

OLD AGGIES

President: Frank Doughty, (02) 9481 8787, fdoughty@tpg.com.au
Secretary: Graham Linnegar, (02) 9527 1830, helgra@linnegarplumbing.com.au
Treasurer/Membership: Colin Short, (02) 9876 1018, cbshort@bigpond.com

Alstonville luncheon

18th September 2023, Cherry Street Sports Club. Contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or gajacobs@bigpond.com

Armidale/Tamworth luncheon

April 2024 – contact Dr Barbara Vanselow 0434344992 or bvanselo@gmail.com

Gosford luncheon

2nd November 2023. Venue to be decided, contact Geoff Warr (02) 4342 3226 or 0411 128 936 or warries@optusnet.com.au

Laurieton luncheon (cancelled)

Laurieton United Services' Club, contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or gajacobs@bigpond.com

Orange luncheon

11th October 2023, Best Western Ambassador Motel. Contact Len Banks (02) 6361 7677 or banks@lmbanks.com.au

Sydney luncheon

8th August 2023, City of Sydney RSL Club, 11.30am. Cost \$40 pp. Contact Col Short (02) 9876 1018 or cbshort@bigpond.com

Wagga Wagga luncheon

May 2024, contact James Hamilton 0447 225 875 or jnch1950_1@bigpond.com

Subscriptions \$10 per annum now due

Subs can be paid by direct deposit into the Commonwealth Bank BSB 06-2263, Account No 00903542, Account Name Agricultural Retired Officers Association (please add your surname) or by cheque to Colin Short, 27 Chesterfield Road, Epping NSW 2121.

From The President's Desk

At the 2023 AGM the following were elected Dr Frank Doughty (President), Graham Linnegar (Secretary), Col Short (Treasurer and Membership), Lawrie Lucas-Smith (Auditor) and John Bowler (Newsletter Editor).

Many will be sad to read the passing of Barry Jensen, Assistant editor of our newsletter, Barry will be sadly missed as I valued his friendship, support and great editorial service with our newsletter.

Once again I acknowledge the efforts of our regional group coordinators in organizing the various luncheons/gatherings. Many thanks to the executive for their support and encouragement. It has been my pleasure to be your President and I look forward to your continued support in 2023/2024.

Our luncheons continue to provide great camaraderie among our former work colleagues, many of whom are considered lifelong friends.

Frank Doughty
President

As advised in previous newsletters the department had a few name changes over the years currently the correct title is **NSW Department of Primary Industries, Department of Regional NSW**.

Sydney Luncheon

Tuesday 8 August 2023, City of Sydney RSL Club, 2023 George Street

The Sydney Luncheon is in danger of failing with numbers dwindling over the last few years and post COVID. We really need to support this event and rally around President Frank, and the Old Aggies executive. Please mail or email the following details with your payment of \$40 before 2 August. If snail mail please phone Colin Short on 02 98761018, to advise.

*Payment method: Cheque – mail to Colin Short,
27 Chesterfield Road, Epping 2121*

*Direct Deposit – Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 06-2263 A/c: 00903542
Agricultural Retired Officer's Association (and include your name)*

Laurieton Luncheon

Unfortunately, we have been unable to resurrect the Laurieton Lunch post COVID. Looking at our mailing list, we have a number of members in the mid north coast region and an annual luncheon in the Taree/Port Macquarie area would be appreciated. If you are able, please volunteer to get this luncheon going to provide the interaction and reminiscences' that we all enjoy at our reunions.

Kings Birthday Honours for Sandy McKenzie AM

Sandy McKenzie, the first Principal of Orange Agricultural College has been recognised in the King's Birthday Honours for his contribution to education and conservation.

He was Principal at OAC in the formative year from 1970-75. He then went into politics as the Country Party (as it was called then) member for Calare from 1975-1983.

