

## Fifty years of veterinary education in Queensland

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### The Early Years

A Faculty of Veterinary Science within the University of Queensland was constituted by University statutes early in 1936 and Dr H R Seddon, Director of Veterinary Research in New South Wales, was appointed to the newly-established Chair of Veterinary Science (Seddon 1951). At the outset, it was decided that the course should be of five years duration and although a sound clinical training would be given, that an emphasis would be placed on animal husbandry and preventive medicine, with the applied aspects of these subjects being included in the final year of the course. As the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the faculty is being commemorated in 1986, this brief history is presented. The minutes of the Board of the Faculty of Veterinary Science from 1936 to 1985 have been the main source of information, but extensive reference has also been made to a *History of the Veterinary School* prepared by Professor John Francis in 1961.

Facilities for veterinary teaching (including hospital accommodation) to a value of £26,000 were constructed at suburban Yeerongpilly, near the Animal Health Station, between 1936 and 1940. The academic staffing of the Veterinary School in 1940 was one professor, 5 full-time and 2 part-time lecturers, plus 5 or 6 honorary lecturers (Seddon 1951). Five of the first class graduated in December 1940. As most students and many staff had joined the armed services and the school buildings were taken over by the United States Army in the latter part of 1942, the University had no option but to temporarily suspend the activities of the School. Eleven graduates had by this time gained the BVSc Degree.

### Post World War II Restoration

A Combined Advisory Committee recommended to the University Senate in 1945 that it endeavour to provide courses for both first and second year veterinary students in 1946. The Senate was to adopt this recommendation and to appoint Mr R H G Burns, acting Lecturer-in-Charge of Veterinary Science. The enrolment in first year veterinary science in 1946 was 22 and in second year 6. Although the original Veterinary School building at Yeerongpilly had been occupied by the Animal Health Station, some space within it was made available for veterinary teaching. There then began a protracted struggle for adequate accommodation and facilities for the teaching of veterinary science in the University of Queensland and this has continued over the ensuing 40 years.

In 1947 Mr Burns was joined by Mr A McDowall (Lecturer in Veterinary Anatomy) and Mr N D S May, Demonstrator in the subject. The third year of the course was offered in 1947 and in 1948 Mr R O C King was appointed a part-time Lecturer in Veterinary Pathology, a position he held for 4 years. In March 1948, 5 students who had completed 3 years in Queensland were accepted by the Sydney Veterinary School for the fourth and fifth years of the course and in 1949 a further 12 were accepted. A temporary building provided at Yeerongpilly by the University was ready for occupation by the veterinary teaching staff for the commencement of first term in 1949 and they were able to vacate the Animal Research Station. To provide accommodation for fourth year teaching, plans were approved in October, 1949 for appropriate extensions to be made to the temporary wooden building already in place.

Dr T K Ewer, a Sydney veterinary graduate of 1937 who had undertaken postgraduate studies at Cambridge, was ap-

pointed to the Chair in Animal Husbandry in the Department of Veterinary Science and took up his duties in August 1950. The first meeting of the reconstituted Board of the Faculty of Veterinary Science took place in the following November, eight years after the temporary closure of the school had been announced by the first Dean, Professor Seddon. The Australian Veterinary Association congratulated Professor Ewer on his appointment to the first Chair in the re-established Veterinary School (Anon 1950).

Following the arrival of Professor Ewer, 4 new appointments to the academic staff (R Tucker, R Millar, P English and G McBride) were made before June 1951. Then at the meeting of the Faculty Board in October, the Dean reported that Mr John Francis MSc, MRCVS, Professor-elect to the Chair of Preventive Medicine, hoped to obtain passage from England in time to be here for the first term in 1952; he actually took up his duties in March of that year. It was considered that he would take general responsibility for the clinical side of the course as well as for bacteriology and pathology.

In April, 1952, further teaching, communal and animal accommodation was officially opened at the school by the Honourable H H Collins, Minister for Agriculture and Stock, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor and other senior administrative staff. At a meeting of the Faculty Board in July, 1952, it was reported that Dr J F A Sprent, Senior Lecturer in Parasitology, had arrived and this increase in academic staff had brought the total number in the department to 10.

