

Chapter XIII

Potpourri

Potpourri can mean lots of things. According to Bill Gates' Thesaurus Review it includes: *miscellany, mixture, ragbag, assortment, hodgepodge, collection, jumble, variety, medley, assembly and hotchpotch*. I think that should just about cover it? It's what you do when you don't know what to do; or where to put or place anything which doesn't fit anywhere else? I've decided to make this my repository. Much of it is nonetheless an integral part of the memoir. For some they will be visionary vignettes; for others pure vinegar. Jessie Conrad wrote of her husband Joseph after he died: "*I was thankful when one of those most intimate friends, John Galsworthy (The Forsyte Saga), Edward Garnett or E. L. Sanderson could be induced to pay us a visit, for a long week-end. The effect of their sympathetic and sustaining presence **would lubricate the mental machinery, so to speak, and a good advance would be made.***" Here's hoping.

Dr David Barton Warden OAM and Dr William John Houston Paradise OAM

I am proud that I have successfully nominated Dr David Warden and Dr John Paradise for Order of Australia Awards under the Australian Honours System. Both were given the Medal of the Order (OAM) for service worthy of particular recognition. They joined erstwhile colleague Dr Toby Barton OAM. David was made OAM in the Australia Day Honours List in 2015 and John in 2016.

Dr David Barton Warden M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P., Dip R.C.O.G. OAM



Dr David Warden @ at 'Tinagroo' 26/04/1975

David Warden served in the Royal Australian Navy after leaving Shore School, Sydney in 1944. He became a leading Radar Mechanic before going to sea on HMAS HOBART and was sent to Japan with the Allied Occupational Forces. After demobilisation David Warden entered Sydney University in 1947. He graduated in Medicine (M.B., B.S.,) in 1953 after representing St. Paul's College in Rowing, Athletics and Rugby Football gaining a Sydney University Blue in Rugby Football.

He then went to Scone for 20 years as a GP, Consultant Physician and visiting Hospital Medical Officer with a special interest in obstetrics and surgery. He obtained a Fellowship in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) and Diploma in the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (Dip. RCOG) the latter necessitating a period of specialist training in the UK. Dr David Warden introduced the administration of Epidural Anaesthetics in the Scott Memorial Hospital in Scone the same year the procedure was started at St. George V Hospital, Sydney. He also pioneered laparoscopy surgery in the Upper Hunter. The grandmothers of Scone still consider Dr David Warden to be the pre-eminent obstetrician and gynaecologist! He is widely revered as a legend in Scone to this day. Dr David Warden was the inaugural President of Scone Rugby Union Club (1966 - 1969). He was also extremely active in the community and served on myriad local committees.

It was during his time in Scone he travelled to Ethiopia enabling Dr Reg Hamlin and Dr Catherine Hamlin to take leave from their frantically busy Fistula Hospital ('Hospital by the River') in Addis Ababa. He went as a volunteer and took time off with leave-without-pay from Scone Medical Practice to visit and work there on four separate occasions. He was spiritually enriched by the experience and developed a profound love of Ethiopia, its people, religion and culture. Having visited the Hospital in 2012 I can personally confirm Dr Catherine Hamlin's deep appreciation of the outstanding work performed by Dr David Warden. He also volunteered to go to Cambodian Refugee Camps after the Khmer Rouge (Pol Pot) campaigns. There he performed field surgery amputations of legs and hands from land mine injuries. There were no X-rays, pathology or blood transfusions available. This experience also left an indelible mark upon him.

David Warden also received a letter from the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia in 1959 saying they had referred him to the Meritorious Awards Committee of the Association for David's bravery during a beach drowning at Bilgola that same year and thanked him for his selfless action and disregard of personal safety in effecting what has been described as a very hazardous rescue under adverse conditions. They apologised for not being able to give him an award due to lack of evidence and accounts but recommended him for his bravery. They said it took great courage to do what he did during the rescue.

Dr David Warden also spent a sabbatical period in Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) to absorb and learn the medical practices of differing cultures and religions

In recent years Dr David Warden has selflessly devoted most of his professional time to work as a locum throughout NSW and Australia. He does this to enable his colleagues in Regional, Rural and Remote locations (perhaps single person practices) to take leave and enjoy a holiday. These include:

Wellington (NSW)

Christchurch (NZ)

Gulgong (NSW)

Quirindi (NSW)
Kangaroo Island (SA)
Dunedoo (NSW)
Coolah (NSW)
Coonamble (NSW)
Warren (NSW)
Coober Pedy (SA)
Nyngan (NSW)
Norfolk Island
Dubbo (NSW)
Barraba (NSW)
Baradine (NSW)
Nambucca Heads (NSW)
Broken Hill (NSW) Royal Flying Doctor Service

He has volunteered for service many times in some of these locations. Now well advanced into his 87th year Dr David Warden is still as determined as ever to provide this invaluable service despite having contracted medical conditions inimical to himself while 'on active duty'. He has doggedly pursued this pathway with almost flamboyant disregard for his own personal wellbeing and general good health?

I wish to respectfully and unreservedly recommend Dr David Warden for an Order of Australia Award based on his altruism, selfless compassion and magnanimous lifelong devotion to his family, profession and community as physician, counsellor, consultant, volunteer, mentor, advocate, surgeon and true friend. This dedicated service far exceeding the conventionally accepted call of duty has extended well over 60 years embracing local, regional, State, National and International communities and humanity. As far as I am aware Dr David Warden has yet to receive official recognition having been somewhat peripatetic during his working life. He typically generously nominated ex-Scone medical colleague Dr David 'Toby' Barton for an OAM in 2001. There existed a possibly media generated myth that Toby's grandfather Sir Edmund Barton, the first Prime Minister of Australia and Banjo Paterson were related? It is even recorded in Wikipedia for Banjo. According to Dr David Barton Warden this is indubitably not the case. There were at least two notable Barton immigrants in the mid-nineteenth century: one branch from Scotland and the other from Ireland. The former established the political dynasty while the latter were antecedents of Banjo. Dr David Barton Warden is a product of the latter. Scone's eminent physicians Toby and David were not in fact familiar relations.

Dr William JOHN Houston Paradice M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P., OAM

Dr John Paradice served with great distinction in the Royal Australian Navy after leaving The Kings School, Sydney following WWII. After demobilisation John Paradice entered Sydney University and graduated in Medicine (M.B., B.S.,) in the early 1950's. He then came to Scone where he has diligently served for over 60 years as a GP, Consultant Physician and visiting Scott Memorial Hospital Medical Officer with a special interest in general practice. He has obtained other specialist medical qualifications as a result of further concentrated study and dedicated medical practice.

I wish to respectfully and unreservedly recommend Dr John Paradice for the 2016 Upper Hunter Shire Council Citizen of the Year Award based on his altruism, selfless compassion and magnanimous lifelong devotion to his family, profession and community as physician, counsellor, consultant, volunteer, mentor, advocate, surgeon and true friend. In addition to his medical duties Dr John Paradice has served on the Board of the Upper Hunter Village Association (now Strathearn Village Association). While the Scone Scots existed Dr John Paradice was perhaps its most diligent supporter at the annual celebration dinner and St Andrews Day Races at White Park. Immensely proud of his rich Scots heritage John has also enthusiastically embraced such celebrations as Burns Suppers. Dr Paradice is a fixture at every ANZAC day and dutifully marches with his fellow veterans while very proudly supported by his fully extended family. This dedicated service far exceeding the conventionally accepted call of duty has extended well over 60 years embracing local, regional, State, National and International communities and humanity. As far as I am aware Dr John Paradice has yet to receive official recognition. He typically generously supported the nomination of ex-Scone medical colleague Dr David 'Toby' Barton for an OAM in 2001 and wrote his very sensitive obituary.

The corollary to this nomination is that it would recognise not only the achievements of Dr John Paradice but also that of his large and burgeoning family including devoted spouse Bobbie. I think it might be valid to claim that no other single cadre and its many members have made a greater contribution to the wellbeing of the whole community in the Upper Hunter over the past half century.

I am very proud to claim that I have known Dr John Paradice for 48 years (1967 – 2015)

Devoted country doctor

By Caitlin Andrews

Jan. 22, 2015, 10:49 a.m.

Communities can't function without dedicated people and it takes all kinds to build an efficient society, but one of the most important people in a rural town is the local doctor.



Dr William Paradice at home at 'Yarramoor', just out of Scone - the town he has served with his professional medical skills for many decades.

Attending call outs at 2am in the morning, working every second night and weekend for two years, delivering babies and treating emergencies are just some of the key roles the local doc experiences, but to one of Scone's greats, Dr William John Paradice, this was all just part of him doing the job he loves.

Dr Paradice is a well-known general practitioner who served the Scone and Upper Hunter community for many decades and although he has now officially retired as a doctor, he is still a part of the local community.

The grandfather of 17 believes that the fact that three of his six grown children have moved back with their children and made their home in the district, is true testament of such a wonderful community.

An interesting man with a passion and pride that stems right from his childhood, Dr Paradice has worked hard his entire life to provide the rural community of Scone with a full provision of medical services.

He has seen a lot of changes – from technological and organisational structures to changes in Medicare and training, however Dr Paradice still believes the older style of medicine has much value that cannot be underestimated.

From starting off life experiencing what was shaping up to be a little unfortunate beginnings, Dr Paradice was fortunate to have many opportunities.

It all started like this:

The 88-year-old gentleman's mother was a Scot who migrated to Australia in 1920 with her family.

Five years later she married William (Jack) Paradice who was a surgeon in the Royal Australian Navy and a year later, in 1926, they had their first of two children – a son – William John.

In 1927 when Dr Paradice was just 17-months-old and his mother was pregnant with his sister, his father was killed in a collision at sea.

Thank goodness Mrs Paradice's Scottish family adopted them and they lived together for the next 26 years during which time both children were raised and educated well while living at Bellevue Hill in Sydney.

Dr Paradice said what looked like an unfortunate start turned out to be excellent and he feels he owes everything to his Scottish grandparents.

As a young boy, Dr Paradice was educated at Cranbrook School and then The Kings School, starting a family tradition as three generations of the Paradice family have now been educated at Kings.

In 1944, Dr Paradice and some of his peers quickly finished their Leaving Certificate, just in time to enlist in the Navy, as the young 18-year-old had a dream to follow in his father and uncle's footsteps and serve in the Navy before beginning his own medical studies.

Dressed in his Navy uniform and fresh as a button, the sub lieutenant's first role was on the HMAS Warnbool, a mine sweeper sweeping the east coast of Australia, New Guinea, New Britain and the Solomon Islands.

Later the ship was the only vessel to hit a mine and sink, however luckily this was after Dr Paradise disembarked.

After some time on the mine sweeper he was transferred as executive officer to a smaller ship which carried out mine destruction on the coast of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, which he said was a more dangerous role.

In 1947, the young man was discharged from the Navy and was able to start his medical studies straight away at Sydney University, continuing on the Naval Reserve for several years.

Reflecting on his Navy days, Dr Paradise said he believes it is the best thing a boy can do.

“Put them in the Navy for three or four years – it’s a good way to turn a boy into a man,” he said.

“I enjoyed my time in the Navy and I was offered a permanent appointment, but I wanted to pursue other endeavours.

“It was a wonderful experience, the most interesting part was in my last year when we were destroying the mines and we had to almost live off the land and sea by eating fish, chickens from the villages and trading chewing tobacco for fresh fruit and vegetables.

“This was caused by the industrial issues and troubles loading the supply ships back in Sydney.”

Dr Paradise was 21-years-old when he started his six year medical studies and in his final year he married his beautiful wife Bobbie - a woman from Young.

The year after, 1953, the couple started their young family when their first son was born.

This was the same year the doctor graduated, but he decided to spend the next three years continuing his education in order to provide all the services necessary as a rural general practitioner, such as obstetrics, paediatrics, pathology and anaesthesia.

Dr Paradise said he thought this was the best way to prepare to practice in a rural community.

“One of the reasons I wanted to practice in a rural community was because I had completed a series of medical locums in Sydney during my studies and didn’t find life satisfactory.

“When you got a patient into the hospital in Sydney you lost contact with that patient and I wanted continuous contact with my patients and their families, which is more available in the country,” he said.

The pathway to Scone was actually established when Dr Paradise was sitting paediatric and obstetric examinations in England in 1956, and he met Dr David Warden who had been the assistant at a practice in Scone.

“Dr Warden advised me to contact the practice, so when I flew back into Sydney at the start of 1957, I made contact and was very happy to join Dr Pye, Dr Barton and Dr Warden in Scone in a most successful partnership that lasted for about 30 years,” Dr Paradise said.

“I am very proud of the fact that our partnership was one of the longest lasting partnerships in the country,” he said.

In those days the doctors had many more duties, which Dr Paradise cherished, as they operated a blood donor service where they carried out the whole process from bleeding the donors to cross matching with the donor and transfusing the blood.

Another favourite was the incredible visits to Belltrees, Ellerston and Timor Station to provide their medical services.

Dr Paradise was appointed as the Government Medical Officer which unfortunately required him to carry out the unpleasant jobs such as post mortems.

He said he still remembers his worst experience in medicine when he had to carry out a post mortem on an old 'rabbiter' who had died in a hut in the bush after poisoning himself, and wasn't found for several days.

Dr Paradise had a close working relationship with the nurses at the time and was involved in nurses training when it was available at the hospital.

Before the maternity unit was established he and the other doctors would work with Sister Tuite and Sister McClintock at Brancaster Hospital, which was the maternity and nursing home.

"One of the most notable memories is when Glenbawn Dam was being under construction, the three of us doctors delivered 24 babies in one 24 hour period.

"They were mainly Italians who were associated with the workers at the dam," Dr Paradise said.

"We had a wonderful service, the nurses were wonderful and the women on the phone exchange knew the doctor on duty and where they were at all times.

"I'd also like to acknowledge the wonderful ambulance service at the time, which was staffed by all local drivers.

"When I first moved to Scone I shared a room with Dr Warden at the Belmore Hotel and we had a special phone line set up directly to us," he said.

Not long after, Dr Paradise started renting his home – 'Yarramoor' – off Sir Alistair McMullin and moved the family here, buying it two years later and they have lived there ever since.

Dr Paradise was on the Local Hospital Board and then the Local Area Board in Muswellbrook, as well as being an honorary life time member of the Australian Medical Association.

In 2004, Dr Paradise retired from seeing patients at the surgery, but he only gave up his registration for prescribing medications and ordering x-rays, pathology and specialist referral in September last year at the age of 87.

Dr Paradise said he couldn't have found a better community, better practice or better nursing staff to work with.

"I've really enjoyed my career as a doctor.

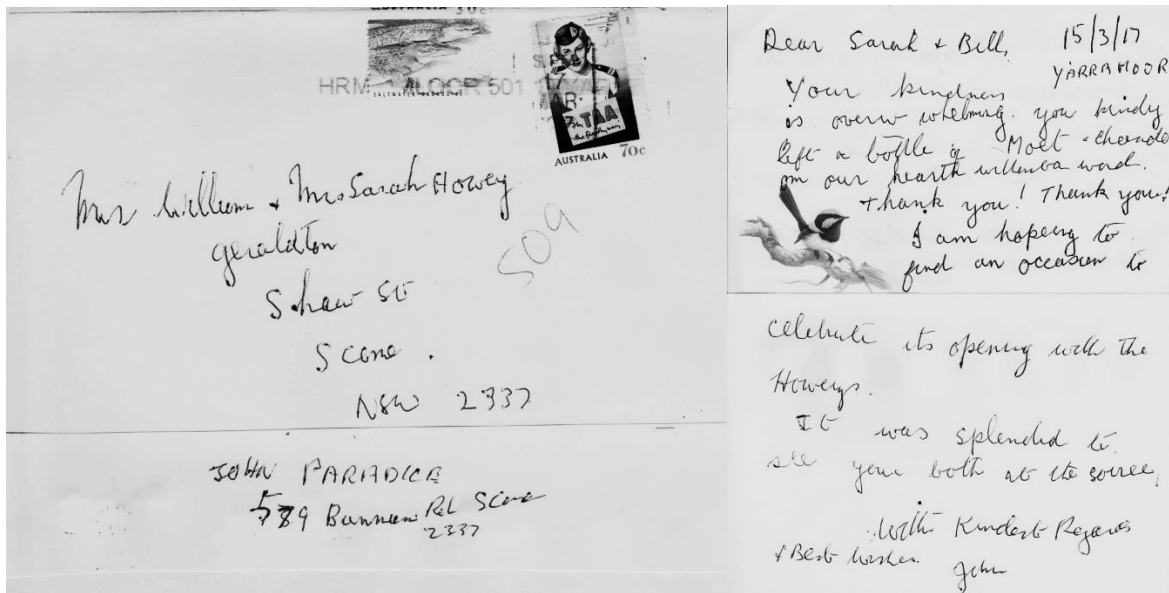
"I went and did the job I liked to do, I didn't do it for any reward," Dr Paradise said.

"I have so many terrific memories, too many to fit in one article."

Throughout the years, Dr Paradice was involved as an actor in the Scone Community Amateur Dramatics Society for many years and he is now a keen member of the Scone Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, and the Scone Bridge Club.

Always an active and healthy man, he enjoyed tennis and golf, but his big passion was sailing and during his busy practice life he owned a couple of sailing boats and sailed when possible.

We were privileged to attend the launch of Dr Paradice's personal memoir book. This is the hand written letter of thanks for our bottle of Moët. It might be his last ever prescription?



Erudite Medical Quadrella

The mosaic is now complete. It has taken a long time and represents the eventual denouement of a perceived social injustice. Scone Medical Practice from the early 1950s until well into the 1980s was about four special people. Dr Walter Pye MBE was a true visionary and pioneer. Among his many achievements was the promulgation of the Upper Hunter Village Association now known as Strathearn Village. The 'Imperial Age' Dr Pye was made a Member of the British Empire in the Queens' Birthday Honours List for 1973. For those with very long memories the late A. J. Gray received a BEM for Services to History on the same occasion. Dr Toby Barton OAM learned of his National Award on Australia Day 2001 while based at Bayview in Sydney. He modestly claimed: "I'm just an ordinary bloke – it's all very nice but what the hell am I doing amongst all these very important people"? On the 26th January 2015 Dr David Barton Warden of Bondi was also awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for myriad contributions to medicine including a long stint in Scone and service internationally. Dr William John Houston Paradise is the 'true stayer' in the thoroughbred argot appropriate for the area. On Australia Day in 2016 John joins his fellow doctors with National Recognition of his devoted long term service. I overheard someone important say last week; "not before time; I thought this would have happened a long time ago". Justice eventually prevails. These awards are book-ended by Dr Pye and Dr Paradise both of whom spent the vast majority of their exceptional extensive medical careers in Scone.

OAM Trifecta Complete



Dr Toby Barton OAM

Dr David Warden OAM

Dr John Paradise OAM



Dr Barton Dr Warden Dr Paradice 2011



Dr Toby Barton OAM

Dr Walter Pye MBE

Eulogies et al

I've earned a reputation as a bit of a 'Eulogiser'? I'm not sure if this is deserved or not; but alas it has happened. I wrote earlier a vignette 'Eulogising in 1994'. This was about family. Here is another for a departed horse industry icon. I think I've done at least six of these? I have to keep checking the 'hatches, marriages and despatches' lists to make sure my name is not there! My turn will come.

Harley Walden

'The Spirit Within'

This eulogy is a celebration of the rich life of Harley Walden. I've called it '*The Spirit Within*'. Without labouring the point there's a very valid reason. I also acknowledge close friend Brian Russell here this morning as the ultimate information resource. Brian is possibly Harley's only real peer in the thoroughbred knowledge editorial stakes?

Harley was a genuine fanatical icon and true aficionado of the celebrated thoroughbred racing and breeding industry in the Upper Hunter Valley. He was born into it; and absorbed every facet of its being. It was his all consuming passion and dictated the direction of his life. Harley Walden was delivered by mother Dot at Scott Memorial Hospital on 10th May 1937. His first few days were spent in Brancaster Hospital. His father was legendary horseman Darcy Walden; the very first recipient of the HVBHBA Murray Bain Service to Industry Award in 1985.

Harley grew up on Sledmere Stud under the tutelage of his father Darcy. Another significant influence in his early education was the late great Harry Meyers who worked at Sledmere in 1947 – 1948 Season. Harley was a fine junior rider in show and pony club competitions. School in Scone (now SGS) was mandatory but Harley left as soon as he could at age 15 to pursue his first love. Like most others Harley rode a pony to school. His attendance in class was inconsistent if the races were on!

Larrikin Harley wagged school (his words and Grant's) aged 10 in 1947 to attend the inaugural Scone Race Club Cup Meeting at White Park in May. The late Stan Wicks prepared the very first winner of the 5 furlong Maiden Handicap: 'Oxford Lad' owned by Mrs B. L. Hayes. 'Precise' won the Cup.

Apart from dealing every day with spirited young horses Harley found time to excel in the local men's field hockey competition. Together with good mate Adrian Collison he unselfishly and conscientiously gave back to the game with long stretches as Registered Umpire and Honorary Treasurer of the Upper Hunter Men's Hockey Association for 16 years. Exactitude was his totem.

He was also a regular at the RAS of NSW Sydney Royal Easter Show then adjacent to Randwick at Moore Park; proudly parading his choice selection of ribbon and award winning Sledmere Yearlings later sold by John Inglis. This is yet another rich tradition which has faded and died.

Among the many outstanding thoroughbreds Harley supervised at Sledmere were *Sailor's Guide* (by Lighthouse II; won Washington DC International), *Royal Parma* (Golden Slipper 1968, bred by Laurie Morgan) and fetching RES ribbon winning fillies *Natal Lass* (by Notorious, won Flight Stakes) and outstanding mare of her era *On Par* also by Parma.

In the late 1950s Harley met and successfully courted Heather Nunn from Murrurundi who had moved to Scone. Excelling on the dance floor 'Nureyev' Walden proposed in 1961. They were married in 1962. This was a most successful and productive union. Colt Grant was followed by filly Tracey in 1971: *'The apple of his eye'* according to the eldest entire sibling! Apart from family and horses Harley's other consuming passion was Rugby League. Father Darcy and Uncle Jake had been legends with the Scone Thoroughbreds. Unstinting support for the club was a natural sequel.

