

### **Scone Veterinary Hospital: 1990 – 1999**

Scone Veterinary Hospital (SVH) in one form or another has maintained its identity at 106 Liverpool Street since 1977 and represents the longest period of prolonged habitation by any of the various practices since inception. It has been an excellent facility and undergone and survived a number of metamorphoses. It has been augmented by the evolution of Clovelly Stables and complemented by the establishing of Denman Veterinary Clinic in Ogilvie Street, Denman. There has always been a presence at Widden Stud. SVH has by now earned iconic status as one of the world's great equine veterinary practices. It is replicated in only a few areas of the globe notably Newmarket in the UK and Lexington, Kentucky in the USA.

The range of facilities provided far exceeds those available in the early days and with new and ever developing technology is well out of the range of the pocket of other than large group practices or cooperatives. I always aspired to see the fruition of such a natural development and it has happened although my own input waned somewhat for personal reasons towards the end of the first 50 year period.

As veterinary science especially surgical techniques rapidly develop along with technological advances so ever greater demands are made on learning and the provision of adequate diagnostic procedures and facilities. Unlike human medicine and surgery these have to be provided in the market place and within normal practice financial scope. Due to media and other exposure the general public has far greater expectations of what should be provided although the willingness or ability to pay may not be of equal proportion!



Scone Veterinary Hospital 1996.  
 Part of the team (back) Paul Adams, John Flaherty, Andy Palmer, Angus Campbell, Gaye Lucas and (front) Jeannie Crawford, Margie McEwin, Sascha McWilliam, Catherine Chicken, Jo Holt, Cheryl Hugo.

The following is a practice profile for mid 1990's:

## SCONE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

26 Ogilvie Street  
DENMAN NSW 2328  
Tel: (065) 47 2222  
Fax: (065) 47 2887

PO BOX 280  
SCONE NSW 2337

106 Liverpool Street  
SCONE NSW 2337  
Tel: (065) 45 1333  
Fax: (065) 45 2903

International Code: Tel: (61) (65) 45 1333 Fax: (61) (65) 45 2903

### Practice Profile

The Scone Veterinary Hospital (SVH) was established in its existing form over 30 years ago and has continuously serviced the thoroughbred studs in the Hunter Valley until the present day. These studs vary from small one stallion operations to highly commercial enterprises standing up to 10 International Stallions.

During the breeding season the practice is responsible for the reproductive performance and welfare of more than 6000 mares and 100 stallions in addition to the care of some 4000 foals. Also, there are about 500 horses in work and 1000 yearlings being prepared for sale.

The expertise necessary to attend to this volume and diverse nature of requirements is well met within the practice. The senior partners have over 20 years experience each in Australia as well as New Zealand and the major thoroughbred breeding areas of Ireland, the UK and the USA. The majority have completed post graduate examinations in equine medicine.

The younger associate members are encouraged and supervised to attain excellence in their professional ability to cover all aspects required of them by the most discerning of clients. This is achieved by "hands on" experience and in arranged exchanges with northern hemisphere high profile equine practices. They are encouraged to further expand their knowledge in presenting for membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists by examination in equine medicine.

It would be possible to supply a veterinarian from within this group who would satisfy your requirements. Additionally, there would be instantly available referral and consultative advice. For more serious or complicated matters, a senior 'specialist' could personally attend at short notice.

Remuneration for such an undertaking will require serious consideration and evaluation. However, this can be achieved if the above proposal is favourably considered.

Please communicate all correspondence to the Practice Manager at the address and/or Tel/Fax numbers above.

## Personnel

### Professional - Veterinary - Partners

Dr. A. C. Campbell  
Dr. P. L. E. Adams  
Dr. A. C. Palmer  
Dr. R. M. Wylie

### Professional -Veterinary - Associates

Dr. C. Chicken  
Dr. M-M. McEwen  
Dr. G. Mitchell  
Dr. L. Brown  
Dr. C. Collins

### Professional - Veterinary - Consultants

Dr. W. P. Howey  
Dr. R. N. Fraser

### Para-Professional - Veterinary Nurses

Jeannie Crawford  
Carolind Pike  
Sascha McWilliam

Cathy Finlayson had intimate knowledge of the practice at this time and its personnel having worked as a veterinary nurse, in industry and also administration. I acknowledge Cathy's input into the following debate and discussion purloined - as usual – from the supplement to the *Scone Advocate* prepared by Cathy and which appeared on Thursday, August 29, 1996.



Scone Veterinary Hospital.

### **‘Developing and Growing’**

#### **‘A History of Care for All Creatures Great and Small’ - August 1996**

According to Angus Campbell the success of the practice is all to do with providing service thus echoing his late father-in-law Murray Bain who always stated *ad infinitum* “provide the service and you get the work”. “We’ve stuck to it through thick and thin and have stuck to the basics,” he said. “It’s all about providing service. If you provide the service you get the business. We have survived.” Do I detect a nice subtle differential between Angus’s statement and Murray’s?

Former partner John Morgan said there have been no downsides, just highlights. “It’s been very satisfying,” he said. “We’re successful because the people involved like doing

it. That's the essence of it." The development and growth of SVH does not appear to have been affected by the 'absconding' of Sandy Racklyeft to establish Satur Veterinary Clinic. The following is a synopsis of the range of facilities provided updated to 2005\* and counting.

### **Laboratory**

The diagnostic laboratory has been absolutely fundamental to the provision of veterinary services and has more than anything else underpinned the success of the venture emphasizing Murray's far reaching prescient vision. Shona Murphy arrived in Scone in 1965 to set up a laboratory at the Scone practice and since that time it has been recognized as a world class facility.



Dr. Angela Begg and Simon Arnott with Assistant

Over the years the service provided by this department has been extremely beneficial. In 1977 Shona identified the CEM bacterium [Contagious Equine Metritis] which caused infertility in mares and stallions. According to Bill Howey very few people at the time would have had the skill and knowledge to be able to grow and identify this bacterium.

Because of this identification any occurrence of CEM in the Hunter Valley (which was suspected to have been brought in by imported stallions) was "quickly jumped on and eliminated", preventing serious outbreaks similar to those experienced in the northern hemisphere the previous year.

For a time since 1993 the laboratory was run as an independent unit under the direction of Dr. Angela Begg. It was known as Scone Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory and was

relocated to the new Hunter Valley Equine Research Centre adjacent to the race track. The laboratory was returned to SVH when Angela left the Upper Hunter in the early 2000's where it continues to provide a comprehensive 24/7 laboratory and pathology service.

