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Rodmor Charitable Trust

DR DAVE HANLON

BSc, BVMS(Hons.) MVSc, PhD, MACVSc, Diplomate ACT

The NZ equine veterinary community is mourning the tragic loss of Dr Dave Hanlon in a motor vehicle accident while on holiday in Wyoming, USA, with his wife Fiona and three children. The family had taken up positions at Colorado State University in June 2019 after many years working at Matamata Veterinary Services in the Waikato. Initially from Tasmania, Dave graduated from Murdoch University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. He then completed a 3 year residency and Masters Degree in large animal reproduction at Massey University. In 1996 he joined Matamata Veterinary Services, and in 2001 he became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists and a Registered Specialist in equine reproduction. He was one of Matamata Veterinary Services' senior veterinarians, and a shareholder, partner and director in the company until he left in 2019. Dave was a senior lecturer in reproduction at Massey University and has lectured veterinary students in NZ, Australia, New York, Kentucky, Virginia and Missouri. In 2002 he was invited to lecture in equine reproduction at Cornell University, New York, and was the resident veterinarian at Cornell's Equine Research Park for the northern hemisphere breeding season. He has given numerous presentations on equine reproduction to veterinarians throughout the world and has conducted research on identifying the causes of reproductive wastage in NZ TB mares, development of a new intravaginal progesterone-releasing device for oestrus control in mares and use of the mare to develop a model for human infertility. Dave was awarded a PhD for his research entitled "Reproductive performance and the transition period of Thoroughbred mares in New Zealand: Evidence and implications for future alternative management strategies." He was recognised nationally and internationally as a world-class veterinarian and scientist, and will be deeply missed. Dave was a supporter of the NZERF over many years, contributing articles for the Bulletin and advising young people in their research work. He will be remembered as a passionate veterinarian and colleague who was always willing to offer advice and assistance. There are many colleagues, students and clients who have benefited from Dave's advice and wisdom over the years. Dave is survived by his wife Fiona and three sons, who escaped serious injury during the collision. On behalf of the NZ Equine veterinary community at large we express our deepest sympathy to Dave's family.



FAREWELL TO JAMES BOWDEN

NZ Racing Board/RITA Representative on the NZ Equine Research Foundation Board

At our February meeting we were able to acknowledge James' contribution to the NZERF Board with a small presentation. James, the Senior Advisor for Racing and Sport at RITA, was a greatly valued representative and while he was only part of our organisation for a relatively short period of time, his contribution brought new insights and ideas to the table, which were always delivered with enthusiasm and commitment. With the restructuring of the NZ Racing Board his representative role was sadly discontinued.



James Bowden (right) is thanked by NZERF Chair Dr Tim Pearce, for his contribution to the NZERF Board.

NEONATAL MALADJUSTMENT SYNDROME IN A THOROUGHBRED FOAL

Danielle Guiver, 2019 Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipient

A new-born foal presented in a dull, minimally responsive state. She was born at 318 days gestation and showed physical signs of being premature: small, with reduced muscle mass, curved hocks, a soft wavy coat, floppy ears, and a domed forehead. According to the owner the foal initially stood and suckled from the mare but was found comatosed the following morning. On arrival the foal was cold, had no gut sounds, increased respiratory noises, no suckle reflex, and her lower right eyelid was rolling into the eye causing irritation (entropion). She had windswept hind limbs and abnormal fetlocks (Figure 1).

The foal was stabilised with intranasal oxygen and given a glucose solution intravenously. She had a feeding tube placed through her nasal cavity down into her stomach to provide nutrition long term. An ultrasound examination showed abnormalities in her lungs and a lot of meconium (first faeces of a new-born) present in the gastrointestinal tract. She was started on antibiotics for the respiratory issues and given enemas when required to help the meconium pass. For the first couple of days she remained comatosed and required 24 hourly nursing, which included changing her position and feeding her every 2 hours (Figure 2). Her right lower eyelid was sutured so it could no longer roll in, and eye medication was given every 6 hrs to treat the damage cause by the irritation.