Less predictable was Harley's voracious appetite for the Manly Sea Eagles whose team colours he loved to sport.

Harley spent over half a century helping to breed and produce thoroughbred racehorses including periods at Sledmere (27 years), Yarraman Park and Alabama Studs in the Scone district. For a short interlude from 1981 Harley lived with his family at Stratheden Stud, Tamworth assisting John Park.

Following retirement from the stud scene to Sydney Street in Scone Harley became the region's unofficial but universally acknowledged historian. He cherished writing about the industry he loved. Over many years Harley had acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of both thoroughbred racing and breeding; specifically the Scone Race Club. He absorbed everything. His attention to detail was exquisite. It is as a meticulous recorder that Harley Walden has left his indelible hoof print. We are forever in his debt. Harley took great pride (and possibly a little reflected glory) in the outstanding success of fellow locals such as Peter Snowdon.

Harley wrote three books about the Scone Race Club most significantly a passionate history *'The Spirit Within'*. It's a most apposite title; and says it all. He attended every cup meeting with one possible exception when based in Tamworth. He was fanatical about White Park.

On a personal note Harley was pivotal on the White Park Wake Committee commissioned to arrange the farewell to the old track in October 1994. Fellow committee members were yours truly, Harley Walden, Jack Johnston, Alec 'Tecka' Ashford, Athol Rose and Warwick Norman. Abandoning White Park was a major wrench. Notwithstanding his anguish Harley was up front and centre for the opening of the new track at Satur in May 1995.

The official VRC Melbourne Cup Visit at the UHSC Chambers on Friday 15th October 2010 was another occasion when we relied on Harley's expertise. A sub-committee was again constituted. Harley was fundamental with his depth of knowledge. Unofficially he assumed the task of principal host for the *glitterati* of the Victorian Race Club including current chairperson alluring Amanda Elliott and Official VRC Ambassador ex-Chief Stipendiary Steward Des Gleeson. It was abundantly clear Harley savoured the task and absolutely excelled. Others were consigned to the reserves bench by the practised 'field umpire'.

However it is through his writing that we will remember Harley. He said, wrote and I quote:

'I was always keen on writing, reading old books and things like that. I started with the Scone Advocate in 1973 writing a weekly column; lately I was with online Scone.com. There are people down the street who stop me and say they are not into horses but enjoy what I write. I write so that people outside the industry can understand more about what is going on. It keeps the mind active and I enjoy doing it. Throughout my life I was with the horses; always with the horses.'

I am delighted to announce that the new iteration of 'The Thoroughbred' will host the Harley Walden Scone Cup Winners Honour Board. Harley was meticulous with the accuracy and detail of his records. This is now posthumous but thank you Peter Allen and Kriston Harris. It is a richly deserved and fitting memorial. Private enterprise succeeded while community slumbered.

In *'The Spirit Within'* Harley wrote:

"I was born with a foot in the stirrup and a love of thoroughbreds. From the time I first walked the course at 'Alabama' as an eight-year-old you could say I was smitten by a sport that at times can hold thousands spellbound; a sport that in a split-second turns a pauper into a prince and, just as quickly, reverses the process".

As an epitaph I submit and commend the following. I doubt either Max Presnell or John Holloway would pen this but it's a quotation from the Sydney Morning Herald; October 3 1857. I think it might also assuage this congregation:

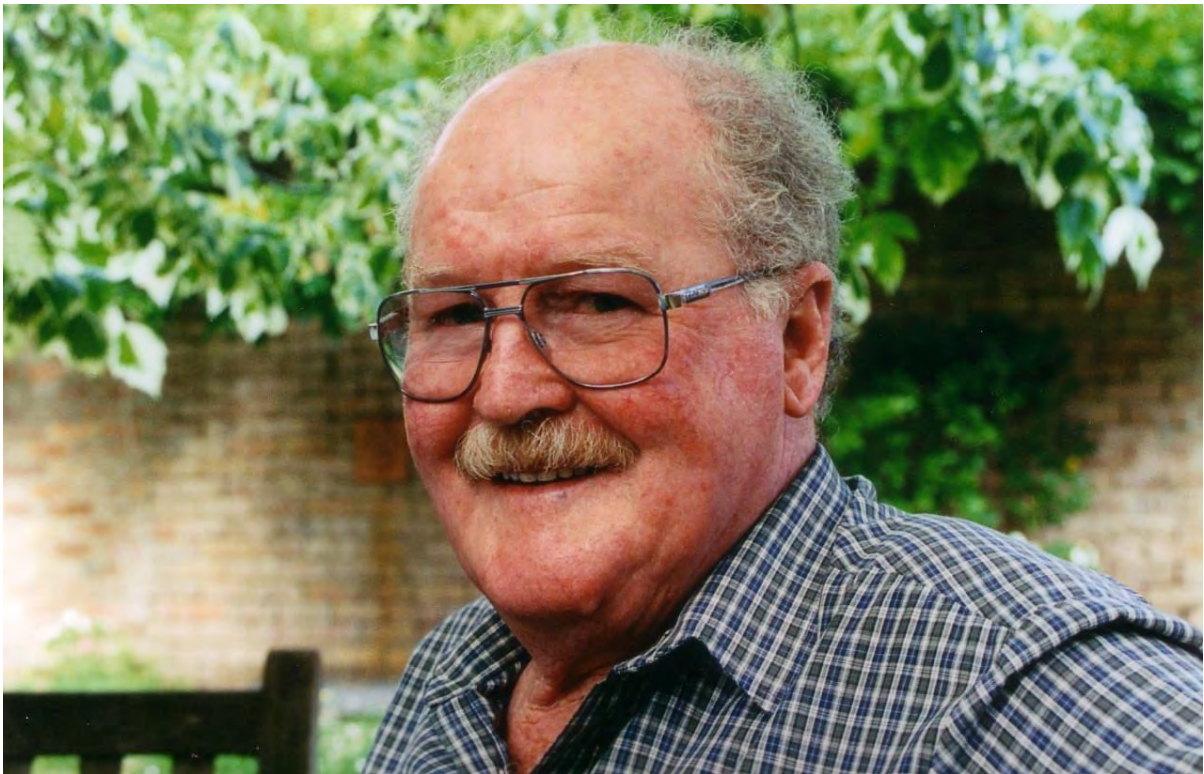
"The passion for horses may be ridiculed by persons of narrow mindedness and sedentary lives; but the feeling has been characteristic of the most intellectual and powerful races of mankind, and the highest order of literature and art has been inspired by the contemplation of this admirable gift of the creator".

Vale Harley Walden. Go kindly. I will miss our fervent discussions on my early morning walks in 'Harley Street'. My thanks go to Heather, Grant, Tracey and extended family for awarding me the consummate honour of presenting this eulogy on their behalf to our local united thoroughbred community.

W. P. H

24/04/2017

Clifford Douglas Ellis
Gentleman



Photograph taken in 'Geraldton' Courtyard

CLIFFORD DOUGLAS ELLIS (born 27/12/26 at Denman)

It is an incredible honour and even greater privilege to be asked by Cliff, Jennifer, Tim and Rebecca to deliver this encomium on their behalf which we have compiled together.

Cliff Ellis was born on his father's dairy property "Ravenswood" situated between Denman and Jerry's Plains on 27th December 1926. One of 5 children he was a great-great grandson of Thomas Ellis a noted Upper Hunter pioneer settler who came out from Devon, England in 1837 to manage George Bowman's property "Ärrowfield" now renamed "Coolmore" at Jerry's Plains. On his mother's side of the family Cliff also descends from a noted solid early settler. He is a great-great grandson of London commodities broker John Wood who migrated to NSW in 1818. Wood is remembered as an explorer and pioneer settler, who squatted on previously unknown country to the south west of Cowra where he established the mighty Brundah Station. The town of Grenfell grew up on part of Brundah after gold was discovered there in the 1860s.

Born in the mid-1920s leading to the height of the great depression, Cliff's early life was one of hard work around the farm. His formal schooling was cut short with the outbreak of World War II when his father found it impossible to obtain enough outside labour to milk the cows and help run the farm. However life was not all drudgery as he and each of his siblings always had their own ponies; for Cliff the genesis of his life-long passion for horses. Their home also boasted a tennis court which resulted in Cliff becoming a more than proficient tennis player.

The sale of the family farm in 1949 saw the start of Cliff's love affair with racing and the breeding of thoroughbred horses. He left the cloistered environs of the Denman dairy industry and ventured into the exciting world of the thoroughbred horse in the magnificent Widden Valley. It is no exaggeration to say that the Widden Valley always remained his spiritual home. He started work at the Harris family owned Holbrook Stud where he initially went to break in and educate young horses. He stayed there for about 4 years receiving a thorough grounding in the care and handling of horses by the late Bill Harris with sons Alan and John. Education of both young horses and young people were the seminal drivers in Cliff's professional life. Cliff first attended the Sydney Easter Yearling Sales in 1951.

Cliff's next move in 1953 was just a few miles down the valley. After leaving Holbrook Stud he commenced employment under the guidance of Tom Flynn at the newly established Oakleigh Stud. Here Cliff and Tom's son Ross perfected the growing and presentation of yearlings for sale. Their work was later emulated by many of the prominent studs. In 1961 Tom Flynn bought Emu Vale; another property in the Widden Valley. In that year Cliff married Jennifer Crockett of Double Bay, Sydney. Cliff was given the job of managing Emu Vale a property devoted mainly to the production of fine beef cattle for the Sydney market. Horses were not excluded. Emu Vale also became a spelling place for racehorses as well as the country where Oakleigh's dry mares were over wintered. It was at Emu Vale in October 1967 that I first met Cliff and Jennifer Ellis.

Whilst living at Emu Vale Cliff and Jennifer's son Timothy was born. When Tim reached school age Cliff made the big decision to leave his beloved Widden Valley. After living there for over 21 years he took up employment closer to town where education facilities could be more readily accessed. (*Tim – Cliff was immensely proud of your innate ability to take full advantage of the opportunities in both secondary and tertiary education which prevailing circumstances may have denied him. It's a hoary old cliché but a truism nonetheless that your late father was a graduate with first class honours in the University of Life. He read very widely and was entirely self-taught*). In 1971 Cliff commenced employment as Manager of the Mitchell family's Yarraman Park Stud near Scone. His influence here was tremendous and he was responsible for quite a few young people making a successful career in the horse industry. The owner/manager relationship flourished and still endures today with Arthur, Billy & especially Harry Mitchell represented here today by close confidante Paul Hennessy. Cliff also acted for a short time as mentor and advisor while Brian Agnew established Wakefield Stud at nearby Redbank.

While still living in the Widden Valley Cliff and Jennifer bought a small property at Parkville which they named Kingdon Farm. In 1979 Cliff deemed it time to branch out on his own and the family made the move to Kingdon Farm. Here Cliff specialised in preparing sale yearlings for a select clientele. This new venture was successful so much so that in 1983 the yearlings Cliff prepared topped not only the individual price but also the aggregate total at the Inglis Sydney Easter Yearling Sales. Champion 'Tie the Knot' owned and bred by Sandy Tait & Family was the most illustrious graduate of the Ellis' Kingdon Farm Academy of Equine Excellence. Hawkesbury River celebrity swimmer 'Johnno' who won the Scone Cup in 1959 was the best of the Ellis family's home bred winners. Thank you Brian Russell!

Cliff finally retired in 2000 and he and Jennifer took up residence in Scone.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN CLIFF'S CAREER:

- Elected an inaugural Committee Member of the Hunter Valley Blood Horse Breeders Association in the 1970s.
- Long term committee member of Scone Race Club
- In 1987 was awarded the Hunter Valley Blood Horse Breeders Association's Murray Bain Service to Industry Award.
- Scone Horse Week VIP in 1999
- Commenced teaching Horse Industry Course at TAFE in 1989

Avuncular Educator, Tutor, Mentor, Advocate, Friend & Family

Vocational Education and Training is all about knowledge, skills and attitudes; highly desirable attributes which Cliff Ellis accumulated in spades throughout a lifetime's experience. Happily Cliff chose to share these liberally: he devoted his later years in conveying as much of this as he possibly could to his young charges. The following quotation (10 years ago) is fairly typical:

"I taught for many years at TAFE. I had a short formal education but read all the textbooks around and picked up the mistakes in them. Of course I learned a lot from them as well. We had some very talented students studying the stud groom's course at TAFE many of whom are still in the industry in positions of responsibility. I still hear from quite a few of them. The students who gave me the most satisfaction however were the less talented who tried hard. I always tried to help them out as much as I could. If they got 48% working their tail off, I'd give them 53. I'd also shoot and bury any residual ego. We resurrected many young people. One of the ones got 48; I gave her 53 and she has never been out of a job since she left TAFE. Maybe I gave her a bit of a chance. I like to think so".

Cliff derived a mildly mischievous and somewhat perky delight in circumventing the stifling didactic strictures imposed by the gargantuan educational bureaucracy which was and is the NSW TAFE Commission. Pedagogue colleagues Mark Judge, Mike and Mia Thew might concur.

Facebook & Social Media

My spouse Sarah posted a notice on 'Facebook' which drew a huge response largely from young people scattered around the globe. The following wish to make tribute to Cliff and his mentorship: Beck Driggers-Bowd (Charleston, SC who may or may not have been the beneficiary of Cliff's liberal interpretation of assessment)), Morag Borsje-Bain (Lennox Head), Kirsty Howey (Darwin), Katrina McCosker-Payne (Scone), George Fraser (Scone), Lisa Randle (Scone), Jenny Dawson (Scone), Sean Hush (Scone), Georgie Mackay (Pindimar), Beverley Goode (Scone), Jane Mactier (Scone), Dianne Van Balen (Scone), Lorraine Gleeson (Scone), Jess Faras (Scone), Robyn Gaiter (Scone).

'Breednet'

Close friend Brian Russell posted on 'Breednet' (www.breednet.com.au) which immediately informed the thoroughbred world.

Gentleman

Thesaurus Trawling: 'Nobleman'; 'Aristocrat'; 'Squire'; 'Grandee'; 'Aesthete';

'Courteous Person' - YES Sartorial – YES! Did you ever see Cliff in Kelly Street? Immaculate in Akubra hat, wool tie, Gloucester shirt, moleskins and RM boots polished to perfection. Even on his pushbike from Satur Cliff exuded true class. Cadel Evans never ever looked so good.

"He's a gentleman: look at his boots" George Bernard Shaw *Pygmalion* (1916) Act I

'A man of chivalrous instincts, fine feelings & good breeding' Concise Oxford English

Cricket Analogy and 'The Urn'

While Cliff may or may not have been the 'Bradman' of Stud Managers the master of style 'Victor Trumper' has an authentic ring to it! I do like cricketing analogies and Cliff was a very fine cricketer; I believe a more than competent wicket keeper/batsman. He made it to 87 on 27/12/13 – a highly significant number in the Aussie Cricket genre. A few short weeks ago on the veranda of the Walter Pye wing @ SMH he and I celebrated Australia's Ashes securing win at the WACA. Cliff waxed eloquently about the outstanding achievement of the current Aussie side. He especially liked the contribution of the 'old blokes'; in particular fellow country-raised wicket keeper/batsman Brad Haddin. Dryly he intoned the bucolic philosophical mantra: **'An old dog for a hard road; puppies for pavements'**. This was the last intelligible conversation I enjoyed with Cliff. I took the urn with me.

The Urn is emblematic of both 'cupid and cupidity'. Hon Ivo Bligh (8th. Lord Darnley) regained the Ashes in Australia in 1882 following the famous 'Demon' Fred Spofforth inspired victory earlier in England which gave rise to the celebrated obituary to English cricket in the London Sporting Times.

At its very best the urn is a refulgent tribute to true love and devotion. It was presented to the Hon Ivo Bligh by some redoubtable Melbourne Ladies one of whom was Florence Murphy employed as a music teacher at 'Rupertswood', the home of Sir William Clarke. The urn was purported to contain the residual ashes of a set of sacrificial burned bails. Florence Murphy later became Lady Darnley and on the death of her husband in 1927 bequeathed the urn and its contents to the MCC. Lady Florence's 82 year old daughter-in-law put the record straight – the urn contained the ashes of an incinerated veil once the property of the neophyte Florence Murphy. Its' oeuvre is redolent of the relationship enjoyed by Cliff and Jenny; complimented by Tim and latterly Rebecca.

I took this urn as a symbol to the SCG at the week end. I like to believe there were some evocative spiritual ashes contained therein.

I will leave the last word to the late Clifford Douglas Ellis so quintessentially Cliff:

'In conclusion I would like to say that I have lived through a most interesting and stimulating period in the thoroughbred industry meeting people from all walks of life.

As a wise man once said: We are all equal on the turf - and under it!

Vale Clifford Douglas Ellis – True and Fine Gentleman – we are here not merely to mourn but also celebrate a brilliant life so very well lived.

Sun Junling



Sun Jungling ('Jimmy') is second from the left back row when we met him in Nanjing

I took part in an Australian Stock Horse Society 'Austrade' mission to China in 2004. I wrote about this in more detail elsewhere. Memorably we encountered Sun Junling *aka* 'Jimmy' at Nanjing Agricultural University. He gave an impassioned speech in English which he may have memorised by rote? The outcome was that between Mike Thew and I we successfully arranged a fully funded 'Fellowship' through the NSW TAFE Commission Hunter Valley Institute. It enabled Jimmy to spend about 3 months in the Hunter Valley and beyond absorbing the horse industry and the thoroughbred sector in detail. My role was to plan and implement his itinerary. Mike had arranged accommodation at Willowgate Hall in Scone. I used my equine veterinary network to full effect. It was Derek Major at Agnes Banks Equine Hospital who gave him the sobriquet 'Jimmy' which he really liked. We had difficulty before this with how to address him both formally and informally.

As a result of this introduction I/we managed to secure an interview for Jimmy with Ollie Tait; then General Manager for Darley Australia. Jimmy secured a place in the Darley Flying Start program set up by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum who is the ruler of Dubai and also owns the Darley and Godolphin Thoroughbred brands around the globe. The following CV was prepared by colleague Helen Xie. Jimmy's own was written in colourful Chinese style emphasising his grandmothers' predictions at the time of his birth! It was a fascinating insight but not sculptured in such a way so as to impress western judges. Nonetheless he was 'pre-ordained to follow a career involving the horse'. Suffice it to say Jimmy was accepted into the program and excelled through the curriculum. I was extremely fortunate to be invited as his 'mentor' to attend the graduation ceremony at Dalham Hall Stud, Newmarket, England. I travelled in some luxury at the behest of Emirates Airline per favour of Ollie and the Sheikh. I doubt the latter knew of my journey? Sun Junling has subsequently been appointed as Darley's 'man in China'.

DOB: 28/11/1979
Nationality Chinese
Current Address 1st Weigang, Nanjing, China
Mobile +86 13813801344
Email sunjunlingmail@hotmail.com

Education

2004- PhD. of veterinary medicine
Veterinary college
Nanjing Agricultural University
Nanjing, Chin

2002-2004 Master of veterinary medicine
Veterinary college
Nanjing Agricultural University
Nanjing, China

1998-2002 Bachelor Degree of veterinary medicine
Veterinary college
Nanjing Agricultural University
Nanjing, China

Published Articles

Sun Junling, Hu Yuanliang, Wang Deyun, etc. Adjuvanticity of compound Chinese herbal medicinal ingredients and their efficacy comparison with compound Chinese herbal. Journal of Nanjing Agricultural University, (accepted)

Sun Junling, Hu Yuanliang. Investigation and Etiological Analysis of Equine in the Suburbs of Nanjing. Proceedings of China Horse Industry, 2005, volume 1, 218-220

Hu Yuanliang, Sun Junling. Traditional Chinese Medicinal and Chinese-Western Medicinal Therapy on Commonly Encountered Equin Diseases. Proceedings of China Horse Industry, 2005, volume 1, 203-206

Deyun Wang, Yuanliang Hu, Junling Sun, etc. Comparative study on adjuvanticity of compound Chinese herbal medicinal ingredients. Vaccine, 19 March 2005

And other three articles about herbal immunology.