### **Companion Animal Department**

In 1978 Patricia ('Trish') Carney [nee Wilkinson] came to the practice as an assistant in the laboratory but soon the need for a full-time small animal veterinarian became apparent. Helen Eaton-Evans with small son Thomas lived in the flat above the office while spouse Bill was shuttle vet in the 1977 season. Helen was a veterinarian who offered to do a few small animal consultations. The outcome was a clientele who wanted this service! At the time small animal facilities were basic as were nursing staff. Trish did everything from autoclaving to accounts and said she was really "Jill of all trades".

Jenny Jenkins took over from Trish in the mid 1980's and stayed for several years. Prior to Margie McEwen taking over in 1994, vets working in this department included Sandy Racklyeft and Selena Graham.





Veterinarian Margie McEwan and Veterinary Nurse Sascha McWilliam with 'Biggles'

The small or companion animal department has developed into a modern and well equipped part of the practice and now has an X-Ray and hospital and surgical unit with 24-hour emergency service.





Veterinarian Margie McEwan and Veterinary Nurse Jeannie Crawford [Harris]

### **Surgery and X-Ray Department**

A major advancement was the building of the large animal surgery and X-Ray department in 1986-87. Prior to this the majority of elective surgery cases were sent to Sydney. The establishment of this facility has provided the industry with a very valuable service.

Today, the surgery at Scone Veterinary Hospital is well equipped. It is world class in terms of surgical procedures and offers anything from orthopaedic surgery to arthroscopes, elective caesarean sections and colic surgery. With the facilities at nearby Clovelly to provide neonatal attention and post-surgery hospitalization, after-care of these patients could not be better.

Senior surgeon and partner in the practice Paul Adams said he is proud of the way the surgery facilities are developing and looks forward to expanding the facility even further next year with the services of a specialist surgeon.



Senior Surgeon Paul Adams scrubs up for large animal surgery



‘Gun’ surgeon Paul Adams

Paul lifted surgery to ‘new heights’ when the equine surgery was constructed



Anaesthetist Margaret Mary McEwan



Surgeon Mark Wylie studies X-Rays





Veterinarian Jo Holt and Veterinary Nurse Jeannie Crawford [Harris]  
Note the precautions!

### **Denman Veterinary Clinic**

With the Scone practice going from strength to strength and also the thoroughbred industry the need to expand became evident. In order to service the Widden Valley and Denman area more efficiently the Scone practice opened a clinic in Denman in 1988 which was headed by Jim Rodger. The clinic has grown and there are now five vets plus the auxiliary staff based in Denman.

The Denman clinic provides a range of services including: large animal veterinary practice – equine and bovine medicine, surgery and reproductive management, small animal clinic, surgery and hospitalization, drug and merchandise supplies, provides veterinary services to Jerrys Plains, Martindale, Denman and surrounds, Muswellbrook and the Widden Valley.

### **Class ‘A’ Hospital Classification**

In 1990 the Scone practice upgraded its facilities to qualify as a Class ‘A’ Hospital which is the highest classification under the Board of Veterinary Surgeons in NSW. To have this classification approved a number of specifications had to be met. These included the provision of fully qualified and professional staff, be able to provide equipment and facilities for large and small animal medicine, surgery, hospitalisation and intensive care on a 24-hour basis for both large and small animals and have isolation facilities.

## Foal Intensive Care Unit

The Scone Veterinary Hospital's Foal Intensive Care Unit at 'Clovelly Stables' hits top gear every year from August when the first of the foals are born and provides an invaluable service. The unit was built in 1990 and since that time has seen an increasing number of sick horses. In 1995 the staff at the unit treated 120 sick foals and 40 adult horses.



Catherine Chicken in the 'early days'  
1995 VRC Oaks Winner 'Saleous' was an illustrious 'graduate' from 'Clovelly'



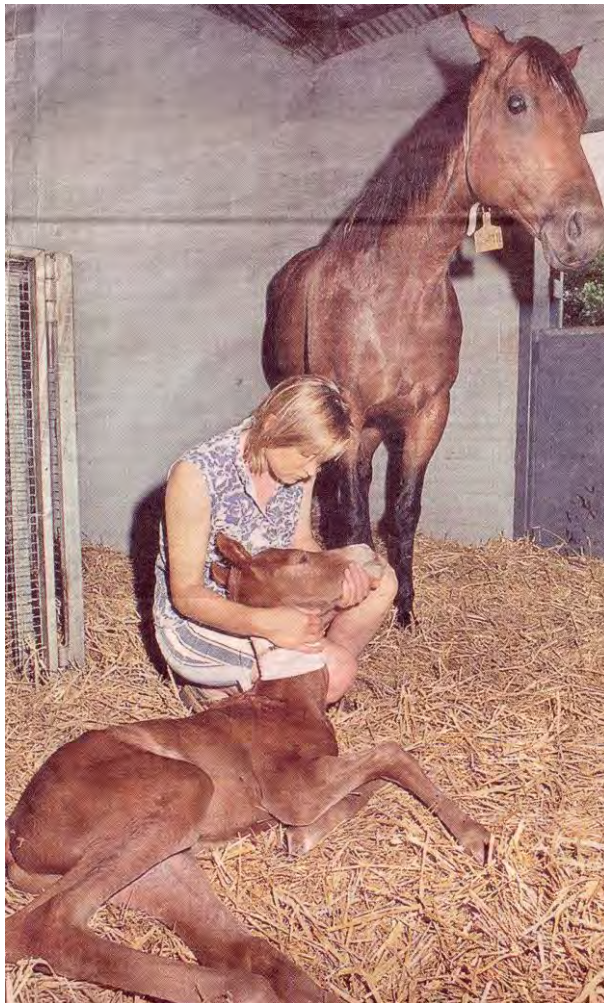
Foal unit head nurse Carolind Pike, work experience student Greer Schoenfelder and Foal Intensive Care Vet Catherine Chicken treat a premature foal

The unit operates from August through to January and not only caters for local horses but is also a referral centre drawing horses from a large area which takes in Tamworth, Quirindi, Maitland, Newcastle and Mudgee. The unit is staffed by Dr. Catherine Chicken and her team of local and international nurses who work around the clock to provide their patients with the best possible care.

“The unit provides a great service,” Dr. Chicken said, “Many studs do not have the time or the manpower to provide the care that these horses and foals need.”

The foal unit is both cost and labour intensive and while the practice aims to cover costs the service that is provided is invaluable.

The Foal Intensive Care Unit is the first privately owned and operated unit of its kind in Australia and since its inception, a wealth of experience has been gained, placing the unit on a world par with percentages of successful outcomes.



Catherine Chicken in maternal mode!



