

50 YEARS OF VETERINARY EDUCATION: A HISTORY 1963–2013



NZVA
New Zealand Veterinary Association



**MASSEY
UNIVERSITY**
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND



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Head of Institute Prof Frazer Allan, former Dean Prof Emeritus Des Fielden and VC Hon. Steve Maharey.

Cover photo: BVSc and MVM students at the Large Animal Teaching Unit.

FIFTY YEARS OF WORLD-CLASS VETERINARY EDUCATION



Massey University is proud to be celebrating 50 years of world-class veterinary education at its Manawatu campus.

In 1963, the Faculty of Veterinary Science was established at University College of Manawatu. Thirty-two students enrolled in the first intake, and the 21 who graduated five years later were our first home-grown Kiwi vets.

We remain the only veterinary school in New Zealand, and enjoy an international reputation for the high quality of our research and teaching.

Today there are around 500 veterinary students enrolled at Massey. Massey is the alma mater of the majority of vets working in New Zealand, and we are justifiably proud of our alumni. Massey's vet graduates have taken their skills and training out into the world and are enhancing the university's reputation across the globe.

We have increased New Zealand's agricultural capability, improved the lives of our companion animals, helped save our precious endangered species, and advised on major infectious diseases of significance to New Zealand and the world.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate all our alumni, staff past and present, industry representatives and students on their wonderful accomplishments. I would like to extend my particular appreciation to our current and previous heads of institute, deans, and veterinary programme directors who have led us to this point with vision, professionalism and expertise.

Now, with an exciting upgrade and expansion to the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences (IVABS) Complex, the innovative research that is being undertaken by the institute's staff and the new veterinary curriculum that has been introduced this year, Massey will continue to be at the forefront of international veterinary science. We confidently look forward to the next 50 years being as productive and inspiring as the first 50.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Steve Maharey'.

Hon. Steve Maharey
CNZM, BA, MA (Hons)
Vice-Chancellor, Massey University

A radiologist x-rays a horse with cutting-edge equipment in 1963.



Vets with tiger, 1960s.



Vet students, 1964.



Dog injection, 1970s.



Colin Wilks and student, 1989.



Vet graduates 1996.



BEGINNINGS

- **1904** Otago University proposes establishing a vet school alongside its medical school but it doesn't open until 1907 due to funding issues. However, there are no enrolments and the short-lived vet school closes the same year.
- **1943** Government sets up Veterinary Services Committee to report to Ministry of Agriculture on New Zealand's vet shortage. Its suggestion to set up a vet school is rejected in favour of importing UK vets and sending Kiwis to train in Sydney and Brisbane.
- **1952** Australian universities, facing increasing demand from their own students, can no longer guarantee acceptance of Kiwi vet students. New Zealand Veterinary Association and Veterinary Services Council (which superseded Veterinary Services Committee) continue to call for a vet school.
- **1954** Senate of University of New Zealand, representing the country's four universities and two agricultural colleges, recommends to Department of Education that a vet school is established in New Zealand, preferably at Massey Agricultural College (MAC).
- **1960** Government agrees to a vet school and establishes a committee to choose a site. The contenders are: MAC; Auckland University on a satellite campus in Waikato; Lincoln Agricultural College in association with Canterbury University; and Otago University, at the disused Taieri Airforce Station.
- **1961** Government awards vet school to Massey despite stiff competition from Otago.
- **1962** Council of Massey College appoints Ira Cunningham as foundation Dean. Dr Cunningham embarks on a 4.5 month tour of overseas vet schools to study curricula, staffing, buildings and finance. Faculty of Veterinary Science opens on 1 May with orientation towards livestock. Inaugural faculty meeting held 31 October.

“ A Sydney graduate of 1942 had to travel on a troop ship to Brisbane then take a train to Sydney. She found emergency accommodation in what she subsequently discovered was a brothel until she could find a more suitable arrangement. ”

"And while you're here...", A Brief History of the New Zealand Veterinary Profession. NZVA.



