander" it became abundantly apparent to all and sundry this manly warrior-bold left his gruesome but impressive capacity for reproduction unencumbered by worthless underwear! Mace Bain as an immediately adjacent witness was absolutely mortified! No more St. Andrews Day Races after that!



The author and Mrs. Bill Rose at the inaugural St. Andrews Day Race Meeting 1973

Murray Bain passed away on March 18, 1974, farewelled by these words spoken by the then Scone Race Club President, Mr. John Kelso, "Murray's passing has robbed the Club of its greatest champion and to everyone a great friend."



St. Andrews Day Race Meeting December 1974

Murray Bain Memorial Trophy presented by the author

Club stalwart Arthur Banks and David Macintyre in attendance

Members of the Cardiff RSL Pipe Band - Drum Major Mort Holm on left



Scone Race Club President John Kelso and Vice-President Bill Howey congratulate Betty Shepherd, owner and trainer of 'Titaria' who won the Murray Bain Memorial Cup 1974.



'Out of the hills and from far away'

Georgie Mackay, Ranald Mackay, Alison Sylvester and Ian Hastie (Scotland)

St. Andrews Day White Park (Scone) Races 1974.

Bill Howey

I could never have written about myself! I am totally indebted to my close friend and eminent racing journalist Brian Russell for the following biographical contribution. It is taken almost *verbatim* from Brian's excellent pioneer publication *The Australian Bloodhorse Review*. This article appeared in the April Edition, 1995. It was written just after the closure of the old White Park Race Course in Scone. I have Brian's absolute authority and complete consent to purloin it although modesty almost demands a degree of editing if not considerable censorship! Rather like Bert Lillye Brian has a unique writing style and special idiom with words and prose. I would not even presume to attempt to improve the original. When I asked Brian's permission to use this information he was typically modest and genuinely understated. He said: "I would be honoured if you used my humble effort"!

The Australian Bloodhorse Review, April 1995



Brian Russell profiles Bill Howey – already an elder statesman of Australian equine veterinary practice.

A closer inspection may have revealed some moisture around the eyes also, but irrespective of this there was a definite quiver in Bill Howey's voice as he announced to the big crowd in attendance at Scone's White Park late on Saturday afternoon, 22 October [1994], that the club flag would no longer flutter on the flag pole of the racecourse.

In publicly presenting the flag to the veteran of Scone Race Club management Jack Johnston Bill was putting the final nail in the coffin in which was buried the Hunter Valley horse town's White Park racecourse, one which presented its first race meeting back in 1947.

Although the huge crowd which had gathered at White Park for its wake meeting on that Saturday was fare-welling an historic racecourse, it was by no means a farewell to Scone as a racing centre.

Since that final meeting, Scone has galloped into the 21st century with the opening of a new facility which has been developed at a cost of some \$5 million into a state of the art racing centre, the like of which Australian country racing has never before seen.

Although veterinary surgeon Dr. Bill Howey, a former president of the Scone Race Club and long-term committeeman, lamented the loss of White Park, the opening of the new racecourse was a proud day for him, and for so many others who worked so tirelessly to bring the multi-million dollar complex to fruition.

Many of these were people who had spent all their lives in the Scone region; but Bill was a 'blow-in' of 27 years standing, an Englishman-cum-Scot with a good dash of Irish, who foraged in his youth in the north of England in the Northumberland County just across the border from Scotland.

Despite this, there were very few on the racecourse that day who did not know and respect Bill Howey, such is the impact he has made since arriving from England to join Murray Bain's veterinary practice, serving the Hunter Valley from its base in Scone.

Prior to writing this profile of Bill Howey, I sat with him in the courtyard of the historic home in which he now resides with wife Sarah, a member of the Mackay clan – one of the great Hunter horse breeding families – at Scone and within a stone's throw of the mare and foal sculpture which adorns Elizabeth Park and which symbolizes the town's role as the horse capital of the Valley.

