

Chapter X

Tertiary Education

The Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney

This memoir would not be complete without at least a summary of the remarkable organization known as the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science (PGFVS) at the University of Sydney. It would be fair to claim no other veterinary practice or its extended personnel have exerted a greater influence or had more direct impact than the Scone Veterinary Practice. When you read it I think you will see why.

First and Foremost in Continuing Veterinary Education

During the 1950's many veterinarians recognised a growing need for continuing education. Through a group of forward thinking veterinarians from within the ranks of practitioners, university lecturers, the professional association, and associated industries this recognition culminated in the formation of the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science in 1961. The activities of this body led to the formation of the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney in 1965. The Foundation was formed under the authority of the Senate of the University of Sydney and is governed by a Council elected by the Members of the Foundation. It was established to fund continuing education for the profession and over time the activities have been expanded to cover a range of different services.

The initiatives of 40 years ago established the world's first and leading organisation dedicated to postgraduate veterinary education. Its earliest activity was the organisation of regular refresher courses of two to five days duration. In the first year two such courses were held. In 1996, 68 courses were held, in 1997, 94 courses were held and in 1998, it was 102. There has been comparable growth in our other activities covering publishing, technical information search and dissemination, and distance education.

From its inception the Post Graduate Foundation has enjoyed the support and participation in its activities of our colleagues in New Zealand. Veterinarians from many countries around the world now use the Foundation as a resource and many overseas veterinarians attend our courses. With the expansion of veterinary practice and the new technology in communications we are looking forward to increasing involvement in fulfilling the continuing education requirements of veterinarians everywhere.

The first veterinary director of the Post Graduate Foundation was Dr T G Hungerford OBE BVSc FACVSc HAD Fellow of the University of Sydney. As Director of the Post Graduate Committee and Post Graduate Foundation he led the profession with great distinction for many years. During this time he was responsible for expanding the practical application of veterinary science within the community through his encouragement to veterinarians to embrace all aspects of animal health and production in keeping with their training.

Throughout his professional life Tom Hungerford has received many honours. The Queen made him an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, the University of Sydney conferred on him an Honorary Fellowship of the University and the profession continues to honour him even in his retirement. In 1998, The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists honoured Dr Hungerford with an oration which was delivered by Dr Douglas Bryden. All who know Tom Hungerford, and especially those who have been fortunate enough to work with him, hold a warm affection for him and the Post Graduate Foundation honours him each year with the T G Hungerford Award for Excellence in Post Graduate Education and with the naming of one course every year for him.

In 1987 this talented and dynamic visionary was succeeded by Dr Douglas Bryden BVSc MACVSc. Dr Bryden conducted a mixed practice in Tamworth, NSW for many years. He was a founding member and the first Chairman of the Cattle Chapter and was President of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in 1987/88 and has published on the subject of cattle medicine. In 1994 he was awarded the Gilruth Prize, the highest honour of the AVA. Dr Douglas Bryden left the Foundation at the end of March 2000 to enjoy a well earned retirement.

Dr Bryden was appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia in recognition of his work in veterinary science, particularly in the fields of continuing education and clinical practice.

In April 2000 Dr Bill Howey took up his appointment as Director. His strong background in veterinary practice and education proved invaluable for the needs of the PGF. Bill, at the time of his appointment was no stranger to the Foundation. He had served as Veterinary Consultant to the Foundation since 1996 and as Associate Director for the best part of 1999. As Consultant he was involved in producing over 80 'TimeOut' Seminars throughout Australia attended by over 1,000 veterinary delegates. He was also closely involved with the planning and delivery of some major courses, specifically in the equine domain. Bill earned the respect and admiration of the Post Graduate Foundation Team working with him and brought veterinarians the very best programs for their continuing education needs during his term of office.

Bill's fine sense of equity, his openness and kindness have contributed a lasting legacy to the Foundation, continuing the tradition of its core purpose which is to support the members of the veterinary community through the provision of the best quality continuing education.

The following two letters were written by Tom Hungerford on Bill Howey's initiation as consultant to the PGFVS in 1996 and then appointment as Director in 2000. Both originals were hand written in Tom's characteristic spidery style!

Tel. (02) 487 2732



"Fairleigh"
38 Burns Road,
Wahroonga, 2076

Dr T. G. Hungerford, OBE, BVSc, FACVSc, HDA
Veterinarian

5.11.86

Dr Bill Harvey,

I was delighted to see in the September Circular for October that you were going to come into the P&F Foundation to assist Doug Hayden in seminars, equine courses, animal welfare etc. The one thing Doug has lacked is an effective veterinary associates to help some of the burden off him.

The fact that you were a colleague of Murray Rami makes you peculiarly suitable as a helper in the P&F. When I was at Murray's funeral and they sounded "the Last Post" on the pipes I thought how infinitely sad it was that the enormous expertise of Murray was being lost to the profession. His vast experience as horse handler, stud groom and then specialist equine clinician, surgeon, and research man, all rolled into one, was a treasure trove, and he was a great force in the formative years of the P&F.