William Riddet, foundation Chair in agriculture at Massey Agricultural College (MAC), gives a demonstration in 1928.

Students on a herd-testing course, MAC 1929. MAC taught animal physiology and health to agricultural students.



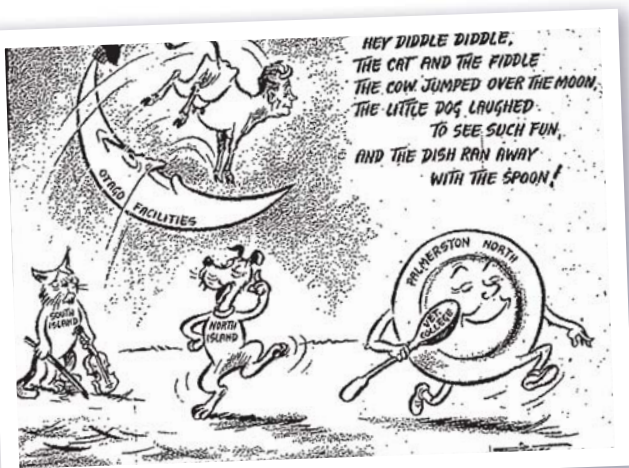
Wally Webster (shown in 1950s), lecturer in vet science at MAC, 1935-59.



Bernard Chambers Vet Clinic 1954.



Dean Ira Cunningham



Cartoonist Sid Scales' take on Massey winning the bid for the vet school. *Otago Daily Times*.

1960s

- **1963** Preparations begin for first student intake. Staff appointed including Chairs of the three departments: Veterinary Biology (Donald Titchen); Animal Health (Maurice Lancaster); and Veterinary Clinical Services (Des Fielden).
- **1963** First intake of 51 students admitted into vet science intermediate year. Teaching begins in World War II army mess huts and Bernard Chambers Clinic, which had been built to provide vet services to Massey farms.
- **1964** Thirty-two students, including two women, selected into second-year vet science classes.
- **1964** Work begins on permanent buildings.
- **1965** Clinical services begin. Large animal patients come from Massey farms and Rongotea Veterinary Club.
- **1967** First edition of MUVSA's *Ihenga* magazine is published. *Ihenga* was a legendary Māori traveller.
- **1968** First stage of single-storey building is completed and opened by Governor General Sir Arthur Porritt.
- **1968** First 21 vets graduate, including one woman.
- **1969** First postgraduates graduate.

Ira Cunningham and Donald Titchen look at a model of the proposed new vet building.



First intake of vet students, 1964.

Mike Rex and patient at opening of vet clinic in 1965.



Vet clinic with lake and boiler house, 1968.



Alan Alexander, Kiwi vet number one.



Ihenga, 1972.

ALUMNUS 1968 BOYD JONES



Boyd has had a distinguished career in academic veterinary medicine. He has been Chairman of the Veterinary Council of New Zealand, President of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and Dean of Veterinary Medicine at University College Dublin. He is almost retired.

“ On the subject of women veterinarians, Prof Fielden says they make excellent students and should be able to handle any veterinary situation. His only quarrel with them is that they are marriageable. ”

Manawatu Evening Standard 16 October 1965.

1970s

- 1970 Duke of Edinburgh visits.
- 1970 Ira Cunningham retires, and dies in 1971. Bill Manktelow appointed Acting Dean.
- 1971 Vet tower completed, including a lecture theatre named after Prof Cunningham. Most vet students became all too familiar with ICLT.
- 1972 Bill Pryor is appointed Dean.
- 1973 Number of students increases to 60.
- 1974 Examiners from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, visit to appraise teaching standards.

ALUMNUS 1970 IRIS SCOTT, NÉE DE MALMANCHE

Iris travelled to Rees Valley Station Homestead in Glenorchy on the *Wahine* in 1967 to do her work experience. She later married Graeme Scott, the homestead owners' son, and after being widowed ran the high country station herself. Iris is the author of *High Country Woman*.