At day 3 of treatment the foal began to show improvement. Initially the improvement consisted just of the foal being able to support herself standing for 5 minutes; this slowly progressed to her being fully mobile over the next week. The suckle reflex was slower to return and to help this we tried a treatment method known as the Madigan squeeze (Figure 3). This is a non-invasive treatment that has been used in neonatal maladjustment syndrome (NMS) - also known as 'dummy' foals - for many years with varying success. The Madigan squeeze provides a pressure similar to that of being in the birth canal over 20 minutes. At the end of the procedure some foals will get up and suckle immediately; this was not the case here although there was a slight improvement. The Madigan squeeze may help NMS foals because NMS is thought to be due to the extended presence of the steroids which stop the foal from moving too much in the uterus. These steroids normally decrease within the first 24 hours after birth; however, in NMS foals they remain at high levels which then results in the dull, comatosed behaviour. Although, it is not successful in every case of NMS the Madigan squeeze is a non-invasive process and research has found that it can decrease recovery time faster than just nursing alone. It is important not to carry this procedure out in foals that are in respiratory distress or that have broken ribs as it can cause more harm.

The foal's strength and suckle reflex continued to improve and soon she was in with the mare all the time (Figure 4) and able to feed herself. She was managed on antibiotics until there were no concerns of infection. She was sent home with the mare after about 2 weeks in the hospital.

With NMS it is hard to predict how successful the treatment will be and how long it will take, which can result in the costs increasing quickly. Some studies have found that foals which show signs of improvement within the first 4 days of treatment have about a 50% recovery rate and those which do not show any signs before 6 days usually die or are euthanised.

Note: Danielle is currently doing an internship with the Canterbury Equine Clinic



Figure 1: Windswept hind-limbs, left more affected than the right.



Figure 2: Foal day 2 – ears more responsive, feeding tube in place



Figure 3: Foal during the Madigan squeeze



Figure 4: Mare and foal together day 9

NZ Equine Trust - funding significant equine research since 2007 and a growing partnership with the NZ Equine Research Foundation

Professor Wayne McIlwraith, Chairman, NZ Equine Trust

Introduction:

Earlier this year the NZ Equine Research Foundation (NZERF) Chairman Dr. Tim Pearce and I discussed the idea of publishing some reports of NZ Equine Trust-sponsored research projects in the NZERF Bulletins. This reflects the desire to bring to the NZ equestrian community the results of research funded by both the NZ Equine Trust and the NZ Equine Research Foundation and establish a co-operation which best serves equine research in NZ.

NZ Equine Trust history:

In 2006 the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) at the time created a fund to be made available to tertiary education institutions to increase their capability in line with the then Government's tertiary education strategy to match any private sector funding. This became the Partnership for Excellence funding (PFX). Industry partners were identified in the original application to the TEC and included the NZ Racing Board and commitments from both Colorado State University and Utrecht University to contribute.

The NZ Equine Trust was created as a sub-trust of the Massey University Foundation in 2006 with the objectives to establish an enduring research-based partnership between the tertiary sector and the NZ equine industry. This partnership will endeavor to enhance the equine teaching and research programs at Massey University, and the productivity, profitability and sophistication of the NZ equine industry in domestic and export markets.

NZ Equine Trust Board of Trustees:

Six trustees were appointed to manage the trust, to solicit research proposals, evaluate them and

make decisions regarding grants to be funded. There were three trustees representing Massey University and three members representing the Racing codes. The Equine Trust now has an endowment capital of seven million dollars and is able to disperse \$350-\$400,000 per year. The current Board of Trustees consists of Drs. Nicola Schreurs, Margaret Evans, Mark Chitty, Tim Pearce, Prof. Jan Thomas and Prof. Wayne McIlwraith, and there is currently an open position for the NZ Racing Board representative due to a change of structure. The Trust is supported by Mitch Murdoch, Director of the Massey University Foundation and administrator Debbie Hill.

NZ Equine Trust funding of research:

Since the formation of the NZ Equine Trust in 2006 it has funded 37 research grants for a total of \$4.21million, of which \$1.058 million (25%) has gone to researchers outside of Massey University, including private practitioners and Auckland University.