## **International Connections**

Many overseas and visiting assistants have worked in the various Scone practices and the more recently developed Denman Veterinary Clinic. Apart from the early 'pioneers' between 1967 and 1987 these have included Richard Greenwood (UK - who returned for a 'season' in 1972), Joe O'Donnell (Ireland), John Noonan, Terry Lowis (Canada), Sheila Laverty (Ireland), Andrew Edgar (UK), James Crowhurst (UK), Bill and Helen Eaton-Evans, David Dugdale (UK), Paul Ferguson (UK), Evan Campbell, Janet Fraser (UK), Mark Buckerfield, Robyn Woodward, Euan Haith (UK), Adam Hittmann (NZ), Selena Graham, Peter and Jane Gorman, Sandy Racklyeft, Angela Begg, Karon Hoffmann and Karim Kooros (Brunei).

The majority of these were 'exchange assistants' with Newmarket and Scott-Dunn practices, UK. Many have subsequently progressed to very high office indeed throughout the world! Similarly 'reverse shuttle' assistants from Scone were in great demand in northern climes. Nigel Scott, Paul Adams, Alan Simson (3) and Mark Wylie (4) all made reciprocal visits some of them several times as indicated. Angus Campbell and John Morgan have made regular 'excursions' as have Robyn Woodward, Adam Hittmann and Cameron Collins. This exchange program began in the late 1960's and since then exchanges have become *de rigueur* for most emerging ambitious young equine veterinarians and it is almost a 'right of passage' for them.

## **Personal Profiles**

### **Partners**

**Angus Campbell** graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1970 and after working to two years in mixed practice in Derby, England came to the Scone practice and has been there ever since. Angus is now a partner in the practice and does mainly horse and cattle work.





Angus Campbell searching for the perennially 'used glove'  
Malicious rumour had it that he had been using this glove since 1977!

**Paul Adams** graduated from Melbourne University in 1974. After working in northern Victoria for six months he traveled to Canada where he worked in large private practice for two years where he commenced large animal surgery. From there he had a stud season in Newmarket, UK doing equine medicine and surgery and then came to Scone. Paul is a partner and senior surgeon at the Scone practice. He is a member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

**Mark Wylie** graduated from the University of Sydney in 1979 and came to Scone six months later because of his interest in equine reproduction. Mark had a 'couple of stints' in Newmarket and Ireland and since being with the Scone practice has spent a lot of time as resident vet in the Widden Valley. Mark's connection with Scone was cemented when he married a local lady. He is a partner in the practice and also as surgeon who specializes in large animals.

**Andy Palmer** graduated from the University of Sydney in 1972 and has been with the Scone practice for eight years. Andy spent time in Walcha and Gunnedah and had two years at the Colorado State University in the US. Before coming to Scone he was a partner in NZ's largest equine practice for 14 years. Andy is a partner and specializes in equine reproduction, artificial breeding and large animal surgery.



Andy Palmer with Jeannie Crawford

### **Consultants**

**Nairn Fraser** graduated from the University of Queensland in 1966 and came to Scone in 1971 after nearly five years in a mixed practice in NZ. Nairn became a partner in 1973 and having always been interested in racing his expertise lay in commercial thoroughbred breeding, particularly brood mares and foals. Nairn is still heavily involved in his roles as both veterinarian and practice consultant

**Bill Howey's** association with the practice goes back to 1967. He arrived in Scone after graduating from Edinburgh in 1966 and spending 12 months in Ireland. Over the years Bill has seen many changes within the practice and in veterinary science.

Major developments have included ultrasound, drug innovation, management aids, the building of the surgery and intensive care unit and vast improvements in surgical techniques and anaesthesia. "We've come from the dark ages to the age of enlightenment," Bill said. He remains involved with the practice as well as being a valued member of the Scone TAFE Campus.

### **Associates**

**Margie McEwen** graduated from Sydney University in 1989 and after two years in a Victorian mixed practice and two years traveling in Europe, Asia and the UK, came to Scone in 1994. Margie does the bulk of the work with companion animals, some horse surgery and all the general anaesthetics. She has always ridden and been involved with horses and loves her work, finding it challenging.

**Catherine Chicken** graduated from Sydney University in 1987. She spent a year working at a Wingham mixed practice, a year doing her internship at Camden in the large animal faction at Sydney University, nine months in Quirindi and some time in Newmarket before coming to Scone in 1993. After another season at Newmarket in 1994 and a few months in the UK and USA looking at foal units last year, she returned to Scone. Catherine now heads the team at the foal unit and said she enjoys her work. "There is an amazing case load with a lot of scope to do high quality work," she said. "I particularly enjoy the post operative care of hospital cases and intensive care of foals. We have a good team and considering the workload it's a very relaxed working environment."

The team at the foal unit will be joined in September by veterinarian Simon Waterhouse.

The **Denman Veterinary Clinic** has five vets: Greg Mitchell (Sydney University 1985), Cameron Collins (Queensland University 1991), Les Brown (Massey University NZ 1985), Jo Holt (Queensland University 1990) and Rowan Sedgwick (Queensland University 1991). Les, Jo and Rowan are all new to the practice this year.

### **Stable Manager**

**John Flaherty** is manager of 'Clovelly' and has been with the Scone Veterinary Hospital for nearly 15 years. He has worked with horses all his life, five years as a jockey and 18 years at Brooklyn Lodge Stud before coming to the practice. With building trade experience as well he has been responsible for the building of both the large animal surgery and intensive foal care unit. John was this year awarded the Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeders Association's Service to Industry Award. He is helped at the practice by part-timer Kenny Rodgers.



John Flaherty at 'Clovelly Stables'



'Clovelly Stables'

## The Nurses

**Jeannie Crawford** was born and bred in Scone and has been with the practice for many years. She started at the practice aged 12, working after school, and in 1981 after finishing school she was put on full time. She has worked in foal units in Kentucky USA, a large animal practice in Ireland and at Woodlands Stud. Jeannie completed her vet nursing course in 1986 and as well as being head nurse is also teaching part-time at Scone TAFE campus.



**Carolind Pike** is also a local girl who started at the practice in 1989. She completed her vet nursing course in Tamworth in 1991 and since then has spent three seasons at Pennsylvania University in the USA. Carolind spends from August to January as head nurse at the foal unit and the off-season at the surgery. She hopes to spend a couple of months in Japan next year to assist in training nursing staff.

**Sascha McWilliam** has been with the practice for 18 months after completing the Horse management course at Orange, spending a year on a western Queensland station and a season at Woodlands Stud. Sascha is now in the second year of her vet nursing course at Tamworth and hopes to travel to the USA or Japan in the next two years.

**Michelle Snelling, Penny Nichol, Rhonda Murphy and Lisa Fidock** will complete the nursing staff for the 1996 season

### **Office and Administration**

**Kim Budden** heads the office and administration team, responsible for the financial concerns of the practice. She has been with the practice for three years after arriving from Newcastle seven years ago.