He was as usual very busy – organizing the Scone Race Course Wake, with the help of a vigorous committee; contributing to the arrangements for the opening of the new course, and at the same time attending to his new career path, a unique involvement in animal breeding and rearing, with emphasis on the horse.

Little did he contemplate 27 years ago when he read an advertisement in a veterinary journal for an assistant for a practice at a place called Scone in Australia on the other side of the world, that it was to lead to a significant niche in Australian horse breeding and racing.

Although he is only middle aged, this descendant of a farming family who had dwelt in the small Northumberland village of Hepple for generations, is revered as an elder statesman of equine veterinary practice.

Bill Howey had an association with horses form childhood with the family being involved in breeding and also providing spelling facilities; as well, his grandfather had a Clydesdale stud.

"We were members of what was called the Hunter Improvement and Light Horse Breeding Society," he told me, pointing out at the same time an interesting service provided in the fifties by the Duke of Northumberland. His stallion would be taken around the district in a horse float and serve customer's mares on their properties.

"I was always fascinated with horses, handling them in a small way as a lad and accompanying the family to National Hunt and Point-to-Point meetings. One meeting was the Rothbury Cup and Dad was the local chairman of the committee.

"I remember Phillip Payne-Galwey running horses, and riding them, at this meeting," he said.

Bill later came to know Sir Phillip well – he became titled – as one of the great personalities of English racing and breeding as a representative of the British Bloodstock Agency.

Growing up, Bill could see that farming was in for a difficult time and decided he would have to look elsewhere to develop a career – and veterinary science was his first option. In consequence he studied at one of the best known veterinary colleges – the Royal Veterinary School at Edinburgh.

Whether it was the fact his mother was Irish or that it gave him the chance to rough it with the cattle, goats, pigs and sheep, Bill spent his formative years as a veterinarian in the north-west of Ireland.

"I wanted to be involved with large animals. I didn't consider myself a small animal person," Bill told me. "I always nurtured a desire to be involved with horses, and responded to the advertisement for an assistant in the Scone practice".

The advertisement had been placed by Murray Bain, a legend in Hunter Valley equine practice. Bill said Murray was amazed to receive his response within a week of the advertisement being placed, and this may have helped him get the appointment. Of course Murray being a graduate of the same Royal Veterinary College may have been of help.

Bill had heard Murray present a paper on the role of infection in infertility in mares in Australia, at a British Veterinary Association Congress held in Edinburgh – and was very impressed.

Before going to Australia the late Murray Bain – he died in 1974 – had served in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in the Middle East during World War II, and then spent brief periods gaining experience in thoroughbred breeding in Kentucky, USA, and New Zealand before settling in Scone in 1950.

He built up a large group practice, based primarily on work with thoroughbreds and cattle. His particular interests were infertility in mares, diseases of newborn foals and the many managerial problems of thoroughbred breeding.

Murray Bain was a foundation member of the Post-Graduate Committee of Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney, and was awarded the Seddon Prize by the Australian Veterinary Association for major contributions to clinical veterinary medicine.

Bill Howey said that Bain introduced new techniques and different thinking to the rearing of horses in Australia. Some practices had changed very little in a 100 years and there was room for innovation. Murray brought this to the Hunter Valley.

"He was a fantastic person to be involved with – a very dogmatic person. There was no grey.....only black or white.....then he could usually back it up," Bill Howey said in tribute to Murray Bain who was not only his mentor but also that of John Morgan.

Bill Howey looks back with great satisfaction and pleasure on his association with horse breeding and racing in the Hunter Valley. One regret is that Star Kingdom, owned by a partnership of Stanley Wootton [STW], Alfred Ellison [AOE] and Reginald Moses [RFM], died just before he came to this country.



Star Kingdom at Baramul.

Photograph courtesy of *The Thoroughbred Press*.

"However, I feel very privileged to have known the three owners of Star Kingdom, in their own way very astute men indeed, very knowledgeable in different ways.