In 2006 a project "Exercise and Limb Pathology of Young Race Horses" was funded (\$139,190.00) with Elwyn Firth as the Primary Investigator, and this study grew into a \$1.5 million project with joint funding from Massey University, Colorado State University, Utrecht University and the Royal Veterinary College. It led to a second project investigating the impact of exercise on yearlings by Massey University's Chris Rogers (using the same group of horses evaluated in the foal study) together with collaborators from the four Universities mentioned previously, collectively known as the Global Equine Research Alliance. This project followed foals from birth through to the end of their third year racing with the hypothesis that early exercise could strengthen

musculoskeletal tissues (bone, cartilage and tendon) and resulted in 42 refereed publications.

Evaluation of research grants:

In 2013 a joint technical subcommittee was formed to evaluate all research grants from both the NZ Equine Trust and the NZERF in order to create common standards for technical reviews of proposals. This committee is chaired by Dr. Sue Irvine and has been an asset to both the NZ Equine Trust and NZERF, not only by maintaining a high standard of research grants funded, but also to avoid overlap of grants which was somewhat of a problem previously.

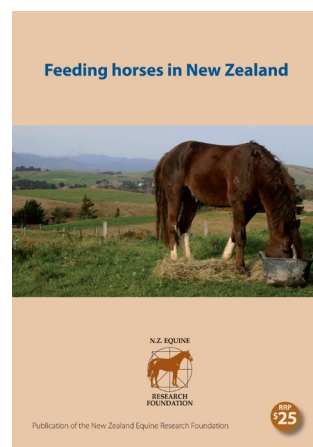
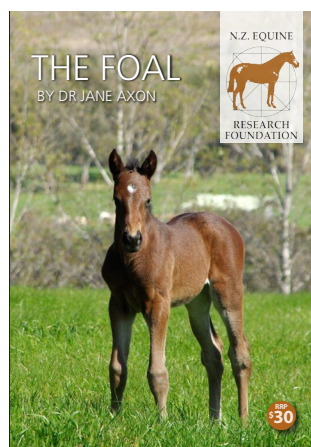
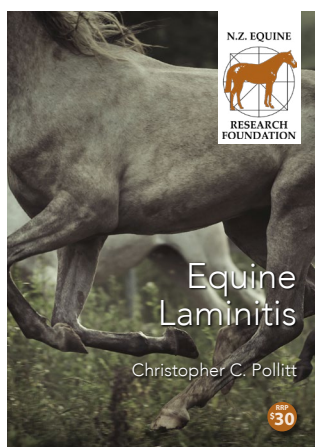
The objectives of the NZ Equine Trust have been focused on enhancing equine teaching and research programs, and up until now the funding has contributed to research grants submitted by researchers at Massey University as well as veterinarians elsewhere and scholarships for summer students.

Recently, our Board of Trustees has examined the key outcomes and purposes of the NZ Equine Trust and as a result the Trust is now considering the establishment of a Fellowship named after prominent New Zealand equine veterinarian Dr Dave Hanlon who recently passed away. Dave was the Principal Investigator on a number of NZ Equine Trust-funded grants.

As the NZ Equine Trust and the NZERF are the two main equine research funding agencies in NZ, developing a partnership between them will strengthen NZ's research capability and is appropriate given the value of working together is apparent to us all.

NZERF PUBLICATIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Booklets on "Equine Laminitis", "The Foal" and "Feeding Horses in New Zealand" have previously been circulated to the industry free of charge. Copies are still available so if you have not yet received one please contact your Equine Veterinary Practice or the NZERF office by emailing nzerf@xtra.co.nz or calling 021 555 954. As the NZERF is a Charitable Trust any donations towards printing and postages are appreciated.



2019 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award recipient: Sophie Wallace

Sophie Wallace of Whakatane has been awarded the 2019 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award. Sophie has been a horse rider for many years and whilst overseas worked at the Hyde Park Stables and on a guest horse and cattle ranch in Canada.

