

VETERINARY SCHOOL CENTENARY, 1909–2009

AN HISTORICAL REVIEW AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

PROFESSOR EMERITUS IVAN CAPLE

The University of Melbourne was the first Australian university to teach veterinary science, commencing undergraduate and postgraduate courses on 2 March 1909. The faculty was launched on a grant of four acres of Melbourne City Council land, and funding secured for ten years. By 1928, however, a lack of students caused the full BVSc course to be discontinued, although research, postgraduate training, and diagnostic activities funded largely by the Victorian Government, continued.

'The Veterinary School Phoenix', as one description put it, reopened in 1963 in the new facilities at Parkville and at Werribee. Despite challenges posed by underfunding, changes in higher education policy and the University's internationalisation and research agenda, the School has grown steadily and developed innovative research. The University of Melbourne Faculty of Veterinary Science and Veterinary School reflects a history of remarkable growth, development and performance over the latter half of the past 100 years.

The Centenary provides an opportunity to reflect on the School's history, and the position of Veterinary Science in 2009.

Professor Ivan Caple is Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Since 1997 he has had a national leadership role in animal welfare, and chairs writing and reference groups for the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines.

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Professor Emeritus Ivan Caple at Healesville Sanctuary, December 1992, Photographed by Michael Silver, University of Melbourne Archives, UMA/I/2926.

1.00pm
Tuesday, 28 July 2009

VRI Lecture Theatre
Western Precinct, Parkville
Enter via Park Drive

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