Since politics he has been involved in education in Thailand and in a range of environmental and service organisations. Most recently he was involved with Landcare at all levels of Government and making submissions to the recent Fire and National Disasters Inquiries.

Report on Bendemeer Luncheon, 26 April

Only a small number attending, owing to illness etc, but a couple of great photos.

The death of Russ Godden was noted and highlighted the wonderful contributions Russ made over his long life. His son, David, provided the obituary.



Warren McDonald, Karen Lowein, John Ayres, Geoff Lowein, Bill Johns, Rod Browne

Russ (Graham Russell) Godden, 1920 - 2023

Russ was born in Melbourne in 1920, the son of a farmer and school teacher. His parents purchased a farm near Tocumwal. He attended the local primary school (Langunyah) and then became a boarder at Yanco Agricultural High School. He attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College from which he graduated with honours. In his holidays, and after finishing at Hawkesbury, Russ worked on the family farm.

Fill-in jobs (at a cannery, herd testing) preceded his appointment to the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1940 as an Assistant Experimentalist at Condobolin Experiment Farm.

Russ enlisted in the RAAF in 1942, after training in Australia and Canada. He shipped to the UK and undertook a conversion course on Short Stirlings, the first of the British 4-engine bombers. He joined 196 Squadron of the RAF in September 1944. Apart from two bombing missions, his operations included supply drops (both to the Resistance and allied troops), dropping parachutists, glider towing and repatriating POWs. He was posted off squadron in June 1945, sailed from Liverpool in September 1945 and was discharged from the RAAF in Melbourne in December 1945. While his war service was an integral part of his maturing as a young adult, Russ never let it define who he was. In 2018 Russ was made a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur in recognition of his wartime service over France.

Russ visited his mother's penfriend Edith Ponsonby in January 1944 in Millers Dale (Derbyshire). After several postponements as flying operations intervened, Edith & Russ married in May 1945. Russ returned to Australia ahead of Edith.

Russ returned to the Department in Head Office in December 1945 (briefly) and was posted as an Experimentalist on Yanco Experiment Farm (which was then still POW Camp 15).

In 1949 Russ was appointed District Agronomist at Berrigan, and DA in Albury in 1954. Russ began duty as Regional Supervisor of Extension at Tamworth in January 1961 and held that position (later designated Regional Director of Extension) until retirement in 1980.

In anticipation of his retirement, Russ was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church (having been ordained deacon in 1957), and performed pastoral duties and with Edith travelled extensively in Australia and overseas. He and Edith also delivered Meals on Wheels, and he was an active member of Legacy for 30 years. Russ took up woodturning in retirement and turned out some fine pieces. He took up gliding in his late 70s and soared for four years; he also took up computing and kept connected to the world through emails, online newspapers and learning (e.g. through U3A) until failing eyesight ended his computing activity in 2021. New knees and hips, and a determination to enjoy life, enabled him to keep active into his second century. After his beloved Edith died in 2013, Russ even learned to cook and continued living in their West Tamworth home where they had lived after leaving the house they built at Calala. Russ entered Tamworth Cottage Homes at the end of 2021 because of failing eyesight. He died in April 2023. Russ is survived by his four children and their families, and two sisters (his four brothers pre-deceased him).

David Godden, [economist, NSW Department of Agriculture, 1973-1990]

Letters

It is great to see some members seeing the value in our newsletter. Judy Sanders writes:

Dear Frank,

Thank you for the recent edition of Old Aggies. There were many familiar faces, and memories in it for me. I joined NSW Ag in 1972, and retired from DPI in 2008, after many enjoyable years in the company of great colleagues.

On Page 1 you featured George Bennett. George was our Junior Farmers supervisor at Wilberforce Club, in the Hawkesbury during the 1960s. He was very calm, and helped install confidence in shy young would-be farmers of the time. Later I caught up with him when he was working at Hawkesbury College in 1972. Recently a friend attended an Old Boys function as a guest and sat next to the 'lovely elderly gentleman'. The friend said he had many stories to tell, and suggested perhaps I could interview him for the Hawkesbury Library's oral history project. (I was a volunteer with this project prior to Covid). Sadly, Covid put a stop to this project, and so I never did interview George.

