

## AEVA Anecdotal Reflections

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

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

It was the policy of the AEVA to invite an eminent overseas equine veterinarian to address members at its annual conference held during the AVA AGM each year. In common with other special interest groups (SIGs) we were allocated four one-hour lecture sessions only. Professor John Hughes (UC Davis) gave these lectures in Melbourne in 1975. Professor O. R. Adams was invited to “remote” Perth for a similar program in 1976. With admirable foresight Peter Roach distributed a generic letter asking if any other organization would like to access the expertise of Professor Adams in the eastern States and also share a proportionate portion of the costs. What is now a famous part of history is that the dynamic leader of the PGFVS Tom Hungerford seized the moment with great verve and admirable alacrity. With very few members able to travel to Perth because of a national air transport strike a record number of veterinarians attended Tom’s promotion of the Lameness in Horses course at Sydney University. To this day this is still the record course for the PGFVS in terms of attendance (over 500) and profit margin (around \$60,000)! Recognizing a potential bonanza, to Tom’s eternal credit and with remarkable prescience he wrote to O. R. Adams urging him to “get here even if it meant chartering an aeroplane”! Professor Adams advised he would not have bothered to come if he had not received this letter when temporarily stranded in Singapore and unable to fly to Australia because of the still extant national air strike. He managed to procure a seat to Perth for the AVA/AEVA AGM on a private charter flight at the end of which time the national strike was over.

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

About this time and during the terms of office of Norman Larkin and Professor David Hutchins the AEVA was incorporated into the AVA together with other SIGs. This was a difficult, arduous and painful process and involved a long series of delicate deliberations and negotiations! Geoff Hazard succeeded Professor Hutchins as President of the AEVA (1977) and I took over the 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. Audrey Best had emerged by this time as an outstanding administration officer for the AEVA. This was indubitably one of the very best decisions ever reached by the executive! All scientific content was provided gratis at Scone and a substantial profit ensued. The second set of AEVA proceedings was printed in conjunction with the Scone meeting.

Later that same year (1977) John Morgan was visiting Newmarket (UK) and was asked to unearth a potential keynote speaker for June 1978. He returned with a list of 24 topics provided by Leo Jeffcott who was then at the Animal Health Equine Research Station in Newmarket. So began a virtual litany of aerogramme correspondence between the author and Leo in England. This was the genesis of what was to become internationally known as 'Bain Fallon'. The concept was set in stone at a seminal meeting of the AEVA Executive at the Windsor Hotel, Melbourne on VRC Derby Day 1977. I traveled by small aeroplane charter to be there and Galena Boy won the Derby! The 'brand name' decided for the AEVA 'special' was Bain/Fallon Memorial Lectures in honour of eminent equine veterinarians the late Murray Bain (died, Scone 1974) and Peter Fallon (died, Melbourne 1974). I was employed by Murray Bain in 1967 and Geoff Hazard was a former associate and employee of Peter Fallon.



### Sydney University First XV Premiers 1945

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

Another “Rugger Bugger” veterinarian Peter Fallon was a great friend of Murray Bain. Peter was one of a large number of ‘Kiwi’ (NZ) veterinary students to excel at Rugby in Sydney. This tradition continued for almost 40 years.

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

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

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



Professor Leo Jeffcott visited Scone on many occasions.



Professor Jeffcott in 'Scone' mode!

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.