The first postgraduate course for practising veterinarians held in February, 1953, was warmly praised by the 52 veterinarians who attended. In May, 1953, Dr E W Moodie joined the department as Lecturer in Animal Husbandry and 12 months later Dr H Winter took up his appointment as Lecturer in Pathology. It was in mid-1954 that Dr Sprent was appointed Research Professor in Parasitology and in October 1954 that the enrolment of the first MVSc candidate, Mr D S Kronfield, was approved by the Faculty. Also, arising from a Faculty resolution, Dr Ian Clunies Ross, Chairman of CSIRO was invited by the University to deliver the 1954 John Murtagh Macrossan Lecture, entitled "Dr J A Gilruth."

### The Four Department School

In the latter part of 1954, a conjoint committee of the Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences Facilities Committee of the University of Queensland and representatives of the Standing Committee of the Professorial Board were appointed to inquire into certain matters relating to the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The report in February, 1955, recommended that the single Department of Veterinary Science be reorganised to form 4 departments: Animal Husbandry, Preventive Medicine, Veterinary Clinical Studies and Veterinary Anatomy and Parasitology, with some subjects such as physiology still remaining extra-school subjects. The Heads of the 4 departments subsequently formed were, respectively, Professor Ewer, Professor Francis, Mr Burns (as Chief Lecturer) and Research Professor Sprent. In October, 1955, the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies was strengthened by the appointment of Mr H G Osborne, also as Chief Lecturer.

Professor Francis was elected Dean by the Faculty Board in March, 1956. During his 6 years as Dean he devoted much effort to the development of the Veterinary Science Farm at Moggill, now Pinjarra Hills, which has become a vital centre for undergraduate and postgraduate training and research.

Another significant event in 1956 was the creation of a Chair in Parasitology, with finance obtained from the Rural Credit Development Fund, and the appointment of Professor Sprent to it. Two Post Doctoral Fellowships in Parasitology were established in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Parasitology with funds provided by CSIRO and Drs J C Pearson and H M D Hoyte were appointed to them. A milestone in the faculty was the award of the first Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science to G R Moule in 1956 for his work in the field of sheep husbandry. Another occurred in 1957 when Mr D Kronfield was awarded the Degree of Master of Veterinary Science for work done in the Department of Physiology, the first award of an MVSc Degree by the University of Queensland.

Until the Murray Committee visited the University in July, 1957, the idea of a new veterinary school on the allocated site at St Lucia had been a distant prospect. It became a reality when the Murray Committee recommended that £250,000 be allocated for the building of Stage 1 of the Veterinary School. The manifestation of commonwealth funding of tertiary education was a source of great stimulus to the staff of the school, as it was to University staff generally. During the period 1957-1960, the buildings of Stage 1 of the Veterinary School at St Lucia were planned and nearly completed.

The first research facilities built at the lower farm, now further developed by the Department of Parasitology, were opened by the Premier of Queensland, the Right Honourable Frank Nicklin, in December 1958.

In 1959 and 1960 there was concrete evidence of postgraduate research being performed by graduates of the School. In August 1959, the Degree of Master of Veterinary Science was awarded to Mr S Miller for work undertaken externally as a member of the field staff of the Department of Primary Industry; while in March 1960, the Faculty Board recommended that Mr R F Riek, of CSIRO Yeerongpilly, be admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science. When in July, 1960, the Board recommended that Mr English be awarded the Degree of Master of Veterinary Science, the Dean stated that it was the first time that the degree had been awarded for work done within the school itself. Also about this time, the faculty noted that 6 staff and postgraduate students had been admitted by the Higher Degree Committee of the University as candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Although there had been academic staff resignations (Mr Millar, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine, and Mr A McDowall, Senior Lecturer in Medicine and Anatomy, in 1953 and 1954, respectively, and Dr Moodie, Lecturer in Animal Husbandry in 1956), with additional full-time appointments the teaching staff of the 4 departments by late 1960 ranged from 3 in the Department of Preventive Medicine to 6 in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies. Then, according to the minutes of the Faculty Board of December, 1960, Professor Ewer was congratulated by the Dean on his appointment to the Chair in Animal Husbandry at the University of Bristol. He left Queensland to take up this appointment soon afterwards.