Gerry Bolla and George Slennett were in the Poultry Branch when I was working at Seven Hills Research Station 1972 to 1991. It was good to see their photos.

In the last 10 years of my career with DPI I worked with Information Technology as a Technical Support Analyst, and so met a lot of staff at EMAI, Gosford, Liverpool St, Sydney site, and many smaller sites. Your photos of Rod Hoare, Carmel Romano, Sandra Hardy and Yvonne Unitt reminded me of that era.

Also it was interesting to read of the passing of two highly regarded cleaners from WWAI and WRVL. Our cleaners were also highly regarded, and were often talented in preparing tasty dishes for the staff to try.. in our lunch hours. They were regarded as part of the family, and I kept in touch with one lovely lady for years afterwards. Her family notified me of her death, a few years ago, and I was able to send a tribute on behalf of former staff.

So thanks Frank for keeping these memories alive. There were many other faces in that newsletter, whose names I heard often mentioned, in our daily dealings with other DPI/ Dept Ag offices.

Regards Judy Sanders



Vice Chancellor James Harris, Barry and Jenny Buffier, Professor Simon Evans

University of New England Alumni Award to Barry Buffier

After completing his Rural Science degree, Barry added a UNE Masters in Economics to his qualifications while employed by NSW Agriculture. By 1990 he was Deputy Director General of the department and he subsequently joined Westpac as National Manager, Agribusiness, a position he held for eight years.

It was at this time, while serving on the board of SunRice with then chair Gerry Lawson, that Barry helped achieve an outcome that, even today, makes him smile. "We had been trying for many years to develop new export opportunities for Australian rice," Barry recalls. "Then Japan had one of the coldest summers ever, their rice crop was down and they suddenly needed to import rice. All the stars aligned and we were able to export 100,000-plus tonnes to Japan. I didn't think it would succeed so spectacularly, given the strong Japanese Government resistance."

By 2004, Barry was again back on "home soil", serving as Director-General of the NSW Department of Primary Industries, but the challenges kept coming thick and fast. First, he was tasked with amalgamating four stand-alone departments. Then the state was beset by a string of natural disasters and emergencies, including drought, locust plagues and a deadly outbreak of the exotic disease equine influenza.

"Challenges are part of the stimulation I like to have in my work," Barry says. "I like to deal with difficult issues and reach a resolution. You can't win them all, but often what you are trying to achieve can be improved by asking difficult questions and being prepared to take on the criticisms and input of others."

Senior leadership roles with the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, NSW Tourism, and Industry and Investment NSW accounted for the next four years of Barry's career, before he became head of the environmental regulator in 2012.

A strong supporter of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), he argues that it is a force for the better in mitigating against corruption in the NSW public service. Descriptions of it as a "kangaroo court" display contemptuous ignorance of the critical role it plays, he says.

"The public service is about doing things that benefit the public and support the public good. You can't do that in an organisation unless you have integrity yourself or if the organisation's integrity is under question. The separation of powers under the Westminster system is absolutely crucial for the operation of the public service, and the ICAC reinforces that corruption is not an acceptable form of business in the state."

Deaths

Dr Kevin Sheriden

Passed away 6th July 2023. A full obituary will be provided acknowledging Kevin's great contribution to both the Department and the agricultural industries of the state will be provided in the next issue.

Bob Colton - April 2023

Bob Colton ex Leader (oils) retired in 2021, died in April after a tough few years of declining health. Further details of Bob's career will be published in the next Newsletter

Barry Jensen 12/06/1949 – 30/04/2023

I am sad to report on the death of Barry Jensen, one of the editors of the Old Aggies Newsletter. Barry was one of the quiet achievers. I first got to know Barry when he joined the Publications Section of the Department of Agriculture in 1991. He worked with many of the professional staff of the Department, publishing a wide range of books, guides and other papers.