Currently Sophie is working as a human physiotherapist, having graduated from AUT in 2011. She is also one year into the post-graduate Veterinary Physiotherapy programme through the University of Liverpool with the goal of becoming an equine physiotherapist. The scholarship will be used to assist in paying university fees, to travel to England to sit her final practical exams, doing placements with practitioners from other countries and attending the International Symposium on Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Cambridge, England.



Recipient of the 2019 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award Sophie Wallace with NZERF Board member Noel Power.

Jonathan Hope Equine Veterinarian Scholarship recipient: Melissa Sim

Dr Melissa Sim of Franklin Veterinary Services has been awarded the 2019 Jonathan Hope Equine Scholarship. Melissa committed to a career in the equine industry early on in life. Her bachelor's degree in animal science and experience growing up with horses gave her a solid foundation in equine husbandry and the equine industry before going to veterinary school.

Melissa is a graduate of University of California, Davis, and Purdue University in the USA. She has also obtained certification in equine acupuncture through the Curacore program in the US. Melissa will use the Jonathan Hope Scholarship to attend the Certified Equine Rehabilitation and Performance Medicine course hosted by the Integrative Veterinary Medical Institute in the US, and to undertake both theoretical and practical learning on tissue response to injury and available modalities to help employ targeted rehabilitation programmes.



Recipient of the 2019 Johnathan Hope Scholarship Melissa Sim with NZERF Board member Noel Power

2020 Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipients

The NZERF Scholarships for 2020 final year Veterinary Students have been awarded to Alyse Hansen and Natascha Vivian.

Alyse has spent her holidays working on 3 Thoroughbred stud farms in New Zealand and 1 in Japan, gaining valuable experience in the industry. She has also completed 5 yearling preparations and attended the Karaka National Yearling Sales and the National Yearling Sales in Japan. Alyse is also interested in veterinary research and has been part of the Massey University research team undertaking a study on equine parasitology, comparing drench protocols in mares and foals on several NZ Thoroughbred and Standardbred farms.



Alyse Hansen

Natascha has undertaken 3 yearling preparations on a New Zealand Thoroughbred stud farm and has spent time in 2 different racing stables. She started going to the races at a young age and has been determined to become an equine veterinarian ever since.



Natascha Vivian

ACUTE EYE INJURY

Cindy Spatholz

2019 Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipient

Introduction

Eye injuries are a common emergency seen in equine practice, often including trauma to the orbital bone, lacerations of the eyelids and ulceration of the cornea. It is vital that the veterinarian evaluates the severity of injury thoroughly when first presented, as inappropriate or incomplete treatment can result in severe and permanent damage of the eye including blindness.

Although the initial injury is often not observed, visible clinical signs that prompt the owner to contact a veterinarian include: discharge from the eye, reddening or swelling of the surrounding tissue, squinting or holding the eye tightly shut.

History

An 8-year-old gelding presented with swelling of the right eye and a thick, yellow discharge originating from a scab on the outer aspect of the upper eyelid (Fig.1). The previous day, the owner had noted a mild swelling of this eye but no associated discharge. The swelling was assumed to be caused by trauma.



Fig. 1 – Primary Presentation

Clinical Exam

On clinical examination, all vital parameters were within normal limits. Marked swelling of the right upper eyelid and purulent discharging from a scab were observed. The eye was held fully shut and had to be manually opened to examine the globe. The conjunctiva (membranes surrounding the globe) were markedly inflamed with a prolapse of the third eyelid. All deeper structures of the eye showed no abnormalities and no foreign material was found. Fluorescein dye staining of the cornea revealed a large ulcer covering approximately 50% of the eye's surface.