### **The School Relocated at St Lucia**

#### *The Move and Official Opening*

In 1961, twenty-five years after its establishment, the Veterinary School was moved from Yeerongpilly to its new location on the main University of Queensland Campus at St Lucia. The new buildings, which formed Stage I of the relocated school, did not provide the accommodation needed for all staff to transfer to St Lucia, so a part of the Department of Parasitology remained at Yeerongpilly. Although the transfer occurred in February 1961, the Official Opening did not take place until 10 August 1961, when the opening and the 25th anniversary ceremonies were celebrated conjointly. After the opening, which was performed by the Honourable C F Adermann, Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry, a dinner was held and it was followed by the Jubilee Oration,

entitled "The Development of Veterinary Science in Australia", delivered by Dr H R Seddon, the first Dean of the Faculty.

Professor J F A Sprent was elected to the Deanship of the Faculty in 1961 and continued in the position for 3 years. At the March meeting of the Faculty Board in 1961, approval was given to the legend to be inscribed on a brass plate for the mural in the faculty entrance foyer in the North Block. It read, "This mural, the work of Mrs Dorothy McPhee, was the winning entry in a competition for a prize donated by the University of Queensland Veterinary Students Association. It represents the landing of oxen in Melbourne in 1858 that were infected with pleuropneumonia and due to failure to accept veterinary advice, subsequently spread the disease to all parts of mainland Australia". Another highlight of the year was the receipt by the Dean of a letter from the Executive Secretary of the American Veterinary Medical Association advising that the Queensland Veterinary School had been added to the list of schools recommended for recognition by the Licensing Board in the United States of America.

In the last quarter of 1961, a case was being prepared for the building of Stage 2 of the Veterinary School, which was to include accommodation both for departments and faculty communal facilities. At the March 1962 meeting of the Faculty Board, it was recorded that Board membership was 26 and that Professor D F Dowling, who had recently been appointed to the Chair in Animal Husbandry, was present by invitation. Mr Pryor, who was awarded the MVSc Degree in 1962, was later appointed as the first Sub-Dean of the Faculty.

In 1962, the University had approved in principle the establishment of a Chair in Veterinary Clinical Studies, but it was not one of those recommended for implementation in 1963. In June 1963 Dr Riek, a representative of the Queensland Division of the Australian Veterinary Association on the Faculty Board, reported with respect to fund raising for the Chair in Veterinary Clinical Studies that the AVA had been promised a sum of £6,000 over the next 5 years. He informed the Board at its meeting that a further £2,000 had been secured and that the University had agreed that the Chair would be advertised when the total sum promised had reached £10,000. Veterinary School staff changes foreshadowed towards the end of 1963 included the election of Professor Dowling as Dean for 1964 and of Mr English as Sub-Dean.

#### *The Middle and Late Sixties*

At the first meeting of the Board in 1964, the Veterinary School Sub-Committee recommended that, because of a shortage of staff and facilities, a quota system must be implemented, pointing out that Stage 1 of the Veterinary School had been designed to cope with a graduating class of 25. At a meeting of the Faculty Board on 4 December 1964, the Dean (Professor Dowling) informed members of the recent death of the school's founding Dean, Dr H R Seddon, and a few moments of silence were observed by members.

The following evidence of support for the development of the Queensland Veterinary School was contained in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of 12 February 1965. "The Australian Agricultural Council (which consists of the Minister for Primary Industry, CSIRO, and the various State Ministers of Agriculture) at its recent meeting in New Guinea considered a report on the shortage of veterinarians in Australia and referred the matter to the Universities Commission with emphasis on the need for early action to alleviate the position. They emphasised the need for funds to complete the Veterinary School at the University of Queensland as a factor of major importance in relation to the training of veterinarians in Australia. The council at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Veterinary Association meeting at Alice Springs in 1964 resolved in similar terms and also informed the Australian Universities Commission and the University of Queensland."

The Chair in Veterinary Clinical Studies was finally advertised in the latter half of 1964 and Dr P B English was appointed to it in April 1965. At about this time grave concern

was again being expressed within the faculty at the school's ability to adequately cope with the large undergraduate student enrolment. As well as staff numbers being insufficient, the capacities of the lecture rooms within the school were inadequate, as were most of the practical teaching facilities. A major event in 1965 was the completion and official opening of the Pastoral Veterinary Centre of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies, at Goondiwindi, by the Premier, The Right Honourable Mr F Nicklin.

