



MEDIA RELEASE

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University of Sydney's, Faculty of Veterinary Science celebrates 100 years of veterinary excellence

This year marks a significant milestone for the University of Sydney's Faculty of Veterinary Science as it celebrates 100 years of excellence in veterinary teaching, care and research.

The festivities will begin with a 'Fabulous Family Fun Day' on Saturday, 1 May, from 1pm. Animal lovers, families and their pets are encouraged to join in the excitement of FREE pet health checks, veterinary hospital tours, family entertainment and delicious treats. Saturday evening's celebration includes a black-tie centenary reunion dinner, 'A Night to Remember', followed by a casual Sunday barbeque welcoming all alumni, former and present staff, students and friends of the Faculty.

Established in 1910, the Faculty of Veterinary Science is the oldest continuously operating veterinary school in the Southern Hemisphere and has become internationally recognised as a leading provider of veterinary education, animal science and research focused on the health and welfare of animals and benefit to the community.

Professor Rosanne Taylor, Dean of the University of Sydney's, Faculty of Veterinary Science said, "The centenary celebrations will be an opportunity for past and present associates to reconnect with fellow alumni, friends and faculty staff to remember the good times and celebrate One Hundred Years of achievement for the Faculty of Veterinary Science."

Historical personnel from the University of Sydney, Faculty of Veterinary Science contributing to Australia's key advancements in veterinary science include:

- James Douglas Stewart (founding professor) who was instrumental in developing rigorous training for young veterinarians and educating the public at large about animal health issues
- Sir Ian Clunies Ross was a graduate of the University of Sydney and was the leading figure in the establishment of the current CSIRO
- Dr Sydney Dodd (clostridial vaccines) and Dr Tom Hungerford (poultry vaccines) University of Sydney graduates, developed effective vaccines against common diseases in farm animals
- Faculty members Professor RMC Gunn, Professor C Emmens and Professor T Robinson after the Second World War paved the way for the widespread use of artificial insemination on farms and for the late adaptation of many of the techniques to IVF to human reproduction

Celebrity graduates from the University of Sydney's, Faculty of Veterinary Science include popular media personalities Dr Harry Cooper, Dr Katrina Warren and Dr Chris Brown.

World class attributes of the Faculty of Veterinary Science include; state-of-the-art animal facilities, recognition of an outstanding undergraduate curriculum; high quality research across numerous disciplines; contributions of published papers in major international scientific journals and high quality post-graduate training.

Professor Taylor commented, “areas of traditional strength of the Faculty have been anatomy, and pathobiology of domestic animals and wildlife, exercise physiology, animal health and welfare, surgical innovation, diagnostic imaging, and the animal husbandry areas of reproduction, nutrition and quantitative genetics in both production and companion animals.” She added, “dairy and poultry science have been supported by two foundations since the late 1950’s making Sydney the regional focus for research, training and extension in these industries”.

History: Prior to 1910, the fledgling nation of Australia relied on English and Scottish veterinary schools for training of its veterinary professionals and on imported technical expertise to support its rapidly developing animal industries.

James Douglas Stewart, an Australian who graduated from the Royal Dick Veterinary School, lobbied the New South Wales Government to establish a veterinary school at the University of Sydney, Australia’s oldest University. He became the veterinary school’s founding professor and once it was honoured full status as a Faculty of Veterinary Science in 1920, Professor Stewart became the inaugural Dean and remained in this prestigious position until his retirement in 1939.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science opened its doors on the 22nd March, 1910. Sixteen students enrolled in this premier Australian university course in veterinary science. These students learned from skilled practitioners and world class academics, with access to the know-how of a nation, which was already an emerging power in animal health and production.

A time-line identifying the Faculty’s key advancements and achievements is as follows:

- **1910** The veterinary school was established at the University of Sydney, Australia’s oldest university
- The early development of the School was delayed when many graduates and undergraduates volunteered for active service in the First World War
- **1920** The veterinary school was given full status as a Faculty of Veterinary Science
- **1920** James Douglas Stewart became the inaugural Dean
- **1923** James Douglas Stewart brought about the regulation of the practice of veterinary science in NSW with the passing of the Veterinary Surgeons Act
- **1928** 25 enrolled students
- **1930** Solely responsible for undergraduate veterinary training in Australia due to the closure of the Veterinary School of the University of Melbourne
- **1935** Over 100 enrolled students
- **1936** The University, in association with the McGarvie Smith Institute, purchased and developed a 160 hectare property at Badgery’s Creek
- **1937** Reintroduction of a five-year course of studies and training for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree
- **1939** Retirement of Professor James Douglas Stewart after a distinguished career that led to the growth of the Faculty between the two World Wars
- With the temporary closure of the Queensland Veterinary School during the Second World War, Sydney once again became solely responsible for veterinary education in Australia
- **1946** The temporary building for the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Bacteriology was constructed
- **1954** Additional farm facilities were acquired at Camden for teaching large animal medicine, husbandry and disease control
- **1960s** The Faculty led the way in Australasia in new surgical and medical treatments of companion animals

- **1980s** The Faculty Teaching Hospitals commenced the first clinical postgraduate training programs in Australasia
- **1990s** Increased focus on developing knowledge and providing care for Australia's unique native wildlife
- **1997** Departments of Veterinary Anatomy and Veterinary Pathology amalgamated
- **2001** Departments of Veterinary Anatomy and Pathology amalgamated with the Department of Animal Health and Veterinary Clinical Sciences
- **2004** Opening of the state-of-the-art Valentine Charlton Cat Centre providing internationally renowned excellence in feline clinical research and practice
- **2005** The Faculty offers a new undergraduate degree, the Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience
- **2005** The Faculty was granted international accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) becoming one of six accredited veterinary schools outside the USA and Canada
- **2007** The Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre opened in Camden by the honourable Pat Farmer
- **2008** Opening of the state-of-the-art Canine Teaching Hospital which incorporates a 16 slice CT scanner and an MRI
- **2008** Opening of the Camden Equine Performance and Imaging Centre, a facility delivering a complete state-of-the-art diagnostic package
- **2009** Geneticist Associate Professor Kathy Belov wins Eureka People's Choice Award
- **2010** Over 750 students enrolled

Fun Day details: The Faculty of Veterinary Science will open its doors to the public from 1pm-5pm on Saturday, 1 May, for the 'Fabulous Family Fun Day'. It will be held at the Sydney University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, 65 Parramatta Rd, Camperdown.

For information regarding the reunion dinner and/or the Sunday barbeque for alumni, staff or friends of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, contact Rachel Cruz on (02) 9351 8026 or email vetscience.vsf@sydney.edu.au.

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