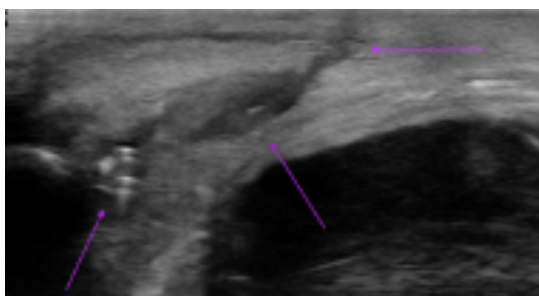


Fig. 2 – Ultrasound showing the tract and cavity

Diagnosis

The discharging scab was evaluated using ultrasound examination which revealed a tract that could be followed through the soft tissue of the upper eyelid, terminating at the edge of the orbital bone (Fig. 2). The diameter of the tract appeared to widen deeper in to form a cavity close to the edge of the bone. Within the tract, a speckled pattern could be visualised which was suspected to be the pus that was seen discharging from the scab (Fig.3). Near the orbital bone margin, accumulated fluid within the soft tissue was seen which was the cause of the swelling. The margin of the orbital bone looked irregular and roughened, suggestive of damage to the bone itself. A radiograph was taken to evaluate the extent of bone involvement (Fig. 4). Radiographic assessment revealed an irregular surface of the bone consistent with a low-grade bone infection, as seen in the ultrasound, but no associated bone fragments or extensive loss in bone structure were appreciated.

Treatment

The area was desensitised with local anaesthetic and a small teat cannula was inserted into the opening of the wound and guided down the tract. This cannula was used to flush the tract with a dilute iodine solution and widen the tract to allow removal of the majority of pus. Once flushed, a broad-spectrum antibiotic ointment was injected into the tract. Two days later this process was repeated prior to removing the infected, roughened bone tissue with a bone curette to encourage healing and closing of the tract.

Throughout the gelding's hospital stay, the upper eyelid wound was cleaned twice daily with an iodine solution, before applying a topical antibiotic. The corneal ulcer was treated with equine serum which is extracted from the horse's blood and contains factors that allow for faster healing. A topical antibiotic was used on the eye to prevent further damage to the cornea by resident bacteria. Ointment was applied to the protruding third eyelid to reduce inflammation and oral anti-inflammatory medication was given to provide analgesia. The gelding was also fitted with an eye mask to protect the eye from further damage, as he was trying to scratch it on surrounding objects.

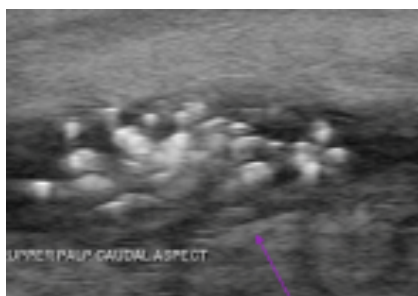


Fig. 3 – Ultrasound showing the speckled pattern

Outcome

The gelding was discharged from hospital two weeks after presentation. The owner was instructed to continue applying topical treatments onto the wound and cornea, as well as keeping the protective mask on until the injuries had resolved. Full recovery required several months of treatment and reassessment. Four months after the primary presentation, the eye remains mildly cloudy but the swelling of the upper eyelid has reduced by approximately 90% and is hardly noticeable. Due to prompt and appropriate treatment, vision in this eye has only been minimally affected, enabling the gelding to return to his purpose as an endurance athlete.

Discussion

This case highlights the importance of a fast response to an eye injury. A minor traumatic event caused an acute, low grade infection which could have resulted in severe bone or eye damage, potentially leading to vision loss. These cases require immediate assessment and prompt, aggressive treatment to prevent such outcomes. Generally, the prognosis for eye injuries is good when they are examined quickly by a veterinarian, and owners closely follow the treatment plan.



Cindy Spatholz

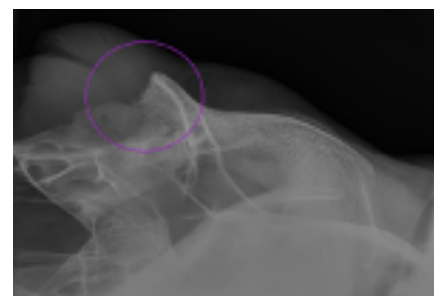


Fig. 4 – Radiograph showing the bony changes

TRAVEL REPORT: LUCY HOLDAWAY, 2018 JONATHAN HOPE SCHOLAR

I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the 2018 Jonathan Hope Equine Veterinarian Scholarship. The funds allowed me to travel twice to Grafton, Australia to attend two veterinary dentistry courses run by Dr Oliver Liyou at his clinic, Equine Veterinary and Dental Services (EVDS). Dr Liyou is an outstanding veterinarian and person, and we are very lucky to have him on our doorstep. The New Zealand equine veterinary industry has had a long association with him and the courses he runs have upskilled many NZ equine vets in the area of dentistry.