The Virus Laboratory of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the farm was opened by the Commonwealth Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr A J Forbes in August 1966. Additions subsequently made were the Virus Animal House opened by the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries, the Honourable J A Row, MLA in November 1971 and the Study Seminar Room opened by the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable J Bjelke-Petersen, MLA, in June 1978. The foregoing facilities were funded very largely by rural industry research or producer organisations, to which the Veterinary School is much indebted.

As Professor Dowling had completed a three-year term, Professor English was elected Dean as from January 1967 and Mr Springhall Sub-Dean. The University had not accepted the Faculty's earlier recommendations on quotas and the uncontrolled enrolment of undergraduates remained a major problem for the faculty. In March 1967, the enrolment in first year veterinary science was 128 and the total enrolment in the undergraduate course was 427. Further faculty resolutions with regard to the imposition of quotas led to an examination of the problem by a Senate Committee. However, this committee recommended that quotas need not be introduced for 1968 and 1969 provided that interstate and overseas students were further limited. Certain reorganisation of teaching occurred and additional staff were appointed, but another review of quotas was foreshadowed for late 1969.

At the beginning of 1968, the western block and the teaching facilities (lecture theatres and large laboratory) block were under construction with the \$800,000 made available for this purpose by the Australian Universities Commission, in the 1967-69 triennium. In February 1968, the staff of the school were saddened at the sudden death of Mr R H G Burns, Reader in Veterinary Surgery, who was in reality the "founding father" of the post-World War II Veterinary School.

With the occupation of the Western Block in 1969 largely by the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies, and the completion of the teaching facilities block, conditions for teaching were markedly improved. The capacity of the new lecture theatres were 144 (lower) and 96 (upper). A note in the 1969 edition of *Apsyrus* paid tribute to the 112 New Zealand veterinarians who had graduated or would graduate from the Veterinary School of the University of Queensland between 1952 and 1969 and expressed regret that this association was about to end.

As 1969 drew to a close, Dr W J Pryor was elected as Dean for 1970 and Dr H M D Hoyte as Sub-Dean. In December, the attention of members of the Board of the Faculty of Veterinary Science was drawn to a report by Dr R N Farquhar which had been published as an appendix of the Fourth Report of the Australian Universities Commission. This report was concerned with Australia's need for veterinarians, the ability of existing schools to meet this need, and the case for the establishment of a fourth veterinary school in Australia.

#### *The Full-time Dean*

In 1969, during the tenure of the previous Dean, there had been discussions on the merits of the deanship becoming a full-time appointment. The Administration agreed with this initiative and from the outset in 1970 Dr Pryor gave most of his time to the duties of the Dean. Professor Saint, Dean of Medicine, had been Chairman of a Senate Committee established in 1969 to inquire into the adequacy of the staffing and facilities of the Veterinary School. In June 1970, the Senate referred this committee's report to the Faculty Board for comment. Its salient recommendations were that a full-time

Dean be appointed, that new long term goals and teaching methods be established, that not more than 100 students be accepted into second year in 1972 and that the Senate should set up an expert committee to report on the organisation and management of Moggill Farm. The Faculty Board was not happy with respect to the establishment of a quota into second year.

The position of a full-time Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, at a professorial level was advertised early in 1971. Also at this time a Curriculum Committee was established under the Chairmanship of the Dean, to undertake a "heart-searching" examination of the undergraduate course recommended by the Saint Committee. The Curriculum Committee was also asked by the Faculty Board to explore ways and means of introducing the semester system into the course, as it was at that time being introduced to other courses within the University. The foreshadowed resignation of Dr Pryor from the Deanship at the end of 1971 to take up the duties of Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Massey University, New Zealand, resulted in the election of Mr H G Osborne, Reader in Veterinary Medicine, to succeed Dr Pryor pending the appointment of a full-time Dean. Dr Frost was elected Sub-Dean for 1972.