You were with him and carry the very breath of his expertise with you, for the continuing benefit of the profession. — Congratulations!

I do hope that you may fit into the organisation in an effective, full and fulfilling way. You have been in the hard demanding field of equine and general practice, and in these days when the Faculty seems to be shattering to pieces as the practitioners body seems to be channelling itself into dogs: cats there is a desperate need for persons such as yourself to work through the P&F as a sort of "last hope" to correct the position.

My best wishes to you Bill.

Sincerely
Tom.

Dr. Bill Howey

5.11.96

I was delighted to see in the Directors Circular for October that you were going to come onto the PG Foundation to assist Doug Bryden in seminars, equine courses, animal welfare etc. The one thing Doug has lacked is effective veterinary associates to lift some of the burden off him.

The fact that you were a colleague of Murray Bain makes you particularly suitable as a helper in the PGF. When I was at Murray's funeral and they sounded "the Lament" on the pipes I thought how infinitely sad it was that the enormous expertise of Murray was being lost to the profession. His vast experience as horse handler, stud groom, and then specialist equine clinician, surgeon, and research man, all rolled into one, was a treasure trove, and he was a great force in the formative years of the PGF.

You were with him and carry the very breath of his expertise with you, for the continuing benefit of the profession ----- congratulations!

I do so hope that you may fit into the organization in an effective, full and fulfilling way. You have been in the hard demanding field of equine and general practice, and in these days when the Faculty seems to be smattering to pieces as the practitioner body seems to be channeling itself onto dogs and cats there is a desperate need for persons such as yourself to work through the PGF as a sort of "last hope" to correct the position.

My very best wishes to you Bill.

Sincerely

Tom

⑦



"Fairleigh"

38 Burns Road,
Wahroonga, 2076

PERSONAL

Dr J. G. Hungerford, OBE, BVSC, FACVSC, HDA
Veterinarian

1.6.00

Dr W. P. Howey,

Director.

Dear Bill, Congratulations on your appointment.
Congratulations on your first Director's

Circular. It is excellent. Your choice of phrase as word, was superb. Your approbation and praise of Murray Bain and Veta Cole was particularly felicitous as propitious, as these two great veterinarians have received too little recognition in the annals of our great professionals — both humble men but actively magnificent in practical performance.

You will do well to continue where you have started, being "hearty with your approbation and lavish with your praise", if, and where this is genuinely merited. (As Dale Carnegie says). I am always intrigued to note that where A praises B, they both go up, but where A criticises B, B is pulled down all right, but A goes down below him.

Bill, I am almost starting to "give you advice" to help you, so let me stop at once, as I remember the great Greek philosopher Socrates. You recall he was compelled to commit suicide by drinking hemlock. A schoolgirl was asked to write up his life story. She wrote succinctly:—

Tel. (02) 9487 2732

②



"Farleigh"
38 Burns Road,
Wahroonga, 2076

Dr T. G. Hungerford, OBE, BVSC, FRCVSC, HDA
Veterinarian

- ① Socrates was a Greek philosopher.
- ② He went about telling people what to do.
- ③ They poisoned him.

So — not wishing to retrace the
footsteps of Socrates, I desist from advice (telling
people what to do).

Well Bill you have a costly, very creditable
career behind you and you will now adorn it
it with a great work.

My very best good wishes

Sincerely

Tom Hungerford

Dear Bill,

Congratulations on your appointment. Congratulations on your first Directors Circular. It is excellent. Your choice of phrase and word was superb. Your approbation and praise of Murray Bain and Victor Cole was particularly felicitous and propitious, as these two great veterinarians have received too little recognition in the annals of our great professionals – both humble even but actively magnificent in practical performance.

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Socrates was a Greek philosopher.
He went about telling people what to do.
They poisoned him.

So ----- not wishing to retread the steps of Socrates, I desist from advice (telling people what to do).

Well Bill you have a worthy, very creditable career behind you and you will now adorn it with a great work.

My very best sincere good wishes

Sincerely

Tom Hungerford

In May 2002 Dr Michele Cotton, formerly in the role of Associate Director for the Post Graduate Foundation, was asked to step into Bill's position whilst he was away on leave and continued to act as Director of the Post Graduate Foundation after Bill's resignation in August 2002. In December 2003 Michele was offered the position of Director of the Post Graduate Foundation.

Michele comes with an extensive career in veterinary practice which has encompassed both large and small animal veterinary medicine and surgery, as well as zoo animals, wildlife, teaching and research. Having been a solitary practitioner for most of her professional career and a grateful recipient of the support that the Post Graduate Foundation has provided over that time she is well aware of its importance to veterinarians in all corners of the world. It is with great pleasure she strives to act as guardian of the directorship and to continue the work of the Post Graduate Foundation, so thoughtfully established over 40 years ago.

Michele Cotton was the first female undergraduate veterinary student to see practice in Scone. It was widely rumoured she was personally hand-picked by Murray! Michele succeeded the author as the fourth Director of the PGFVS of the University of Sydney continuing the remarkable intimate association with the Scone practice