“Pete ... achieved many things at varsity including mastering the arts of pipe-smoking and pie-throwing. Of unquestionable talent his ... diplomatic qualities have caused certain members of staff to propose him as the next Minister of Agriculture.”

Pete Hodgson's pen portrait, *Ihenga* Issue 7, 1973.

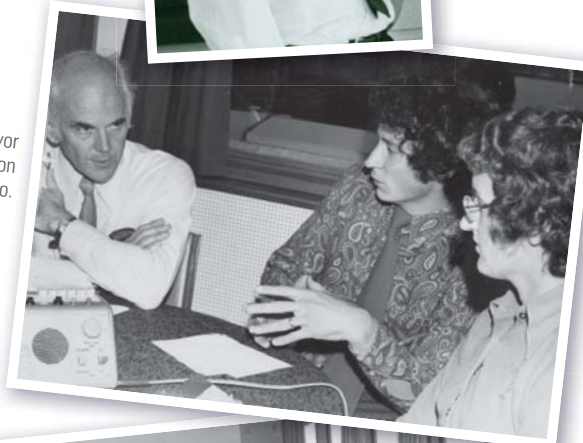
Duke of Edinburgh visits vet clinic.



Acting Dean Bill Manktelow.



Dean Bill Pryor speaks on student radio.



RCVS interviews Dean Bill Pryor.





1975 BVSc V students.



Dean Russell Riek.



Massey equine lecturer Harry Pearce.



Neil Bruere, Head of Veterinary Clinical Services, 1979.

1975 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons cements Faculty of Veterinary Science's academic reputation by validating the BVSc programme. This gives Massey graduates automatic registration in RCVS and the right to work in UK.

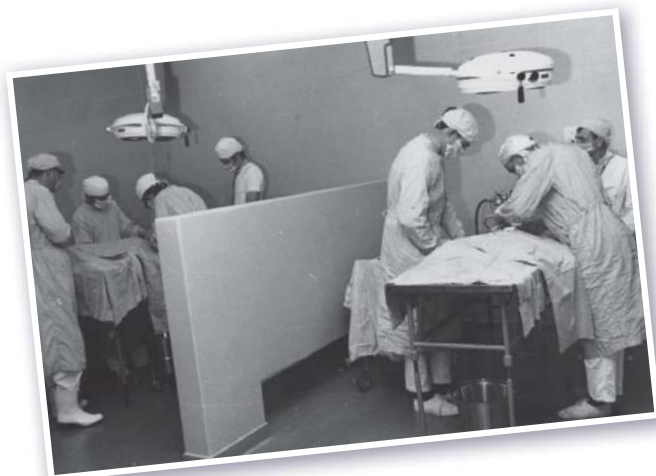
1976 Bill Pryor retires.

1978 RF Riek is appointed Dean but resigns the same year due to the ill health of a family member. Bill Manktelow is again appointed Acting Dean.

1978 First Code for Ethical Research on Animals is drawn up.

1979 Horse-handling facility is completed, addressing animal welfare concerns and staff health and safety issues.

1979 *Manawatu Evening Standard* reports that 27 of 56 graduates have been unable to find jobs.



Vet surgery, 1970s.

“When we all undertook the veterinary intermediate course we were all certain that we would walk into a job at the conclusion of our five years of study and hard work. No sooner than we qualify we find ourselves competing with our fellow classmates for jobs in such non-descript places as Kaikohe or Taihape.”

Editor Pieter Verhoek, *Ihenga* 1979.

1980s

- **1980** Des Fielden appointed Dean.
- **1980** Taking their cue from overseas vet schools, students celebrate Massey's first Halfway Day (mid-way point of the degree).
- **1981** Curriculum changes mean 5th-year students no longer have to produce a major essay.
- **1984** Women students outnumber men for the first time. In a 'bathroom changeover', the female amenities become the male and vice versa.
- **1984** Lady and Sir David Beattie, the Governor General, visit.
- **1984** Halfway Day celebrations get out of hand after students circulate a hoax notification to householders in Hokowhitu, asking them to bring faecal samples from their dogs and cats to the vet clinic. Halfway Day is officially cancelled for 1985, although students celebrate anyway.