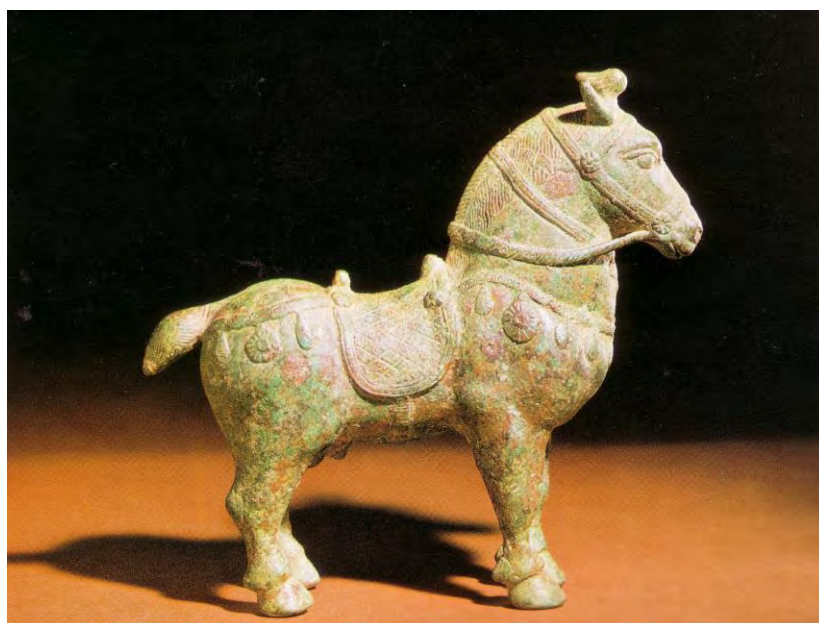


Delegates for 14 countries at the Third International Symposium on Equine Reproduction,

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 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.*

A similar obituary was made for Peter Fallon.

This remarkably percipient and eloquent tribute was placed by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Murray's great friend Professor W. R. 'Twink' Allen of Cambridge University. It emphasises from quite a distance many of Murray's special qualities including record keeping, cleanliness, hygiene and observation. He 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! 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!

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

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

### ***First and Foremost in Continuing Veterinary Education***

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

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

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

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

*Throughout his professional life Tom Hungerford has received many honours. The Queen made him an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, the University of Sydney*



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

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

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

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

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

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

Tel. (02) 487 2732



"Farleigh"  
38 Burns Road,  
Wahroonga, 2076

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

5.11.86

Dr Bill Horey,

I was delighted to see in the September Circular for October that you were going to come into the PBF Foundation to assist Doug Bryden in services, equine vaccines, aerial welfare etc. The one thing Doug has lacked is effective veterinary associates to help some of the heavier off him.

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

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

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

position.

My best wishes to you Bill.

Sincerely  
Tom.

Dr. Bill Howey

5.11.96

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

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My very best wishes to you Bill.

Sincerely

*Tom*



PERSONAL

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

1.6.00

Dr W. H. Howey,

Director.

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

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

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

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

Tel. (02) 9487 2732

(2)



"Farleigh"  
38 Burns Road,  
Wahroonga, 2076

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

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

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

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

My very best good wishes

Sincerely

Tom Hungerford

Dear Bill,

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

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

My very best sincere good wishes

Sincerely

*Tom Hungerford*





### Cambridge Education!

The author and Mr. Pat Nicholas on tour with the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney. This photograph was taken at Kings College Cambridge University UK in 1973.

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

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

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

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



Michele Cotton and Dr. Dave Warden at Sydney University.

Dr. Dave Warden was the unsuspecting – but highly successful – substitute “veterinarian” who achieved phenomenal success with a dairy cow on Christmas Eve! Dr. Warden has a 100 per cent record with milk fever. Not many veterinarians can claim that!

## “Hogmanay”



“Ode to a Haggis” - R. T. Mackay and A. M. Bain at Tinagroo on New Year’s Eve 1969.  
Both were returned men from WWII in North Africa and Palestine.  
Murray is addressing the haggis.

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

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

The billiard room at Tinagroo was widely and justly regarded as the number one private entertainment venue in the Upper Hunter. This was especially so when salubriously suffused with the warmest Ponty and Bob Mackay hospitality and richly embellished by

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

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

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





Hogmanay at Hepple Farm Moobi, 1989.

### Anzac Day



Three generations on the front lawn at Tinagroo

Cardiff RSL Pipe Band on parade before the Patron.

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

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

-Tam O'Shanter.

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

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



What's a bloody Sassenach doing in a skirt!  
The author 'in drag' addressing 'Scone Scots' at the Scone Bowling Club  
Bit of a worry?



### **Boating at Lake Glenbawn**

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

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

### **Racing at Randwick and Rosehill**

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



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

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

### St. Andrews Race Meeting

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

*at a*

## LUNCHEON

*to celebrate the occasion of the*

## INAUGURAL ST. ANDREWS RACE DAY

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

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

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

*Please Return  
Card Enclosed*

Social Cachet! The Invitation to the St Andrews Race Day Lunch.



Mace Bain and Julie Rose - fundamental in arranging the invitations to the St. Andrews Day Luncheon.