AOE at Flemington

Photograph courtesy of *The Thoroughbred Press*.

"For instance Mr. Ellison said he might not have been a very good stockman but he was a very good gardener, and farming was gardening on a larger scale.

"R. F. Moses may have had only one eye, but he saw a hell of a lot out of that one good eye, while Stanly Wootton was a legend. In fact they all were in different ways.

"I picked up a lot of wisdom from R. F. Moses, also Lionel Israel, Frank Bragg, V. C. Bath, 'Bim' Thompson, Bill Harris, Alec Terry, Alan Morrisby and George Ryder – the best racing administrator of his time, to quote Tommy Smith – and so many others.



R.F. Moses with Harry Plant

Photograph courtesy of *The Thoroughbred Press*.



S.T. Wootton and 'Todman'

Photograph courtesy of *The Thoroughbred Press*.



S. T. Wootton at Baramul - He could identify individuals he had only seen as foals several years before.

Photograph courtesy of *The Thoroughbred Press*.



Lionel Israel at 'Segenhoe Stud'

Lionel could be brusque! One day Murray told him rather proudly a bushranger had once been shot outside his house Chivers. "That's nothing – one lives there now" was his immediate retort! "Rude bastard" replied Murray!

When AOE's proclivity for extracurricular female companionship became fairly common knowledge LBI reputedly responded: "Hey Alf – they tell me you're doing three of them these days"!

AOE was somewhat more restrained! He said: "Lionel is a dear, dear friend of mine but Lionel can be a little coarse"!

"Murray Bain told me you will pick up pearls of wisdom all the time if you listen closely enough. Murray said if I would listen and pay attention, he would give me a short cut to 10 years in knowledge," Bill said.

One piece of wisdom which paid big dividends came in a letter from Stanley Wootton saying a galloper by the name of 'Bletchingly' and who he had in work with Angus Armanasco, was a nice little horse and would make a very good sire one day.

When Bletchingly retired to Widden Stud the Howeyes' bought a share in the son of Biscay for a modest \$3000. They later sold the share for more than \$100,000, but not before breeding several smart horses by him including Bletchingly's second stakes winner, Bakerman, a colt with a flaxen mane and tail out of a \$1000 mare by the name of Breadline.