The courses were at an intermediate to advanced level and covered diagnostic imaging, sedation and analgesia, many different extraction techniques and the many complications which can and do occur, sinus disease and of course dental disease and pathology. The format was a mixture of lectures, cadaver and live horse work, and probably just as importantly, there was plenty of discussion throughout. The tutor to student ratio is 1:2 so you always have help and advice at hand from very knowledgeable and experienced international equine dental vets.

The saying "the more you know, the more you know you don't know" couldn't ring more true for me after attending these courses. Advances in equine dentistry have increased exponentially over the past couple of decades. There is new research being undertaken all of the time which allows for constant development of new techniques and equipment. Now there are many equine dental veterinarians globally who have done years of additional training to become registered specialists in equine dentistry.

The equine mouth is vastly more complex than the majority of people who deal with horses could ever fathom. Dental health and function is absolutely crucial to the overall health and longevity of equids and it involves so much more than just floating teeth. For optimum dental health to be even close to being accomplished the oral cavity needs a complete and thorough examination. This is achieved with a compliant (i.e. sedated) horse, full mouth speculum, flush, palpation AND visual examination with a strong light and oral mirror at an absolute minimum. Only then can dental disease be diagnosed and treated. As owners, trainers and riders of horses, it is up to you all to ensure the person you choose to provide dental care for your horses is ticking all the boxes. While floating teeth is important

for oral comfort and prevention of dental disease, there is much more to equine dentistry than just having a feel and filing teeth. There needs to be a shift in mindset whereby an 'annual dental' isn't just about filing teeth, but is a comprehensive oral exam, providing treatments where needed which is likely to include floating (but not always). Only about 20% of horses with dental disease will show clinical signs. The fact the horse is still eating does not mean that its mouth is comfortable.

The EVDS workshops are very educational and inspiring. They attract many excellent veterinarians from all over the world as participants and as tutors. I have come back to NZ more driven than ever before to expand my knowledge and skills in equine dentistry, however mad my colleagues might think I am!

I would like to thank Dr Jonathan Hope and the NZERF for giving me the opportunity to attend these courses last year; I would not have been able to attend them without their help.



NEW ZEALAND EQUINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Veterinary Scholarships and Grants

Travel Awards

For any travel relating to research and development in the NZ horse industry.

http://www.nz erf.co.nz/travel_awards

Applications received any time

Veterinarian – Farrier Scholarships

\$3,000 for a veterinarian and a farrier to attend a suitable course or symposium and/or spend time with colleagues in the USA

http://www.nz erf.co.nz/travel_awards

Closes 30th November annually

Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award

\$15,000 available annually to assist an individual under the age of 35 in their career in the equine industry

http://www.nz erf.co.nz/valachi_downs_young_achiever

Closes 10th January annually

Jonathan Hope Equine Veterinarian Scholarship

\$10,000 available annually to help a "young at heart" New Zealand-based veterinarian to travel and gain practical skills that will be valuable in supporting his or her work within the NZ horse industry.

http://www.nz erf.co.nz/hope_scholarship

Closes 10th January annually

Equine Research Grants

Applications from interested people for funding or projects in the field of equine research.

http://www.nz erf.co.nz/research_grants

Closes 30th April annually

Prof CHG Irvine Memorial Scholarship

http://www.nz erf.co.nz/memorial_scholarship

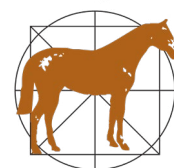
Research Grant may be used as part of a larger research project or as a standalone award.