Professional Experience

Jul. 2005 - **Veterinarian**
Equestrian team of Jiangsu province

Nanjing, China

Responsibilities:

- Treated illness of horses

Jun. 2005 A member of veterinarian committee of national horsemanship and racing title match of 2005

Chinese Equestrian Association
Beijing, China

Responsibilities:

- Examined all horses before the beginning of the game

Jun. -Oct. 2005 Appointed equine veterinarian of Tenth National Games by Chinese Equestrian Association Chinese Equestrian Association

Chinese Equestrian Association
Beijing, China

Responsibilities:

- Assisted in registration of horses and transaction of passports of horses
- Examined all horses before the beginning of the game

May. 2005 - Veterinarian Consultant

Nanjing Horse Racing Enterprise Co.,INC.
Nanjing, China

Responsibilities:

- Treated illness of horses

Jun. -Sept. 2002 Manager of one Stable of Nanjing Equestrian Club

Nanjing Equestrian Club
Nanjing, China

Responsibilities:

- Transacted daily things
- Examined all horses of the stable
- Treated illness of horses
- Organized riding

Sept. 2001 - Veterinarian (0.5-3days per week)

Nanjing Equestrian Club
Nanjing, China

Responsibilities:

- Examined all horses of Nanjing Equestrian Club
- Treated illness of horses
- Organized riding

Skills Set

Language

- Fluent in Mandarin and English (oral and written)
- Read simplified and traditional Chinese

Computer

- Microsoft Office (Advanced)
- Simplified Chinese character typing (Advanced)
- SPSS: Statistical package for data analysis

Interpersonal

- Communicate successfully with people from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Work effectively within a team environment
- Work efficiently unsupervised
- Good networking skills

Interests and Hobbies

- Horse Riding (member of the Nanjing Equestrian Club)
- Chinese cooking
- Travelling
- Badminton
- Swimming
- Ping-pong

Referees

Professional Referees:

Cheng Qing

Deputy Secretary-General
Chinese Equestrian Association
Laoshan, Shijingshan district, Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-68862550

or 86-10-68863377-2110
Email: cea@sport.gov.cn

Wu Shuli

Equestrian Team of Jiangsu Province
The Leader of Equestrian Team of Jiangsu Province
Wutaishan, Nanjing, China
Tel: 86-25-83418911
Mobile: 86-13705165176

Wu Youhong

CEO
Nanjing Horse Racing Enterprise Co.,INC.
Kaixuan Road, Shiziba, Maqun, Nanjing, China
Tel: 86-25-84366508
Fax: 86-25-84366506

Academic Referee:

Dr. Deyun Wang

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College of Veterinary Medicine
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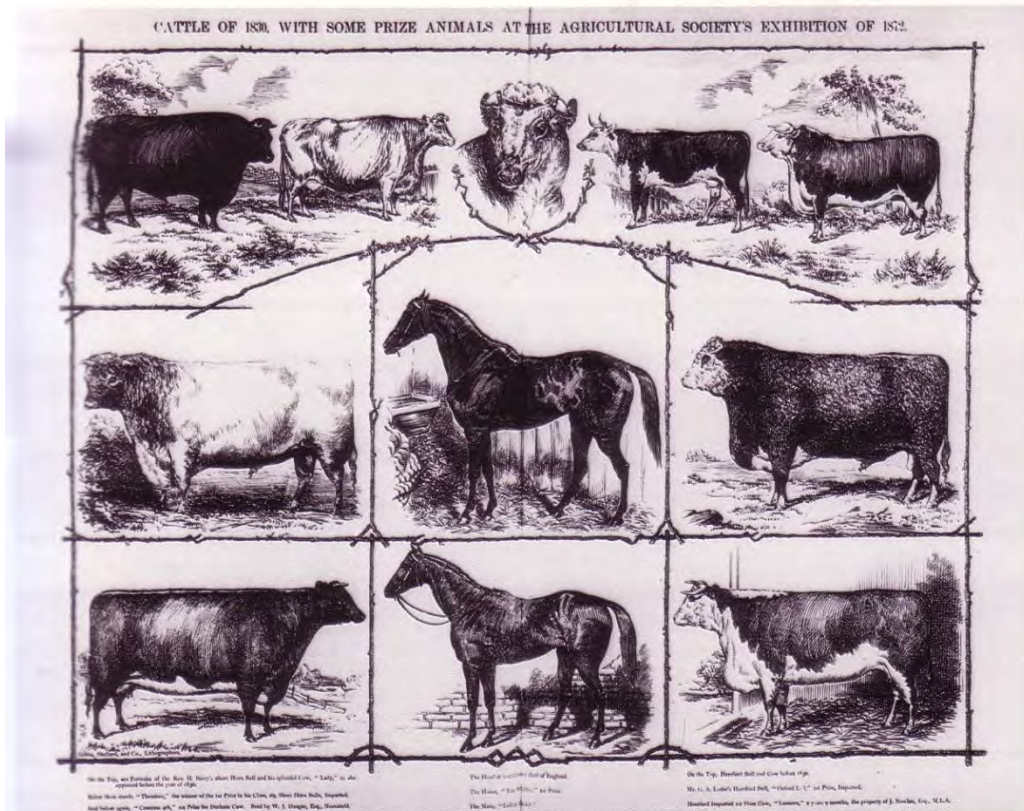
Personal Referee:

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Song Dalu

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Prize cattle and horses at the exhibition of 1872. (Illustrated Sydney News, 28 April 1877)

I was elected to the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW in 1997. This was the last year of presenting the Royal Easter Show (RES) at Moore Park. Within the space of only 12 months at a cost of \$400 million the new Showground was constructed at Sydney Olympic Park in time for RES 1998. It was a modern day miracle. This was all part of the grand plan for Sydney Olympics 2000. RES 2008 was one of a number of 'trial runs' for the Sydney Olympic Committee. It's history now that Sydney Olympic Games 2000 set a new benchmark for excellence.

I was overawed at the beginning but settled into the routine. My only real and significant input was to 'update' and to an extent revitalise the Veterinary Committee (VCM). As eventual chairman I was asked to include the undergraduate students from Sydney University. We did this. The result has been possible overkill? However what we achieved was to energise and inform a cohort of 'bright young things' about the RAS of NSW RES. I think we can claim this has been successful to the point of overload. On a positive note there are a whole generation of fairly recent graduates (> 1000) out there who are passionate about the Royal Easter Show. They are from all points of the globe and distributed throughout the nation. Nearly all want to come back. Many are now included on the veterinary rosters for the Show having attained the required levels of practical professional expertise. The current chairman of the VCM Dr Mark Schembri is perhaps the prime example. He has a remarkable CV already and is a Harvard Graduate in One Health. He is currently enrolled in combined degrees in Medicine and Education at Sydney University. He first came to our attention as a raw but hyper-enthusiastic schoolboy at Moore Park in 1997. I took him 'under my wing'.

TV superstar Bondi Vet Dr Chris Brown is a high profile extra. Other than that I/we introduced modern methods of drug detection with secure intelligence.

I even treasure memories of stewarding in the knee deep mud in the 'Schmidt Pit' as the junior chief steward on the Horse Committee; when no-one else wanted the job!



Arrival of country visitors at the 1877 exhibition. (*Illustrated Sydney News*, 28 April 1877)

Mark Schembri

Sir John Monash Award

Harvard University

Mark Schembri has proved to be one of the more remarkable individuals I have met in professional life. He first turned up as an ingénue hyper-enthusiastic student at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in its last year at Moore Park in 1997. It was also my first year as a Councillor with the RAS of NSW. Frank Hooke wanted to 'get rid of the smart young bastard'; but he survived. Mark was an exceptional student. By sheer dint of hard work and all-consuming passion Mark progressed through Sydney University Veterinary School, employment at Agnes Banks, research and teaching. I was able to assist him with his application for the NSW Sir John Monash Award. I enclose my letter below. Harder by far was the online reference for acceptance into the Harvard School of Public Health. Suffice it to say it all went according to plan. Mark graduated through Harvard in the discipline of One Health. At the time of writing (2017) Mark is enrolled in Medicine and Education at the University of Sydney. He is Sub-Warden of St Pauls College where he lives with his spouse Sarah and two young children. Mark is on the Council of the RAS of NSW and chairman of the Veterinary and Disciplinary Committees. More surprisingly Mark is an executive Director of the Sydney University Rugby Club! He is also on the NSW Selection Panel for the General Sir John Monash Awards.

Dr Bill Howey

Former Director

Postgraduate Foundation in Veterinary Science

Veterinary Science Conference Centre

Building B22

University of Sydney NSW 2006

Ph: (02) 6545 1859 (H)

Email: howeywp@westnet.com.au

The Chair

General Sir John Monash Awards

NSW Selection Panel

Room 304 - Level 3

The Chancellery

The University of New South Wales

Sydney, NSW 2052

Saturday 23 August 2008

Dear Chairman,

I am writing to give my enthusiastic support to Dr Mark Schembri's application to the General Sir John Monash Program. I have known Mark for many years in my capacity as the former Director of the Postgraduate Foundation of the University of Sydney Veterinary Faculty, and also for more than ten years in my role as veterinarian and Councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) of NSW.

Mark possesses a rare and admirable capacity to inspire his students and fellow veterinarians to achieve great things. He has been involved extensively in research since he was an undergraduate, and the freezing medium he developed for artificial equine insemination has become an industry standard. He has worked hard to develop an impressive department of drug testing and veterinary education at the RAS, with strong links between academics and thousands of students who have undertaken animal husbandry and welfare education at the Show. His teaching is entertaining, professional and greatly respected by staff and students alike.

Dr Schembri's professional and academic credentials are extremely impressive. Since graduating with first class honors and several academic and research awards, he has seen fit to generously give this knowledge to others through his lecturing at the University of Sydney and teaching students on clinical rotations at his department of reproduction at the Agnes Banks Equine Clinic. I consider him a clinician and academic of the utmost skill and integrity.

Despite an intense clinical and research workload, Mark's dedication to his profession, clients and the community is attested to by the significant role he plays in a number of organisations. Mark is a veterinarian and recently elected Councillor to the RAS of NSW, a veterinarian for the Equestrian Federation of Australia, a barrier veterinarian for the Australian Jockey Club, and a visiting lecturer in reproductive medicine. Mark's achievement of these positions at such an early stage in his professional career is an incredible tribute to his potential as a future Australian leader in these fields.

In the community, Mark has applied his innumerable skills in practical and effective ways. He has been a long term volunteer in his local community of Maroubra with Surf Life Saving, runs a large and successful community orchestra and choir, and has worked with many groups assisting underprivileged youths. In all these activities, Mark has a broad vision of hope applied in an immediate and practical way to those around him.

Mark intends to study the effects of infectious diseases at the Harvard School of Public Health, a school with a well justified international reputation for excellence. This area is of particular relevance to Australia's agricultural and socio-economic wellbeing and I consider Mark's interest in this area to be critical to developing leadership in this field.

I wish Mark every further success in the future and recommend him as ideally suited to the aspirations of the General Sir John Monash Foundation.

I am,

Yours faithfully

William P. Howey BVMS, MACVSC, MRCVS, Grad Dip. Ed, JP.
Veterinary Consultant
PO Box 509
SCONE NSW 2337



Dr Mark Schembri: Papal 'Hubcapping' at the Vatican

Mark accompanied Archbishop George Pell to secure the World Catholic Youth Gathering for Sydney. It was a successful mission. I think this was one of the rare occasions in history when it would have been possible to meet two live Popes? One usually has to die first. Mark actually handled the microphone for the celebration by over 300,000 delegates at Royal Randwick Racecourse. The size and scale of an operation doesn't appear to phase him?

Borrooloola Mob @ Sunrise

One of my most unusual assignments was delegated by my daughter Kirsty. Kirsty was Legal Advisor to the Northern Land Council in Darwin. Part of her ambit included the Borrooloola Community from the South Western shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It is about 1000km by road from Darwin; the last 700 of it is dirt. Kirsty was directing a Land Claims Appeal through the Supreme Court in Phillip Street. My role was to accompany the 'mob' from the Menzies Hotel in downtown Sydney to the Supreme Court. Kirsty had to be there earlier to prepare. It was a most interesting journey! We had socialised the night before so we knew one another. My mate Dave Hardy is in the two-tone horizontal striped jumper and blue baseball cap on the left of the picture. Dave was an Elder of the tribe but had been 'in trouble' before. He was a most intriguing character.



Just after this photograph was taken we ran into my friend and acquaintance Hamish Gidley-Baird. Hamish had lived in Darwin for 6 years and had actually been to Borrooloola. The indigenes feel very much at home although I don't think any had ever been to Sydney before? We tried to arrange an NRL game the night before but unfortunately the home fixture was at Parramatta. It was a bridge too far.



Progress was sluggish at times



Martin Place

I seem to have disappeared? Note the warm winter clothing!



David Koch and the 'Sunrise' Team at the Channel Seven Studio in Martin Place

We passed the Channel 7 Sunrise Studio in Martin Place. It was 9:30am and the morning show was just closing. There was instant recognition and the Borroloola Mob just piled into the studio. David Koch and the team were intrigued. To their great credit the Borroloola Mob were welcomed with open arms. The photo opportunity was too good to miss!

Australian Stock Horse Society (ASHS)

I have been involved with the Australian Stock Horse Society since conception and inception in 1971. The Belmore Hotel was fundamental to discussions. I wrote about the elsewhere in the 'Tuesday Boozers Club' (TBC). Somehow I was appointed Honorary Veterinarian to the Australian Stock Horse Society. This has endured in a vicarious sense almost to the present day. I am still the Independent Member of the ASHS Disciplinary Committee. I also took part in the ASHS Austrade Mission to China in 2004. On another far left field scenario I discovered the remnants of some Australian Stock Horses at 'Kibebe Farm' high in the southern highlands of Tanzania at Iringa where my son Hugh worked. I wrote about it in the Australian Stock Horse Society Magazine.



Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony 2000

This was the forever iconic image which presented to billions of viewers around the world. It was a brilliant concept driven by then ASHS CEO and Scone resident Brian Brown. Overcoming all hurdles the centrepiece was a magnificent display of skill and horsemanship featuring Australian Stock Horses. Most people did not know until afterwards that all the preparation and teamwork training had taken part at White Park, Scone. Secret and clandestine were the operative words. I confess I was totally unaware although there were extensive practice runs. It worked perfectly at Sydney Olympic Park in 2000. The imprint ('hoof print') is indelible and ineffable; enduring for all time. I was there with Sarah.

Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC)

My foray into Local Government 2008 – 2012 was ‘interesting’. I thought I could make a difference but I was deluded. I was elected with the second highest primary vote in the September 2008 elections. Popular sitting Mayor Barry Rose easily topped the pole but attended only one meeting. He was suffering the ravages of aggressive prostate cancer and passed away in April 2009. This was a bad start. Deputy Mayor Lee Watts assumed leadership until the by-election following Barry’s passing. To complicate matters further two other elected Councillors decided to resign. They were long standing Cr Peter Hodges (health) and only recently elected Cr Claire Pfister-Paradice (time). The three ‘new’ Councillors chosen by the electorate were Lea Carter, Pam Seccombe and former Merriwa Councillor and Mayor Ean Cottle.



Cr Ean Cottle Cr Errol Bates Mayor Lee Watts Cr Bill Howey Cr Michael Johnsen
Cr Deirdre Peebles Cr Lea Carter Cr Lorna Driscoll Cr Pam Seccombe

I think this was one of the first Councils where women Councillors outnumbered men? Cr Driscoll was the longest standing Councillor having represented Aberdeen for over 20 years. Ideally we were not elected in ‘ridings’ or wards but inevitably parochial nepotism crept in. I think the electorate viewed it this way? One could claim that the municipality and township of Scone were under represented? I think this was a hangover from the days of ridings in the old Scone Shire Council. I did not shine as a Councillor. I realised very early that my ideal image of local governance was sullied. Pragmatism ruled the chamber dictated by the General Manager and his cohort. It was a mini-series of ‘Yes Minister’ if couched at a lower legion.



David Casson Bede Spanagle Cr Cottle Cr Bates Cr Johnsen Steve Pryor Cr Howey GM Daryl Dutton
 Cr Peebles Cr Carter Mayor Watts Cr Seccombe Cr Driscoll

This was the Council which was awarded the Arthur Bluit Award in 2010 for the best performing Rural Council in the State of NSW. This probably surprised a number of us? GM Daryl Dutton had prepared all the supporting information and submitted the application. The generous appraisal would be that he showed good judgement and prescient vision. The cynical could claim it was a fillip to his ego and burnished his CV? I think objective judgement lay somewhere in between. He was an able administrator.

The Scone Shire Council had won the same award on at least two previous occasions. It is a proud record for the district.

I represented on the Finance and Works and Technical Services Committees. Although I was not on the Development & Environmental Services Committee I attended most of the meetings. I was also the UHSC Delegate to the Hunter Councils Environment Committee in Thornton. Hunter Councils was a loose amalgam of eleven Councils in the Hunter Valley plus Great Lakes and Port Stephens making a grand total of thirteen. It is probably portentous of things to come?

The job of mayor is equivalent full time. If you attend most of the meetings and sub-committees it is also just about full time for an ordinary Councillor. This disenfranchises some. Reading the official papers and preparation are time consuming. I was chairman of at least two sub-committees including Heritage. This is an emotional drain and can be very frustrating with deeply entrenched bureaucracy. It's difficult in one term to know all the ropes and comprehend all the rules. Employed professional staff conducts the show with the GM almost omnipotent. This plenipotentiary position carries unique power within the NSW Local Government Act & Regulations.

Hub-capping with the Governor General @ White Park



Cr Seccombe; Sarah Howey; Cr Howey; Mrs Vassi Souris; GG Hon Quentin Bryce; George Souris MP;

Cr Michael Johnson (back to camera)

Not very long after I was elected to Council the Governor General of Australia Quentin Bryce visited Scone. The occasion was to open the Australian Stock Horse National Championships held at White Park in 2009. We were arraigned in a marquee for the 'meet and greet' formalities. Quentin Bryce had actually met my son Hugh. He was Senior Student at St Pauls College, University of Sydney when Mrs Bryce was Warden of closely adjacent Women's College. It was traditional and customary for the Senior Student to run around the quadrangle in the nude at midnight following the mid-year (July) dinner. This coincided with a dinner party held by Mrs Bryce for Mr & Mrs Gough Whitlam and Mr and Mrs Peter Ryan; the latter then Commissioner of Police. The party was just breaking up when Hugh ran past. I never did manage to ask her what she thought. I think Hugh had to write a letter of explanation. As a St Pauls alumnus Gough Whitlam would have known what it was all about.

Earlier in the day there was consternation at Strathearn Village. A message had been received that the Governor General was due to arrive at 3:00pm. Panic broke out. The denouement was that a mistake had been uncovered. Mrs Bryce was staying at Strathearn Park Lodge; a quality boarding house on the NEH opposite 'Turenville'. One of the GG's minders had erred. It was a perilous trap. There was a huge sigh of relief at Strathearn Village.



Mayor Watts conducts the meeting. GM Daryl Dutton & Steve Pryor foreground



Cr Johnsen Cr Cottle Cr Carter Cr Bates Cr Seccombe Cr Howey Cr Driscoll

The public gallery is full. It must have been Bickham Coal Mine

Melbourne Cup 2010

UHSC Friday 15th October 2010



Tim Moses had mislaid the wooden base of Poitrel's 1920 Cup.

I was delegated to make arrangements for the official visit of the VRC 2010 Melbourne Cup. This promotion appeared in the Newcastle Morning Herald. My neighbours at Hawks Nest had kept the cutting and presented it to me.

This was my forte and I was in my element. I rallied the troops. Counting the 'official' 2010 trophy I was able to call on personal favours and secure four others making a total of five. They were the 1920 Cup won by 'Poitrel'. Tim Moses brought this cup down from Inverell wrapped in a sugar bag in the bottom of his front passenger car seat. Russ Lazarus was a very active member of the sub-committee and he held the 1987 trophy won by 'Kensai' of which he was co-owner. Miss Anne Raymond of Sledmere Stud held the 1948 cup won by her father Guy Raymond with 'Rimfire' at odds of 100 to 1. 'Evening Peel' by Delville Wood was the winner in 1956. Belinda Nixon of Oakhampton Stud, Manilla was the daughter of winning owner, Mr Rex White who was an AJC Committeeman. Belinda was only too happy to oblige. Rob Vickery brought the cup down on his way through to an RAS of NSW Council meeting. It all came together in the end.

We marketed the whole extravaganza as five cups in the one place at the one time. It worked. The VRC public relations clique was in raptures. Suddenly we had a team of experts and instant tribe of acolytes. The publicity machine and team photographer desperately wanted an action photograph of Mayor Watts' bay granddaughter playing with the five cups on the carpet. This grated with me. It seemed to take an inordinate amount of time. I wanted to escort the entourage around the Scott Memorial Hospital, Strathearn Village Aged Care and the Belltrees Public School as pre-arranged. Time became of the essence but we made it. As they say in the classics 'it was all OK on the night'.

With Amanda Elliott and Des Gleeson the VRC certainly launched a charm offensive. They were generous with their time. Fortunately feisty Amanda knew Dr Judy White AM PhD plus Arthur and Dordie Bragg who turned up to entertain.



Des Gleeson (VRC) Mayor Watts Noel Leckie Amanda Elliott (VRC) Bill Howey

Welcoming party at Upper Hunter Shire Council Chambers

The flight by charter small plane from Condobolin to Scone was desperate. The weather was egregious with sleeting rain and fierce cross winds. Much to my chagrin Noel Leckie purloined Amanda Elliott to show her the new Satur Race Track. He seized the moment and squeezed the planned time schedule even further. Noel made the most of the opportunity without actually contributing directly. Helen Sinclair (SRC) was a potent force however.

Mayor's Speech
Melbourne Cup 150th Anniversary Tour
15th October 2010

Welcome to Victoria Racing Board director Mrs Amanda Elliott, VRC Ambassador Mr Des Gleeson, accompanying Melbourne Cup personnel, Sponsors, Councillors, and members of the UHSC community.

The Melbourne Cup is the race that stops the nation and in 2010 the famous race celebrates its 150th Anniversary. Scone has embraced the spirit of this anniversary tour and has played host to a wide range of related activities this week. These activities have included: a race fanfare musical playoff and national anthem singing competition local schools, an open day at Invermein Stud, and a 'Track Truths' session yesterday which saw ABC reporter Mike Pritchard interview local Melbourne Cup personality Greg Bennett. In addition to the public being able to view 4 Melbourne Cups today plus a range of racing memorabilia, the 18-carat gold Cup travelled to Scott Memorial Hospital and Strathearn Village Aged Care Facility where we enjoyed a parade of race day hats made by Scone Pre-School Children. The Cup will travel out to historic Belltrees Primary School where Ellerstun and Rouchel students will join Belltrees Primary School to be a part of today's celebrations and view the Melbourne Cup and this evening, the Scone & Upper Hunter Horse Festival Committee will play host to the 150th Melbourne Cup at a 'Melbourne Cup' Trivia Night at the Linga Longa at Gundy. As they say ... 'It's all happening!'

The Melbourne Cup Tour is part of the Victoria Racing Club's commitment to share 'The People's Race' with everyday Australians. On behalf of the Upper Hunter Shire Council - and the Scone community in particular - I wish to thank the VRC for making today's visit by the 150th Anniversary Melbourne Cup possible.

You cannot refer to the Melbourne Cup and not think of Scone. For some 150 years Australia's Thoroughbred Breeding operations have been concentrated in the Hunter Valley. Our picturesque and fertile soils provide:

- 30% of all Australian thoroughbred foals born each year
- 71.6% of yearlings sold at Australian yearling sales,
- 75% of Australian stallion service fees, and
- Substantial employment in the region.

The size of the local thoroughbred industry has seen the Upper Hunter internationally recognized as the world's second largest thoroughbred breeding nursery. Fittingly perhaps - and not just because of its thoroughbred population - Scone is well known as the Horse Capital of Australia and is, as a result, an iconic destination when it comes to exploring the names of so many people and horses who have woven their stories through the rich tapestry of the Melbourne Cup's 150 year history

To touch on the sheer number of local people involved with many a Melbourne Cup horse or history lesson would be to open the cover on one of the largest racing encyclopedias ever written. Instead I will mention just a few of the Melbourne Cup related human and equine names that call and have called this district home.