# ST. ANDREW'S DAY DINNER



27th November, 1971

## THE FARIN'

### COCK-A-LEEKIE SOUP

"MA CERTIE, THIS WULL WARM YER HART"

### HAGGIS WI' TATTIES AN NEEPS

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

### ROASTIT BUBBLY JOCK WI' TRIMMIN'S

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

### DUNFERMLINE DUMPLINS WI' SNAW FRAE BEN NEVIS

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

### HIELAN' COFFEE

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



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

The St Andrews Day Dinner (Scone Scots) was the precursor of the Race Day. There is a very strong veterinary influence with Murray Bain and Angus Cunningham performing officially on the night. The Reverend Brian Druery 'married' the author and R. T. Mackay's daughter Sarah at Tinagroo on April 26, 1975.

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



*The Sydney Morning Herald*, November 1973  
Written by Australia's leading Racing Journalist Bert Lillye

***“The racing world owes Murray Bain a favour .....*”**

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

***Dream of a Scot's Day***

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

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



‘Sentry Duty’ St Andrews Day 1974.

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

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

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





Presentation of the Dewars Progressive Cup, December 2 1978.  
 Club President Bill Howey, Mrs. and Mr. Alec McPherson, Sarah Howey, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McPherson. Mr and Mrs McPherson's daughter Jean (not pictured here) was the inaugural Miss Golden Slipper in 1968 and went on to represent the Sydney Turf Club at Hollywood Park, LA, CA, USA.

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

\* Murray was patron of the City of Newcastle Pipe Band

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

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

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



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

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





St. Andrews Day Race Meeting December 1974  
 Murray Bain Memorial Trophy presented by the author  
 Club stalwart Arthur Banks and David Macintyre in attendance.  
 Members of the Cardiff RSL Pipe Band - Drum Major Mort Holme on left.



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



‘Out of the hills and from far away’  
Georgie Mackay, Ranald Mackay, Alison Sylvester and Ian Hastie (Scotland)  
St. Andrews Day White Park (Scone) Races 1974.

### **The Exodus, the Genesis and “A Dream That Could Be Realised”: The Evolution of a New Racecourse**

On one of his frequent visits to the Upper Hunter Valley, Emeritus Professor Rex Butterfield, President of the Australian Equine Research Foundation and Keeneland (USA) representative in Australia, remarked on the similarity of events at that time to the genesis of the “Keeneland Concept” in Kentucky in 1936. The date was sometime in the early 1980’s and the Upper Hunter was witness to a flurry of activity in the development of thoroughbred racing and breeding in the district, possibly unprecedented, even in the benchmark industries so important historically to the locality.



Emeritus Professor Rex Butterfield (Centre)  
Inaugural Vetsearch-RIRDC Equine Research Award 1995  
Mr. Keith Hyde (RIRDC, left) and Mr. Ian Champion (Vetsearch, right).

In his concluding remarks addressed to a mass meeting of breeders and others interested in racing at the Lafayette Hotel on Wednesday afternoon March 20, 1935 Major Louie A. Beard said: “This may seem like a dream, but I believe it is a dream that can be realised.” (*The Thoroughbred Record* (USA) October 10 1936).

The meeting witnessed by Professor Butterfield was held at the Scone Bowling Club. It was a gathering of like-minded people representing the fledgling Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders Association (HVBHBA) and inevitably the local racing industry. The significance of the astute Professor’s observations as we approach the closing of

White Park Racecourse (22/10/94 and 24/10/94) and the opening date (18/11/94) of the new course at Satur can now be placed in true perspective. Actually the rebirth of the new track is in fact a return after a lapse of around 100 years, to racing in the Satur locality. As detailed in Daniel Morgan's excellent thesis *The Reality of the Turf (Scone's Colonial Horse Racing, 1842 - 1900)*, first class racing was held at Mr. Frederick Augustus Parbury's property from 1892 - 1915 under the auspices of the Scone Jockey Club.

During the late 1970's to the early 1980's some vitally important decisions were reached in a remarkable chronological sequence which were to have enormous impact on the future development of racing in Scone, and indeed to rescue and secure its (precarious) position. Pivotal in this process were a few individuals, most of whom represented either or both the Scone Race Club and the HVBHBA. The committees of both these organisations had enjoyed a recent period of growth and strength at a fortuitous time.