“ Attention cat & dog owners in the Hokowhitu area ... We would request owners of these pets in the Hokowhitu area to bring a faecal sample from their cat or dog to the Massey Veterinary Clinic as soon as possible. A single sample in a screw top jar would be sufficient. ”

Halfway Day 1984 hoax letter.



Dean Des Fielden with legendary equine vet Cliff Irvine.



Students celebrate the first Halfway Day in 1980.



Boyd Jones with pug puppies.



Students in physiology practical.



Bob Jolly, Reader in Veterinary Pathology, 1984.



Peter Davie with Lady and Sir David Beattie, the Governor General.



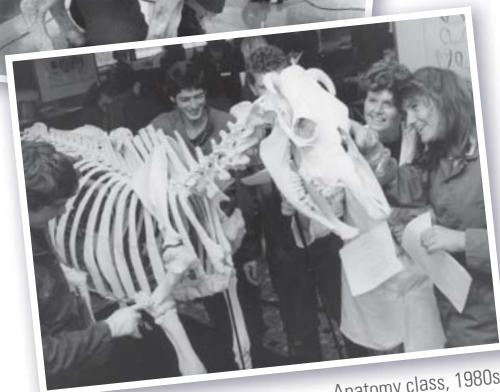
Jennermead.

25th Jubilee brochure.



Roger Morris and students using early computers.

Alex Davies making x-ray tomographic images of a sheep.



Anatomy class, 1980s.

- **1985** Centre for Veterinary Continuing Education established.
- **1986** Animal Health Services Centre established to improve links between animal health industries and vet faculty. Massey buys Jennermead, Glaxo's animal health research farm at Bunnythorpe, to develop facilities for testing animal health products.
- **1986** Equine Blood Typing and Research Centre established as a joint venture between Massey and NZ Racing Conference, to provide blood-typing service for thoroughbred industry.
- **1988** Faculty of Veterinary Science celebrates 25th Jubilee with a conference on advances in vet science, and a November graduation instead of the traditional May ceremony.
- **1980s** Computer technology introduced into teaching.

ALUMNUS 1986 SARAH KENNEDY



As Managing Director of Healtheries, Sarah built the brand into the third-largest health and wellness company in Australasia. As Group CEO, she oversaw the merger of Healtheries with Nutrilife to form Vitaco Health.

“ The importance of the use of computers in veterinary medicine cannot be ignored and an introduction into their use has been incorporated into a number of traditional subjects rather than teaching them in isolation. ”

1988 25th Jubilee brochure.

1990s

- **1990** Des Fielden retires. Peter Stockdale appointed Dean.
- **1992** Best Friend Feline Nutritional Research Unit established to research nutritional requirements of cats. It later becomes the Centre for Feline Nutrition.
- **1993** Prof Stockdale and students successfully campaign against a Government proposal to increase fees from \$1700 to \$4100 a year and reduce student allowance from five years to three.
- **1994** Ministry of Education enquiry concludes that funding given to university for vet science students is inadequate, and recommends a substantial increase which comes into effect in 1997.
- **1994** The Large Animal Teaching Unit opens in Turitea Valley, with 40 hectares of grazing land and animal-handling facilities.
- **1995** Semester system is introduced at Massey. Vet students are now selected in the middle rather than the end of first year.
- **1995** Two-year Diploma in Veterinary Nursing offered in conjunction with Manawatu Polytechnic. Twenty students, all female, enrol on first course.

ALUMNUS 1995 IAN HODGE

Ian is a member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and works as a mastitis consultant in the South Island.



Peter Wilson and vet students.



“ Brutus, the 17-year-old Siberian tiger, abandons himself to the surgical team at Massey University's Vet Clinic. The 200kg tiger ... [is] “just a big cat to us”. ”

Hilary Burbidge quoted in *Manawatu Evening Standard* 31 March 1992.

Dean Peter Stockdale.



A cat plays in the Feline Nutritional Research Unit.