Our town's connections with the Melbourne Cup go all the way back to the start of the race: Dr Judy White of the famous Belltrees property reports that her family bred and raced Archer who, for over a century was one of only two horses who won the Melbourne Cup twice - in 1861 and 1862.

Scone's link to the Melbourne Cup comes full circle with the Scone born 2009 winner being a horse called Shocking who will start one of the favored runners in 2010 as well. Shocking was bred by local stud Ilala which is owned and managed by George and Felicity Fraser.

What of the horses of the interim years?

Stand on Scone racetrack on any given morning and amongst the morning mist you will spot the man who broke in and pre-trained the Champion mare and 3-time Melbourne Cup winner Makybe Diva – Greg Bennett. Another well known trainer is Betty Shepherd – one of this country's first licensed female trainers. Betty prepared 'Trevors' for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups in 1966.

I mentioned Makybe Diva – a mare who became a household name after her extraordinary feats in this famous race. This mighty mare and her 2010 foal reside just up the road from here at Segenhoe Stud. Segenhoe's name comes up again as the breeder of Maybe Better who ran third to the Japanese raiders a few of years ago. Middlebrook Valley Lodge was responsible for breeding Intergaze. Intergaze's dam – Amarula - died this year but there are a number of female descendants from this family still resident at the farm.

Other local winners include the Wakefield Stud bred Subzero who, upon retirement from racing, was employed as the clerk of the course's horse by Racing Victoria's long-time Clerk, Graham Salisbury, and has made numerous appearances on television, at charity functions, and at schools.

The 150th Anniversary of the Cup – like every running of the Cup before it - will have a distinctly Scone flavor courtesy of the birth place of a number of the race's runners. Some of these horses will have ties to more than just a Scone farm – I speak here of a group of local coal miners and racehorse owners including our very own Councillor Carter's husband – who will be cheering on their horse Zabrasive should he make the final field.

Arrowfield Stud, Bellerive, Widden, Kia Ora and a number of other well known local properties have played their hand in standing the sires, breeding the foals, owning or agisting the dams of Melbourne Cup starters. Perhaps not surprisingly there is also no shortage of famous equine graves on all number of properties; one that comes to mind is 1940 Cup winner Old Rowley who is buried at Merriwa.

What of the riders? Local resident Keith Banks – described at the time as Sydney's most competent lightweight jockey - rode in 2 Melbourne Cups in 1964 and 1971 respectively. Keith is father-in-law of Scone Race Club Curator Reto Cadalbert whose family runs Rosehill Lodge on the New England Highway. Hilton Cope – the former owner of Darley's base at Kelvinside in Aberdeen - rode in the 1966 Cup whilst Wayne Harris rode in 4 Cups and won in 1994 riding Jeune.

You'll trip over a Melbourne Cup or two heading out to dinner at a number of Scone homesteads. The Cups for the 1920 winner Poitrel, 1948 winner Rimfire , 1956 winner Evening Peel and 1987 winner Kensei compile that local collection – some of these cups being on display today alongside the 150th Anniversary Melbourne Cup.

The owners of these Cups are people you will cross paths with on any given day at the newsagent or at a local meeting - Russ Lazarus (who raced Kensei) and Bill Moses (whose family raced Evening Peel) have generously supported today's events by allowing their Melbourne Cups to be on display. I should mention that when the first Melbourne Cup Committee meeting was held to discuss today's events Russ arrived with a bulky pillow case that no one thought to ask after the contents of.

There was more than one exclamation of surprise when mid-meeting he suddenly opened it to reveal the prized trophy itself!

It would be fair to say that horses and horse racing are in our blood in Scone. No other town in Australia can claim a connection with the horse the way we can and in 2011 the Scone Race Club will host an inaugural 'stand alone' Saturday meeting in addition to the traditional Scone Cup remaining on the Friday with total prizemoney for that day alone at around \$600,000. Like the Melbourne Cup, Scone Cup belongs to the people and we are delighted to see this town's racing heritage elevated to the national level.

We hope you enjoy today's opportunity to see the Melbourne Cup, and once again I wish to thank the VRC and our sponsors for making this visit possible. I hope you will enjoy a piece of racing history by joining us today ... and all the best for your ticket in the sweep come the first Tuesday in November!



Opening Ceremony Melbourne Cup Celebration
UHSC Chambers Friday 15th October 2010

Geoff White Fred Mose Des Gleeson Mayor Watts Noel Leckie Bill Howey



Geoff White

Bill Howey

Five Melbourne Cups

Geoff and Beryl White were a great help. I was sitting with Des Gleeson at the welcoming ceremony when they walked into the chamber. Recognition was instant. It helps immensely when serendipity delivers piquant moments such as this.

Geoff and Beryl had owned and bred many champion racehorses including 'Marscay', 'Triscay', 'Eremein', 'Jetball', 'Euclase', 'Reeneact' and 'Yippyio'. The latter ran second in the Melbourne Cup 2000 beaten by 'Brew' having previously won a Brisbane Cup. Winning the cup had eluded Geoff but there were no hard feelings. Since 1976 the White family bred 380 horse for 301 runners (66% winners) and seven (7) individual Group I winners; an enviable record by any standards. The great thing about Geoff and Beryl is that success never changed them. They still retained their country origin charm: in Geoff's case Hillston and in Beryl's Deniliquin. It was a privilege for me to stake the rostrum with Geoff. We also shared time of the RAS of NSW Council.



Fred Moses

Noel Leckie

Bill Howey

Fred is the great grandson of F. A. Moses of 'Arrowfield' who bred and raced 'Poitrel'.



Finale party at the UHSC on Friday 15th October 2010

Strathearn Village

Strathearn Village was for me a fifteen year journey. I was persuaded by Michael Johnsen to join the Board in 2002. This was a catastrophic time for the organisation. The previous Board had struggled through the agonies of its misguided and ultimately disastrous foray into the construction of a Shopping Centre and Supermarket. The apocryphal story is well known. A thoroughly disillusioned and demoralised charitable institution was saddled with a loss exceeding \$4 million. CEO Kevin Klose had only recently (2001) taken over the reins. He thought all he had to do was collect the rent from the tenants in the Shopping Centre. Reality was very different. There was nothing to be done but get stuck in. We did. Within three years I became Chairman of the Board. I held the position for five years 2005 – 2010. During this time we developed a vision for a wholly owned brand new facility on a green field site. Working closely with Kevin Klose we clawed back the debt and by 2010 had a surplus of \$7 million. This was a good start. I had invited Kate Mailer, Gordon Halliday, Blair Parry-Okeden and Ron Martin to join me on the Board. This was pivotal to success. Others came and went. There was always at least one Doctor from Scone Medical Practice. Most significantly I cajoled solicitor David White to act in advisory capacity. I could never coerce him into joining the Board.

Kevin Klose sought greener pastures in late 2008. After an exhaustive process we appointed a new CEO Mathew Downie in 2009. We managed to secure 8 hectares (18 acres) of ground along Gundy Road from Kate Fraser for \$750,000:00. Next we then entered into a contract with Design/Construct firm Paynter Dixon to develop the plan. Architects Jackson Teece from Newcastle was/were appointed also.

I was elected to the Upper Hunter Shire Council in 2008 for a four year term. I naively thought this might prove to be an advantage. I doubt it ever was. Thinking there might be conflict of interest in 2010 I decided to resign as Chairman of the Strathearn Village Board. Gordon Halliday succeeded me with Kate Mailer as his deputy. This was my succession plan. Firmly in place were fresh documents including a new Constitution, Corporate Governance Guidelines, Financial Modelling and many working manuscripts. It's never a totally smooth pathway. No-one wanted to take on the Capital Campaign for fund raising. Initially we approached a professional fund raiser from Sydney. This proved to be unworkable; and too expensive!

I somewhat reluctantly took on the role of Chairman of the Capital Campaign. I hate asking people for money at any time. This was a noble cause; or so we thought. Sarah had volunteered for us to host a campaign launch at 'Geraldton'. WE had kick-started the appeal to the tune of \$50,000:00 already although almost no-one knew this. I don't think I would have done it otherwise. There were many synergies. Our home had been the residence of two generations of Scone Doctors covering almost 60 years of the 20th century. Founder Dr Walter Pye had been a regular visitor. We had successfully hosted many other community functions. The special ambience at 'Geraldton' has much to recommend it. We knew Sarah's garden was a drawcard anyway. Most of the essential equipment we had on hand. The cost of hire was right! The courtyard is a special place for a certain number of people. We hoped for the optimum not the maximum. It worked out that way on the day.

The following montage of photographs is a litany of the day's activities. We had selected Dr W. E. J. Paradice to deliver the plenary oration. He was earlier usurped to some extent by both Gordon and Matt who left him with very little new to say. He carried it off with professional aplomb anyway.



'Meet and greet'

Ron Martin

Gordon Halliday

Bill Howey



Scene in the courtyard: perfect day!



Seniors Erudite Exposition



Room at the rear



Dr W. E. J. ('Wej') Paradise AM PhD

Wej was 'home bred' and had for very many years fronted up the Hunter Valley Research Foundation. He was also a Conjoint Professor at the University of Newcastle. He proved to be the ideal choice.

Not all was smooth sailing. It was a massive contract; arguably the largest undertaken in Scone for decades. I began to have some reservations; mainly to do with governance. I decided to resign in early 2015. I was later vindicated. However I was honoured to be invited to open the new facility of Gundy Road known as Strathearn House with icon Jim Clarke OAM. This was in July 2016. Jim barely made it. He was very ill at the time. Kate Mailer was the hostess for the opening ceremony which had changed dates several times.



Jim Clarke OAM (seated) Bill Howey Waid Crockett Mayor Wayne & Mrs Bedggood

This was taken immediately after the opening ceremony inside Strathearn House. Unbeknown to both Jim and I there was much consternation in the camp. Strathearn had just been notified they had failed in several of the key performance indicators in the triennial Accreditation Assessment process. They had in fact been threatened with de-registration. In retrospect I thought the ambience was subdued on the day?

Less than six months later on 1st December 2016 Gordon Halliday called me up to tell me Strathearn Village had been 'merged' with Hammond Care and was now a wholly owned subsidiary. I was absolutely stunned. Both Gordon and Kate stated this was 'the best outcome for the community'. I find that hard to reconcile when a facility totally owned and developed by a society and worth a conservative \$30 million is handed over in a very short space of time? Since Dr Walter Pye's grand vision in 1971 a huge amount of actual and intellectual property had been invested in the project. The potential value I roughly calculated as much as \$100 million in 25 years. Later it dawned on me this might have been inevitable? However there remain some unexplained fundamental errors in governance which are still unresolved? I may never know. The sanguine tell me we are extremely lucky to have a facility of this size, scope and scale in the town. Let's rest on that laurel.

Major Issues Upper Hunter [Scone] Development 2004* – 2025*

I was frequently approached to provide feedback on future development. This is my summary document. Not infrequently this was reproduced in differing format(s) purporting the views of others! I am reminded by one of my more erudite colleagues:

‘Any good idea doesn’t care who owns it’.

Encouragement! Enlargement! Enrichment! Enhancement! Embellishment!

1. **Tourist Destination** - Upper Hunter promoted as ‘elite’ national/international tourist destination with appropriate infrastructure emphasizing our unique features and heritage including the ‘backpacker trail’
2. **Road and Rail Infrastructure** specifically to accommodate expected major increase in ‘heavy vehicle’ and ‘coal train’ loads as well as small vehicle traffic especially the NEH/Kelly Street and railway line through Scone
3. **Development of Kelly Street** precinct as ‘consumer friendly environment’ with special ambience for the safe conduct of trade, commerce and social interaction with minimal vehicular impact
4. **Concomitant co-development strategies** to maximize opportunities and minimize the impact of **mining industry expansion** in the Upper Hunter and to our north
5. **Water resource management and water augmentation** schemes as a major priority for all water users with a fair and equitable distribution of water rights
6. **Environmentally acceptable** and strictly controlled expansion of local [employment enhancing] industries such as the abattoir and equivalent
7. **Controlled expansion** of residential and commercial space* [* in progress]
8. **Create ‘Country/Town Society’** capable of retaining/returning intellectually elite ‘cadre’ to the town and district on a permanent [family] basis
9. **Health Care** in general and focus especially for a full range of **Aged Care** options and Hospital accommodation [**Strathearn Village**]
10. **Education** opportunities for families especially in the secondary school and tertiary sectors
11. **Cultural** enrichment in general
12. **Development of Scone Equine Centre** to world’s best standard international prominence
13. **Focus** on enhancement of Scone’s role as ‘**Home of the Horse**’
14. **Improvement** in ‘**Law and Order**’ in the community
15. **Public Transport** – re-establish cost effective and user friendly air service

[WPH 30/06/04]

Scone Traffic Action Group (STAG)

A small group of us (Michael Johnsen, Anne Frame, Max Roberts, Sarah Howey, Bill Howey) established an action team in 2002 to focus on Scone's burgeoning traffic problems. There were many iterations and reiterations. The following is a summary. If the Scone Bypass is ever constructed this is the main driver.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

SCONE TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

"Clarity of vision and unity of purpose"

In consultation with the wider community:

1. Develop a clear infrastructure plan to prepare the Municipality of Scone for future major transport corridor development including a Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route (HVAR)
2. Obviate dangerous railway crossing(s) over the NEH
3. Establish emergency vehicle access over/under the railway line East/West both ways
4. Create a pleasant environment and enhance the aesthetic appeal of Kelly Street
5. Encourage visitors to stay and spend time experiencing our community
6. Improve pedestrian safety particularly for children and the elderly
7. Develop a fully serviced rest and refill centre for heavy vehicles outside the Municipality of Scone
8. Encourage new business opportunities and safe parking in Kelly Street especially for the aged, incapacitated and/or otherwise compromised.
9. Expedite the flow of heavy vehicles on their journey
10. Reduce ('minimise') noise and fuel pollution in Kelly Street

Footnote:

The current challenges in relation to transport infrastructure are the greatest since the construction of the Great North Road (1826 – 1832) and the arrival of the railway (1871). It is highly likely that within 5 years (2018) there will be 50,000 coal trains and 5 million traffic movements per annum through the very commercial heart and social hub of the Municipality of Scone. In an ideal world it would highly desirable to seek alternative routes for both heavy industry rail and road transport.

Why Score?

'Vibrant local volunteer community concerned with health care, aged care, education, employment, adequate policing, public transport and committed to arranging events such as shows, gymkhanas and tennis tournaments' [NFF 21/07/04]

'Points of difference' – some generic – some specific – some repetitive:

- Family ties and reunions
- Objective perception by visitors
- Area of great natural beauty
- Attractive location/destination
- Active service, sporting and cultural clubs [Bridge, ADFAS etc.]
- Exceptional sporting facilities
- 'Affordability'
- Proximity to major centres – Sydney, Newcastle, Coast, New England
- Public transport access to above – Cityrail, Buses, Planes
- Proximity to areas of 'exceptional' natural beauty: Barrington Tops, Glenbawn etc.
- Perceived area profile and reputation – 'Horse Capital of Australia'
- Graziers/farmers preferred retirement option
- Downsizing farm
- 'Country change' flow out and flow on [C/f and contrast 'Sea change']
- Pristine pollution-free healthy environment, climate and lifestyle – 'healthy clean green perception'
- 'Like-minded' community cohort and attractions
- Access to health care facilities and services:
 - Doctors
 - Dentists
 - Nurses
 - Hospital
 - Aged Care Facility
 - Home Care
 - Physiotherapists/Occupational Therapists etc.
- Horse related activities and reputation
- Education opportunities for children and adults:
 - Secondary Schools
 - Pre-schools
 - Primary Schools
 - TAFE
 - Child care facilities
- Adult club activities – Quota, Rotary etc.
- Investment potential – 'growth area'
- Good employment prospects short and long term
- Country 'feel' without remote 'tyranny of distance'
- Shopping options and specialist shops

- Quality recreation pursuits - Café society, restaurants
- Rural retirees preferred retirement option
- Horse industry 'in toto' – Dressage, Rodeo, Thoroughbred Breeding, Australian Stock Horse Society, Pony Club, Polo Club, Polocrosse Club etc.
- 'Space' with intimate propinquity to superior facilities
- Saleyards
- Veterinary industry

WPH 21/07/04

Why Scone Revisited?

I wrote the first draft of this in 2004. At that time I quoted the National Farmers Federation's definition of an 'ideal' country town as: *'Vibrant local volunteer community concerned with health care, aged care, education, employment, adequate policing, public transport and committed to arranging events such as shows, gymkhanas and tennis tournaments'* [NFF 21/07/04]. How have things changed?

There are/were a number of 'points of difference'; some generic, some specific and some repetitive. These include but are not exclusive to; Family ties and reunions, Objective perception by visitors, Area of great natural beauty, Attractive location/destination, Active service, sporting and cultural clubs [Bridge, ADFAS etc.], Exceptional sporting facilities, 'Affordability', Proximity to major centres – Sydney, Newcastle, Coast, New England, Public transport access to above (Cityrail, Buses, 'Planes'), Proximity to areas of 'exceptional' natural beauty: Barrington Tops, Glenbawn etc., Perceived area profile and reputation – 'Horse Capital of Australia', Graziers/farmers preferred retirement option, Downsizing farm, 'Country change' flow out and flow on [C/f and contrast 'Sea change'], Pristine pollution-free healthy environment, climate and lifestyle – 'healthy clean green perception', 'Like-minded' community cohort and attractions, Access to health care facilities and services: Doctors, Dentists, Nurses, Hospital, Aged Care Facility, Home Care, Physiotherapists/Occupational Therapists etc., Horse related activities and reputation, Education opportunities for children and adults: Secondary Schools, Pre-schools, Primary Schools, TAFE, Child care facilities, Adult club activities – Quota, Rotary etc., Investment potential – 'growth area', Good employment prospects short and long term, Country 'feel' without remote 'tyranny of distance', Shopping options and specialist shops, Quality recreation pursuits - Café society, restaurants, Rural retirees preferred retirement option, Horse industry 'in toto' – Dressage, Rodeo, Thoroughbred Breeding, Australian Stock Horse Society, Pony Club, Polo Club, Polocrosse Club etc., 'Space' with intimate propinquity to superior facilities, Cattle saleyards, Veterinary industry – and so forth?

How do we score eight years down the track? I think it looks pretty good? Perhaps one minor (or major) polemic depending on your perceptions is the ever increasing trend to commerce, trade and industry away from our traditional comfort zone of essentially agricultural options? Is the industry major of 'food production' just another euphemism for abattoir? To what extent has Scone become a node on the ever expanding industrial corridor linking the Hunter Valley portal export hub with the excessively rich trading fields to our immediate north? How has/have the road and rail transport carriage-ways in particular impacted on our domain with their inevitable concomitant commercial development (think 'Big Mac')? Have we reached – or exceeded – the NFF definition of urban rural idyll? Your call! Your choice! (WPH 29/12/10)

Why We Live Where We Live

Macca does it well on his iconic 'Australia All Over' ABC Radio Program every Sunday morning. The responses to 'why we live where we live' are as varied as they are innovative and inventive. They all agree on a few tenets. Everyone thinks that their place is the best in the world – and they don't want it to change! The urban perspective is slightly different. The following vignettes are taken following a survey conducted by the Australian Psychological Society and misquoted from Domain.com.au. If we substitute 'town' or 'village' for 'suburb' then perhaps it still has rural resonance? *"People always identify slightly 'aspirationally', so when they imagine themselves in a suburb they like to think the other residents are somehow like them. Every household will relocate according to the very best 'housing bundle' that can be assembled. People make choices based on selecting the best housing bundle within the constraints and opportunities on offer to them. Old ties like family connections to a location are not as important as they used to be. It is aspects of the place and not people that are important in choosing the location in which you live. People select a locality based on those factors that support their lifestyle and which provide them with the environmental setting in which they want to live. People now choose places according to how easy it can make their life".*

So there you go! Sound familiar – or are family ties really more important in rural Australia? It seems people are more interested in what a 'town' can offer them, rather than what they can offer their community. It's all about fast and functional living with fun on tap. Is this how we want it to be? What do you see as the idyll for the future of the Upper Hunter Community? Recent events are throwing up all sorts of challenges as to what the Upper Hunter will be like for our successors and successor's successors. What is immutable is that change will inevitably occur. In my 42 years here Scone is dramatically and demonstrably different – much of it for the better! We will witness increasing and encroaching industrialization. How much impact will this have on our 'way of life'? Already there is an East/West divide in Scone with the road and rail corridors increasing exponentially. Aberdeen, Merriwa and Murrurundi beware! It will be your turn within a generation. The fervent Kelly Street plea is 'please don't let us be like Muswellbrook'! No surprises there! The choice is not for Wind Turbines or Coal Mining but for both in unison. Even 'Warnie' would have been proud of that spin! How much should we protect 'where we live' to the exclusion or restriction of trade and commerce? There are some very clear messages about establishing a buffer zone or *cordon sanitaire* around the UHSC geographical limits. Essentially this means North of Aberdeen. Influential leaders in our community have articulated very clearly their 'take' on the marriage (and unity) between Australia's two great production industries: Agriculture and Mining. They have issued dire warnings about protecting our unique advantages – especially horse breeding! How compatible are they in the big picture of Land Use Planning and Utilization of Resources? What is the price we are prepared to pay to at least 'keep the lights on'? Realistically we are committed to major carbon fuel energy production for at least another generation. I guess the response is up to us? The great challenge is to get the balancing act right! Just ruminating!

Commentator Alan Jones recently berated the 'Wallaby' management team as only he can. 'We are rotten with potential' he proclaimed. 'The problem we have is that we have lost momentum towards success and the passion for success'. I too worry about potential – especially now. Nothing if not realized! I will finish with a quotation from Goethe: *'Whatever you can do or dream you can do, begin itboldness has genius, power and magic in it'*. Perhaps I should go out and start the hand mower? Is this a bold move? It might make me feel better – although I doubt it!