He was very competent and constructive in the work, highly regarded, easy to work with, and was always concerned to meet the authors and Departmental requirements.

He was farewelled at a large funeral where his contribution to his family and community were shared. Great stories of his love of fast cars, and his role in the junior cricket with his boys.

When he retired, he was able to use his computer and publication skills in the U3A, and the Men's Shed. He loved a chat and was always interested in sharing knowledge and experiences.

John Bowler



Barry Jensen

Dr Peter Valder OAM - 2023

Dr Peter Valder OAM recognised widely as a mycologist botanist, horticulturalist, lecturer, great speaker, and author.

Grandson of George Valder, the first Under Secretary of the NSW Department of Agriculture, and son of another George who was an orchardist at Bathurst Experimental Farm.

Peter was educated at Sydney University, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours) and Cambridge University in the UK (Ph D).

He worked as a Plant Pathologist for NSW Agriculture from 1951-1962 before lecturing in mycology and botany at Sydney University.

The family property, 'Nooroo', at Mt Wilson was highly regarded and featured in Open Gardens in both autumn and spring.

Peter was a great communicator, appearing regularly on Burke's Backyard, leading many gardening tours overseas, as well as contributing to the Sydney Botanical Gardens. He was the first to be recognised as an Honorary Horticulture Associate.

There is a great obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald of 6/6/2023.

John Bowler

Mark Childs - 2023

We have been advised of the death of Mark Childs, ex Publicity Officer, Wagga Wagga, early this year on the Central Coast.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to get more details, but Mark was remembered as one of the reliable quiet achievers giving great support to the professional extension staff of the district.

Colin Brett - 2023

It is with great sadness I report that former colleague, friend and industry identity Colin Brett passed away yesterday in Darwin. His health had been failing in recent weeks.

Colin was a Beefo for a short period at Trangie and occupied the Cowra district in the mid 1960s before Roy Hurst.

As a Beefo, Colin loved the freedom of working with farm families and was inspired by Harry Harrison. He locked horns with his departmental superiors on many occasions, mainly over their impractical ideas. He was not designed to be a public servant for long!

Col's contact with the Beef Section continued as a producer with Alison on their farm at Frogmore, near Boowowa. After participating in a Beef-n-omics

workshop in which the herd model showed big advantages to crossbreeding, he cashed his entire 400-cow hereford herd and replaced them with Santa cross cows joined to Charolais bulls.

Most of the Beefos regularly saw Colin at the Sydney RAS where he was a long-time steward in the beef cattle section. He was always enthusiastic and interested in the cattle and industry affairs. He was a great supporter of the Beef Section.

For most of his life, he shrewdly bought properties, made improvements and when an opportunity arose he moved on to a bigger and better one to repeat the process. When they bought the iconic Waterloo Station in NT his family decided they would not be moving again, but the expansion didn't stop. When the government banned live exports overnight about 10 years ago, Waterloo had over 2000 cattle prepared, taught to feed and about to load. Many businesses on and off farm were devastated. Colin was behind the class action against the government, eventually successful, with claims still being settled.

Tragedy struck the family when eldest son Dougal lost his life in a helicopter mustering accident. Their other son Hamish, who had built a huge veterinary practice across the north, now heads the Brett Cattle Company which now includes Waterloo and Willeroo Stations, Coomalie live export depot and Admiralty House in Darwin with its Char restaurant.

I am one of many people who have been inspired by Col's courage and energetic zest for life. I have also been lucky to have visited Waterloo to see the place he loved so much and the stamp he has left on it.

We join a huge number of people who send their condolences especially to Alison, and to their extended families.

Bob Gaden



Colin Brett, Queensland Country Life photo

James Brian Chittick 1930 – 2022

I regret to advise the passing of James Brian Chittick former officer of Dairy Industry Corporation at Coffs Harbour.