Kim Budden with Jo-Ann Cox on the telephone

**Jo-Ann Cox** is the receptionist/accounts clerk with a long association with the practice. Originally from Muswellbrook, she started in the Denman clinic in 1988 as receptionist/clerk and vet nurse and came to Scone at the end of 1993.

**Cheryl Hugo** came from Newcastle in 1989 and has been secretary at the practice ever since. She described the partners as ‘a really good group of guys to work for’.

**Jodie Murray** is a Sydney girl who has worked at the practice for three years as part-time accounts clerk.

**Gaye Lucas** from Willow Tree is the newest team member employed as full time data manager to help through the busy thoroughbred breeding season.



Cheryl Hugo, Gaye Lucas and Jodie Murray

### **Media Interest in Scone Vets**

It would seem that the Scone Veterinary Hospital's reputation as a world class facility is spreading rapidly in the media world. Last week the television series "Talk to the Animals" spent two days filming there. Two other television series "Animal Hospital" and "Burke's Back yard" have also shown interest in doing stories.

### **Points of Interest [1996]**

- Scone Veterinary Hospital is one of the biggest rural practices in Australia with a staff of 13 vets, seven administration and office staff, two maintenance staff plus nursing staff
- The Scone practice has acted as honorary veterinarians for the Scone Race Club since racing first started at White Park in 1947

- Scone and its surrounds is the largest thoroughbred breeding area in the southern hemisphere and the Scone Veterinary Hospital services the majority of studs in the Denman, Scone and Widden areas.
- It is estimated that the practice provides veterinary services for up to 4000 thoroughbred mares
- Dog vaccination runs were started in the early 1980's to give outlying areas in the Moonan, Timor, Bunnan and Ellerston areas a valuable service which continues today
- The Scone Veterinary Hospital averages 350 horse surgeries a year and X-Rays around 570 horse every year
- The Scone Veterinary Hospital has run a pet show for the last two years which has proved to be very popular
- The Scone Veterinary Hospital business is 90% horse work, 6% small animals and 4% cattle work
- For nearly 30 years the Scone Veterinary Hospital has continued to provide high quality service and expertise to the ever growing and changing demands of the community and local industries as is required in modern day veterinary practice

### **1999 'Fifty Years On'**

We have to remember Frank Williams set up in Scone alone in 1949. Five decades later there has been a 'massive amount of water down Fig Tree Gully' and mounting! The following represents a concatenated practice profile for 1999.

## **SCONE VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

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DENMAN NSW 2328  
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### **Practice Profile**

Please communicate all correspondence to the Practice Manager at the address and/or Tel/Fax numbers above.



## Personnel

### Professional - Veterinary Partners

Dr. A. C. Campbell SVH  
Dr. P. L. E. Adams SVH  
Dr. A. C. Palmer SVH

### Professional - Veterinary - Consultants

Dr. C. Chicken SVH  
Dr. R. N. Fraser SVH

### Professional -Veterinary - Associates

Dr. C. Collins SVH  
Dr. L. Brown DVC  
Dr. J. Holt DVC  
Dr. R. Sedgwick Widden  
Dr. A. Adkins SVH  
Dr. Conor Cashman Woodlands  
Dr. Jamie Thompson SVH [SA]  
Dr. Clare Simpson Clovelly  
Dr. Mandi Murphy Anaesthesia  
Dr. Jane Axon Clovelly  
Dr. Nigel Woodford Collingrove  
Dr. Alan Clarke Baramul  
Dr. Roger Lee SVH/DVC  
Dr. Graham Knowles SVH [SA]

### Practice Manager

Kim Budden

### Reception

Catherine Gorman  
Jeannie Harris

### Pharmacy

Lisa Fidock

### Para-Professional - Veterinary Nurses

Sandra Ollerton  
Jenny Gizler  
Sascha McWilliam  
Virginia Henderson

### Clovelly Nurses

Michelle Vincent  
Bernadette Haines  
Alison Parker  
Jamie Hobbs  
Karen Flynn  
Jess

### Office Administration SVH

Linda Mobbs  
Kylie Alley  
Cheryl Hugo  
Cathy Cone  
Caroliind Strong

### Clovelly Stables

Stephen Wright  
John Flaherty  
Phil

### Office Administration DVC

Julie Hansen  
Lisa Harris

### Domestic Service SVH

Margaret Morris

### A/H Telephones

Joanne Wright

This represents a total of 45 people ‘on the pay roll’ in one form or other. This figure was to double in the next six years (2005). What would Frank Williams have thought when he ‘rocked up’ in 1949 if he could visualize it today?



### **Scone Veterinary Hospital [SVH]: 1999 2005\* ‘Into the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century’**

The humble beginnings in 1949 were founded on a combination of practical ‘hands on’ service and a willingness to embrace new technology. Its successful evolution to the present day is tribute and testimony to the initial ‘pioneers’ and subsequent proponents and exponents. The following exposition is unashamedly plagiarized from the Scone Veterinary Hospitals’ excellent promotional ‘glossy’ to herald the new millennium and its veterinary services.



**Denman Veterinary Clinic**  
**26 Ogilvie Street**  
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**PO BOX 280**  
**SCONE NSW 2337**

**Scone Veterinary Hospital**  
**106 Liverpool Street**  
**SCONE NSW 2337**  
**Tel: (02) 6545 1333**  
**Fax: (02) 6545 2903**

**Website: [WWW.SCONEVET.COM.AU](http://WWW.SCONEVET.COM.AU)**  
**Email: [svh@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:svh@hunterlink.net.au)**

**International Code: Tel: +61 2 6545 1333 Fax: +61 2 6545 2903**

Scone Veterinary Hospital is proud to continue the established tradition into the inchoate 21<sup>st</sup>. Century by providing primary and advanced care for clients in the Hunter Valley and a specialist referral service for veterinarians and studs in surrounding areas. Patients range from foals and brood mares to stallions and performance athletes, and from thoroughbreds and ponies to pleasure and sports horses. Companion animals range from the 'greatest' Great Dane to the 'minutest' marsupial mouse.

The Class 'A' hospital and equine intensive care unit are currently housed on two sites and are staffed by specialists in surgery and medicine with a team of over 30\* [31/12/05] veterinarians and 60 support staff. In the near future the new hospital facility will allow improvement in services by transferring to a single location.

The large new site on the outskirts of Scone will accommodate a purpose-built veterinary complex with state-of-the-art surgical facilities and a world class equine intensive care unit. It will also include barns, laboratory, pharmacy, administration unit and a companion animal clinic, all with an option for expansion into the future.

Scone Veterinary Hospital maintains a progressive approach to incorporating the latest techniques and advances in equine and companion animal health. The focus is on service, professionalism and leadership, values clients have come to expect and a commitment to provision of veterinary needs into an exciting future.

