

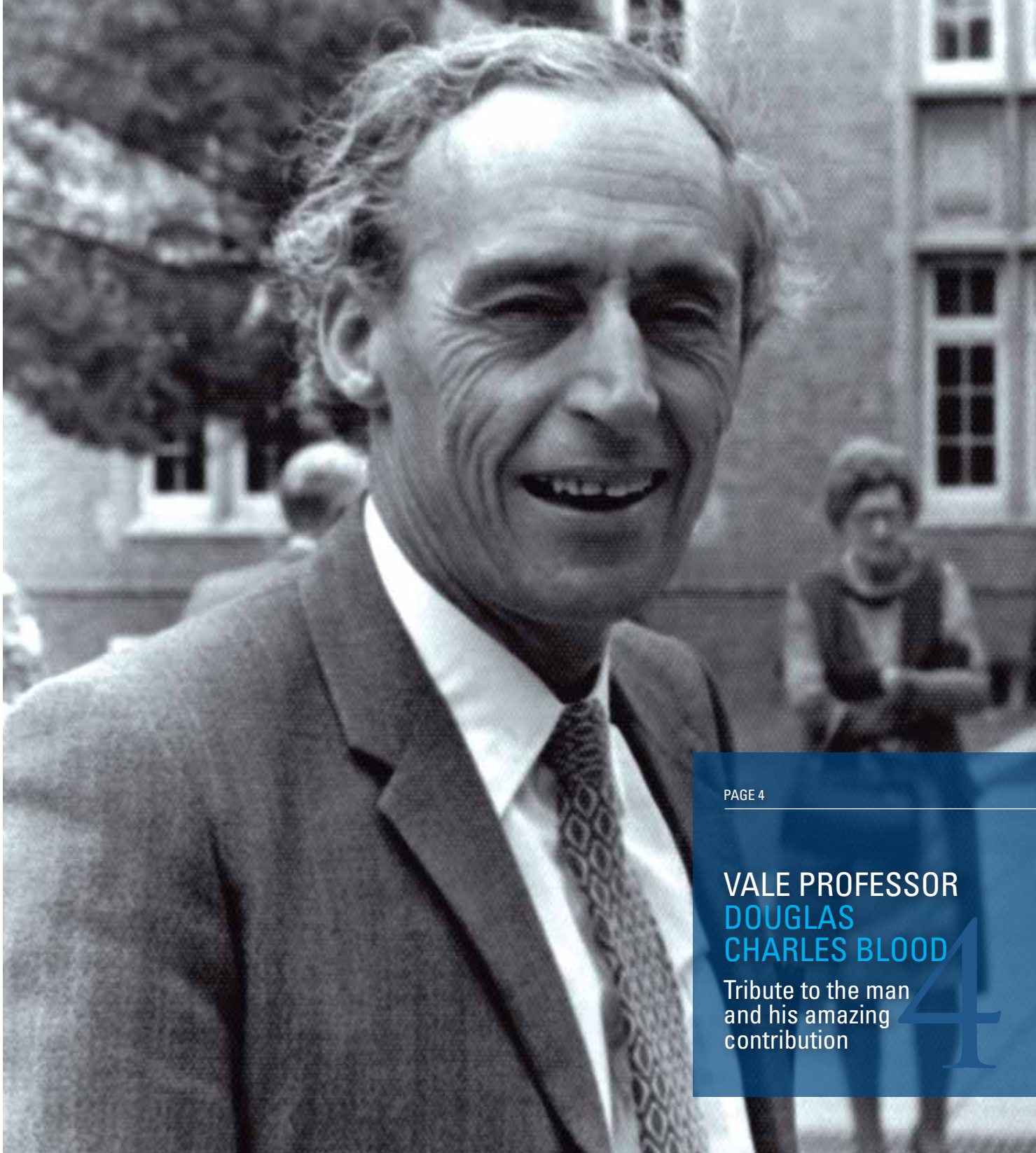


THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# VETNEWS

MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VETERINARY  
SOCIETY AND FRIENDS OF THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

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VALE PROFESSOR  
DOUGLAS  
CHARLES BLOOD

Tribute to the man  
and his amazing  
contribution

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*As the twilight of 2013 casts upon us, it is timely to reflect on the passing of a significant year in the history of the Faculty and our Melbourne School of Veterinary Science.*

Throughout the year we have celebrated a significant milestone, the 50th anniversary of the reopening of the School, contemporaneous with the final graduating cohort of students who have undertaken the BVSc degree course. We have also mourned the passing of two of the Faculty's former deans and most influential founding leaders of our School, Professors Kenneth Jubb and Douglas Blood. And, in recognition of their meritorious service to the Faculty and veterinary education globally, we have formally celebrated their lives and outstanding academic careers throughout the year.