Brian was 92 years of age 8/8/1930 when he passed away on 8/11/22 at Lismore Base Hospital.

Brian attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School in 1947 then went onto Hawkesbury Agriculture College in 1948-1949 where he graduated with a Dairy Technology Diploma.

His first job was with Lyneham's Ice Creamery in Casino. In 1952 Brian joined the Department of Agriculture and moved to Byron Bay for two years.

He married Roylah in Casino a marriage which lasted 65 years. Rugby League also played a main part in his stay at Kyogle.

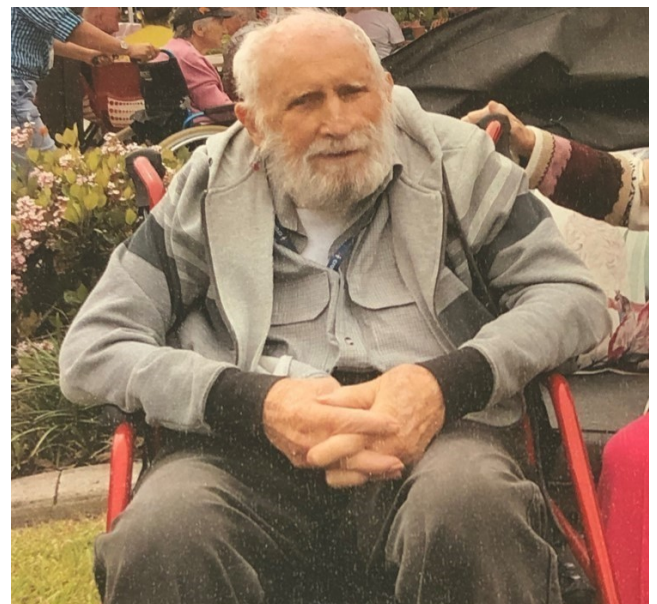
He was then transferred to Taree for three years and then to Wagga for 13 years and in 1979 to Coffs Harbour where he retired in 1990.

A highlight at Coffs Harbour was ,with Roylah, to be awarded Life Membership of the Coffs Harbour Show Society.

With Roylah Brian attended Old Aggies Dinners at Alstonville for many years and in 2022 resided in residential care at Ballina to be close to daughter Jenny.

A great career for a great Old Aggie.

Jenny Stuart (daughter)



Brian Chittick

Animal health history and services provided by NSW Department of Agriculture.

Ian Roth former Chief Veterinary Officer and Helen Scott-Orr former Chief Veterinary Officer

NSW Department of Agriculture has a proud history of achievement in farm animal disease control. The need for disease control in farm animals commenced when farm animals were introduced into Australia and has continued through to the present day. The NSW Department of Agriculture was established in 1890 and the formation of animal disease control services in NSW Agriculture after this date greatly assisted this process. Significant numbers of veterinarians were not employed in the Department of Agriculture until after the World War 2.

It is thought that the first 44 sheep introduced into Australia carried footrot and sheep scab. By 1832, sheep scab was such a problem that the Scab in Sheep Act 1832 was passed which prohibited infected sheep from being moved onto other people's properties or onto roads. An amendment to this Act in 1863 set up 63 Scab Districts, each with five elected Sheep Board members and one Inspector – the precursor to Pastures / Rural Lands Protection Districts and eventually Local Land Services (LLS). Sheep scab was eradicated by the 1890's. Effective control of virulent footrot would take much longer to achieve.

Bovine pleuropneumonia was introduced with cattle in 1858. "Pleuro" as it was called would cost many millions in lost livestock, restricted export opportunities and in disease control work. Australia was officially declared free of pleuropneumonia in 1973 however no cases had been seen for long before this date. Freedom from "pleuro" created more export opportunities for live cattle as well as sparing many cattle from a painful death.