The early seed for the concept of a better race track for Scone had evolved from the fertile mind of local agent F.W. (Bill) Rose (FWR). The committee of the Scone Race Club had long deliberated on the restrictions and deficiencies imposed by the less than adequate White Park and the sharing of the facilities with the Golf Club in particular. The Club was being thwarted in its efforts to attract funding for development from the Racecourse Development Fund established by the NSW TAB.

The hidden agenda behind consistent refusals or pittance donations by the TAB was that the discerning decision-makers did not support the further development of White Park Racecourse!

To its great credit, the Scone Race Club Committee at the time accepted the stark and harsh reality of this observation. The major problem was what to do about it and how to achieve a realistic feasible solution acceptable to the Race Club and the broad community. The initial response was for the Scone Shire Council at FWR's instigation and insistence to purchase Dal Adams farm adjacent to White Park and to develop this ideal location as a Sports Complex in perpetuity for the citizens of Scone. To the great credit of all concerned, this conceptual plan was rescued from potential and established as reality from this time. The Sporting Development Committee under the chairmanship of Brian McGrath was constituted by Scone Shire Council to expedite and oversee this project.

The secondary agenda underpinning this idea was to separate the interests of the sometime feuding Golf Club and Race Club and to permit the expansion of the Racecourse to a 2000 metre track within the confines of White Park. No golf fairway was to straddle the course proper. At an on-site sub-committee meeting comprising Brian McGrath, Terry Barnes (Scone Shire Clerk), Bill Rose and the author the overall practicality and financial feasibility of the total concept was addressed. The quotation for the erection of three new creek crossings to support the enlarged track came to \$180,000. The two Race Club delegates conferred and volunteered the opinion that considering this scale of finance the concept was not viable and an alternative solution should be found. To say that this revelation surprised Brian and Terry would be a gross understatement! It



was, however, agreed that the harsh truth of this decision was realistic and that the proponents of change should consider other avenues. The importance of this deliberation cannot be over-emphasised as absolutely basic and underpinning all future decision and debate!

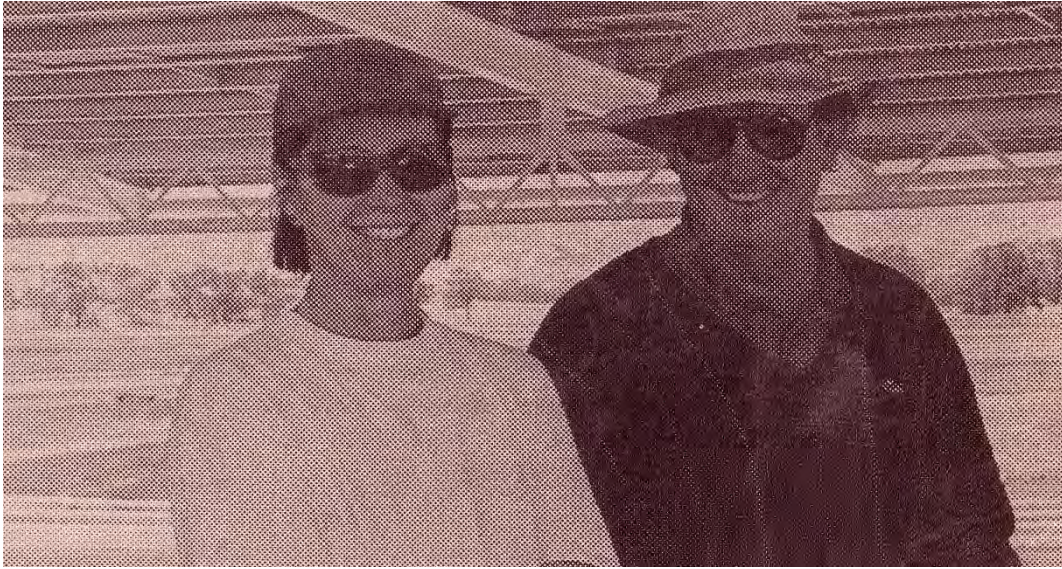
The outcome for the district was the establishing of a magnificent Sports Complex accommodating a wide range of sporting pursuits but did nothing to alleviate the existing and ongoing problems of the Golf Club and Race Club!