Amongst several successful events and activities engaging our alumni during the year, probably our most significant event was the Melbourne University Veterinary Society (MUVS) 2013 Art Competition and Exhibition in October, The Artful World of Animals, masterfully coordinated and managed by Professor Bruce Parry and superbly curated by Purnima Ruanglertbutr. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Bruce and Purnima for putting together such a magnificent exhibition, and our congratulations are extended to our very fine judges, and alumni, Dr Fiona Anderson and Dr Bill Riches, and to all the exhibitors and prize winners. This event was an outstanding success and complemented the University's Festival of Ideas in a very significant way.

Following on from the impressive achievements and honours of alumni acknowledged in our mid year edition of VetNews, special recognition also needs to be given to the recent honours bestowed upon Emeritus Professor Simon Turner (alumnus 1972) and the distinguished academic appointment of Professor Peter Constable (alumnus 1982). Simon has been awarded the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) Founders' Award for Career Achievement and Peter, a fellow classmate of mine, has been appointed Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois. On behalf of the Melbourne University Veterinary Society I extend our warmest congratulations to both Simon and Peter for their remarkable academic achievements.

In early December we will witness the graduation of the last cohort of BVSc students. As we close out of a fifty year chapter in the early history of the Melbourne School of Veterinary Science, another one opens in 2014. We have all shared and have been a part of this School's history so now let us be a part of its future development and prosperity. The Faculty depends upon us for consultative and financial support so I appeal to all alumni to engage and offer their support. Support can be offered in many ways inclusive of scholarships, bursaries and bequests, a comprehensive range of options which can all be explored through contact with the Faculty's Advancement Office.

Enjoy reading this edition of VetNews and please remember to keep connected with the Faculty, its School and Hospital, and your fellow alumni.

Warm regards,

**Joseph Galbally**

BVSc (Hons) 1982 (President, Melbourne University Veterinary Society)

# VALE PROFESSOR DOUGLAS CHARLES BLOOD

The life of Professor Doug Blood (1920 – 2013), first Dean of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne, was commemorated at a service at the Werribee Racecourse in July this year. More than 250 people gathered to pay tribute to the man and his amazing contribution to the veterinary profession, particularly in the area of large animal medicine.



Professor Blood came out to Australia as a boy in 1926, from East Ham, London. His family settled in Richmond, NSW and toughed out the Great Depression. Through scholarship, he attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School, where he enjoyed studying animals (especially cows and dogs).

Doug entered into a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. During the Second World War, he and a group of colleagues convinced the university to allow them to complete an accelerated course in order to graduate in 1942 and then enlist. Doug became a Captain in a surveillance unit in the Northern Territory, called Curtin's Cowboys.

From 1957 to 1962, Doug taught large animal medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph. In 1962, Doug Blood was appointed Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Foundation Dean of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Blood passed on the deanship in 1968, but continued to teach, retiring in 1985 after 23 years of service. He was also a pioneer in other areas of veterinary medicine, such as the development of herd health, preventive medicine programs and computerised diagnostic systems.

Doug was the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees, including the Schofield Medal from the University of Guelph, the Gilruth Prize for Meritorious Service to Veterinary Science, from the Australian Veterinary Association and an Order of the British Empire.

Professor Blood was involved in the formation of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists and then served as the Chief Examiner from 1971 to 1979. He also served as a committee member of the Victorian Division of the Australian Veterinary Association and as a board member of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Board of Victoria. In 1960 Professor Blood co-authored the seminal text on large animal medicine, *Veterinary Medicine*, with Dr James A. Henderson. He co-authored another eight editions, over 45 years.

Speaking at the memorial service, Emeritus Professor Clive Gay, a former student, colleague and co-author of Doug Blood's, commented on establishing a School of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne in the 1960s:



"This was a remarkable political achievement requiring the support and cooperation of the agricultural communities, veterinarians, politicians and the public."