The Report of a Senate Committee on Moggill Farm, although approved by the Senate in 1972, was not to be fully implemented until the new full-time Dean took up his appointment. The report stated that a full-time Dean would be Chairman of the committees responsible for the co-ordination of the activities of Moggill Veterinary Farm (and any other future farm) and for the forward planning of the areas in their use for teaching which is the responsibility of the faculty. Undergraduate enrolments in veterinary science as of 30 April 1972, were 393, there being 70 in first year, 97 in second year, 92 in third year, 81 in fourth year and 53 in fifth year. When the imposition of quotas was again being considered in first term 1973, the total enrolment in veterinary science was 458 with the numbers in first and second year being 106 and 102, respectively, and that in final year 75.

Dr Trevor Heath, the first appointee to the faculty as professorial full-time Dean took up his duties in August, 1973. Also in 1973, Professor Dowling was appointed to a personal chair in Veterinary Biometeriology and Dr M W Simpson-Morgan to the Chair in Animal Husbandry. Professor Heath presided at his first Faculty Board Meeting on October 3 and another substantial task he undertook soon afterwards was a visit to Goondiwindi to assess the standards of teaching and student accommodation.

For the first time, a quota was applied in veterinary science in 1974 and 100 students were admitted into first year. Members of the Universities Commission visited the University in 1974 and recommended that a new small animal hospital and clinic be provided in the following triennium, but this did not eventuate because the Federal Government failed to proceed with the normal triennium in 1976.

In 1974 the untimely death of Dr N D S May, Head of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy occurred, and Dr M A E Rex arrived to occupy the Chair in Veterinary Surgery, established within the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies. At the September 1974 meeting of the Board, the Dean foreshadowed an enquiry into the school which was to be entitled "The Veterinary School and the Future". The semester system was also established in 1974 and it was anticipated that all years in the veterinary course except fifth year would be operating under the semester system by 1975.

#### **The Lean Years**

##### *Changes in School Structure*

Major debate within the school in 1976 centred around the *Report of the Committee on the Veterinary School and the Future*. It was referred by the Vice-Chancellor to the Faculty Board for comment during the latter part of the first semester. The main changes that were to follow the adoption of the recommendations of the report were that separate Depart-

ments of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgery were formed and the clinic and hospital at St Lucia was to become a faculty facility. Also the Department of Preventive Medicine was to be renamed the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Public Health and certain parts of the old Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies, including the Pastoral Veterinary Centre, were to be amalgamated with the Department of Animal Husbandry to form a Department of Animal Production. Although not all members of the faculty were happy with the new structure, it was adopted and became operative from 1 January 1977. The Senate also resolved that Professor English would be Head of the new Department of Veterinary Medicine and Professor Rex would be Head of the new Department of Veterinary Surgery. In 1976 Dr Frost was elected Sub-Dean for another 12 month term. Among the notable events in the year were the arrival of Professor R D Glover to occupy the newly established Chair in Veterinary Anatomy and the award of CBE to Professor Francis.

When the Dean reported that the quota of 100 first year students had been filled in 1978, he advised that there were 40 women in the new intake. It was in 1978 that Senate agreed that Statute 9 be altered to permit the appointment of a Deputy Dean of the Faculty. The University set the Veterinary Science quota for 1979 at 80, despite a faculty resolution that it be 75. In agreeing to the reduction from 100 the Senate had been influenced more by the capacity of the school's facilities than by arguments from veterinary practitioners that too many graduates were entering the profession. Also, it was reported in December 1979 that Dr E W Moodie, Reader in Veterinary Medicine, would become Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine in 1980 as Professor English was going on study leave and retiring from the headship.

#### *A Further Restriction in University Funds*

At the first meeting of the Faculty Board in 1980, the Dean advised that financial restraints were projected to reduce University staff establishment by 15% over the ensuing 10 years. However, it was anticipated that there would be funding for at least one more substantial building for the school in the eighties. An Equine Clinical Unit at the Large Animal Clinical Centre, Pinjarra Hills, was given a high placing on the list of capital works sought of the Universities Commission by the University of Queensland for the 1982-84 triennium.