The Chairman of the Sydney Turf Club at this time was Mr. George Ryder, a long time Hunter Valley thoroughbred breeder first at Woodlands Stud and latterly at Kia Ora. George was an enthusiastic, energetic and innovative administrator, but who on occasion “ran his own race”. He was an active proponent of the total concept to restructure country racing in NSW. In some cases this involved amalgamation and pooling of resources of race clubs in close geographic proximity to improve the overall standard in general and not to in his opinion fractionate the TAB distribution ‘cake’ into too many small, nonviable fragments. It was the perception by many close to the action that this represented the strong majority view of AJC, STC and TAB committees as well as NSW Government Policy. The ‘carrot’ as dangled by George Ryder was a sum in excess of \$600,000 provided by the STC to facilitate the relocation of a major racing facility in the Upper Hunter. It was later revealed that this concept did not have the unqualified support of the STC directors!

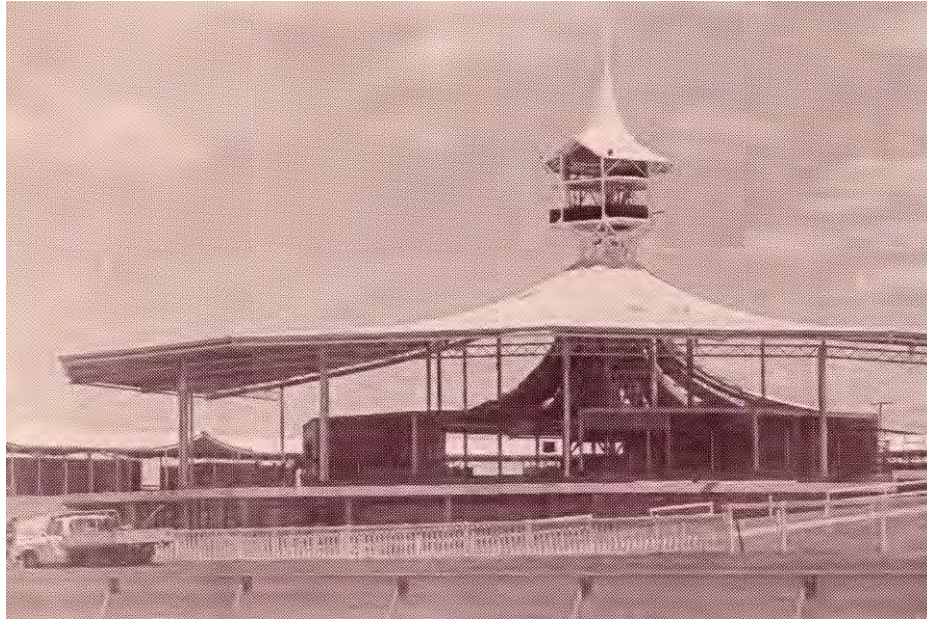
The Scone Race Club Committee deliberated on this proposition and submitted as one possible solution the pooling of resources of the Scone Race Club and the Upper Hunter Race Club to establish a single large modern racing facility financed in part by the STC as well as other funds. This was interpreted by the racing fraternity in the district as meaning one thing only – amalgamation!

A furious and heated debate ensued culminating in a very public and well attended meeting at the Scone Bowling Club chaired by the author when the Scone Race Club membership totally rejected by a very large majority any consideration of relocation or amalgamation of the Club’s racing facility. The committee (other than a few populist defections) nonetheless maintained the position that to remain on White Park without major structural change would ultimately and inevitably lead to the demise of the Scone Race Club as a separate identifiable entity in the medium to long term. This was truly “grasping the nettle”. It was a very vital and compelling decision that was to significantly influence subsequent events as they unfolded. Sir Humphrey of “Yes, Minister” fame would have labelled this as politically inexpedient and naive but courageous! It would come as no surprise that total membership of the Scone Race Club attained its historic zenith at this time! Chronologically it was imperative to hold this debate and to address the very real issue of the progress and future of racing in Scone. To have hesitated or procrastinated on this issue could justifiably have loaded ammunition for future generations to aim at the administration of the time. The author, with others, was determined that accusations of ineptitude or apathy could never be levelled at the committee of the day!