Professor Ken Hinchcliff (similarly a former student and co-author of Doug's) agrees. At the memorial service, he described the enormity of the task Professor Blood would have faced, let alone the relocation such a long way with a young family:

"..Developing a vision and holding it while managing upwards university administration, ensuring that other political forces in the University did not foil his plan for the veterinary school, fund raising, establishing rapport with key stakeholders, keeping a budget under control and developing a curriculum. And to do all of this while recruiting staff, planning buildings, working with architects, and knowing that he was setting the course of the veterinary school for decades. There must have been very many late nights, sleepless nights, and worrying times. One can only stand in awe of his effort."

Others who spoke at his memorial service in July, also spoke of a generous man of great intellect, zest for life and dry wit. He loved his morning runs/walks with his beloved border collies, music and literature, and Doug had a passion for baking bread, brewing beer, photographing birds and wearing bow ties. He was a family man who was so proud of his family and their achievements.

Doug had a strong work ethic excellent time management skills and was, of course,

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# EXPLORING THE HEARTFELT AND COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP HUMANS HAVE WITH ANIMALS

Recent exhibition, The Artful World of Animals, celebrated 50 years of teaching at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Australia's oldest veterinary school.

The exhibition coincided with the Festival of Ideas and ran from 27 September to 7 October at University Hall.

Curated by Purnima Ruanglerbut, the exhibition featured works of art by 35 artists, including Australian veterinarians, veterinary nurses and receptionists, professional and enthusiast artists, designers and photographers, University students, alumni and staff. The exhibition explored the diversity of the world's most spectacular and loved creatures, large and small, exotic and familiar, both from animal and human perspectives.

The exhibition included an art competition, inspired by late Professor Doug Blood's magnificent photographs of wild bird species. See the article on Professor Blood's achievements on pages 4 and 5 of this publication.

The artworks included prints, video, textiles and installation art, as well as a section dedicated to Professor Blood's images.



"The late Professor Blood was the founding Dean of the modern incarnation of our Veterinary school 50 years ago. He was a professor of agricultural animal medicine. He was not only a dedicated scientist, he was also an exceptional artist," said Professor Bruce Parry, from the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

The competition and exhibition was supported by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the Veterinary Society and

Royal Canin. The winning artists in each media category received a small cash prize.

Joseph Galbally, president of the University's Veterinary Society said, "As veterinarians and animal scientists we are charged with being the protectors and custodians of the animal species cohabiting our planet, caring for their health, welfare and wellbeing. This exhibition identified our sensitivity towards the animal species and how we interpreted our relationship with them."

## VALE PROFESSOR DOUGLAS CHARLES BLOOD continued from page 4...

a great teacher, who revolutionised the teaching of large animal medicine.

"He was one of the first teachers in veterinary clinical medicine to recognise that pathophysiology was the basis for teaching the disease process in large animals. He concentrated on its principals for the explanation of disease syndromes and for teaching clinical examination and diagnosis. Doug taught that the method of clinical examination should be system-based and conducted in a systematic manner using all senses and available techniques. He further taught that the intellectual diagnostic rule out should also include a consideration of the presenting epidemiology of the disease problem, the probability of disease occurrence and include an examination of the environment.

These approaches may seem obvious to more recent graduates, but in the 1950s they were revolutionary and in stark contrast to the common teaching method of that time," said Emeritus Professor Clive Gay.

Many other former students have attested to Professor Blood's outstanding skills as a lecturer: he was able to keep the students' attention "from start to finish." He had a depth of knowledge, but also a genuine interest in his students. His ability to remember them personally long after graduation was remarkable.

Professor Ken Hinchcliff has said:

"Doug was... a very important role model for many of us. While I think many of us (in the mid 70s) did not appreciate his global

eminence, we hung on his words during rounds, and especially during the sparring sessions between him and the pathologists at the 5.15 pathology rounds each evening... Doug had a formidable intellect, combined with an inexhaustible work ethic, and this was demonstrated daily in his teaching."

As Dr Otto Radostits, a Guelph graduate whose career was profoundly influenced by Doug Blood said, when presenting him with an honorary Doctor of Laws:

"...Here was an excellent classroom teacher, a scientific clinician and a master of the veterinary literature in large animal medicine."

If you would like to support the D.C. Blood Practitioner Scholar in Residence please go to [www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/support](http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/support)



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