Foot and Mouth disease was introduced into both NSW and Victoria in the early 1870's. These cases were fortunately eradicated quickly, and the benefits of quarantine and herd eradication were recognised. As the result of excellent quarantine and biosecurity systems no cases (touch wood) have been seen in the 150 years since. The need for preventive biosecurity is now greater than ever.

Anthrax or Cumberland disease as it was known became widespread in the early times of the colony. For a while this disease spread unchecked until the benefits of quarantine and burning of infected carcasses became known, and an effective vaccine became available.

The vaccine developed by McGarvie-Smith resulted in good disease protection and later an ongoing small stream of funds which allowed many DPI officers to undertake important project work. Due to the long survival of anthrax spores, isolated cases of anthrax still occur but are quickly controlled.

In 1923, one hundred years ago, there were two very significant developments. The Stock Diseases Act 1923 was enacted, giving stock inspectors greater powers than police officers due to the importance of the sheep and cattle industries and the need to control diseases promptly.

And, Glenfield Veterinary Research station was established. Glenfield conducted excellent research and diagnostic work over many years, among other things pioneering the investigation and control of several important viral diseases of cattle and sheep, until it was closed in 1990 and new facilities opened at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) at Menangle. In addition to Glenfield, excellent diagnostic work and practical research were also conducted at the Orange, Wagga Wagga, Armidale and Wollongbar Regional Veterinary Laboratories. These facilities were closed overtime and all diagnostic work centralized at EMAI. The animal and plant health laboratories at EMAI are now some of the best in the country.

In the 1970's, BTEC - the first national campaign to eradicate both Brucellosis and Tuberculosis (TB) - commenced. This was prompted by the United States which announced that restrictions would occur if these diseases were not eradicated and that it expected to be free of TB by 1984. The US was Australia's largest beef export market at that time. Australia was declared free of free of bovine brucellosis in 1989 and free of TB in 1997.

Eradication of both TB and brucellosis was a massive achievement for Australia and showed the enormous benefits of close government / industry cooperation and co-funding. The amount of planning, effort and work that went into this successful program was enormous. In 1980, at the peak of the campaign in NSW, BTEC employed 500 temporary staff, with a total annual budget was \$10 million – an enormous amount at the time. The program was led by 10 veterinarians employed by the Department and 41 Veterinary Inspectors employed by the then Pastures Protection Boards.

Following BTEC, NSW Agriculture and Board veterinarians worked with industry on several endemic disease control programs. Control of virulent footrot was a major program from the late 1980's and most NSW sheep flocks were footrot free by 2000, after decades of hoof paring, foot bathing and sheep losses.

Many people would remember the slogan from that time "Footrot free is the way to be".

Similarly, internal and external parasite control programs in sheep such as Wormkill and Licekill, incorporated the best management science to allow for much more effective control.

In the 1990's, another major achievement was the successful management of chemical residues. Overseas beef markets such as the US and Japan became increasingly concerned about residues especially organochlorines in beef. Surveillance in abattoirs resulted in traceback to farms and many Veterinary Officers and District Veterinarians became skilled in collecting fat samples from cattle. These samples were sent to the Department's chemical residue laboratory at Wollongbar for testing. Experience in NSW was pivotal in forming the National Organochlorine Residue Management Program and the National Antibacterial Residue Monitoring program, and later led to the successful response to deal with the 'Helix' crisis in 1995-6 – after drought feeding of cotton trash to cattle led to residues of a new insecticide, which for a time caused the banning of Australian beef from Japanese school lunches!

Equine Influenza entered Australia in August 2007 when the disease escaped from the Eastern Creek Commonwealth Quarantine station. The subsequent response to eradicate infection from NSW and Queensland involved 10,000 properties and cost over \$100m. More than 140,000 horses were vaccinated. The last case was on 25th December 2007. NSW DPI mounted a massive, coordinated emergency response involving hundreds of people to help achieve this very successful outcome. This outcome was a credit to all involved and demonstrated the value of emergency disease response training. The emergency team became more determined when a visiting EI 'expert' said that eradication would not be possible.