It was from this standpoint that FWR, with single-minded purpose, vigorously pursued his vision and goal of the purchasing and development of a site selected by him at Tarrangower, Satur. That he was able to achieve this is testimony to his bullish determination, part of the motivation coming from the challenge of not the principle but the feasibility of the objective. The procedure and process was largely withheld from the committee in general other than a select few. This was regrettable although in hindsight probably necessary in order to achieve fruition. It inevitably led to some dented pride, bruised egos and a somewhat divided committee but if the ends justify the means then totally sustainable.



Julie and Bill Rose at the new track under construction. November 1994.  
The author lived at Tarrangower when first married in April 1975. Best man at the wedding Bill Rose first conceived the idea:  
“What a great amphitheatre for a racetrack”!



Public Viewing Facility, November 1994.

The subsequent purchase and ability to raise the significant funds for the total project brought into play a remarkable and providential series of people and organisations, co-incidentally and fortuitously in the right place at the right time!

The vehicle for fund raising was to be the Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation (HVERF) the brainchild of the author and Brian Agnew of Wakefield Stud from his perspective as energetic and popularly elected President of the HVBHBA. This is a registered charitable trust set up by the HVBHBA to raise funds for local equine research projects and to which donations were exempt from taxation. The HVERF was to become the landlord of the Satur facility and to purchase the property from FWR and grant the Scone Race Club a portion for the new racetrack on a long-term peppercorn rent.

Purchase of Tarrangower was for an amount in excess of \$1 million which had to be locally raised. That this was readily achieved is testimony to the ability of all concerned and again attributable in part to some extraordinary circumstances.

This period of time (mid to late 1980's) was arguably the most inflationary and bullish market in the history of thoroughbred racing and breeding in Australia. The donation of very high stallion service fees was a major activity in fund raising. Also the entrepreneurial flair and genius of Tony Bott recently established as studmaster at Segenhoe could be harnessed to organise some very high profile and vastly successful activities at Segenhoe and the Sebel Town House, Sydney (at Easter). The auction of donated goods and chattels at these events realised significant sums of money towards the project as well as donations to charity (more than \$100,000 to the NBN Telethon appeal).

That the funds were raised and the purchase completed is testimony to the singular purpose and dedication of a number of protagonists and a few in particular. Having



secured the title to a suitable property, the Scone Race Club was then in a strong position to approach the TAB - RDF (as previously advised) to provide funding to complete the total concept. The procedure of development and fruition has been very successfully guided and negotiated, not without considerable personal sacrifice, by the incumbent Race Club President, David Bath of Bhima Stud. The reality of the complex as it approaches its genesis is a tribute to David's persistence, patience and zeal.



Opening of the new Scone Race Track, November 1994.

The challenge facing the administration of the Race Club will be to transport and/or re-create the special ambience that was such a very special feature of racing at White Park, universally acknowledged by successive generations of patrons.



Atmosphere at the Scone Races.



Ambience at Scone Races.



The committee might very well consider the aspirations of Hal Price Headley, on the day before Keeneland opened its 1937 spring meeting, who stated:

*We want a place where those who love horses can come and picnic with us and thrill to the sport of the Bluegrass. We are not running a race plant to hear the click of the mutuel machines. We don't care whether the people who come here bet or not. If they want to bet there is a place for them to do it. But we want them to come out here to enjoy God's sunshine, the fresh air, and to watch horses race.*

Clearly, in today's climate, some of that logic is questionable. However, the ideals and principles are highly commendable.

The concept that dreams can be realised with sufficient motivation and purpose is to some extent fuelled by the emotions as expressed and quoted in Daniel Morgan's treatise on *The Reality of the Turf*:

*The passion for horses may be ridiculed by persons of narrow mindedness and sedentary lives; but the feeling has ever 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. (Sydney Morning Herald, October 3, 1857).*



Legendary Lester Pigott on Lord Windeyer, April 7, 1995.



The Hunter Valley Equine Research Centre.



Construction of the new TAFE: Bill Howey, Bill Rose, Peter Morris MP, Barry Rose and Mike Thew on August 15, 1996.

There were some common themes and personalities in the new developments.

# ‘The Infinitive History of Veterinary Practice in Scone’

*Aka ‘Hippomedon Hyperbole’ and/or ‘Nomius Nexus’*



Frank Leslie Williams