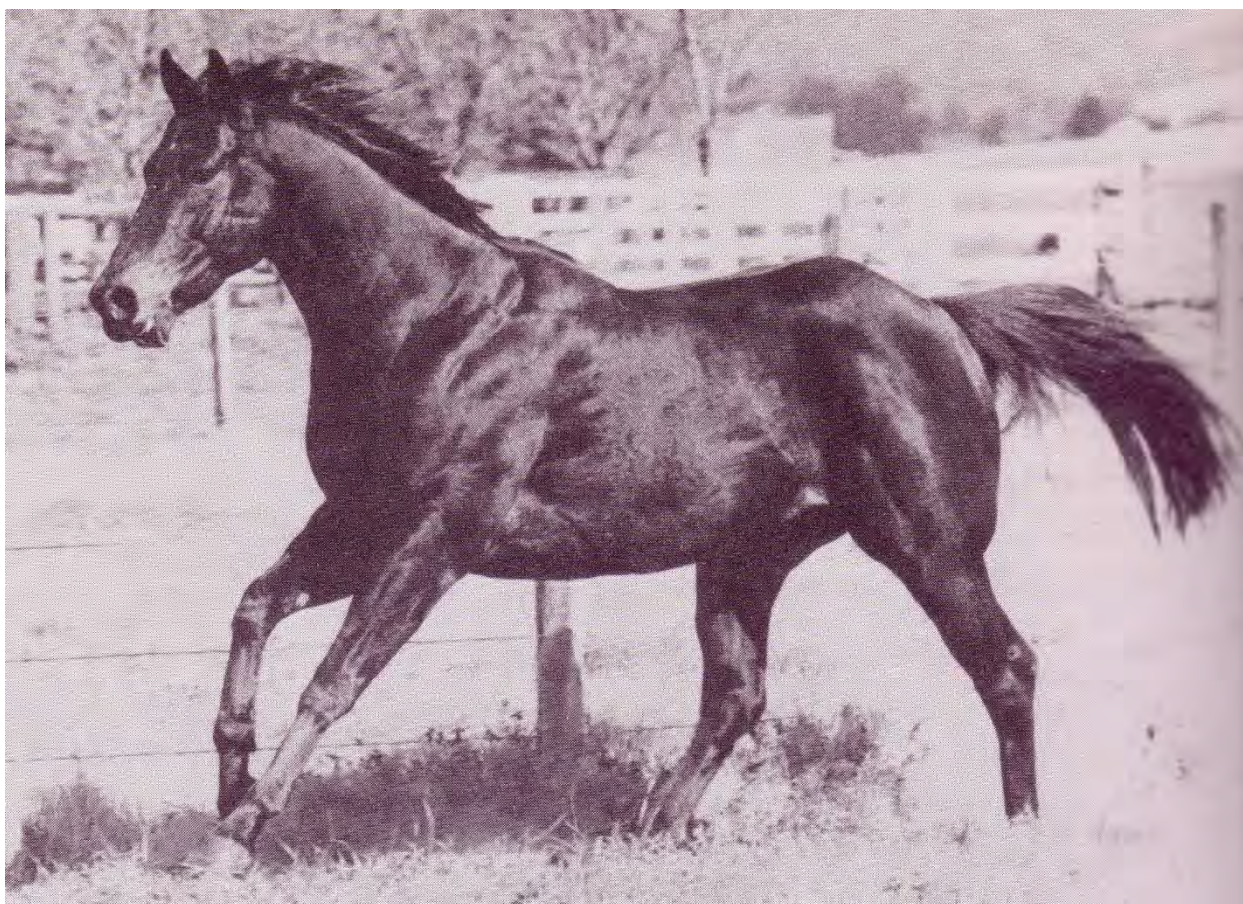


Halcyon days at Hepple Farm - Bill and Sarah Howey with the Bletchingly ex Breadline Chestnut Colt

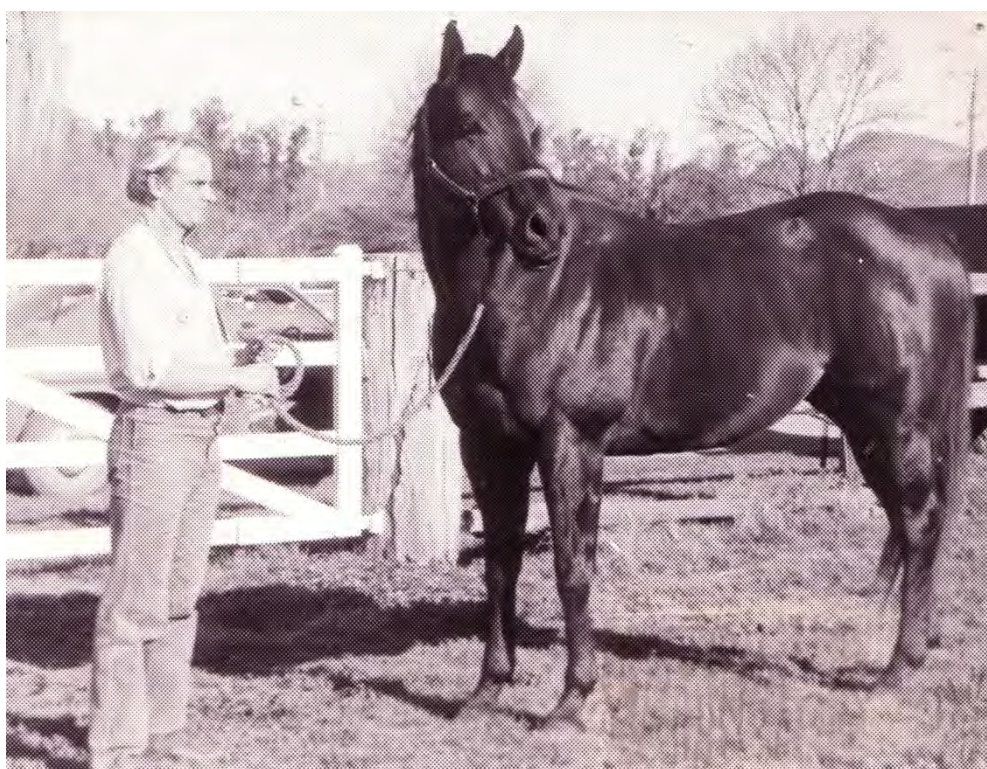
Sarah was also carrying a filly foal!