(W.P.H. 01/10/09)

Wellbeing Watch

A monitor of health, wealth and happiness in the Hunter

I am writing this because you may not read about it elsewhere? We **are** concerned for your wellbeing and welfare! Recently Hunter Councils allocated \$20,000 grant to the Hunter Valley Research Foundation (HVERF) to produce the latest edition of *Wellbeing Watch*, the HVERF's monitor of the health, wealth and happiness of Hunter Residents. Some of this is your money. Hunter Councils is the highly successful resource sharing conglomerate for the 11 Hunter Regional Councils. I represent your interests on the Environment portfolio. Rest assured the money will be well spent because top local Scone bloke Dr WEJ Paradise is the big boss @ the HVERF! (Am I suggesting nepotism?). Wellbeing Watch is a research program which commenced in 2006. It aims to assess the quality of life in the Hunter, explain trends in how people live and provide an understanding of the influences on wellbeing and how regional wellbeing can be improved. This unique research program builds upon the HVERF's existing regional research and in particular its economic indicators. Wellbeing Watch is based on the results from a telephone survey of 2,000 households conducted every two years and will ultimately help answer an underlying research question: is life in the Hunter Region improving? With 1.1% unemployment we must be near the top of the tree in this domain?

Hunter Council's chairman, Cr Martin Rush commented: "Our Board agreed to support the publication of *Wellbeing Watch* because we perceived there to be great value in gaining access to information on the ways in which our local and regional communities are responding to the social and economic environments in which we live. Local government is committed to enhancing lives, life opportunities and aspirations of our residents. Reliable wellbeing information presented in a comprehensive and comprehensible form will be of enormous assistance in that regard, and we welcome the opportunity of supporting the publication. HVERF Director of Research Dr Andrew Searles said in response: "The survey data provides a wealth of information unavailable through other sources, and releasing the latest findings allows the Foundation to help local government and other regional stakeholders to make informed decisions and to prioritise areas of need in our communities. The measure of wellbeing in the Hunter is based on an index constructed from answers to questions on survey participants including: overall level of happiness with life's circumstances, level of satisfaction with achievements, standard of living, health, personal relationships, satisfaction with local community, future financial security and life overall. The index also included the extent to which participants felt valued and how optimistic participants felt about the future."

The 2009 survey showed that the average level of wellbeing in the Hunter was 73/100. Scores in this range reflected individuals who answered each component of the wellbeing index in a relatively positive way. The level of wellbeing in the Hunter is consistent with national wellbeing scores when measured on a similar index with scores between 70 and 80 reported as being typical for Australia. Benchmarking par excellence? I like measurement! How about we go for broke in the UHSC area – does the devils' number for cricketers 87 sound OK? You will be pleased to know that at the local level your UHSC is deeply concerned with health and ageing including your 'wellbeing'. Proactive Community Services Officer at Murrurundi Heather Ranclaud drives the Community Services Committee responsible for the development of Ageing and Health and Wellbeing Strategies. Heather is multi-talented and her anodyne dulcet timbres are much in evidence at 'Murratones' performances! I feel better already! 'Health' is defined as 'a state of complete physical, social and mental wellbeing'. 'Wellbeing' is 'the ability to respond to stress ups and downs'. Positive health and wellbeing mean you are able to survive with minimal outside care. Sounds good to me? You can check this out online or at your local Merriwa/Murrurundi/Scone UHSC office. Yes I'm guilty of plagiarising yet again! No doubt mind watch Bill Presland will report back?

A Century of Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Excellence

By Brian Russell & Bill Howey

Two of the colts walked from Percy Miller's Kia Ora Stud in the Segenhoe Valley near Scone to the railhead at Aberdeen in 1943 for shipment to Sydney for the Inglis Easter Yearling sales were the Midstream Colts Shannon and Murray Stream. Shannon ranks as one of Australia's greatest milers and overseas exports. After winning races in California in world record times he went to stud and sired good winners before premature death at 14. Shannon and Murray Stream were among hundreds of winners bred by Miller in thirty years in the first half of last century. At the time Kia Ora challenged as the biggest and most successful source of winners in the world and on occasion they took over 100 yearlings to the Easter sales. Sent down several months before the sale they were either led or driven to the rail station and loaded in special horse boxes on trains. Off loaded at Sydney's Darling Harbour they were then led in the early hours of the morning out to the paddocks then encompassed by the Inglis sale yards at Randwick. Besides Shannon and Murray Stream the horses bred on Kia Ora at that time included Windbag (won the Melbourne Cup in Australasian record time), Delta (won Melbourne Cup, Cox Plate, Victoria Derby), Hydrogen (won the Cox Plate twice) and Amounis (won 33 races and for a short time was Australia's leading money earner).

One historic galloper who wasn't sired on Kia Ora although they often get the credit is Peter Pan, winner of the Melbourne Cups of 1932 and 1934. He was bred by Rodney Dangar of Singleton from a mating with Pantheon, the import who finished third in the 1926 Melbourne Cup and stood initially at the Kingsfield Stud. Moved next door to Kia Ora the next year Pantheon got Peter Pan from his one season at the Kingsfield Stud, one which subsequently had much of its country swallowed up by Glenbawn Dam. His dam may have been railed to Aberdeen and then walked to Kingsfield.

Kia Ora was part of a 10,000 acre grant in a valley served by the Hunter and pages Rivers provided to English businessman and politician Thomas Potter Macqueen in the early 1820s after it had been surveyed by Rodney Dangar's grandfather Henry Dangar. Established for him by Peter Macintyre the valley was called Segenhoe after Macqueen's birthplace Segenhoe Manor. In 1826 they stood the first thoroughbred sire in the Hunter Valley, and England bred stallion named Crawford. As they were very likely a few mares in the region as early as 1820, the Hunter Valley is on the eve of 200 years as horse breeding country.

One of the greatest Hunter Valley bred horses of early last century was the 1916 foaled Beauford, winner of 17 races. He ran four times against the icon performer Gloaming and beat him twice. He was bred by the Mackay family, owners for over half a century of the Tinagroo Stud northwest of Scone. It is then owned by a branch of the Macintyre family and latterly acquired by locally bred David Paradise. Another branch of the Mackay family produced in the Upper Hunter Royal Sovereign winner in 1964-65 the AJC, VRC and QTC Derbies and second in the Caulfield Cup. One of their properties joined the Sledmere Stud at Scone, the one on which Sailor's Guide was raised. He followed up wins in the Victoria Derby and Sydney Cup by being awarded the Washington DC International in America after being second across the line to Tudor Era. In the same year that Beauford was foaled a horse produced on Camyr Allyn on the southern side of Scone went on to be a giant of Australian racing. He was Eurythmic and he won 31 of his 47 starts including top races in Perth and Melbourne.

A rival of Eurythmic and Beauford was Poitrel a winner of the Melbourne Cup under 10 stone (63.5 kgs). He was bred by the Moses brothers then owners of Arrowfield now Coolmore near Jerrys Plains. They were leading breeders for 20 years early last century and included among the horses they bred was Heroic, an outstanding galloper and seven times champion stallion. Bred on Widden one of his sons Ajax won 18 races straight. One of the early champions raised by the Moses on Arrowfield was Poseidon (1903) but they bought him as a foal at foot with his dam off Rodney Dangar when he broke up the Neotsfield Stud near Singleton in 1904. As a 3-year-old Poseidon won 14 races including the AJC Derby, Victoria Derby, Caulfield Cup, Melbourne Cup and VRC and AJC St Legers. He backed up to take the Caulfield Cup again at four but could only manage to finish eighth under the burden of 10 stone three pounds in his second Melbourne Cup.

In the same decade that Poseidon won the Melbourne Cup the great staying test was taken out by four other Hunter Valley bred horses namely Lord Cardigan (won at three in 1904 and a close second to another Hunter runner Acrasia in 1905), Lord Nolan (1908) and Prince Foote (1909). Lord Cardigan and Lord Nolan were both bred and raced by Maitland identity John Mayo and were by Dangar's imported sire Positano a son of the world's leading of early last century St Simon. Positano also sired Piastre (won the 1912 Melbourne Cup) and Mooltan (second in 1907).

The biggest source of winners in the Hunter Valley in the quarter century 1950-75 was the Woodlands Stud. In that era it was under the stewardship of George Ryder, father of the Golden Slipper, and good sires including Newtown Wonder and Pipe of Peace. For 20 years to the mid-1980s Woodlands in the ownership of the Ingham brothers, became one of the biggest breeding operations in the world. One of the horses they bred and raced was Lonhro, an Australian Horse of the Year and a champion sire.

Several years ago the Inghams sold out their thoroughbred empire to Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, a ruler of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and one of the world's leading stud, broodmare and racehorse owner for a price reportedly close on half a billion dollars. He had already established the Darley Stud near Aberdeen and is now a huge force as an owner with the former Scone horseman Peter Snowdon as his champion trainer for a while. Darley is one of the big players in a revolution in horse breeding and racing that has elevated the Hunter Valley in the current century into one of the world's greatest thoroughbred regions both in the quality of the products and the showplace appearance of the studs. They include two of the world's biggest ever thoroughbred operations, Darley/Godolphin and Ireland headquartered Coolmore, John Messara headed Arrowfield, Vinery (formerly Segenhoe), Emirates Park (also Dubai owned), Widden and newcomer Newgate Farm.

The Hunter Valley's use of visiting sires took off in 1990 with the debut appearance of Danehill, a champion European 3-year-old sprinter who went on to be the Australian champion sire a record nine times and to become the biggest force in Australian thoroughbred breeding history.

Dedication:

I wish to also dedicate this modest tome to my good friend Brian Russell as well as 'Bim' Thompson

Shannon

Almost more than any other horse in the 20th century 'Shannon' epitomises the very best of folk lore in both thoroughbred breeding and racing in the Upper Hunter Valley. He captured all the elements of hardship, perseverance, application, dedication, romance, rich drama, emotion, high theatre and human endeavour in his truly remarkable career. Percy Miller, Bert Riddle, Peter Riddle and Barney O'Brien became household names. Later added to the list were W. J. 'Knockout' Smith and further lustre to Darby Munro.



Shannon was foaled at Kia Ora Stud in the New South Wales Hunter Valley in the spring of 1941. His sire Midstream was a son of Blandford, and his dam Idle Words was by the champion stallion Magpie. Their union was then unremarkable. The Blandford line was new to Australian breeding, and Shannon was dropped from only the second crop of Midstream progeny. Although plain and small he proved far from unremarkable. In five seasons of Sydney racing Shannon was peerless.

He won the Epsom Handicap, King's Cup and George Main Stakes (twice); sometimes a length in hand, sometimes six. He defeated horses such as Flight and Tea Rose in an era marked by heroes including Bernborough, and he was quick. Crazy quick. Shannon's unofficial time in the 1946 Epsom mile (1:32.5) still stands at Randwick, as does a seven-furlong record at Rosehill. By the time he came up for sale in 1947, he was a rising 7-year-old but remarkably preserved. He had raced only 25 times.

Shannon's sale to the U.S. followed a trend of Australian bloodstock steaming its way to American farms at that time. Beau Pere, Ajax, and Bernborough had all found stud careers in America.

Shannon was to tread new territory. He wasn't sold to stud; he was sold to race. He became the first Australian Thoroughbred to infiltrate the highest levels of American horse racing.

Taking quite some time to find his best form and after much archaic and bureaucratic drama the 'Bullet from Down Under' found his true metier. In rapid succession in 1948 he won the Argonaut, Hollywood Gold Cup, Forty-Niners, Golden Gate, and San Francisco handicaps. Shannon broke long established records for nine and ten furlong races in the process

He was syndicated and sent to Spendthrift Farm owned by the leviathan Leslie Combs II. Although well patronized by his syndicate of owners Shannon's stud record did not reflect his racing record. He was a far better racehorse than stallion. He produced 132 foals of racing age. One hundred and nineteen made it to the racetrack of which 100 were winners. Shannon produced only six stakes winners before he died in 1955.



Shannon at Spendthrift Farm, Keeneland Meadows, Lexington KY in 1951

(With acknowledgement Jessica Owers: 'Shannon': Ebury Press 2013. Published by Random House Pty Ltd)

Mad Dogs and Englishmen

Noel Coward first articulated the concept and did very well out of it. Me: not quite so well. I'm a Ten Pound Pom. The first week end after I arrived in Australia following an arduous, horrendous, exacting but equally exciting journey I decided to take a walk. It was Sunday. There wasn't much to do. I hadn't been to church. I really didn't know anyone. My hospitable host family needed time to themselves. It was a warm, 'even-hot-for-a-Pom' day in mid-October. On rare days like this in the old dirt it was an opportunity not to be missed. Late morning I set off for Flat Rock perhaps then and now Scone's premier look out and best kept secret. I didn't even wear a hat. I haven't been without one ever since. Mr and Mrs Bain were bemused but supportive. They were both immigrants themselves. What they knew but I didn't was that no-one voluntarily 'went for walks' in rural Australia; all except parvenu arriviste Poms that is. Worse still I was pallid, fair complexioned and naïve. Hatless but hirsute I determinedly defied the midday sun. I was mildly surprised to have the purview entirely to myself. In those days one didn't even carry a water bottle. No-one had told me. 'Cool' eye shades were a generation away. Florid, panting but triumphant I returned to base. I was fitter then. The Bain family were ostensibly relieved to have me back. Their nine and ten year old daughters must have wondered what sort of odd ball was staying at their house. They were agreeably polite. Little did they know what was later to be confirmed.

Noel Coward also said to 'book now to avoid depression'. I had to do this to deflect melancholia. In 'Darkness Visible' William Styron wrote:

"Mysteriously and in ways that are totally remote from normal experience, the gray drizzle of horror induced by depression takes on the quality of physical pain ... it is entirely natural that the victim begins to think ceaselessly of oblivion.....unbearable darkness of being.....ordeal of fogbound horror.....plummeting into a glacial downward spiral, the twilight zone of chronic mood disorder".

In writing plunder plagiarize and purloin where possible. Isolation is a curse. Community is cathartic. However I digress. I'm good at digression. All I needed to confirm Sir Noel Cowards' dire pommy prognosis was a rabid black dog for company. I have never been back to Flat Rock in the succeeding fifty years. A leading Hunter Valley socialite once told me 'you think differently'. That's my excuse anyway. Maybe I have a left handed brain? I've often wondered. I'll leave the final words to William Styron:

"For those who have dwelt in depression's dark wood, and known its inexplicable agony, the return from the abyss is not unlike the ascent of the poet, trudging upward and upward out of hell's black depths and at last emerging into 'the shining world'.

On reflection I think it's probably better to avoid the midday sun.

W. P. H.

Thoroughbred Breeding History in the Upper Hunter Valley

Executive Summary

The history of thoroughbred breeding in the Upper Hunter Valley dates back to the very early days of settlement with the importation of the TB Stallion 'Crawford' to Potter Macqueen's Segenhoe Stud in 1826. Since then there has been an expanding continuum. In the early 21st century the valley is acknowledged as one of the premier TB breeding areas of the world comparing favourably with both Newmarket UK and Kentucky USA. There have been a number of iterations when one area of the valley or another has reigned supreme. Broadly speaking the region has been divided into at least three geographical clusters: Denman and environs including Widden, Bylong and Baerami Valleys plus Jerrys Plains, Muswellbrook and district, Scone and region with Merriwa and also latterly the Murrurundi/Timor precinct. It might be reasonable to argue that the TB enterprises were gradually squeezed northwards by the encroaching coal mining industry from earlier establishments in the lower Hunter Valley; especially around Maitland. Remarkably the 'mud map' of thoroughbred studs in 1900 very closely resembles that for 2016 with ownership the only issue. There is one notable exception: Widden Stud.

The Hon James White was the pioneer leviathan owner-breeder in the early days of metropolitan racing in both Sydney and Melbourne. His trail blazing forays included Epsom Derby assault on the august Jockey Club establishment in England. During the latter part of the 19th century the Thompson family of the Widden & Bylong Valleys were preeminent. Brothers W & F. A. Moses sustained a brief but exceptionally productive period at 'Arrowfield' (now 'Coolmore') near Jerrys Plains early in the 20th century. Many of their champion racehorse and later stallions stood at Widden. Percy Miller at Kia Ora Stud, Scone superintended a long string of champion stallions which produced several Melbourne Cup winners. The importation of Star Kingdom by Stanley Wootton in 1950 heralded a golden period in Australian TB breeding. Star Kingdom stood at Baramul Stud in the Widden Valley. 'Baramul' was owned by Sydney solicitor A. O. Ellison. R. F. Moses of Fairways Stud Muswellbrook was co-owner of Star Kingdom with Wootton and Ellison. In 1946 with several partners George Ryder acquired Woodlands Stud Farm Pty Ltd at Denman. By the 1960s under Ryder's management it reputedly produced annually more individual winners of more races than any other stud in the world. Newton Wonder, a very successful sire, was followed by the imports Pipe of Peace, Sostenuto and King of Babylon and the Australian-born Sky High. In 1970 Ryder sold Woodlands but almost immediately bought Kia Ora Stud Farm Pty Ltd at Scone. He championed the use of Australian-bred thoroughbred sires there until 1977. These included syndicated sires Gunsynd and Baguette. Woodlands was acquired by Bob Kleberg, King Ranch, Texas USA and Lord Derby UK. They later sold to the Ingham Brothers Jack and Bob which heralded another vastly successful period for Woodlands. The latter is now part of the enormously productive global empire Darley or Godolphin owned by the ruler of Dubai. The latter part of the 20th century and well into the 21st has been dominated by the story of the imported 'Danehill'. Initially standing in a joint venture partnership between 'Arrowfield' Jerrys Plains and 'Coolmore' Ireland at the Jerrys Plains property Danehill and his sire sons have eclipsed all the records previously claimed by the likes of Heroic (Widden) and Star Kingdom (Baramul). Under John Messara's tutelage the eponymous 'Arrowfield Stud' later moved to the Segenhoe Valley near Scone. This further consolidated this regional area as the epicentre of TB breeding in Australia. The valley is further enhanced by nascent reiterations in the locale including the neighbouring lower Rouchel Valley.

Requiem

I plagiarised the following for delivery at my sister Diana's memorial service in 2016. I purposely repeated the punchline: 'And the hunter home form the hill'



Although he wrote many stories which are set in the South Seas, Robert Louis Stevenson's native land remained in his thoughts.

He had completed 'The Master of Ballantrae' during his cruise, and once settled at Vailima he began work on a new novel. 'Weir of Hermiston' is claimed by many to be his finest work, although it was never completed.

Sudden death

One evening in December 1894, Stevenson died very suddenly. He had defied his weak lungs for over 40 years, but in the end it was a brain haemorrhage which killed him. The final words of his unfinished novel were strangely appropriate:

'It had seemed unprovoked, a wilful convulsion of brute nature ...'

Home is the sailor

Fourteen years earlier, when he was very ill in California, Stevenson had composed his own epitaph:

**'Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.**

***This be the verse you grave for me:
Here she lies where she longed to be;
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.'***

And the hunter home from the hill.



Burial on Mt Vaea 1894

Sarah and I visited Mt Vaea on a most memorable holiday in Samoa. We stayed at legendary Aggie Grey's in Apia. I thought this was one of the most poignantly beautiful places I had ever been in my life. It resonated trenchantly with me. Reaching the pinnacle was a real struggle up the hill trail through the hot clammy humid tropical rain forest. I chose this moving vignette from the life and death of RLS for Diana's finale. I didn't think I could do any better? My brother John delivered it on my behalf.

Colonoscopy

This is an article by journalist, Dave Barry. Other than professional names I wouldn't change a thing!

I called my friend Andy Sable, a gastroenterologist, to make an appointment for a colonoscopy. A few days later, in his office, Andy showed me a colour diagram of the colon, a lengthy organ that appears to go all over the place, at one point passing briefly through Minneapolis. Then Andy explained the colonoscopy procedure to me in a thorough, reassuring and patient manner. I nodded thoughtfully, but I didn't really hear anything he said, because my brain was shrieking, quote: 'He's going to stick a tube 17,000 feet up your behind!'

I left Andy's office with some written instructions, and a prescription for a product called 'MoviPrep,' which comes in a box large enough to hold a microwave oven. I will discuss MoviPrep in detail later; for now suffice it to say that we must never allow it to fall into the hands of America's enemies.

I spent the next several days productively sitting around being nervous.

Then, on the day before my colonoscopy, I began my preparation. In accordance with my instructions, I didn't eat any solid food that day; all I had was chicken broth, which is basically water, only with less flavour. Then, in the evening, I took the MoviPrep. You mix two packets of powder together in a one-litre plastic jug. Then you fill it with lukewarm water. (For those unfamiliar with the metric system, a litre is about 32 gallons.) Then you have to drink the whole jug. This takes about an hour, because MoviPrep tastes - and here I am being kind - like a mixture of goat spit and urinal cleanser, with just a hint of lemon.

The instructions for MoviPrep, clearly written by somebody with a great sense of humour, state that after you drink it, 'a loose watery bowel movement may result.' This is kind of like saying that after you jump off your roof, you may experience contact with the ground.

MoviPrep is a nuclear laxative. I don't want to be too graphic, here, but have you ever seen a space-shuttle launch? This is pretty much the MoviPrep experience, with you as the shuttle. There are times when you wish the commode had a seat belt. You spend several hours pretty much confined to the bathroom, spurting violently. You eliminate everything. And then, when you figure you must be totally empty, you have to drink another litre of MoviPrep, at which point, as far as I can tell, your bowels travel into the future and start eliminating food that you have not even eaten yet.

After an action-packed evening, I finally got to sleep. The next morning my wife drove me to the clinic. I was very nervous. Not only was I worried about the procedure, but I had been experiencing occasional return bouts of MoviPrep spurtage. I was thinking, 'What if I spurt on Andy?' How do you apologize to a friend for something like that? Flowers would not be enough.

At the clinic I had to sign many forms acknowledging that I understood and totally agreed with whatever the heck the forms said. Then they led me to a room full of other colonoscopy people, where I went inside a little curtained space and took off my clothes and put on one of those hospital garments designed by sadist perverts, the kind that, when you put it on, makes you feel even more naked than when you are actually naked.