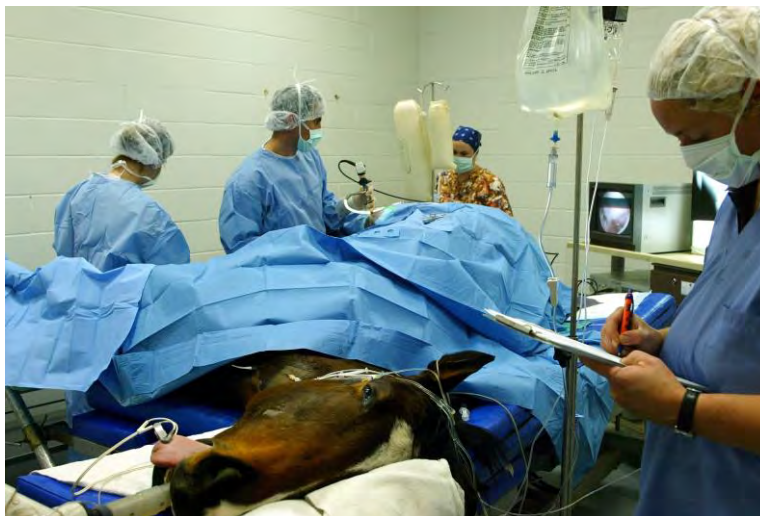
## Equine Surgery



‘Action Adkins’

Equine Surgeon Dr. Angus Adkins and Ancillary Staff

The equine surgical facility at Scone Veterinary Hospital is the busiest equine surgery in Australia with over 1000 cases undergoing a surgical procedure annually. The facility has the very best of equipment and personnel. Currently there are two full-time veterinarians who are dedicated to equine anaesthesia, four equine surgeons and four surgical nurses. The surgeons including specialists in equine surgery Doctors Angus Adkins and Troy Butt have a diverse range of surgical experience and skills which ensures ‘best practice’ for surgery in horses. The staff members are always willing to ‘talk anxious clients’ through any procedures and provide regular updated information on post-operative progress.



Routine Aseptic Surgical Operation

The surgery has a hydraulic surgical table that is fully padded and designed to provide the most comfortable position aiding smooth anaesthesia and recovery. There are two surgical units: one for routine surgery and one for sterile surgery ensuring the highest level of sterility. There are two full padded (both walls and floor) recovery stalls to enhance smooth recovery. Occasionally assisted recovery is needed and the rooms are designed to allow manual or rope assisted recovery. The surgery is equipped with the latest high-tech instruments which allow full utility of surgical skills including diagnostic arthroscopy and fracture repair. Lessons from advances in human fracture repair techniques and equipment now permits the successful repair of many broken limbs in horses which would once have been euthanized.



Surgical Fracture Repair

The surgical procedure on a horse is only one step in the successful return of an animal to the breeding paddock, racetrack or performance ring. The second step is the post-operative care which is undertaken at the Intensive Care Unit [ICU] enabling access to the best equipment and personnel in the field. For example, in a caesarean section there are two surgeons, one anaesthetist, two ICU veterinarians and four veterinary nurses involved in the process. This level of care and attention to detail enables achievement of excellent results in the successful delivery of foals and recovery of the mare.

The surgeons and anaesthetists are dedicated to continuing education and regularly attend or present lectures at veterinary conferences. This ensures they are up-to-date with rapidly developing and ever changing surgical techniques.

### **Equine Anaesthesia**

Over 1000 surgical cases each year require general anaesthesia at Scone Veterinary Hospital. Each horse receives individual attention by a dedicated veterinary anaesthetist. Patients are monitored closely prior to, during surgery, and until the horse has recovered from the anaesthetic. Equine anaesthesia is challenging compared to dogs, cats and humans in part due to the horse's size and temperament but also due to responses to anaesthesia and physiology of the horse.

Typically horses are pre-medicated with sedatives before anaesthesia is induced with intravenous administration. An endotracheal tube is placed in the horse's trachea (windpipe) and anaesthesia is maintained using specialised machines to administer anaesthetic agents and oxygen.

The team of experienced anaesthetists plays a crucial role and complements the surgical team in providing 24 hour service, seven days a week. From routine surgery to more complicated emergencies, including caesarean sections and colic surgery, patients are monitored closely with specialized, modern equipment. This includes: four anaesthetic machines, ECG, blood pressure monitors, capnography monitors and pulse oximeters (to monitor blood oxygen levels). Such equipment along with the skill and experience of the anaesthetists helps to make anaesthesia as safe as possible for the equine patient.

### **Scone Veterinary Hospital Intensive Care Unit [ICU]**

The Scone Veterinary Hospital Intensive Care Unit [ICU] is a specialized facility providing 24-hour service for equine patients. Since its inception in 1990 the caseload has expanded dramatically with over 900 horse treated in 2004. Both medical and surgical patients are catered for ranging from critically ill neonates to orthopaedic and colic surgical patients as well as the more obscure and frustrating such as ill thrift.





‘Axon in Action’  
Dr. Jane Axon attends to a foal

The intensive care unit is under the supervision of Dr. Jane Axon who is a registered specialist in equine medicine. Jane with the assistance of a team of veterinarians and qualified nurses and ancillary staff ensure the patients have the best possible veterinary and nursing care. The team caring for each patient may include other veterinarians within the practice and specific reproductive and surgical care when required.





Comfort Plus!

The neonatal component of the intensive care unit is one of a kind within Australia. The success rate rivals that of hospitals and universities overseas. Two thirds of the cases are admitted during the breeding season with the majority of these being critically ill neonates. Foals are treated for a number of conditions ranging from prematurity, septicaemia, nervous system problems (“dummy foals”), bone and joint infections, diarrhoea and pneumonia. New born foals may be afflicted with a variety of these symptoms requiring 24-hour intensive care in the form of fluid therapy, oxygen and a variety of medications. In particular around the clock monitoring is critical to a successful outcome with every patient in the intensive care unit receiving individual care and treatment.



Feeling better!

The intensive care unit provides support not only for owners and stud personnel but also veterinarians from other practices around Australia. Veterinarians, nurse and students from around Australia and overseas regularly visit the intensive care unit. Scone Veterinary Hospital conducts programs in association with universities and equine hospitals in America and England which enables veterinarians and nurses to gain experience in emergency medicine and intensive care both overseas and in Australia. An annual scholarship is sponsored by the hospital and local breeding farms enabling a nurse from within the practice and a nurse from a local breeding farm to work at the world renowned equine hospital in Kentucky.



Back on its feet and straight to the 'milk bar'

Through this regular contact with veterinary and intensive care specialists the latest diagnostic procedures, treatments and nursing care are made available at the intensive care unit.