Bill said he remembers having a look at the first Bletchingly foals, including three colts gathered in one paddock at Widden. They were the youngsters who were to become Bakerman, Pilgrim's Way and Kingston Town.

He recalls Kingston Town's dam as a big plainish mare, more like a German warmblood than a thoroughbred. The horse she went to, Bletchingly, was not all that impressive physically either: "When I first saw Bletchingly, I thought him very plain, rather ugly, dumpish and small. He appeared short reined, big headed, big jowled and looked heavy topped," said Bill.



Bletchingly.



Henry Plumptre with 'Bletchingly' c. 1980



Yearling colt by Bletchingly ex Beyond All

\$105,000.00 was a lot money in the early 1980's!

This colt was purchased by T. J. Smith and raced as Norseman, winning at Rosehill.



Bletchingly ex Breadline Chestnut Weanling Colt raced as Nioka Prince.

Referring to Bletchingly's sire Biscay, he said his near fore was turned in quite dramatically and he understood that when Biscay was a foal he had a slight touch of joint ill. However, his mother, the Makarpura mare Magic Symbol, had one of the biggest backsides you would ever see on a mare.

Biscay had the distinction of standing at three different studs in each of his first three seasons, starting off under Mr. Ellison at Baramul, moving to Segenhoe for one season and then transferring to Bhima at Scone.



Pilgrim's Way (Bletchingly ex Angelic) at Yarraman Park bred by 'Tig' Moses

Syndicate Secretary Sarah Howey and Major James Mitchell

The 'galloping major' was a connoisseur of the Tuesday Boozers Club.

Mr. Ellison had sold all his mares to Americans Rex Ellsworth, and Dr. Franklin – the man who uplifted many Hollywood stars, through breast implants – after Biscay's first season at Baramul. Bill Howey accompanied them on their boat trip to USA.

Ellsworth and his team, by the way, were sneeringly referred to as cowboys when they traveled east from California with a horse by the name of Swaps in the mid-fifties. Out of a mare by a sire, Beau Pere, who stood for a time at Scone, Swaps got the last laugh!

Bill Howey has seen a great deal of change in the veterinary field and the way things are done in the industry, since he arrived in Scone in 1967. He referred to ultrasound scanning as being on the list of valuable developments, and also the availability of new and more efficient drugs.

"When I first came here, Star Kingdom and Todman rarely had more than 45 mares each a year. It was common practice to serve every second day during standing heat, or twice during a heat period.

"That of course is no longer standard practice, so the most popular commercial stallions can have double the number of mares than they had before. Also the management can be much more selective as to when those mares will be covered, and the new technology is helpful towards this," Bill said.

He pointed out that when you study fertility figures, despite developments, they show that live foal results have not risen significantly overall. However, it is becoming evident that with the more popular commercial stallions, particularly the shuttle horses, which are getting say a 100 mares, conception rates in the nineties are not uncommon.

"Certainly at the major commercial operations which have better facilities and bigger professional staff, the fertility has improved – especially with the advent of scanning. With this in use you can diagnose pregnancy as early as 11 or 12 days, but customarily 14-15 days. It is a great help to be able to show the mare in foal two weeks after she has been covered," he said.