Closes 30th April annually

Applicants should apply in writing/email to:

The Secretary
NZ Equine Research Foundation
P O Box 52
Palmerston North
Email: allan.fenwick@xtra.co.nz

N.Z. EQUINE



RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Dr David Carthew

21 December 1938 – 6 February 2020

Much loved veterinarian Dave Carthew sadly passed away suddenly while out walking near his North Shore home recently. Although no longer in active veterinary practice, he will be greatly missed, not only by his family but also by many veterinary colleagues and horse owners.

Dave is the older brother of well-known Otaki equine veterinarian Graham Carthew and was a graduate of the Queensland Vet School in the early 1960s. This was prior to the establishment of the Massey Vet School, when NZ vets trained in Australia.

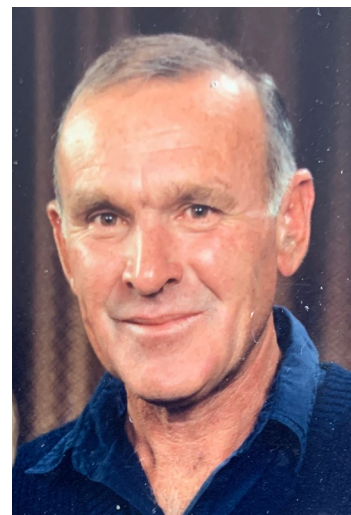
Dave had several jobs in mixed practice in the North Island after graduating but settled down with his family in Bulls working for what was then the South Rangitikei Vet Club. In 1979 he was instrumental with Nigel Coddington and Mark Gilmour in forming the contract practice now known as Southern Rangitikei Veterinary Services.

Dave was a man for all species but his passion was horses, which formed a large part of the work of the practice. He owned and bred several successful racehorses, one of which was named 'Bullet Proof' and trained by local Bulls trainer Merv Andrews.

Dave was not only a great vet but also a very good practical scientist and a mentor to many young vets (including myself!). He was practical, pragmatic and had a very logical mind. He contributed greatly to many organisations such as the NZEVA and to a lesser extent the NZERF over many years.

He will be well-remembered by his colleagues, friends and family.

T W (Tim) Pearce



2019 Vet-Farrier Scholarship recipients Rabeca McKenzie & Laine Cameron

For the first time the NZERF Vet-Farrier Scholarship has been awarded to a team based in Taranaki. The 2019 recipients are veterinarian Rabeca McKenzie, and farrier Laine Cameron.

Rabeca is a 2009 Massey University graduate and worked as a Veterinarian in Matamata for 9 years before relocating to Energy Vets Ltd in Taranaki. Prior to attending University Rabeca graduated with a Diploma in Horse Business Management from Marcus Oldham College, Melbourne. She has also been a presenter at NZ Equine Veterinary Association (NZEVA) conferences and has been involved in a number of joint publications.

Laine has been a farrier for 14 years and is continually looking to upskill and learn more about shoeing the performance horse. Throughout the years, he has competed regularly at shoeing competitions in New Zealand and overseas with a highlight of his competitive shoeing career being placed 2nd at Fairies Shoeing Competition in Scotland in 2017. After completing his apprenticeship Laine started a farrier run in the Auckland area before returning to Taranaki in 2017.

The COVID-19 crisis has meant that Rabeca & Laine's proposed trip to the USA has been put on hold in the interim.

For many years NZERF has funded the Vet-Farrier Scholarship but we are pleased this time to receive financial support from both the NZ Farriers Association and NZEVA. Their involvement is much appreciated.

NZEHA update

The NZEHA has been working alongside MPI to confirm that there has been no domestic transmission of *Theileria equi* (*T. Equi*), one of the protozoan organisms that cause piroplasmosis.

It is thought the disease entered New Zealand in February 2019 via an imported horse from Europe, where the disease is endemic. The importation was in compliance with the New Zealand MPI import health standard. New diseases can occur in any species of imported animals despite importers complying with conditions specified by MPI in import health standards. This is because all biological tests have varying levels of accuracy.