### **Equine on Farm Service**

Technology, drugs, surgical procedures, medical knowledge and hospital techniques continue to advance. Equine veterinary science 'on farm' is a largely 'hands-on' set of skills based on careful observation, experience and an understanding of diseases and conditions that affect the horse. These skills allow the veterinarian to make the best use of technical advances.

Scone Veterinary Hospital veterinarians are involved with patients on farm before they are born and immediately after birth, as they develop and mature, perform and compete and as they retire to stud. A veterinarian's day on farm may involve any or all of the following conditions: placentitis affecting a developing foetus, a difficult foaling, a premature neonatal foal, a foal with a chest infection, a weanling with an eye injury, a lame yearling, a racehorse with a respiratory condition, a broodmare with an infected hoof, a stallion with a skin condition or a teaser pony with a tooth problem.



Cameron Collins Scanning

Scone Veterinary Hospital veterinarians are available for on-farm advice on preventative medicine and herd health programs to help improve the efficiency and quality of service the farm offers its clients.

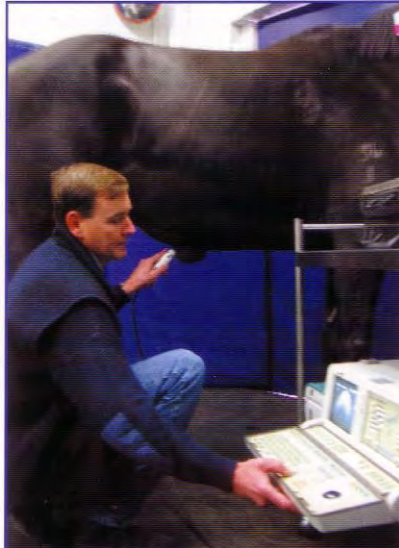


‘On Farm’ Terrible Hollow

### **Diagnostic Imaging**

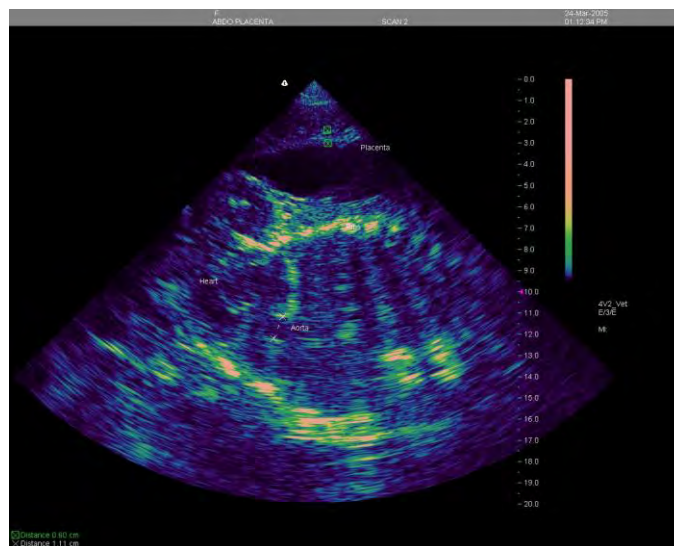
Diagnostic Imaging refers to the use of equipment such as ultrasonography or radiography. The equipment helps to provide a diagnosis of an ailment or injury which ultimately determines the most appropriate treatment. With the advances in human technology and associated cost savings the veterinary profession now has access to much of this equipment.

Ultrasound is now a routine part of any internal reproductive examination of a mare and it has revolutionized the industry allowing a stallion's "book of mares" to significantly increase. Ultrasound is also a routine part of the care of an animal either in the ICU, companion animal facility or equine surgery.



‘Inspector’ Cameron Collins Investigates

Scone Veterinary Hospital now has Doppler ultrasonography. This technology allows observation of blood flow in various colours giving an assessment of speed and direction of blood flow. This has many applications including assessment of holes in the heart or tissue viability.



Interpretation? That is the question! Placentitis?

Radiology is a routine part of most assessments of lameness, limb problems or ailments such as teeth infections or pneumonia. Digital radiology is now a part of Scone Veterinary Hospital's imaging unit. This technology has benefits in diagnosis, patient and operator safety and the ability to send images via email.

As with any technology it is only as useful as the hands that direct its use and evaluate its findings. It is the art of interpretation that is so important. Scone Veterinary Hospital is able to provide access to the latest diagnostic tools and level of interpretation by highly qualified and dedicated veterinary staff.

### **Podiatry**

Scone Veterinary Hospital does not employ a farrier but utilizes the services of a number of highly qualified farriers in the area. The large practice has multiple veterinarians with a diversity of skills and interest. Therefore utilization of a number of farriers provides similar benefits.

The old saying "no hoof no horse" still holds a lot of truth as it is well recognised that most lameness is due to foot soreness. Foot soreness, in the form of post-operative laminitis can be a devastating complication following successful surgery. As such the importance of the horse's hoof is of paramount importance. The best level of care is provided and there is an excellent relationship with a number of local farriers to ensure this happens.



Radiography helps in diagnosis and treatment



## **Pharmacy**

The Scone Veterinary Hospital Pharmacy supports its in house veterinarians, its large client base and veterinarians from other practices with a wide range of prescription/no-prescription medications, surgical materials and veterinary supplies.

The Pharmacy stocks a comprehensive range of animal health supplies at competitive prices. As one of the largest veterinary practices in Australia products are purchased in bulk and the savings passed on to the clients. Daily stock deliveries to the Pharmacy Manager ensure prompt delivery overnight. Upon request the Pharmacy Manager is able to source additional products not normally kept in stock.

Scone Veterinary Hospital's Pharmacy orders may be made by telephone or in person. Over-the-counter pharmacy items are also available online through the website: [www.sconevet.com.au](http://www.sconevet.com.au) . Prescription only medicines must by law be prescribed by the attending veterinarian.

## **Equine Dentistry**

Most horse owners understand the importance of regular dental care for their horses. Oral and dental health will impact on a horse's general health, well-being, performance and longevity.

A major ageing factor in all herbivores is dental deterioration and decay. By placing bits in horse's mouths and by feeding 'artificial' diets that nature has not designed the matter is complicated further.



‘Crook’ front teeth

Owners expect and demand maximum performance from their horse's whether they are at work or at stud. Regular dental maintenance should begin as part of a general health check in the first months of life as it is useful to find problems early to be able to correct them successfully. This should continue on a regular basis throughout the horse's life.

Scone Veterinary Hospital has experienced veterinarians who are trained in equine dentistry to ensure the continued performance, comfort and well-being of horses in their care by maintaining properly functioning and 'comfortable' sets of teeth.



Spot the difference

### **Veterinary Chiropractic and Acupuncture**

Scone Veterinary Hospital offers a new approach to veterinary care through Integrative Veterinary Therapy. This combines the best of traditional diagnostics and treatment with chiropractic and acupuncture therapies.