The value of scanning was underlined in September when Wakefield Stud's Golden Sword was shown to have failed to get his first mares in foal. Prior to the arrival of ultrasound scanning, it could have taken two months before management was aware of the problem.

Bill Howey said he had been very privileged over the years in veterinary practice in the Hunter Valley, to have been associated with horses such as Todman, Pipe of Peace, King of Babylon, Sostenuto, Biscay, Kaoru Star, Gunsynd, Baguette, Vain, Bletchingly and Marscay.

He has the dubious claim of being the actual 'executioner' of four very famous horses – Pie of Peace, King of Babylon, Gunsynd and Biscay. He had to put them down because of ill health.

Bill gained a lot of satisfaction from a professional point of view as a veterinarian in that in 1977 he and his colleagues encountered the challenge of contagious equine abortion. "At the time, it happened simultaneously, with the first abortion storm due to equine herpes virus.

"I think we met the challenge very well. By doing so we were able to say for example, that in the Hunter Valley – and collectively throughout the industry – we could manage these problems. It made us think we had a very safe and healthy place in which to rear horses," he said.

He added that he believed Australia is one of the best climates in the world for the rearing of horses. "We have our share of disease problems, but we are fortunate we are free of equine influenza, which can be devastating in some northern hemisphere countries."

Bill Howey sees the development of the practice of horses being used in the Northern Hemisphere season and then flown to Australia for our season, as very beneficial.

"The shuttle has made a huge difference," he said. "I think someone in England or Ireland said it was going to be a disaster. In actual fact it has got to be a great benefit Australia, for what we have lacked in the past has been superior genetic material.

"Now we are getting access to some of the best genetic material available – at least from the UK and Ireland. It can only upgrade the mares, the racehorses and the Stud Book in general."



Huntingdale ex Marmara Yearling Filly at Newmarket 1994

In the late eighties Bill Howey decided he wanted to take action on his career path before he was forced by age to reduce veterinary practice. "I saw a window of opportunity with the developments taking place in the Hunter Valley including education, and joined the TAFE organization.

After intensive training in Sydney and some teaching in the horse section at the Scone branch of TAFE, he was elevated to the position of curriculum development officer with the NSW TAFE Rural and Mining Industry Training and Fisheries Division.

"We are charged with the responsibility of developing courses involving animal care, including of course, horses," he said.

The major base for Bill Howey's operations in the future is to be a multi-million dollar new TAFE campus adjacent to the new Scone racecourse. He described the new college, due to open at the beginning of 1996, as a centre of excellence in rural and equine studies.

It will be the major centre of its kind, and is expected to cater for between 700 and 800 students each year, including trainees from Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan.

Bill Howey sees Asia playing a major role in a big leap forward in Australian racing and breeding industries – greater interest stimulated by the beaming of our racing overseas by telecast.



Scone Cup Presentation 1981 - Bill Doodie (Owner of winner Bridgeman), Ray Moir and Bill Howey



Scone Shire Citizen of the Year Award 1996

Thank you Brian from the bottom of my heart! I could never have written this myself! I feel extremely humble having just read it fully for the very first time! I knew its content because 'Tiggy' Moses rang me after publication to thank me for the kind words I said about his father!



Mr A. O. Ellison at Randwick races in the 1950's with his personal secretary of over 40 years, Miss Nora Elliott.

Not long before he passed away Mr. Ellison gave me some of the most cogent advice of my life. In his very clipped best Barrister's tone he said: "Bill, let me tell you, you have to be a very wealthy man to go chasing thoroughbred horses"! Not long after I withdrew from the 'big poker game'; while still in front! Miss Elliott presented me the cheque for the sale of my share in Bletchingly!

Photograph courtesy of *The Thoroughbred Press*.