Piroplasmosis can be an acute or chronic disease. It can remain undetected in subclinical horses for some years but can still be spread from these horses, either by shared equipment such as needles or dental equipment (iatrogenic spread), or via tick vectors. The common New Zealand cattle tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornus*, is not a recognized vector of *T. equi*; however, its ability to spread the disease cannot be definitively ruled out. The infected horse was isolated and eventually re-exported. NZEHA and MPI worked to determine what testing was required to rule out that spread had occurred and have now tested over 550 horses, who have all returned negative test results.

This single case changed New Zealand's *Theileria equi* disease-free status (away from country freedom) and had huge implications on our ability to freely export horses, especially to Australia. MPI is now drafting up a case for New Zealand to regain our "piroplasmosis free" status for international consideration.

NZEHA has also been busy with many other disease-readiness arrangements to ensure we are better prepared for future disease incursions. We have recently signed contracts with a supplier to establish more options should we be faced with having to respond to an equine influenza outbreak. In addition, our Equine Industry VetIntel disease surveillance tool is now capturing equine disease related data from equine veterinarians in Otago, Canterbury, Kapiti, Manawatu and Auckland.

The Equine Biosecurity levy application on imported and exported equine and equine germplasm proposed by NZEHA to fund equine biosecurity work into the future has now completed mandatory Parliamentary processes and will be in place from 11 September 2020. The levy rate for this year has been set at \$100 per imported or exported horse, \$1 per straw of frozen semen and \$10 per dose of fresh chilled semen.

Dr Trish Pearce

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Without question the last 3-4 months have presented many challenges worldwide due to the uncertainty around lockdown and levels of freedom caused by grappling with Covid-19. The NZERF is no different with several of our key activities having to be rescheduled or reformatted.

The key winter activity for many years has been our Winter Lecture Series, which was once again going to be sponsored by the Rodmor Trust; however, with the uncertainty of being able to host public gatherings we have opted to change the format of this lecture to a number of smaller presentations on a variety of topics available in a podcast format. Obviously, this has become a far more 'normal' method of transferring information particularly since lockdown but is fairly new for our organisation, although our previous years' lectures were recorded and available on our website. The topics proposed so far include gastric ulcers, preparing your mare to foal and correctly feeding your weanling over winter. If you have a specific topic of interest you feel would be valuable to cover please let us know. Our website will advise when these are available.

Currently our Joint Technical Subcommittee is assessing 4 research funding applications. These 4 applications all have merit and once the subcommittee has assessed the projects it will report its recommendation whether to fund the projects or not to the NZERF Board.

Recently the eagerly awaited Racing Act was passed by Parliament. The NZERF prepared a submission which was heard at Select Committee level with regard to ensuring the codes, individually or jointly, have responsibility for arranging or undertaking research, development and education for the benefit of NZ racing. Our preference was that this would be undertaken by Racing NZ as proposed in the Messara Report. It is pleasing to note that this submission has been acted on, with this now being a function

of each code. However, with the establishment of Racing NZ the codes could transfer this function to that body. Acknowledgment is a good first step, now we need to see how it pans out in practice.

Also, in this edition of the Bulletin we are fortunate to have a contribution from Professor Wayne McIlwraith, Chairman of the NZ Equine Trust. The NZ Equine Trust is also actively funding and promoting equine research in New Zealand and is working in cooperation with NZERF's efforts. We are hoping the outcomes of research funded by the NZ Equine Trust can be regularly disseminated to the horse fraternity via this publication in the future. A win/win for all and a big thanks to Wayne and his Board for making this happen.

Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship award winners:

- 1) Valachi Downs Young Achiever: Sophie Wallace
- 2) Jonathan Hope Equine Practitioner Award: Melissa Sim
- 3) Massey University Student Scholars: Alyse Hansen and Natasha Vivian
- 4) Vet/Farriers Scholarship: Rabeca McKenzie and Laine Cameron

This year the Vet/Farrier Award is funded jointly by the NZEVA and the NZ Farriers Association. Unfortunately due to travel restrictions last year's awardees Felicity Wade and Richard Evans have had to postpone their trip to Rood & Riddle Veterinary Centre in Kentucky. An alternative to this is being worked on.

Tim Pearce, NZERF Chairman

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