Acupuncture aids the body's own healing process by stimulating a specific point on the body. Chiropractic methods work in a similar way on the spine which has a close relationship to the central nervous system. Dr. Leanne Le Claire is fully qualified in Veterinary Chiropractic and Veterinary Acupuncture and is keen to offer these therapies for both equine and companion animals.



These therapies in conjunction with the current comprehensive range of diagnostic and treatment options can offer an alternative pathway in some cases. By combining the best of traditional veterinary diagnostics and treatment with chiropractic and/or acupuncture a more diverse therapy and improved result may be achieved.



Leanne Le Claire and patient

### **Scone Veterinary Hospital Diagnostic Laboratory**

The Scone Veterinary Hospital Diagnostic Laboratory provides 24 hour service for the majority of laboratory tests used in veterinary medicine including haematology, biochemistry, microbiology and cytology. These services are available to in house and referring veterinarians.



## Beta Haemolytic Streptococcus?

The laboratory is well-equipped with up-to-date analysers which enable accurate results and prompt turnaround times. The laboratory is staffed by experienced technical officers and administration staff. Dr. Joan Carrick is a specialist in Equine Medicine and complements the laboratory staff. The staff is/are dedicated to providing an efficient and professional service catering to the time constraints of veterinarians and patients. The laboratory provides a 24 hour service which is an integral part of ensuring the Intensive Care Unit, Equine Surgery and Companion Animal departments can ensure the very best in animal care.



‘You miss more by not looking than not knowing’!

The laboratory offers a post-mortem service which is essential in disease monitoring and also provides vital evidence in insurance claims. This service is provided by Doctors Joan Carrick and Catherine Chicken who are experienced and qualified equine clinicians.

## Equine Reproduction

Improved stud management, increased veterinary input and advances in technology have combined to improve reproductive success rates and provide more opportunities to get mares in foal.



Cameron Collins 'On Farm Stud Work'

Most commercial thoroughbred stallions in the Hunter Valley serve over one hundred mares each stud season. To allow for maximum breeding efficiency Scone Veterinary Hospital veterinarians visit almost all their client's farms virtually every day of the week. Mares are examined to confirm their service bookings to stallions, to collect pre-breeding swabs and treat reproductive problems, to check for ovulation and post-breeding complications and to scan for pregnancy.

Breed such as Quarter Horses, Stock Horses, Standardbreds, Arabians and Warmbloods utilize assisted reproductive techniques such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer to improve reproductive efficiency and variety. Scone Veterinary Hospital veterinarians collect semen from stallions for transport to farms around Australia and receive chilled and frozen semen from various centres for insemination of mares which have been monitored and set up to receive it at the optimum time for conception. Embryo transfer is now a well established technique in horses.

With attention to detail, understanding the complexity of the process and realistic expectations very good results can be achieved for those clients who wish to undertake this rewarding option.



A good result!

### **Scone Veterinary Hospital Companion Animal Department**

The companion animal department of Scone Veterinary Hospital is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice and any 'pocket pets'. The staff is/are caring and sensitive treating all animals with respect and sensitivity while creating a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

The department offers a full range of veterinary services including preventative treatments such as vaccination, medical treatment with excellent comfort levels in hospital, full radiology service and full surgical facilities. Pets staying in hospital receive a climate controlled environment, high quality food, clean, soft bedding with pain relief a priority. Surgical procedures range from routine desexings to specialized orthopaedic operations. There is up to date anaesthetic and monitoring equipment and an experienced nurse monitors the animal at all times with veterinary supervision. Dental scaling, polishing and extractions are also carried out. Difficult cases are discussed with specialist veterinarians and, if necessary, animals can be referred to specialist hospitals in Sydney.

There is a full range of over-the-counter products available such as flea control, heartworm prevention, worm treatment, premium dog and cat food, collars, leads, toys and shampoos. These products come with expert advice from trained staff. The nursing staff also runs puppy pre-school classes with advice on early behaviour management and training.





‘Moggy’ Magic

### **Denman Veterinary Clinic**

Denman Veterinary Clinic is a branch of Scone Veterinary Hospital and services both equine and companion animal clients from Jerrys Plains to the Widden Valley. The staff consists of three multi skilled nurse receptionists and form three to seven experienced veterinarians depending on the time of the year.

### **Equine Services**

Denman Veterinary Clinic provides a complete medical and reproductive service to the many thoroughbred (and other) studs in the district. There is also provision for a multitude of specialty services for performance horse clients including radiography, endoscopy and ultrasonography. Lameness, poor performance and pre-purchase examinations are carried out by veterinarians experienced in this field. Artificial insemination and embryo transfer procedures are also offered.





Flexion Friction  
Jo Holt in action

The Denman Veterinary Clinic also provides quick access to the referral facility at Scone with specialist medical and surgical back up available when required. The Clinic provides a prompt, efficient and professional service to all clients and 24 hour emergency service 7 days per week

### **Companion Animal Services**

Full consultation and surgical facilities for dogs, cats and other small animals are available very week day by a dedicated experienced small animal veterinarian with access to referral specialists. Saturday morning consultations are available on request.

Additional services include: puppy pre-school, grooming (clipping and bathing), free dental checks and puppy packs as well as quarterly house call runs to outlying areas.

## **Scone Veterinary Hospital Personnel – Beyond 2005**

The skills and expertise of the people make the Scone Veterinary Hospital what it has become in 2005/2006. The team of qualified and specialist veterinary and support staff ensure its reputation as among the leaders in the industry.

Scone Veterinary Hospital employs Australian and international people whose experience and commitment make them elite in their field. Ongoing professional development and training for all staff members ensures Scone Veterinary Hospital is up to date with the latest technical and veterinary advances.

Scone Veterinary Hospital's highly prized veterinary internships attract applicants from all over the world allowing employment of the best interns in Surgery, Medicine and Anaesthesia. Scone Veterinary Hospital also provides international training and specialist nursing opportunities including an annual Veterinary Nurse's Scholarship to Kentucky in the USA. It also provides work experience and placement for many veterinarians and university students world wide and more than 80 students from TAFE colleges throughout NSW every year. In recent times the practice has also become involved with the Darley Flying Start program for 12 selected scholars each year on rotation around the globe.

The strength of the business is its commitment to strive for excellence driven by the people who are Scone Veterinary Hospital.

## **Scone Veterinary Hospital Practice Profile 2005 and Beyond**

In the new enlightened age it is all too easy to check out the practice profile and meet the team. Simply go to: [www.sconevet.com.au](http://www.sconevet.com.au) . It's all there!