In April, 1980, due to ill health, the Dean, Professor Heath, temporarily stood aside and the Deputy Dean, Professor Rex was appointed Acting Dean. As a consequence, Dr Frost became Acting Deputy Dean. In September, when Professor Rex took a period of leave due to ill health, Dr Frost was appointed Acting Dean. Professor Heath resigned from the Deanship in December, but fortunately was able to continue academic duties. However, the Vice-Chancellor advised that his position would not be refilled until a review of university structure that was under way had been completed. In the latter part of 1980, Dr P J Chenoweth was appointed Director of the Pastoral Veterinary Centre, Professor J Francis retired from Departmental Headship and Professor M Simpson-Morgan resigned from the University. As a consequence Dr H Winter became Head of Veterinary Pathology and Public Health and Dr J Ternouth became Head of Animal Production.

Professor Rex returned to the Acting Deanship in January 1981, but as he was to begin a special studies program in July, it was decided that an acting dean should be appointed on an annual basis until the position of the permanent dean was refilled. The new appointee to the Acting Deanship was Dr H M D Hoyte, Reader and Head of the Department of Parasitology, and the Deputy Dean, appointed in September, was Dr R C W Daniel, Reader in Veterinary Medicine. Professor Heath became a member of the staff of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy.

The BVSc quota of 80 was filled in 1981 by 44 female and 36 male students, this being the first time the enrolment of women had outnumbered men in the first year. In 1982 the first year quota had been reduced to 75 and the lowest tertiary

education score of the candidates accepted was 970. Also, at this time, the University Senate decided to adopt a new academic structure, in which departments and faculties of the University were to be located in one of 6 different groups. The Veterinary School and its Departments were located within the Biological Sciences Group and Professor J M Thomson was appointed its Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Rex was appointed Dean from January 1983, and at the March meeting of the Board, he announced that "the Vice-Chancellor had directed that a Committee chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor be set up to investigate the organisation of clinical teaching facilities in the faculty". Three professors retired during the year, Professors Dowling and Francis in June and Professor Sprent in December, but each retained an association with his respective department. Dr P B Spradbrow was awarded a Personal Chair by the Senate of the University of Queensland in 1984 for his outstanding work in virology and cancer research. In 1961, he had the distinction of being the first to gain a PhD Degree for a project undertaken within the Veterinary School and in 1980 was awarded the DVSc degree. He personally supervised 23 successful PhD students.

Matters discussed by the Faculty Board at its regular and a number of special meetings in 1984 included the undergraduate curriculum and reports on proposed alterations in the structure of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Initially, there was a measure of agreement with respect to the bringing together of the 5 departments of the School into 2 divisions, but this proposal clashed with University statutes. Recurrent University funding continued to fall in terms of purchasing power. However, with an eye to long term research funding, in May 1984 the Senate approved the establishment of the University of Queensland Animal Health and Welfare Trust Fund and Mr T G Matthews was appointed the Chairman of its Council. Also, the Faculty Board gave approval in principle to a fund-raising project, to be initiated by the Veterinary Special Interest Group of the Alumni Association, to give graduates and friends of the School an opportunity to do something significant on the occasion of the 50th year of the School's establishment, in 1986.

The Dean reported in March 1985, that the feasibility study for the building of the new small animal clinic and hospital had been completed and that the funds for Stage 1 of the proposed complex would be provided from the Curtis Bequest (value approximately \$300,000), plus an allocation from University funds. The Veterinary Special Interest Group of the Alumni Association expressed an interest in being associated with the promotion of a campaign to raise \$400,000 for Stage 2.

The total academic and supporting staff of the departments of the faculty as of 1 January 1986 numbered 55 and 96, respectively. During the course of the last 50 years, 12 DVSc degrees and 107 MVSc degrees (83 thesis, 24 course work) have been awarded by the faculty and 65 PhD degrees have been awarded to candidates working in the departments of the School. In addition 1,820 graduates have gained the Bachelor of Veterinary Science Degree, over 500 of these with honours.

The 50th year will be commemorated by a number of celebratory activities largely in association with other meetings or special activities to be held during the year. Special activities will include the compilation of a booklet to include a history of the Veterinary School and other relevant material; the purchase of a commemorative wine goblet embossed with a school crest; and the presentation at the University on 27 August 1986 of a Jubilee Oration by Professor Malcolm Nairn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Murdoch University and a distinguished alumnus.

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