Norm Williamson at the Large Animal Teaching Unit.



Jon Bray and vet nurse Jill Hogan.





Interim Dean
Tony Charleston.



A kiwi is treated at the NZ
Wildlife Health Centre.



Equine vet nurse Jodie Wilson
runs a horse on the treadmill.
Manawatu Standard.



Head of Institute
Grant Guilford.



Richard Norman at the *Prestige* oil tanker spill, Spain.

- **1996** Faculty of Veterinary Sciences accredited by Australasian Veterinary Schools Accreditation Committee (AVSAC) and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education.
- **1996** Jessie the German wire-haired pointer becomes first dog in New Zealand to receive a pacemaker at Small Animal Clinic, in a pioneering operation.
- **1997** Peter Stockdale retires. Tony Charleston appointed Interim Dean.
- **1997** A treadmill for equine clinical and research work is installed.
- **1998** Veterinary, animal and medical laboratory sciences are brought together as the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences (IVABS) following a College of Sciences restructure.
- **1998** Grant Guilford is appointed first Head of IVABS and becomes first Massey vet graduate to be appointed head of veterinary education.
- **1998** New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre is opened with Padraig Duignan as Director.
- **1998** EpiCentre is established.
- **1998** Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre founded.
- **1999** Richard Norman employed to run Oiled Wildlife Response Unit in conjunction with Maritime Safety Authority (now Maritime New Zealand).
- **1999** Special topics introduced for final-year students.



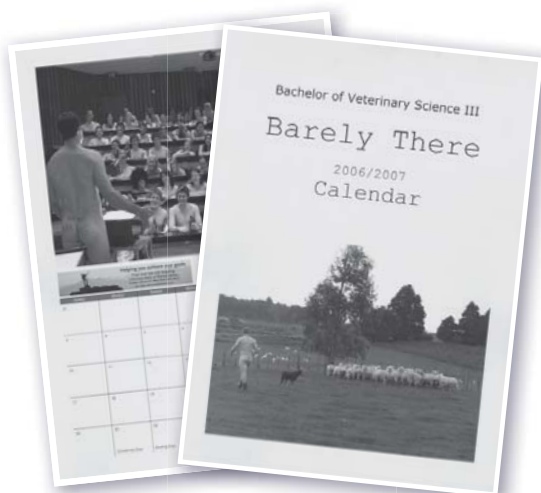
Vet graduates, 1996.

2000s

- 2002 Wildlife ward opened at Veterinary Teaching Hospital; Brett Gartrell employed as first clinical wildlife vet.
- 2003 Massey opens New Zealand's only equine high-performance centre.
- 2003 Small Animal Clinic upgraded and extended; new reception installed in vet clinic. The building is a regional finalist in Innovate NZ 2004 Awards.
- 2006 Ian Dacre performs New Zealand's first equine root canal.
- 2006 Students produce *Barely There* calendar as fundraiser for Halfway Day, now a celebratory trip away rather than a day of drinking and pranks in Palmerston North. The calendar, showing discreetly covered naked students in vet-related poses, attracts much media attention and starts a vet school institution.

ALUMNUS 2002 JESSICA ELIZA BEER

Jess represented New Zealand at the 2004 Athens Olympics in fencing. Jess is a vet in Auckland and has worked for international charities on animal de-sexing campaigns in developing countries.



The first *Barely There* calendar.

“ The design incorporates “sustainable” ideas such as high level windows for sunlight penetration and natural ventilation, slab thickening for thermal insulation and low maintenance light fittings. The furry, feathered and human ... know they have a winner. ”

Manawatu Standard advertorial for the new Small Animal Clinic, 2004.

Brett Gartrell,
wildlife vet.



Andrew Scott and
Sally Clark at the Equine
High Performance Centre.
Manawatu Standard.

A vet nurse student in
the Small Animal Clinic.



Ian Dacre,
equine dentist.
*Manawatu
Standard*.



Equine surgeon Fred Pauwels performed life-saving surgery on Viggo Mortensen's horse Brego, which starred in *Lord of the Rings*.