Partners

Paul Adams BVSc MACVSc (1974 University of Melbourne, Victoria)



Paul graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1974. He worked in equine stud, racing and mixed practice in Canada, England and Australia before joining the Scone Veterinary Hospital where he was a driving force in establishing equine surgical facilities. In 1993 Paul gained Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in equine medicine. Paul divides his time between stud medicine and equine surgery.

Andrew Palmer BVSc MACVSc (1972 University of Sydney, NSW)



Andy graduated from the University of Sydney in 1972. He worked in equine and mixed practice in Australia and New Zealand and gained Membership of the ACVSc in equine medicine in 1983. Andy joined the Scone Veterinary Hospital in 1988. Andy's work involves stud medicine and mixed practice with particular interests in stallion fertility and artificial breeding techniques.

Cameron Collins BVSc MACVSc MRCVS (1991 University of Queensland)



Cameron graduated from the University of Queensland in 1991. He worked in mixed practice in western Queensland and joined the Scone Veterinary Hospital in 1993. Cameron spent two years alternating northern and southern hemisphere breeding seasons between Scone and Newmarket.

Cameron gained membership of the Australia College of Veterinary Scientists in Medicine of Horses in 1999 and has a particular interest in stallion fertility. Cameron is currently the NSW representative of the Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA)

Angus Adkins BVSc FACVSc (1989 University of Melbourne, Victoria)



Angus graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1989. He worked in racing and stud practice at Flemington before moving to Murdoch University in Western Australia as a resident in equine medicine and surgery. Angus gained Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in equine surgery in 1995 and Fellowship of the College in 2002, allowing him to be registered as specialist in all aspects of equine surgery. Angus' work involves surgery, radiology, conformation and lameness evaluation in stud, performance and pleasure horses. He is currently 1 of 4 nominated veterinarians in Australia who assess the suitability of horses being exported to Hong Kong. Angus is an examiner for Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in Equine Surgery. He is also the chairman of the Equine Chapter for this professional organization.

David W O'Meara BVSc MACVSc (1992 University of Queensland)

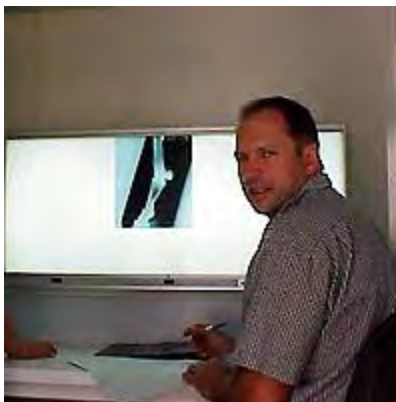


David graduated from the University of Queensland in 1992. He took a position soon after graduation with Parbery and Robson Equine Clinic at Windsor, New South Wales.

During his 5 ½ year term with Parbery and Robson, David worked in all avenues of equine practice from racetrack medicine to stud reproductive work. In 1998 David returned to Queensland to accept a position with Dr David Pascoe at Oakey Veterinary Hospital to pursue interests in equine reproduction.

David undertook a 3 month teaching position at University of California, Davis in winter, 2000, and gained a MACVSc in animal reproduction in 2002. David completed the training program component for the attainment of Fellowship qualification while with David Pascoe. He is currently fulfilling the research components of the program in preparation for sitting examinations in the future to gain specialist qualifications in equine reproduction. David joined the practice in mid 2004 and after 12 months working from the Denman branch is now based in Scone permanently.

David Railton





## Consultants

Nairn Fraser (1992 University of Queensland)



Nairn worked in mixed practice and as a New Zealand field veterinarian before coming to Scone in 1971. He was a partner in the practice from 1973 – 1995. Nairn's work involves equine reproduction and stud medicine.

Catherine Chicken BVSc MACVSc Dip.Vet.Clin.Stud. (University of Sydney 1987)



Catherine worked in mixed practice and then returned to Sydney University RVC Camden to complete her Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Studies. She then worked in mixed and equine practices in Australia and England and alternated between the northern and southern hemispheres. Catherine was Director of the Clovelly Foal Intensive Care Unit from 1993 – 1998. Catherine's interests include foal medicine, equine intensive care and laboratory medicine. She is currently involved in research into *Rhodococcus equi* ['Rattles'] for a Masters in Veterinary Science through Melbourne University.

## Associates



Rebecca Lutrell



Leanne Le Clair



Julie Girdler



Petagay Railton



Bridget Roberts



Joan Carrick



Jane Axon



Catherine Herron



Jo Holt



Caroline Duddy



Julianna Gallagher



Sam Nugent



Rachel Nugent



Karen Skinner

### **Scone Veterinary Hospital Industry Plaudits**

The print media were very quick to latch onto the exciting announcement in mid 2005 by Scone Veterinary Hospital of a new facility to be constructed in 2006/2007.

‘\$6 million Veterinary Hospital World Class’ was a mainstream headline at the time. The new hospital will be constructed on 11 hectares on the northern outskirts of Scone. It will cement and consolidate the Hunter valley as one of the world’s big three thoroughbred breeding centres alongside Newmarket, UK and Lexington, Kentucky, USA. With ‘shuttle’ stallions and improved travel and quarantine arrangements thoroughbred horses have become increasingly ‘globalised’ and effectively ‘currency’. More and more interstate and international thoroughbreds congregate in the Hunter Valley during the southern hemisphere breeding season. It is intriguing to contemplate that the big news item in the town and district in the early 1900’s was the establishing and equipping what was to emerge as the Scott Memorial Hospital as tribute and testimony to the exceptional physician – and sportsman - of his day. Almost exactly one hundred years later the big news item is the evolution of the veterinary hospital. Ideas anyone?

The new facility will include a ‘world class’ advanced equine intensive care unit to complement the two sterile surgical facilities, four recovery rooms, stabling for up to 60 horses, a specialized neonatal intensive care unit, podiatry and lameness centre and an advanced reproduction unit. The burgeoning thoroughbred industry in the Hunter Valley has brought a growing demand for access to ‘world’s best practice’ veterinary care.

Saving valuable thoroughbreds can amount to millions of dollars. Well and truly gone are the days when a minor leg fracture meant a horse had to be immediately destroyed. Head of Ingham Bloodstock Trevor Lobb was very keen to applaud the announcement of the new veterinary hospital saying ‘it would be a major boon for Australia’ thoroughbred racing industry. Access to the best veterinary care is more important than ever for the thoroughbred industry and is a key factor in where owners from around the world choose to bring their business’ Mr. Lobb said. ‘You only need to consider the enormous worth of some individual animals – some of them valued in millions of dollars – to understand how vital it is to have access to the expertise to keep them in prime condition and good health’ he added.

I wonder what Murray and Frank would think ‘if they could only see us now’? After 55 years in the making and 200+ veterinarians later – and still counting – I would like to believe they would wholeheartedly approve!