Then a nurse named Eddie put a little needle in a vein in my left hand. Ordinarily I would have fainted, but Eddie was very good, and I was already lying down. Eddie also told me that some people put vodka in their MoviPrep. At first I was ticked off that I hadn't thought of this, but then I pondered what would happen if you got yourself too tipsy to make it to the bathroom, so you were staggering around in full Fire Hose Mode. You would have no choice but to burn your house.

When everything was ready, Eddie wheeled me into the procedure room, where Andy was waiting with a nurse and an anaesthetist. I did not see the 17,000-foot tube, but I knew Andy had it hidden around there somewhere. I was seriously nervous at this point. Andy had me roll over on my left side, and the anaesthetist began hooking something up to the needle in my hand. There was music playing in the room, and I realized that the song was 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA. I remarked to Andy that, of all the songs that could be playing during this particular procedure, 'Dancing Queen' has to be the least appropriate.

'You want me to turn it up?' said Andy, from somewhere behind me. 'Ha Ha,' I said. And then it was time, the moment I had been dreading for more than a decade. If you are squeamish, prepare yourself, because I am going to tell you, in explicit detail, exactly what it was like.

I have no idea. Really, I slept through it. One moment, ABBA was yelling 'Dancing Queen, Feel the beat of the tambourine,' and the next moment, I was back in the other room, waking up in a very mellow mood. Andy was looking down at me and asking me how I felt. I felt excellent. I felt even more excellent when Andy told me that it was all over, and that my colon had passed with flying colours. I have never been prouder of an internal organ.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who writes a regular column in the Miami Herald.

I like his brand of humour. I think I'm heading towards the distal orifice of potpourri?

Dealing with detritus

This is the execrable excretory end of the accrual and disposal spectrum and no-one wants to talk about it! Dealing with detritus has always been a problem for mankind. Count Leo Tolstoy and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi shared a somewhat extreme philosophy. In a nutshell they believed there was greater honour in disposing of the products of what they euphemistically called 'body labour' than producing and accumulating it? They felt guilty about 'untouchability' and their caste. The actual quotations are a trite stark and banal but suffice it to say the 'Mahatma' had a fixation about latrines and their hierarchy! Winston Churchill was unimpressed with the latter scorning him as "a seditious Middle Temple lawyer now posing as a fakir.... striding half naked". Imagine the emphasis he placed on pronunciation of fakir! It's heavy stuff (literally) and perhaps going a bit too far for most of us. Since the explosion of Dr Paul Ehrlich's 'Population Bomb' within the past fifty years this conundrum has assumed even greater and more urgent dimensions. Billions more people and concomitant increased habitat destruction has inevitably generated exponentially more human-use garbage not even counting sewerage. Like most other Councils your UHSC has a waste and recycling policy aimed at the provision of services that are environmentally sustainable. There are three components to this strategy namely waste disposal, fortnightly recycling collections and weekly waste collection. Please note the spelling of 'weekly' – not 'weakly'! I'm sure you're all intimately familiar with the timetables also available on the website? I have learned to appreciate the value of benchmarking. Like most 'new tricks' with advancing age it has taken me some time! On a recent annual pilgrimage to the Test Cricket at the SCG Coliseum at Moore Park I was exposed to a circular distributed by the Woollahra Municipal Council. Whilst momentarily deflected by the momentous achievements of skipper 'Pup' Clarke and cohort crew I took time out to read it. Entitled 'Recycling your organics' it was peppered with catchy alliterative semantic clichés. 'Kitchen to compost', 'credit for composting', 'wrap your scraps' and 'compost revolution' were all there.

With the advent of our total disposal society there are some new pearls of wisdom to contemplate? Unlike Woollahra Municipal Council we do not have a green bin service – yet. Don't we actually live in one? Being 'in the country' there is much we can do to help ourselves and buttress the environment. Recycling food scraps has never been easier. In summer especially it's a good idea to wrap leftovers in newspaper. Paper absorbs and reduces moisture which in turn inhibits smells, maggots and the like. Much to my surprise significant advances in carbon credits are achievable by keeping thousands of tonnes of food scraps out of landfill. Rotting organics in landfill including food, garden and other organics produce the toxic greenhouse gas methane in spades. Has anyone told the cows? Methane produced by animals is not new. Recent research has shown that Dinosaurs were experts. Mighty leviathan herbivorous plant-eating Sauropods generated enormous quantities of Methane 'front and back' and were extra generous in its emissions with no concessions to courtesy. Mind you they are extinct! Were they the architects of their own demise? Back to the future worm farming is also a good idea. In the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney it's called the compost revolution. We could have told them so. NFP NGO *Do Something* and the NSW State Government actively promote the impacts of food wastage which draw attention to food consumption and wastage from "paddock to plate". These campaigns look into loss of resources when food is wasted such as water loss, how far food is transported, greenhouse gas emissions due to rotting landfill and the energy expended in order to store and refrigerate food. Maybe all we have to do is to invoke that rarest of commodities common sense? 'Elementary, my dear Watson'? I think I've heard that one somewhere before too?

The School of St Jude

Sarah and I have supported the School of St Jude in Tanzania almost since inception. It was founded by Gemma Rice/Sisia from Guyra. The mission of The School of St Jude is to educate disadvantaged, bright students from the Arusha District to become moral and intellectual leaders in their country. St Jude's will thereby demonstrate educational leadership in Tanzania. Poverty in Tanzania is endemic. Tanzania is ranked 204 out of 230 nations in the world for GDP per capita. As a nation Tanzania is unable to provide its children with a quality education. The government school system is overstretched, under-resourced, and produces poor educational outcomes for Tanzanian society.

St Jude's provides a free, high-quality education to children who due to poverty and social pressures would otherwise be unlikely to complete their schooling. Drawn from families who often live on less than \$1.25 per day the pupils of St Jude's are shining examples of what students can achieve when they are given the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Since 2002 St Jude's has added 150 students to the school each year. In 2015 the first senior class from The School of St Jude graduated from Form 6. St Jude's is working towards a model that supports its students through tertiary education and completing the mission to create the next generation of Tanzanian leaders. There are now over 2000 children enrolled spread though the various campuses.

Big Red Bus

I began by sponsoring the 'Big Red Bus'. Providing transport for the dirt poor students is vital. Many travel daily from remote rural locations which can be outlying Maasai tribal encampments with little or no road infrastructure. The state of many of the roads is egregious anyway. They are also extremely crowded within Arusha. Access to the humble 'houses' in the suburbs are mostly dirt tracks at best. The bus drives are a fundamental to the organisation. They are extremely proud of their vocation.



Felix was our charming erudite host in 2016. He started by driving **MY** Big Red Bus. Felix had visited Australia as a St Jude's ambassador on an awareness and fund raising mission.

Esupat Lemburis Laizer

Our very first sponsored student was Esupat Lemburis Laizer. She is our inaugural surrogate African daughter. We met extremely shy and introverted Esupat when she was in Year VI. Seven years later we attended her graduation at the end of Year XII equivalent although St Jude's follows the English system. We met a charming poised confident and erudite young lady well primed for the 21st century. It was a revelation and enormously satisfying. Esupat is Maasai. She brought her 'father's brother and her father's brother's friend' to the ceremony. This is cultural. In Maasai society a tribal leader can have a number of wives in his kraal. We were welcomed with open arms and made to feel very special. Esupat is very optimistic about her future. Aged twenty one she accepts mandatory three months national service in the armed forces and is proud to do it. She will spend the first three months on the frontier with Mozambique. Both genders must participate and have their heads shaved. This is partly a health measure (head lice) and also pragmatic economic convenience. There is no need for a haircut in three short months. Bantus all have short curly hair anyway. Rastafarian dreadlocks are a meretricious myth.

Esupat will work in 'Community' as a temporary teacher in a government school. She is enrolled at University in Dar Es Salaam to study health sciences. Eventually she wants to become a doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Gemma your plan is working!



Father's brother

Sarah

Esupat

Bill

We had an exchange of gifts which was quite emotional. The garments came from the home kraal and are traditional Maasai dress



The official graduation ceremony was most impressive. Principal Gemma Sisia is in the middle. Chairman of the Board John Bailey is next to her. John is a solicitor from Maitland.

Maria Gabriel Korumba

Maria Gabriel Korumba is our next project. We were privileged to be escorted by St Jude's graduate Suleiman to Maria's home in downtown Arusha. It was quite an experience and 'adventurous'. Her home is accessible only by walking down several very rough dirt 'streets' with no permanent water or sewerage. Garbage is disposed of indiscriminately. There is a power supply which looks very precarious.

We took with us a gift package including such precious items as sugar which is almost like gold in value. Maria's family consisted of her very young looking mother "and her mother's sister". Maria was the eldest of four siblings: a brother and two infant twins. Father is away working in a brewery in Dar Es Salaam which is apparently quite common. He clearly visits occasionally! Any earned income must come from him. The very modest abode is basically a mud hut constructed of wattle-and-daub. There appeared to be two main 'rooms' with a very ancient and tiny TV turned on all the time but which no-one appeared to watch. We were entertained to morning tea and a type of small popcorn roasted on a steel plate over a raw flame. Fortunately Suleiman could translate. Only Maria could speak any English. It appeared Maria was very much in demand by the younger siblings. Most impressively there was a huge diagram of the anatomical parts of the human body covering one whole wall; annotated in English. Maria has a stated ambition to become a doctor. I've no doubt she will make it.



Meal preparation: mother her sister and twins



Maria is at the left front. The twins eventually thawed out after being terrified initially.



There was a very convenient and convivial bar just outside the main gate into St Jude's. Jock Bidwell with the pink shirt and back-to-camera on the left began his teaching career at Stewarts Brook.



Tutor Sarah in a class of 105 in the local government school. The children were bright!



Safaris-R-Us

Walter in the centre (tallest) was a magnificent guide



Local talent

Geraldton

GERALDTON GARDEN

c. 1860 0.6 ha (1.5 acres)

Home of Bill and Sarah Howey

The original construction was a four-room cottage called **Belmore House** built by its owner Mathew Miller. **Mr JAK Shaw** purchased it in 1909 and renamed it **Geraldton** after his wife Geraldine.

In the late 1920's **Dr Oswald Barton** son of Australia's first Prime Minister Sir Edmund Barton purchased Geraldton. His son Toby and wife Janet returned to live at Geraldton in 1957. During this period Janet and Toby set about repairing and restoring the house and garden creating the courtyard as it is today and constructing the sandstone walls. They planted many of the deciduous trees including Plane (1957), English Elm, Chestnut, Box Elder in the courtyard, Celtis and Hibiscus hedge. We have simplified the garden by removing some garden beds. We feel the house is pretty enough to stand on its own without the clutter of unnecessary plantings. We have tried to keep the garden "sit-on mower" friendly.

The Jacarandas were planted by Mrs Oswald Barton and watered by bucket from the old hand pump to the left of the front of the house. Geraldton has three 'redundant' underground tanks!

In the front garden as you enter the gate we removed the iron bark trees and planted roses: Hybrid Musk, Felicia, Cornelia, Buff Beauty, Penelope, as well as Charles Austin, Heritage and Clair Matin. We have tried to keep a simple easy care garden relaxing and cool with an emphasis on perfumed plants.

Bill wanted to encourage birds by placing water around the garden and planting cover. We live in hope that one day the fairy wrens will return! We have had some success attracting parrots especially a family of King Parrots who often shelter under the plane tree during our hot summer days. Satin Bower Birds have established and his entourage visited for some time.

The 1860's slab hut at one time a cow bail and now Bill's woodshed can be seen at the back of the garden. Plantings around the visitor's cottage and pool area are simple repeats of the front garden, seaside daisy, catmint, euphorbia, scabiosa, salvia, iris and valerian of all colours, and lavenders. These plants seem to do well here so I dare not argue with them! Roses in this area include Dapple Dawn, Duet, Iceberg, and Pierre de Ronsard. The side fence shared with 'Hillview' and the tennis court fences are planted with star jasmine and Banksia rose and in late September the wisteria is stunning draped over the courtyard wall.

We limit our watering were possible except to look after the deciduous trees and we seem to be waging constant war with the possums and 'tweediana' (cat's claw creeper). It must have been a very popular climber early last century! Being novice gardeners when we purchased Geraldton 10 years ago we sought advice and help from many family and friends including **Ross Watson** (lawn), **Prue Robertson** and **Jose the Spanish Back-Packer** who spent a week with us in the autumn and successfully tamed the plumbago hedge amongst other things! Thank you also to **Anna Gipps** who looked after the garden while Bill and I were in Sydney for three years.

Sarah Howey October 2003



“Looking Back, Looking Forward”

Retrospective Ruminations of the Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA)

Prospective Dyspeptic Rumbblings of Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA)

Preamble

Prior to the 1960's horse practice had long languished for many decades in the arcane world of whimsical ephemora! There was a practiced mystery about matters equine partly designed to protect the assumed 'special knowledge' of its major proponents. They were 'expert emissaries of elliptical communication'! A thinly disguised and rather calculated *mystique* prevailed. During the enlightened '60's a few real scientists began to fully examine 'what makes a horse good' and what 'makes a good horse'? This process involved the unraveling of esoteric paradigms and elucidation of the first principles of equine diseases and degrees of health. This period also coincided with the greatest ever exponential population growth in thoroughbreds in Australia probably associated with the introduction of TAB betting and its 'flow on' effects. Horse or equine practice emerged as the 'flavour of the decade' during the '70's.

My earliest recollection of an elite congregation of expert equine exponents was the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science J. D. Stewart Course on 'Equine Diseases' in 1970. Driven by the icon Dr. T. G. Hungerford this was held at the old Wallace Lecture Theatre on Science Road at Sydney University. The keynote speaker was Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania Dr. Jim Rooney DVM. Dr. Rooney had autopsied over 900 horses and was a revelation! He was very ably supported by A. M. Bain, P. E. Sykes, D. R. Hutchins, T. K. Bell, Hugh McL. Gordon, R. R. Pascoe, J. D. Steel, M. Robinson, R. H. C. Penney, L. H. Larsen, P. Fallon and J. G. McLean. Even today this would be judged an eclectic coterie! We were 'swinging from the rafters' or at least standing in the isles! This truly was enlightenment, enrichment, encouragement, embellishment and enlargement! The seed was sewn!



L to R: Tom Hungerford, Dr. Jim Rooney, Murray Bain, Percy Sykes, Reg Pascoe and Dave Hutchins

Warmed by the success of this venture Tom (Hungerford) was not slow to tap into the potentially lucrative equine veterinary continuing education market. It was an almost impossible task to assuage the genuine thirst for knowledge. Equine Reproduction was high on everyone's agenda and Tom brought Peter Rosedale to Australia on no fewer than three occasions. Each was a sure fire winner!

Association of Official Racing Veterinarians (AORV)

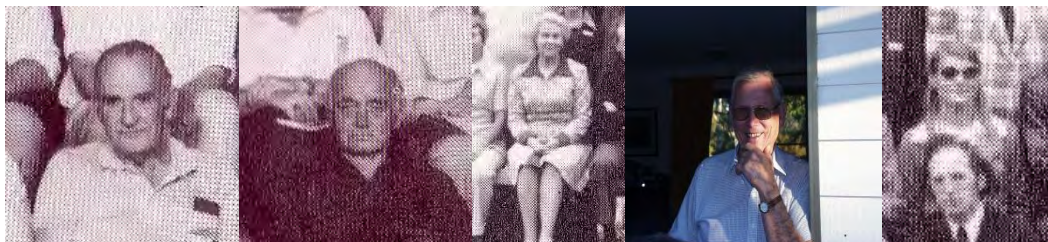
The AORV had been formed at the promulgation of the Conference of Principal Race Clubs to meet collaboratively on an annual basis with the Racing Analysts and discuss matters of mutual interest. Initially this was a closed 'elite' club restricted to veterinarians representing the Principal Clubs. Later it was expanded to include veterinarians who delivered services to almost any registered race club. I think it would be true to say that the AORV was the forerunner of the Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA).



Dr. John Bourke

Conception & Genesis

On the other side of the world both the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) had sprung into existence. Armed with prior knowledge of established role models a group of visionary veterinarians convened a meeting at the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Conference in Canberra in 1971. Among those present were Dr. John Bourke, Dr. Reg Pascoe, Dr. Les McManamny, Dr. Virginia Osborne and Dr. Peter Irwin. The AEVA was conceived! Use your imagination! The same group agreed to meet the following year at the AVA AGM in Brisbane where the AEVA was arguably 'borne'! The inaugural Constitution and Rules and By Laws as a Special Interest Group (SIG) under the banner of the AVA were adopted.



L to R: Peter Irwin, Les McManamny, Virginia Osborne, Reg Pascoe and Patricia Ellis

The same (or similar like-minded) group of equine veterinarians were to meet regularly on the International stage in the ensuing years. This tended to cement friendships, establish close liaison and generally bind the cohort into a well-knit team of visionaries with similar aims and objects. I think this philosophy indelibly imprinted itself among this group to eventually emerge as the functionary AEVA? There was a lot of bonding, imprinting and congeniality! Most important of these 'expeditions' were the First International Symposium upon Equine Reproduction at Cambridge UK immediately followed by the First International Equine Veterinary Conference in Kruger Park, South Africa in 1974. Attendance at the Second International Symposium upon Equine Reproduction at UC Davis, California USA in 1978 gave rise to the Third International Symposium upon Equine Reproduction in Sydney in 1982. In my admittedly (subjective) view this was the 'biggest and best' achievement of the AEVA and yet to be emulated or matched? (See below).



First International Symposium on Equine Reproduction

Kings College Cambridge University UK 1974



Doug Mitchell, 'Twink' Allen and Peter Rossdale



Second International Symposium on Equine Reproduction

UC Davis California USA 1978

Evolution & Egress

With no money and no assets and few financial members the EAVA struggled to stay afloat for a number of years. The Association relied entirely on the good will and self support of the elected delegates. Predictably early Executive Meetings were not well attended with usually only 4/5 from the Eastern States presented. It was not until the appointment of Ms Audrey Best as equivalent Full Time Administration Officer (1977) that the AEVA began to flourish and prosper. I used to refer to her as 'Miss Audrey Doubleplusgood'. This was a direct parody of 'Newspeak' from George Orwell's iconic social commentary 'Nineteen Eighty Four'. (See below)



Ms Audrey Best

Early Association

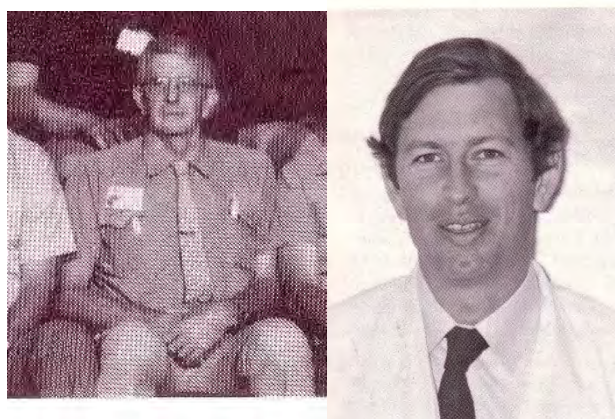
My association with the Australian Equine Veterinary Association (AEVA) began in 1973. I succeeded Virginia Osborne as NSW delegate. Virginia had been appointed to the inaugural Executive Committee in 1971. President John Bourke and Honorary Secretary Tony Stewart were most surprised when I attended 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 spouse 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 Birth of Bain Fallon

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, ingénue debutant 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) where I made my local speaking debut. The establishment of the AEVA was first mooted in Canberra by John Bourke and others and cemented in Brisbane (See above). 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 early Honorary Editor Dick Dixon.



Phil Knight and 'Young Gun' Reuben Rose

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 reigns 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. Don McFadden from 'Tatura' chartered a light aircraft and brought a full load from north-east Victoria to the meeting. 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.



Professor Bill Pickett and Professor Cliff Irvine

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. The rest as they say is history!

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

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



Sassanian Bronze Statue Circa 300-600A.D

Symbol of the Third International Symposium on Equine Reproduction

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.

Andrew Murray Bain BSc MRCVS



Murray Bain

Murray Bain died at Scone in New South Wales on 18 March 1974 after a long and painful illness courageously endured.

Murray graduated from the Royal (Dick) Veterinary School, Edinburgh, in July 1937 and after service with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in the Middle East during World War II, followed by brief periods spent gaining experience of thoroughbred breeding in Kentucky and New Zealand, he settled at Scone, NSW, in 1950 where he worked until his death. In this time he built up a large group practice, based primarily on work with thoroughbred breeding. His particular interests were infertility in the mare, diseases of new born foals and the many management problems associated with thoroughbred breeding. He kept detailed records of all his cases and over the years published many authoritative papers based upon his observations. He took an active interest in post-graduate education and was one of the foundation members of the Post-Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney. He was a gifted speaker and gave many interesting lectures to veterinary surgeons and horse breeders throughout Australia, New Zealand, America and Great Britain. He was awarded the Seddon Prize by the Australian Veterinary Association for his major contributions to clinical veterinary medicine.

Despite many years of life in Australia, Murray was always a proud Scot, remaining conscious of his early upbringing in Scotland and his training at 'The Dick'. He was strong, agile, energetic and tremendously able as a practicing veterinary surgeon. By the time of his death he had acquired a great fund of knowledge and experience in equine veterinary medicine which gave him the confidence and decisiveness so well known to all those who knew him as a friend or sought his professional help and advice. He had an ordered mind and was clean and tidy in his work. He enjoyed life to the full and always encouraged others to join in with him. He took a lively interest in a wide field of activities and was especially prominent in making Scone the active centre of thoroughbred breeding as well as racing in Australia that it is. He was full of praise for things well done and equally intolerant of anything that he thought was wrong.

Murray became ill at the height of his career and to this end felt frustrated and disappointed that his life should ebb away when he still had so much more to contribute. He hated the sickness that overtook him and fought hard and courageously against it.



Murray Bain and 'Birthday Card'

The following obituary was made for Peter Fallon.

Peter Fallon, B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc.

Peter Fallon died suddenly at his home in Burwood, Victoria, on 25 June 1974 on the eve of his departure to attend the Equine Reproduction Symposium on Cambridge.