Mark Owen teaches ultrasonography to students.



Elwyn Firth and Hugh Blair with the CT scanner.



Organic cow trifecta 2007, Massey farm.

- **2007** Equine and Farm Services building opened by Minister of Agriculture Jim Anderton.
- **2008** New Zealand suffers a vet shortage, particularly in rural areas. A new Bachelor of Veterinary Technology degree is introduced to increase rural technical expertise.
- **2009** State-of-the-art Computed Technology (CT) scanner installed in Veterinary Teaching Hospital in partnership with Landcorp. The facility costs \$1.1million and the scanner is the only one in New Zealand. First patient is Sydney, an 8-year-old gelding with a cyst in his foot.
- **2009** Government introduces bonding scheme for graduates who stay in rural practice for five years.
- **2009** Frazer Allan, Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, is appointed Head of IVABS after Grant Guilford leaves.

Vet graduates, 2000.



Head of Institute Frazer Allan

“The institute’s contribution to Massey’s strength in agri-food is at the animals level: health, welfare, animal science, food-borne disease. It is our intention to enhance our international reputation in these areas.”

Frazer Allan on his appointment as Head of IVABS.

2010s

- **2010** World Bank chooses Massey as its partner for international education programme to train Asian public health specialists and vets to counter global epidemics such as avian influenza, SARS and AIDS.
- **2011** Veterinary Emergency Response Team is formed and travels to Christchurch to care for animals affected by the earthquake.
- **2012** Massey announces a \$75 million upgrade and expansion of IVABS to increase student capacity from 100 to 140 per year. It includes extensive redevelopment of the vet tower, vet hospital, pathology facilities and teaching and research spaces.
- **2012** Oiled Wildlife Response team sets up a facility at Tauranga to treat oiled wildlife when the *Rena* runs aground, in New Zealand's worst maritime environmental disaster.
- **2012** Infectious Research Disease Centre (IDREC) launched to help combat infectious diseases that pose a threat to health, biosecurity and trade.
- **2012** NZ Wildlife Health Centre rebranded as Wildbase.
- **2012** Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visits the vet school.
- **2013** The institute celebrates 50 years of veterinary education.

ALUMNUS 2013 DEENA LARSEN

Deena was MUVSA President in 2011. She was involved in the integration of vet technician students into MUVSA and played a role in curriculum review and development.



Veterinary
Emergency
Response
Team.



An architect's
vision of the new
veterinary facility.



IDREC launch,
with Director
Nigel French at
far right.



Duchess of
Cornwall at
the Veterinary
Teaching
Hospital.



Vet graduates, 2010.



THE FUTURE

As we look to the future there are major challenges facing our world. Globally we are facing increasing populations, threats to food security, climate change and resultant increases in zoonotic diseases, ecosystem damage and loss of biodiversity.

At home, we must create sustainable business models, especially in rural practice. We need to work with other rural professionals to ensure that farming, too, is sustainable.

The contribution of vet technicians will influence our profession. Continuing professional development opportunities will need to be targeted towards parents re-entering the workforce.

Clients' expectations of standards of care for companion animals will increase as pets are increasingly seen as part of the family.

There are great opportunities for our profession to contribute to protecting the environment in which we live, and making our world a better place for both human and animal populations.

Massey will continue to produce adaptable and talented vets who will head into new areas of endeavour as we face the challenges of the 21st century and beyond.



John Cockrem with emperor penguin in Antarctica. *Manawatu Standard.*



Kirsty Hammond investigated methane outputs from cows and sheep for her PhD.



Vet technicians will take over some traditional vet duties.



A kiwi on a treadmill in the wildlife ward. *Manawatu Standard.*



Surgeon Andrew Worth with a patient.



Our students will be at the forefront of the vet profession of the future.

“ While traditional technical skills will remain important for veterinarians, greater emphasis on skills such as data mining and analysis, and non-technical competencies, such as communication, network development and business skills, will be necessary for veterinarians in the future. ”

Head of Institute Frazer Allan.



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