'Nurture or nature'

Bill Howey with a young Syeeda Bint at Hepple Farm, Moobi, Scone



April 26 1975 at Tinagroo when Bill Howey married Sarah Mackay

Bridesmaid Fiona Bain with best man Bill Rose



April 26 1975 at Tinagroo when Bill Howey married Sarah Mackay

The groom with groomsman 'Bim' Thompson

David Bath is trying to enter the picture on the right!



'Eclectic Academic Selection' - Bill Howey, visiting Glasgow University epidemiologist Dr. Pickersgill, Professor David Hodgson and Professor Reuben Rose at Geraldton.



Academic Trifecta - The author with Professor Reuben Rose and Professor Gavin Brown

Presentation of the T.G. Hungerford Award to Dr. Richard Malik 2002

Professor Gavin Brown is Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney

Dr Richard Malik was an undergraduate in Scone in the late 1970's.



Younger days!



50 not out! November 25, 1992 - Cliff Ellis, Syd Anderson behind Hilton Cope, Angus Campbell, Kevin Fitzgerald and Paul Hennessy.



50 not out! November 25, 1992

Ron Jeffries, Reub Cochrane, Jim Gibson, Angus Campbell, Archie Shepherd and Cliff Ellis

Education

Further enlightened education has always been a fundamental premise for successive generations of veterinarians in Scone. Commitment to life-long learning as a continuum has formed the basis of a prevailing philosophy for the incumbents at any one time. The birth of this process can arguably be traced back over 50 years. Murray Bain was resident veterinarian and manager of Alton Lodge Stud in New Zealand. He gave a talk entitled “Problems Associated with Infertility in the Brood Mare” to the NSW Division of the Australian Veterinary Association at The Veterinary School, University of Sydney on Tuesday April 6th. 1948. It was an extraordinarily intuitive treatise challenging many of the inculcated but outdated tenets of the day. Murray brought this prescient mind to the Hunter Valley with him in 1950.

It is a legacy which endures to this day on a local, national and international stage. Murray and his cohorts arranged a series of seminars for interested stud people as early as 1968 with the inaugural one taking place in the Scone Bowling Club with John Kelso in the chair. Following Murray’s tragic early demise in 1974 the ‘F-squared Club’ was formed by Peter Morris and Bill Howey. From this the Hunter Valley Blood Horse Breeders Association emerged and subsequently also the Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation. Scone TAFE College was established in the mid-eighties at Muffett Street and dedicated to equine and rural courses. The new Hunter Valley Equine Centre became part of a larger complex embracing the TAFE College and Race Track as well as the Research Centre.

Veterinary education also flourished. Together with fellow icons Vic Cole and Tom Hungerford Murray had been one of the early visionary founders of the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney in the sixties. Only Julie Rose’s mother (Bill’s mother-in-law) momentarily deflected his driving passionate commitment to this organisation. Bill Howey was to become the third full time Director of the PGFVS in 2000 following Tom Hungerford and Doug Bryden. The PGFVS enjoys a global reputation as the leader in continuing veterinary education having been the very first of its kind.

A major course featuring international speakers was held in Scone under the aegis of the Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA) in 1977. Bill Pickett (USA), Cliff Irvine (NZ), Margaret Evans (NZ) and Percy Sykes augmented local speakers in the Arts and Crafts Centre. The following year (1978) the initial AEVA Bain/Fallon course with Leo Jeffcott was held in the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney. The course was named in honour of Murray Bain and Peter Fallon who both died tragically early in 1974. It is an enduring monument to this day and the principal flagship of the AEVA.

Veterinary commitment to general education endures through the various courses available through Scone TAFE. Most significant among these are Veterinary Nursing and specifically Equine Nursing – again the first of its kind internationally. The now *de rigueur* ritual migration of veterinarians and stud hands between the hemispheres is also an education extension process.



Cambridge Education!

The author and Mr. Pat Nicholas 'on tour' with the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney

This photograph was taken at Kings College Cambridge University UK in 1973.

Pat was a former 'Wallaby' and on the Council of the PGFVS when the author was its third Director