A native of Christchurch, New Zealand, Peter studied Agricultural Sciences at Lincoln University, Christchurch, before transferring to the School of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, where he graduated in 1948. Following a period as resident veterinary surgeon on two major Thoroughbred Studs in Victoria, Peter established a private practice at Tallangatta in north-east Victoria in 1955. Three years later he moved to Burwood in Melbourne where, up to the time he died, he admirably served the veterinary needs of many important Thoroughbred Studs in Victoria and major racing stables in the metropolitan area of Melbourne.

A man of great drive, energy and common sense, Peter was always outspoken in his opinions which were backed by more than 30 years of hard work, experience and keen observation on Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding. While not a man of the written word, he nevertheless frequently presented the results of his original research and clinical investigations in his own inimitable style at numerous meetings of veterinary surgeons throughout Australasia. As a result, other veterinary surgeons engaged in equine stud practice greatly benefited from his long experience and clinical acumen.



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.

These remarkably percipient and eloquent tributes were placed by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Murray's great friend Professor W. R. 'Twink' Allen of Cambridge University. They emphasise from quite a distance many of Murray and Peter's special qualities including record keeping, cleanliness, hygiene and observation. Murray forever impressed on me: "the keeping of adequate records is every bit as important as the observation of the in season mare in the teasing yard". Some things one never forgets!

'Twink' Allen achieved great international acclaim as one of the greats in his field and a most eminent scientist. It was as a father-in-law that he found popular fame in the thoroughbred world however! His daughter married champion jockey Frankie Dettori and as befits the offspring of an eminent reproduction specialist produced five grandchildren! You can always attract a bite and more than a few expostulations if you ask him whether he is 'Frankie's father-in-law – or is Frankie your son-in-law'! There are a few extra G & T's required after that!

Evolution and Progress – Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA)

That the nascent AEVA evolved into a national veterinary icon is not in doubt. From humble beginnings it has been one of the great success stories of the profession and a role model for others to follow. Together with Small Animals (ASAVA) and Cattle (AACV) it has been the stand out Special Interest Group within the AVA. The internationally branded Bain Fallon Lectures are the envy of many other similar groups who would seek to emulate them. The following rather rambling ruminations are designed to guide possible future controlled 'expansion' of EVA. Much of this will depend on minute fiscal management and ability to generate 'resources' of sufficient funds from a relatively small cadre.

Bain Fallon

It would be heretic and churlish to challenge the structure and status of this iconic institution! However it is timely to remind present incumbents that Bain Fallon was instituted as 'a means to an end' rather than the end in itself? It was designed to provide the 'resources' (\$\$\$\$\$) to do everything else! To that extent it has fulfilled its early promise! It's inculcated 'bloke-ness' has been mooted as disparaging but perhaps those best qualified to comment are the many female veterinarians who frequent on an increasingly regular basis? Bain Fallon remains one of very few genuine 5-day scientific seminars on the international calendar. Perhaps its unique mix of 'science and social' is the key ingredient to enduring success? With long standing dependence on the successful financial outcome of each Bain Fallon it may be opportune to debate allocation of more support to the long suffering Administration Officer? Event management has become a 'specialty' and even 'outsourcing' should be on the agenda?

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning Meeting held in 2002 was a seminal event in the history of the organisation. Very ably facilitated by Warwick Vale the template for the future development of the AEVA/EVA was laid down. In the ensuing years much of the planning has been implemented with some fine tuning still to take place. The results are self evident? It is incumbent upon each successive Executive to revisit this plan and repeat the process at least every five years as an absolute minimum. The next is scheduled for 2008!



Strategic Planning Workshop 2002

Governance

Many people hate this word and it certainly resonates if not grates! The roles of the Executive have changed since inception in 1971 when 'volunteer' was the key word. Attitudes and expectations are very different almost four decades later. In harmony with myriad 'not-for-profit' volunteer groups throughout our society we should pose the question whether or not the original model is appropriate for today's situation? I fervently believe that volunteer committees may have reached their use-by date and a more streamlined structure is desirable? Recommended and/or optimum size and structure of committees are included in the AVA draft guidelines for governance of SIG's. These would suggest that the EVA is 'over-governed'? Perhaps the roles of Administrative Officer and Executive Officer together with the key appointments of President, President Elect and Chairmen of the four (4) Sub Committees should form the basis of a 'Management Council'?

Research

This is one area where there is much to be done – and probably always will be! Although individuals have excelled in promoting the concept it is still a festering blight on the Australian Horse Industry that adequate funding for equine research is as low as it is notwithstanding the excellent results achieved with miniscule means. The AEVA/EVA must share some of the accumulated blame for this extant situation. Ian Nielsen and Andrew Peacock came closest to establishing an industry based levy.

Education

This will always be a fundamental aim of every successive EVA Executive. Bain Fallon and its satellite 'workshops' are well entrenched. Skills training for young and recent graduates are innovative and highly desirable. More than ever mature and experienced veterinarians are responsible for those who will succeed them. Focus on youth with Young Members Groups will deliver untold benefits in the long term. The EVA should also seek to influence and provide education training designed to deliver 'credential' as an outcome of a course of study. This should be done in conjunction with all other providers of continuing education and professional development. Articulation pathways in equine education and clear career conduits should be an unremitting objective of the EVA.

Australian Equine Veterinarian (AEV)

The AEV had a very tentative beginning during the 1970's a direct copy of the New Zealand equivalent known as a 'Newsletter'. At one stage resources were combined with the ASAVA's 'Veterinary Practitioner'. This was short lived because of the obvious polarity of the two groups. The AEV has eventually matured after many metamorphoses and reincarnations into the model today. All have suffered from the same deficiency of inadequate resources! We (collectively) have never allocated enough time, people or money to the prime communication medium of the organisation. The journal has been something that has 'just happened'. Even so it has emerged as a most acceptable chronicle and may not be far off achieving 'peer reviewed' status? This could be a highly desirable objective for any new Executive? It will need money, time and expertise!

Website & Communications

The 'new' EVA website is testimony to its creator! If broadband access improves as the bipartisan politicians faithfully promise then the website will be even more important as an internal and external communication medium. I rather suspect the website has suffered from the same inadequate resources as the AEV? If the willing horse leaves, what happens then? Perhaps even presentations such as 'Pascoe Perorations' should be lodged there?



Webmaster Warwick

Science, Industry, Sponsorship and the EVA

The EVA has been highly if not uniquely successfully in attracting optimum support from industry by way of sponsorship especially in conjunction with Bain Fallon. There are distinct mutual advantages. If the profession is happy to use reputable products in practice then their endorsement in the general domain is most acceptable and does not compromise professional integrity. Industry will continue with this support while it is still worth its while!

Policy Council

There is no doubt the role of Policy Councilors will become more and more pivotal. The EVA should take the lead and develop its own models to present to the parent AVA.

'Elderwise Council'

Having promoted the premise of 'over government' perhaps it is inopportune to propose yet another level of corporate structure? There would appear to be a lot of 'accumulated corporate wisdom' going to waste on the scrap heap of ex-EVA Council Members? 'Aristippe' Chris Johnston has raised this issue a number of times. It may be the elected Executive could invite a finite number of ex-EVA Council Members to form a selected advisory group? This may not necessarily be restricted to the latter cabal? The Executive would allocate a number of defined tasks to deliver outcomes by a certain date. Education evolution and policy formulation are two obvious areas of early connection.

'They'

The AEVA/EVA has always been a volunteer organization. "They'll do it"! Who are 'they'? 'They' are thee, we, me and us! Let that be I (me)!

Conclusion

The 'good ship' EVA has travelled a long way and traversed many (philosophical) turbulent oceans. Why significantly alter a winning design? It is easy to be critical from the safe haven of 'the sanguine twilight zone of benign self-imposed genteel redundancy'! I rest my case!

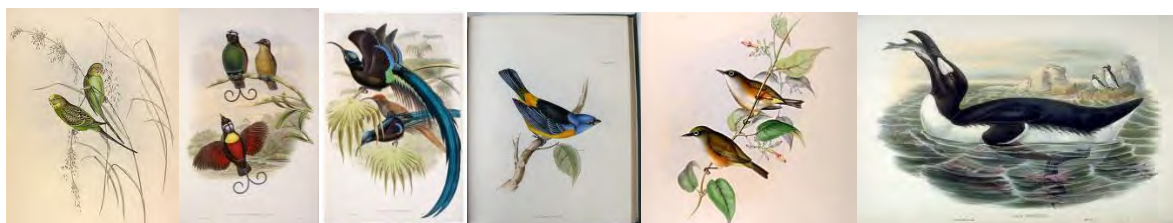
W. P. H.

July 2007 – or thereabouts!

Writers at Scone

I wrote the following as a 'promotional' for the inaugural Scone Literary Long Week End (Writer's Festival) in 2014. I think it's been oft quoted since?

John Gould FRS

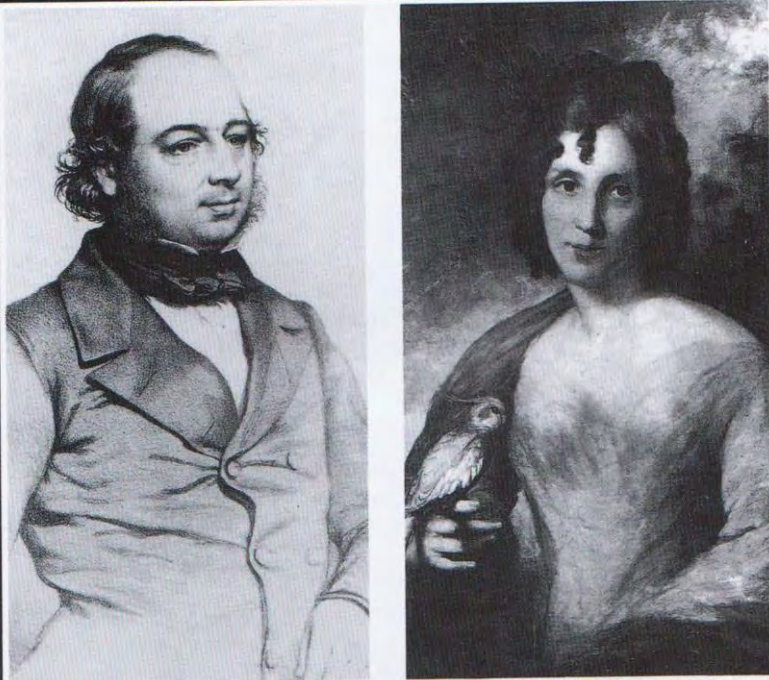


John Gould FRS (14 September 1804 – 3 February 1881) was an English ornithologist and bird artist. He published a number of monographs on birds, illustrated by plates that he produced with the assistance of his wife, Elizabeth Gould, and several other artists including Edward Lear, Henry Constantine Richter, Joseph Wolf and William Matthew Hart. He has been considered the father of bird study in Australia and the Gould League in Australia is named after him. His identification of the birds now nicknamed "Darwin's finches" played a role in the inception of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Gould's work is referenced in Charles Darwin's book, *On the Origin of Species*. He is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

In 1838 the John and Elizabeth (*nee* Coxen) Gould sailed to Australia, intending to study the birds of that country and be the first to produce a major work on the subject. They took with them the collector John Gilbert. They arrived in Tasmania in September, making the acquaintance of the governor Sir John Franklin and his wife. Gould and Gilbert collected on the island. In February 1839 Gould sailed to Sydney, leaving his pregnant wife with the Franklins. He travelled to his brother-in-law Stephen Coxen's station at 'Yarrundi', Scone spending his time searching for bowerbirds and lyrebirds in the Liverpool Range. He reported to Elizabeth that 'he was in excellent health and the colony agrees with me well'. He also mentioned the devastating drought. In April he returned to Tasmania for the birth of his son. In May he sailed to Adelaide to meet Charles Sturt, who was preparing to lead an expedition to the Murray River. Gould collected in the Mount Lofty Range, the Murray Scrubs and Kangaroo Island, returning again to Hobart in July. He then travelled with his wife to 'Yarrandi'. They returned home to England in May 1840.

The result of the trip was *The Birds of Australia* (1840–1848). It included a total of 600 plates in seven volumes, 328 of which were new to science and named by Gould. He also published *A Monograph of the Macropodidae, or Family of Kangaroos* (1841–1842) and the three volume work *The Mammals of Australia* (1849–1861).

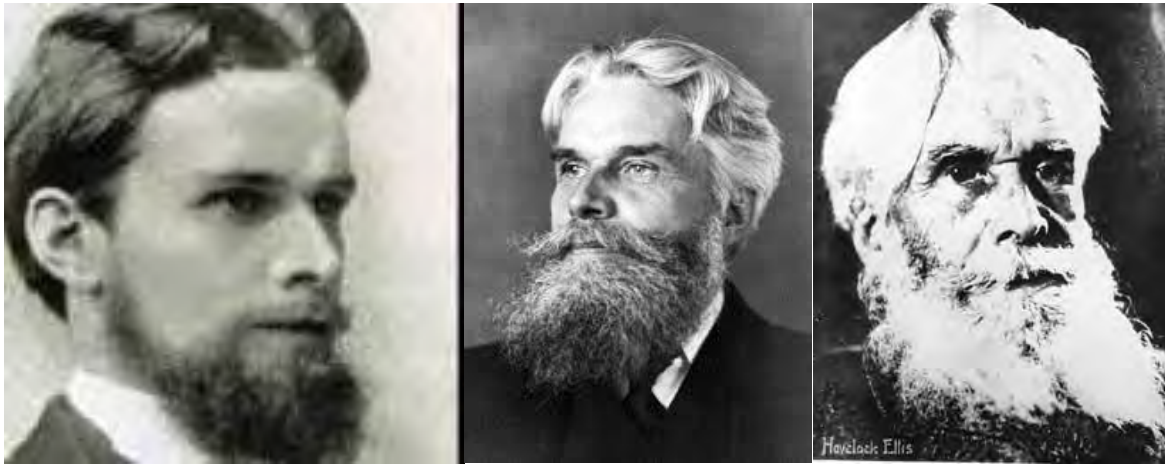
Elizabeth died in 1841 after the birth of their eighth child, Sarah, and Gould's books subsequently used illustrations by a number of artists, including Henry Constantine Richter, William Matthew Hart and Joseph Wolf.



Left: A portrait of John Gould at the age of 45,
by T. H. Maguire.

Right: Elizabeth Gould, in a portrait
painted after her death at the age of 37.
The cockatiel she holds was
one of those brought back from Australia.

Havelock Ellis



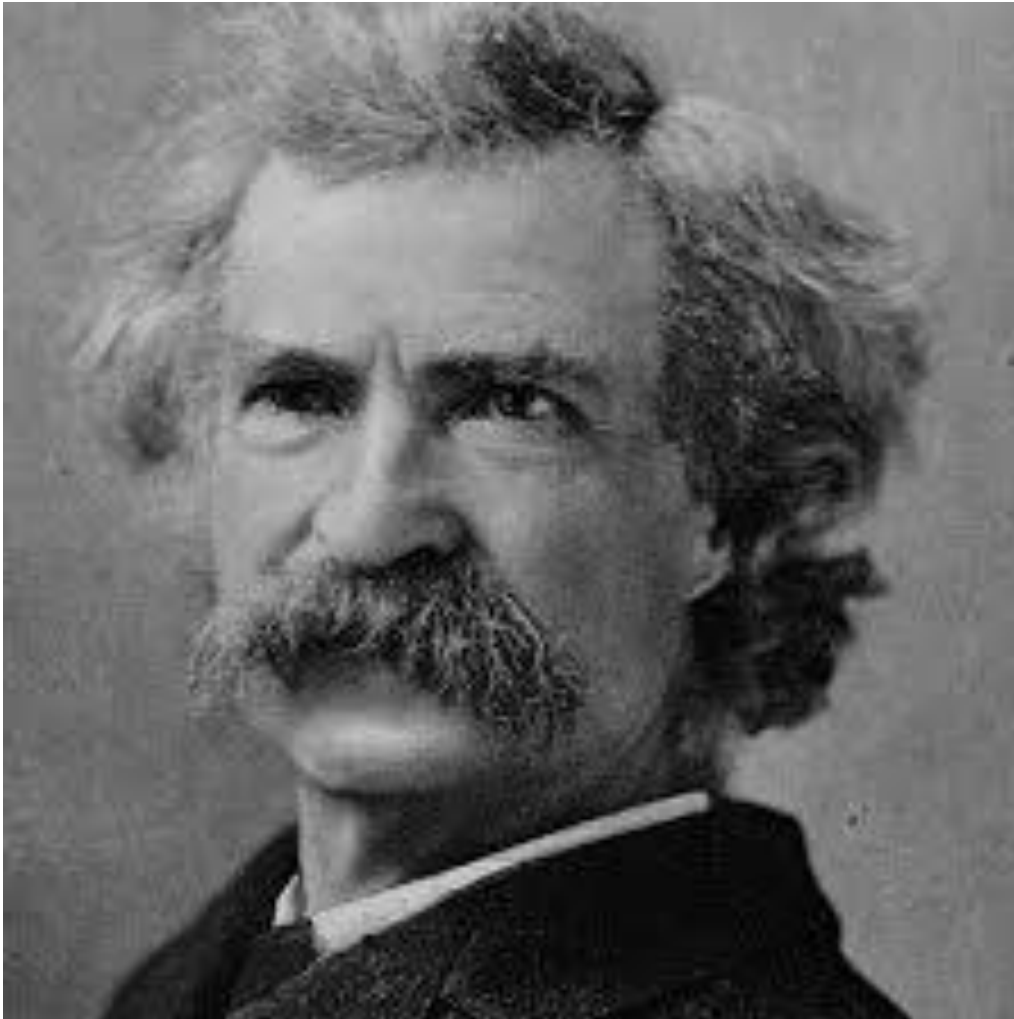
Henry Havelock Ellis, known as **Havelock Ellis** (2 February 1859 – 8 July 1939), was a British physician, writer, and social reformer who studied human sexuality. He was co-author of the first medical textbook in English on homosexuality in 1897, and also published works on a variety of sexual practices and inclinations, including transgender psychology. He is credited with introducing the notions of narcissism and autoeroticism, later adopted by psychoanalysis. He served as president of the Galton Institute and, like many intellectuals of his era, supported eugenics.

In April 1875, Ellis sailed on his father's ship for Australia; soon after his arrival in Sydney, he obtained a position as a master at a private school. After the discovery of his lack of training, he was fired and became a tutor for a family living a few miles from Carcoar. He spent a year there and then obtained a position as a master at a grammar school in Grafton. The headmaster had died and Ellis carried on the school for that year, but was unsuccessful.

At the end of the year, he returned to Sydney and, after three months' training, was given charge of two government part-time elementary schools, one at Sparkes Creek, near Scone, New South Wales and the other at Junction Creek. He lived at the school house on Sparkes Creek for a year. He wrote in his autobiography, *"In Australia, I gained health of body, I attained peace of soul, my life task was revealed to me, I was able to decide on a professional vocation, I became an artist in literature . . . these five points covered the whole activity of my life in the world. Some of them I should doubtless have reached without the aid of the Australian environment, scarcely all, and most of them I could never have achieved so completely if chance had not cast me into the solitude of the Liverpool Range."*

He resolved to return to England and sailed in *La Hogue* in January 1879. On 27 February he confided in his diary: *'These three years I have spent in Australia seem to me like those three during which Paul was in Arabia'*.

Mark Twain



America's famous humourist and orator Mark Twain (aka Samuel Langhorne Clemens) visited Newcastle on 19 December 1895, en route to deliver a public lecture in the upper Hunter township of Scone. On the train trip he had been working on his great Australian poem which he would later debut at this public lecture. Although he did plan for a more extensive tour of the region, Scone remains the farthest north he reached on his Australian journey. The original Willow Tree Hotel in Liverpool Street was built in the early 1840s. In 1894 it boasted to providing the best accommodation, an excellent sampling room for commercials, good stabling and a convenient paddock. Mark Twain stayed overnight at this hotel on Thursday 19th December 1895. He gave a lecture at the School of Arts in Kingdon Street before departing the next day at 11:25am arriving in Sydney at 7:15pm.

Since that transitory visit over one hundred years ago, a contemporary legend has emerged. A famous quote purported to have been uttered by Mark Twain that ***"Newcastle consists of a long street with a graveyard at one end with no bodies in it, and a gentleman's club at the other with no gentlemen in it"***, has infused the public imagination.

Patrick White AC



Patrick Victor Martindale White, AC (28 May 1912 – 30 September 1990) was an English-born Australian writer who is widely regarded as one of the most important English-language novelists of the 20th century. From 1935 until his death, he published 12 novels, three short-story collections and eight plays.

White was born in Knightsbridge, London, to an Australian father Victor “Dick” Martindale White and an English mother Ruth (nee Withycombe) White. Dick White was one of four brothers who owned and operated Belltrees Station near Scone. The family later moved to Sydney when Patrick was six months old. As a child he lived in a flat with his sister, a nanny, and a maid, while his parents lived in an adjoining flat.

At the age of four White developed asthma, a condition that had taken the life of his maternal grandfather. White's health was fragile throughout his childhood, which precluded his participation in many childhood activities. He loved the theatre, which he first visited at an early age. This love was expressed at home when he performed private rites in the garden and danced for his mother's friends.

At the age of ten, White was sent to Tudor House School, a boarding school in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, in an attempt to abate his asthma. It took him some time to adjust to the presence of other children. At boarding school he started to write plays. Even at this early age, White wrote about palpably adult themes. In 1924, the boarding school ran into financial trouble and the headmaster suggested that White be sent to a public school in England (Cheltenham), a suggestion his parents accepted. He later described it as "a four-year prison sentence". He asked his parents if he could leave school to become an actor. The parents compromised and allowed him to finish school early on the condition that he come home to Australia to try life on the land. His parents felt that he should work on the land rather than become a writer and hoped that his work as a jackaroo would temper his artistic ambitions. White spent two years working as a stockman at 'Bolaro', a station of 73-square-kilometre (28 sq mi) near Adaminaby on the edge of the Snowy Mountains in south-eastern Australia. Although he grew to respect the land and his health improved, it was clear that he was not cut out for this life.