Another emergency disease is Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), currently spreading via wild birds through Europe, the Americas and Asia. A number of outbreaks in NSW have been successfully eradicated based on quarantine, slaughter out, tracing and disinfection programs. Avian Influenza normally initially enters flocks through contact between wild birds and domestic poultry which highlights the need for excellent biosecurity.

Hendra disease in horses also resulted in emergency disease responses. The fact that several people unfortunately died from this virus greatly heightened the need for care during investigations. Prompt diagnosis and response led to early production of a vaccine that has limited further losses.

OUR GOAL IS TO ERADICATE EQUINE INFLUENZA BY MID-MARCH 2008



TRAVELLING HORSE STATEMENTS (THS)

Fill in your THS on-line at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/equine-influenza/ths

A travelling horse statement is needed for movements in the White, Green and Purple Zones.

The information collected by the THS enables us to locate any horses that may have come in contact with an infected horse within minutes. Early detection would be crucial in the very unlikely event of a further infection.

Within the Purple Zone, it is now only possible to move horses which are immune to EI, that is, recovered and vaccinated horses. Permits are required for moving horses between zones, and for movements in Amber and Red Zones.

It is vital to remain vigilant and report any suspected signs of infection to the hotline.



All these programs demonstrated the need for very effective traceability systems, surveillance, biosecurity and emergency disease preparedness. The National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) continued to develop, as did surveillance monitoring and training and preparedness for dealing with emergency diseases. The importance of biosecurity in keeping all pests, be it diseases, weeds, insects etc out of the country, out of the state or out of a farm became obvious and new legislation (the Biosecurity Act) reflected this imperative.

Another important initiative was supporting the Indonesian Government with animal health services. A number of Department veterinarians spent considerable periods of time improving health services in Indonesia. This led to excellent professional relationships between the two countries over time, and upgrading international animal disease surveillance and management between our near neighbours in the region.

The importance of population medicine also became obvious, and many veterinarians undertook training in epidemiology to better understand this approach. NSW Agriculture / DPI and RLPBs / LLS have always been able to attract and keep great staff. For many years up until the mid 1970's, both organisations ran a cadetship program where students in Veterinary

Science and Agriculture were offered generous scholarships to support them whilst at University on condition that they worked for NSW Ag or Boards for several years (number of years of the scholarship plus one) after graduation. In the case of veterinary graduates, most cadets either went to a Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or to the Western Division following graduation.

Local Land Services were originally known as Pastures Protection (PP) Boards and then Rural Lands Protection Boards. Local Land Services now provide a much broader range of services than the original PP Boards. A great strength of animal health services has always been the network of about 40 veterinarians employed by LLS and its predecessors. These veterinarians are paid for by producers and report to the Chief Veterinary Officer. These veterinarians together with Departmental veterinarians and the excellent laboratory services paved the way for the great disease control outcomes listed.

Numerous veterinarians, rangers, livestock officers, inspectors, researchers, communication officers, legal officers, administration officers etc with both the NSW Government and Local Land Service have been instrumental in the achievements listed above and many other achievements not listed. Whilst there are way too many people to list individually, all these officers should be congratulated for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm for this work. Their work and achievements have greatly enhanced market access for animal products, improved animal productivity, improved animal welfare and saved human lives.

The importance of maintaining very effective veterinary services remains of critical importance. The threat from diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease and lumpy skin disease is very real, as is the threat from other exotic and emerging diseases.

Acknowledgements: Some of the information in this article was derived from

‘In the Service of Agriculture – a centennial history of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture – 1890 – 1990’ by Peter J. Mylrea

‘A Veterinary Awakening – The History of Government Veterinarians in Australia’ by Rhyll Vallis.

URGENT – Update your Mailing Address

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