Patrick White and Christina Stead continue to be widely recognised as the foremost Australian novelists of the 20th century. His writing tackles existential questions as well as myriad human flaws, weaknesses and hypocrisies, and it is full of fresh and original metaphor. Admittedly, White's style is also often very condensed and perhaps at first somewhat difficult to approach – such noted writers as Robert Hughes and David Malouf have expressed their difficulties with some of White's writing. Nevertheless, Patrick White's greatness as a novelist remains undoubted.

In 2009, The Sydney Theatre Company staged White's play *The Season at Sarsaparilla*. In 2011 Fred Schepisi's film of *The Eye of the Storm* was released with screenplay adaptation by Judy Morris, Geoffrey Rush playing the (White-like?) son Basil, Judy Davis as the daughter Dorothy, and Charlotte Rampling as the dying matriarch Elizabeth Hunter. This is the first screen realisation of a White novel, fittingly the one that played a key role in the Swedish panel's choice of White as Nobel Prize winner. In 2010 White received posthumous recognition for his novel *The Vivisector*, which was shortlisted for the Lost Man Booker Prize for 1970

White's fiction employs humour, florid prose, shifting narrative vantage points and a stream of consciousness technique. In 1973, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, the first Australian to have been awarded the prize.

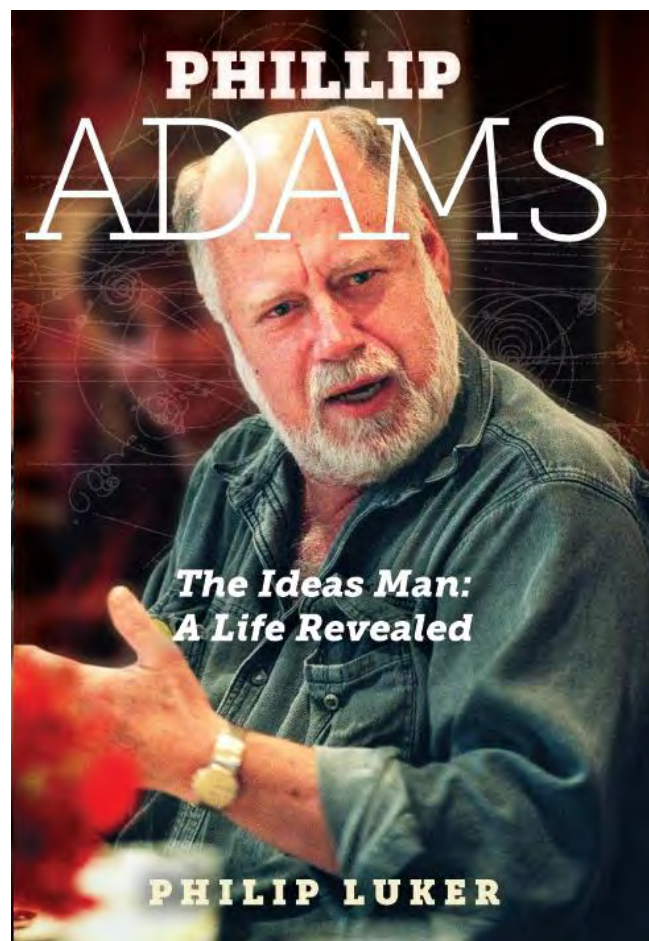
Phillip Adams AO

Phillip Andrew Hedley Adams, AO (born 12 July 1939) is an Australian farmer, broadcaster and public intellectual. He currently hosts an ABC radio program, *Late Night Live*, four nights a week, and writes a weekly column for *The Australian*. Largely self-educated (he left school in his mid-teens) he's the author of over 20 books, including *The Unspeakable Adams*, *Adams Versus God*, *Talkback*, *Retreat From Tolerance* and *A Billion Voices*. His writing has appeared in many of Australia's most influential publications and he has been a contributor to *The Times* and *The Financial Times* in London, and to the *New York Times*.

He has been a successful advertising executive and film producer, and has served on many boards including Greenpeace Australia, Ausflag, Care Australia, Film Victoria, National Museum of Australia, both the Adelaide and Brisbane festivals of ideas, the Montsalvat Arts Society and the Don Dunstan Foundation.

Awards include four honorary doctorates from Australian universities; two Orders of Australia; Republican of the Year 2005; the Senior ANZAC Fellowship; the Australian Humanist of the Year, the Golden Lion at Cannes; the Longford Award; and the Henry Lawson Australian Arts Award. In 1997 the International Astronomical Union named a minor planet orbiting the sun between Mars and Jupiter after him. A National Trust poll elected him one of Australia's 100 national living treasures.

'Books are increasingly the sleepers on the rusting railway line of your life, the pickets in the fence of your history, the bricks with which you've built your brain'



Patrice Newell

Patrice Lesley Newell (born 2 September 1956) is a former model, TV presenter, turned author, alternative lifestyle advocate and biodynamic farmer.

In 1986 she gave up a high profile career with the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) and Nine Network where she co-hosted *Today*, to live on the land and run a 10,000 acre (40 km²) beef cattle property, known as 'Elmswood', in the Hunter Region, New South Wales. Newell has a passion for biodynamic agriculture and healthy foods, which she talks about in her books *The Olive Grove* and *Ten Thousand Acres - A Love Story*. She is a founding member of the Hunter Olive Association.

Newell was the subject of *A Place in the Country*, the 4 October 2001 edition of the ABC-Television biography program, *Australian Story*.

In December 2006, she announced that she would be running for a seat on the New South Wales Legislative Council in the March 2007 New South Wales State election as an independent candidate endorsed by the Climate Change Coalition. Her policy platform was to put pressure on the Government to acknowledge that climate change is "the greatest crisis in human history" and that it should be recognised and taken into account in all Government policy. She did not win a seat.

Newell was the lead candidate on the New South Wales Senate group ticket for the Climate Change Coalition in the Australian federal election held on 24 November 2007. The party received 0.89% of first preferences in NSW or 0.0622 of a quota.

Patrice Newell is married to Phillip Adams and they have one daughter Aurora ('Rory').



Dr Judy White AM PhD

Judy White nee Crossing is the mother of five sons and two daughters and grandmother of seventeen. She lives at Belltrees near Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley, NSW. She has BEc (Sydney), MLITT (UNE), MA (Honoris Causa, Newcastle), PhD (Newcastle). She has been on many economic Boards in the Hunter Valley including the Hunter Economic Development Corporation, the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, the Hunter Institute of Technology, the Foundation Board of the University of Newcastle and Chairperson of the Hunter Valley Horse Expo. She was the recipient of a Woman 1988 Award for services to the Bicentenary and is on two theatrical boards in Sydney – The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust and The Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation. Judy is interested in preserving archives and has formulated the Belltrees Archives, helped with the preservation of the RAS Archives and now is helping in the formation of the NIDA Archives. Dr White is a prolific writer of history books about the Hunter Valley, its people and horses.

In Australian history, to understand the future, it's very important for Australians to understand their past. And we're very proud of the fact that there are seven generations at Belltrees. I've been told that if a member of the White family left Edinglassie, which is near Belltrees, down at Muswellbrook, and wanted to ride up to the Queensland border to one of their properties at Stanthorpe, that every night that they could stay on one of the White properties. So they ride and stay with a relation, ride again and stay with a relation, all the way to the Queensland border. So, in the end of the 19th century, they did own a huge amount of land.

These are the four brothers -- Henry, Ernest, Arthur and Victor, that really made Belltrees and converted it from -- well, just from an ordinary farm into a rather large pastoral estate. The family were not wealthy when they first started. They built up that with sheep and selling wool. And this whole homestead has been built on the success of wool. Belltrees was a village and they were very conscious about the people that worked on the place and their families. I mean, there were 200 people living here. We have been host and hostess to Prince Charles, governor-generals, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. So, we're very proud when people come from overseas to show them something truly Australian.

This house was built by J.W. Pender, who was an architect from Maitland -- a local architect -- and it was built in 1907, so it's Art Nouveau. All the wrought iron was cast in Morpeth. So, it is essentially a Hunter Valley house and it was the last house that J.W. Pender built. Fortunately, having this wonderfully big lawn here at Belltrees, we've been able to have every 10 years to celebrate. I had a pageant, a son et lumiere. We had 150 in the cast. Ah, we had horses and cattle and sheep and dancing and everybody in costumes and we sort of told the story of Belltrees.

What they used to do after shearing, we had 500 people, the old employees and we had 24 teams and we decided to have a fun match, with the teams competing with egg-and-spoon races, sack races, and it was just magnificent fun. And then after all that was over, we all went up to the shearing shed and we had the old dance and the children dancing with their grandfathers and it was a magnificent way of celebrating.

We've had 10 years of drought and we've had to diversify. And so we have gone into tourism. And that's been all a huge success. We have coach tours here. We divide the work. I've got my daughters-in-law who do the lunch, another one works in the office and I show them the homestead, so we work very much as a family unit. I have seven children and it's very important for my grandchildren to be able to come and get the feeling of the importance of the family unit here at Belltrees. There is a definite sense of belonging and belonging in this area.

Thoroughbred Hotel

EMPIRE HOTEL
SCONE

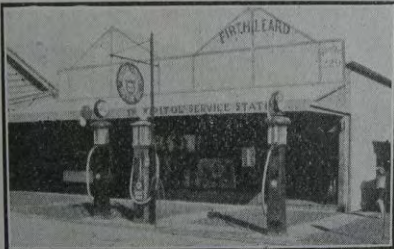


Prop.: CLWYDD WILSON Phone 11
As you enter Scone from Sydney on the right you will find
the Right Hotel to stay at. Bed and Breakfast 5/-.
Tariff . . Full Day 10/-; 40/- per week
Nearly opposite the Capitol Service Station and Garage
Eight Lock-up Garages

Thoroughbred (Empire) Hotel 1920

Capitol Service Station
SCONE

(opposite Empire Hotel)
Proprietors: FIRTH & LEARD



HUDSON ESSEX CARS
SALES AND SERVICE

AUTHORISED
FORD DEALERS

All Car Accessories and Necessities. Cars Washed and Polished. Tourists Specially Catered for. Leave your car and instructions overnight. While you sleep we work.

Phone Day or Night 229

26



My name is Bill Howey
I'm a fully certified ceremonial eunuch who seems to attract these gigs?

Ladies, Gentlemen and Others I give you:

The 21st Century Thoroughbred

“Where Champions Meet”

The ‘old’ thoroughbred especially resonates with me. It’s where I made my social debut in Scone almost exactly 50 years ago. Mine host Dan Harrison from Main Street bought me my very first Aussie ‘cold gold’ in the front bar in October 1967. I met redoubtable shearer Jack Cone. His proposed conjoint procurement plan to attract the opposite sex I firmly rejected. It was all in favour of Jack! Enough said about me.

Historical Perspective

Almost 100 years ago the Empire Hotel was at street level. The proprietor was Clwydd Wilson; (Thank God you’re called Peter, Peter). Telephone Number 11: Bed & Breakfast 5/-: Tariff Full Day 10/-; Tariff Per Week 40/-. As you enter Scone from Sydney on the right you will find the Right Hotel to stay at.

The Capitol Service Station & Garage with 8 lock-up garages was just across the road; opposite the Empire Hotel; Proprietors Firth & Leard; Hudson Essex Cars Sales & Service; Authorised Ford Dealers (Good Ol’ Henry’s tentacles had spread far); All Car Accessories and Necessities; Cars Washed and Polished; Tourists Specially Catered for; Leave your car and instructions overnight. While you sleep we work; Phone 229 day or night. It was a symbiotic relationship between two like-minded business houses. Now there’s the nub of an idea?

So what’s changed in 100 years?

Firstly I imagine Peter your putative fee structures have marched in tandem with inflation over the last century?

Less than 12 months ago I hadn't even heard of Peter Allen. I'd heard of A Peter Allen (ex-Tenterfield) but it wasn't you Peter. Peter came knocking on my door (literally) as I stepped from the XPT following a horrendous 96 hour return journey from Africa, Europe and Qatar. He postulated his grand plan. Could I help? After minimum deliberation and travel weary recovery I thought I could.

What a transformation has occurred within 12 months since my meeting with Peter! In harmony with equine design consultant Kriston Harris you've taken a tired, jaded, decrepit lubricious old courtesan; refurnished, refurbished, caparisoned and transformed her into a fabled multi-faceted hospitality totem most apposite for the unfurling epoch. I think she was once an 'aged mare' in Dr. J. J. McGirr's huge stable of country hotels?

Peter I'm inspired by the "The Demon". F. R. Spofforth refused to accept defeat at 'The Oval' on 29 August 1882. England needed only 85 runs to win in the fourth innings. The self-proclaimed Demon famously declared: "*Boys this thing can be done*". "*Boys this thing can be done*". He inspired his team to a famous win. Peter; Are you also a demonic leader? Did you tell your boys '*this thing can be done*'? It's all about leadership and its toggles.

Let's consider the four 'Essential Elements of the New Brand'.

1. Leadership: Paul Keating (remember him) stated 'Leadership' has two essential components: Vision & Courage
 - Vision: The prescient foresight to view the future; 'The Grand Plan'.
 - Courage: The mettle to implement this vision.
2. Defining Moments: Psychotherapist Mel Schwartz prescribes as follows: "*Defining moments occur when we direct our lives onto a new pathway, borne of an illuminating insight and an expanded awareness*".
3. Manifest Destiny: DESTINATION TOURISM is the totem. "Build it and they'll come"; like Willow Tree. Does DESTINATION TOURISM ring any bells with anyone?
4. Heritage: You have compiled and contributed more documented 'memorabilia' Thoroughbred Horse heritage ('inheritance, legacy, tradition, birthright, custom, culture') than any other private or industry sponsor.

As an assembly we thank you sincerely for one item in particular. I am delighted to announce (without authority) that the new iteration of 'The Thoroughbred' will host the Harley Walden Scone Cup Winners Honour Board. Harley was meticulous with the accuracy and detail of his records. This is now posthumous but thank you Peter Allen and Kriston Harris. It is a richly deserved and fitting memorial. Private enterprise succeeded while community and industry both slumbered. We invite everyone to share it.

Have you been reading *Goethe* Peter?

I quote Goethe: 'Whatever you can do or dream you can do, begin it; BOLDNESS has genius, power and magic in it'.

That's not all. In addition the project has required enormous zeal, passion, vision, stamina, drive, commitment and no small resources. As an encomium I submit and commend the following epithet. I doubt whether the late great Bert Lillye or either Max Presnell or John Holloway would pen this but it's a quotation from the Sydney Morning Herald; October 3 1857. I think it might be apposite and resonate on this very special occasion:

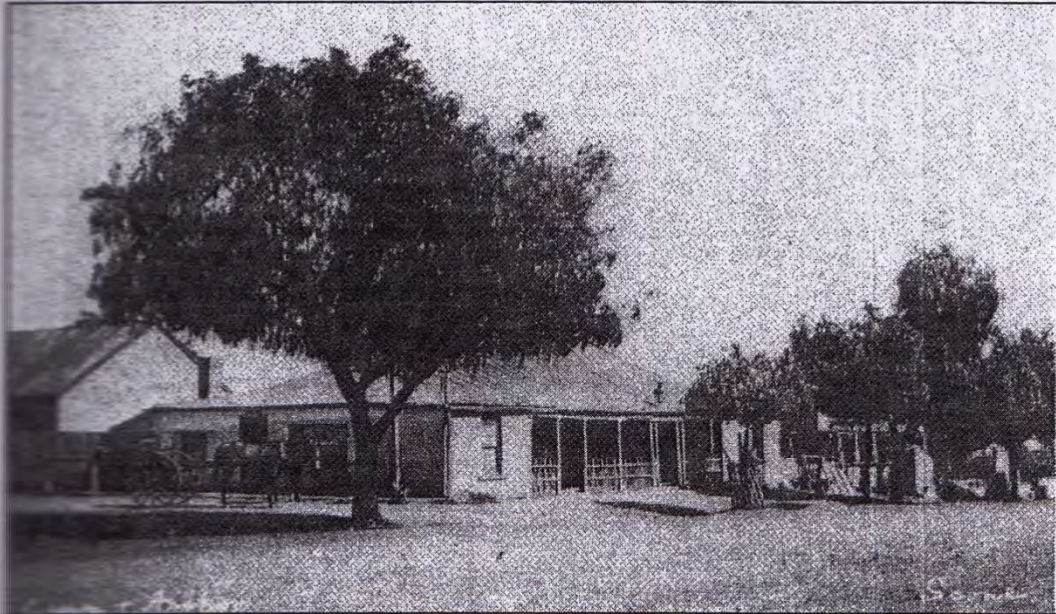
"The passion for horses may be ridiculed by persons of narrow mindedness and sedentary lives; but the feeling has been characteristic of the most intellectual and powerful races of mankind, and the highest order of literature and art has been inspired by the contemplation of this admirable gift of the creator".

Peter we both warmly thank and wholeheartedly congratulate you on your courage and inspiration. We both will and wish you to succeed. You have created an apotheosis of modern entertainment and hospitality. You've added a brilliant new dimension to the colloquium of commerce in Scone. It's incumbent on all of us in our society to support you in every way we can. As Oscar Wilde said in a buoyant mood (excuse pun): "Nothing succeeds like excess"! I don't know what Clwydd Wilson would make of it; perchance he'd update his name? I think he'd wholeheartedly approve.

Notwithstanding the vagaries of history it's a consummate honour for me to declare: *'Go kindly. Travel safely. Tread warily. Above all tarry, stay a while, experience, savour, succour and enjoy':*

*"The new iteration Thoroughbred;
Where Champions Meet"
Now officially OPEN*

THE SPIRIT WITHIN



The Crown and Anchor Hotel, now demolished, with the present Thoroughbred Hotel in course of construction on the Kelly Street corner.

Advertisement
Scone Advocate,
June 9, 1896, p. 1.

Notice.

The Crown & Anchor Hotel,
--SCONE--

HAVING purchased the Lease, License and the full of the above long established and favorably known Hotel from my father, who has successfully managed it for many years, I hope, by strict attention to business, to merit a fair share of the patronage of the general public.

Only the best brands of Wines and Spirits kept in stock.

Good Stabling, and a securely-fenced and well grassed paddock.

GEO. HOPPER, junr.,
PROPRIETOR.

Travelogue

There is no doubt that apart from reading and books travel is the great educator. It's more about journeys really? Voyages for many can also be vicarious as in the plethora of TV programs promoting treks, tours and cruises. Travel supplements in weekend newspapers exhorting temporary diaspora are also extremely enticing as well as cajoling. Sarah and I together or separately have done our share. I have written about and documented a few of these experiences in this memoir. I never intended that it should be a 'travelogue' but for the sake of completion this is a short compendium of some peregrinations.



'Heavenly Horses' in Fergana Valley Kirgystan

Milking is in progress. These are the same horses used by Genghis Khan. They are also the original seed stock of many breeds of the Plains Indian Tribes in North America.



Horse Market Kashgar



Livestock Markets Kashgar



Fat Tailed Sheep

The local Uighers like their women with buttocks this way. I think they mean alive!

Iringa

Southern Highlands, TANZANIA



Antelope



Boating on Lake Malawi



Matema Village, Lake Malawi



No crocodiles



Great Ruaha River



Mother & Son



Elephant right of way



Sarah in Freddy Mercury café, Stone Town, Zanzibar



Maasai Guide Peter



Boating

Ethiopia





Dr Catheryn Hamlin @ Hospital by the River, Addis Ababa



Rock Church of St George

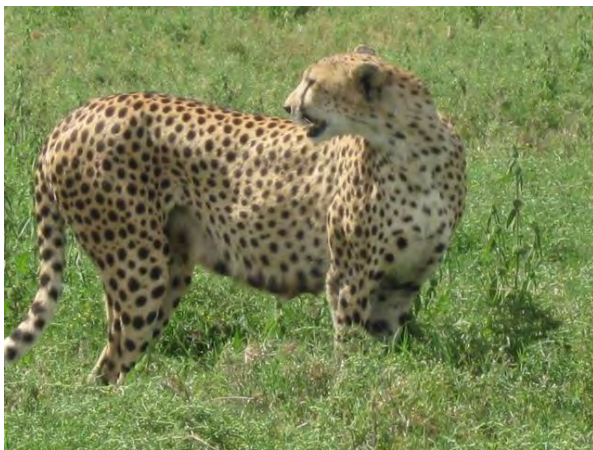
Serengeti Safari



Gnu



Warthog



Cheetah



Lion



Gnus



Leopard

Kibebe Farm, Iringa, TANZANIA



Kibebe Homestead

Kibebe Stables



Australian Stock Horses @ Kibebe Farm



Ring In Maasai Maidens Sarah (AUS) and Sarah (USA)

Southern Culture USA



South Carolina & Georgia





Dallas, Texas



Ward VII, New Orleans



Pueblo, Taos, New Mexico



Taos, New Mexico



New Mexico



New Mexico

Samoa



Aggie Grey's



Climbing Mt Vaea



Summit of Mt of Mt Vaea: RLS Tomb



Vailima



Samoa Rugby to World Cup in France

Canada



Pyramid Lake



B & B



Rockies Garden

India
Rajasthan



Amber Fort Jaipur



Meranghar Fort



City Palace Udaipur



Thar Desert Camel Transport

Assam



Tea Plantation 'Assam Bold'



Elephant Hygiene



Kaziranga National Park



Bodh Gaya



Great Buddha Statue



Buddhist Meditation and Genuflection

Family Matters

It might appear I have neglected family themes? The reality is that family matters more than anything else. This memoir is intended for family consumption. A memoir is a biography as in personal chronicle. Other intimates might view it differently. In this context I will define family as beginning with marriage and its 'consequences'. Immediately on betrothal one acquires a whole new claque of relatives by association. These are usually referred to as 'in laws'; occasionally transmogrifying into 'outlaws'. I have been fortunate.

The next major transformation is the arrival of children and later grandchildren. This changes everything for ever. *C'est aussi raison d'être de la vie*. I am the luckiest man alive. The following is a short tribute to my offspring in the context of my 'memory'.

**Grandparents are crucial
because parents haven't a clue!**



Perhaps this is overdone?



Three in a box above and below @ Darwin





Nonna Claus at Christmas Hawks Nest



De Souza Clan in winter garb



Easter Hats 2017



Attitude

This is on the waterfront at Tea Gardens. It's my favourite!

I think this might be a good place to stop?