6:00 pm Thursday, August 12, corner of Delaware and Rush. It’s a balmy evening in Chicago – one is not going to say close – and Sydney University graduates are converging in the back room at Feast, a mid-city restaurant owned by well-travelled Australian Debbie Sharpe (former caterer to Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones and others). They arrive by taxi, on foot and by car. For many of us, it’s Old Home Week – Rhonda and Dick, Philip and Helen, Wanda and Vince, Steve and Ailsa, Ron and a slightly frazzled Sonia (of which more later), Gerry and Marilyn, John and Dawn, Valerie from Virginia – and still they continue to pour in the door. Some new people – Dennis and Jessica from Wisconsin! Robyn from Massachusetts! Debbie Sharpe’s cosmopolitan background shows up in the delicious finger food – a little Mediterranean, a little Asian, a little Italian, some sneaked-in sausage rolls -- and then the perfectly cooked little lamb chops. SUGUNA President Gerry Bassell welcomes us all, but just as the evening is heating up it’s time to head back to the Affinia Hotel or points elsewhere.

7:30 am Friday, August 13, 211 E.Chicago Avenue. They’re trickling in for breakfast – and for us west-coasters the time is ungodly in the extreme – but the air conditioning is welcome, even at that hour. Sonia Ettinger is everywhere, dispensing welcome packets and name tags, advising about excursions, liaising about the lighting. After welcomes and announcements from President Gerry Bassell, conference chair Ron Ettinger and conference administrator and unsung heroine Sonia Ettinger, our first presentation is from Sydney’s Paul Canfield, who tells us about the trials and tribulations of being a koala in Australia’s east. Today’s koalas, it seems, have more to fear from motor vehicles and domestic dogs than from any natural predator. Paul
WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

The SUGUNA is published in Spring and Autumn. Contributions, Alumni news and letters to the editor are welcome and should arrive before April 1st (for Spring) and AUGUST 31st (for Autumn). We are always on the look out for news stories, ideas and features to include in future editions. If you have any suggestions for content please do not hesitate to contact the editors.

is followed by SUGUNA regular Ernie Newbrun, who shares his passion for the history of penmanship and printing fonts in a talk entitled Writing as Art. After the break Dr Enid Gilbert-Barness talks about birth defects and their environmental causes, Sally Metzler Dunea discusses the relationship between alchemy and art in the Renaissance (both along with some graphic illustrations) and University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Dr. Michael Spence rounds out the morning with a presentation outlining recent changes at the University.

The afternoon activities include a behind-the-scenes visit to the Shedd Aquarium (did you know that there is an operating theatre and intensive care unit for sick aquatics?) or the nearby Field Museum, among others, while a few sneak off to Michigan Avenue to shop.

7:30 pm, aboard the Mystic, on Lake Michigan. The Chicago skyline, as if not already dramatic enough, is being silhouetted by flashes of lightning. We've enjoyed a calm and convivial evening dining on deck on the placid waters of the lake, but as the vessel pulls back into Navy Pier a few drops of rain begin to plop heavily on the gangplank. There's a scramble to find taxis and transport, but that doesn't stop at least some of us from getting thoroughly drenched as the midwestern sky pours out its scorn on its presumptuous and ill-prepared out-of-town guests.

7:30 am, Saturday August 14, back at the American Dental Association on Chicago Avenue: not the bright and bushy-tailed gang of yesterday -- they're straggling in now. (We won't even ask whose rooms the parties were in last night.) First up this morning is Robyn Alders from...
Tufts University, who talks about continuing efforts for interdisciplinary co-operation between the veterinary and medical sciences, particularly in relation to, for instance, bird flu and swine flu. Later in the morning Ron Ettinger echoes the interdisciplinary theme in a talk about the effect of various medical drugs on dental health that points up the need for greater dialogue between medical and dental practitioners – but not before Vincent Hock has outlined the extraordinary measures being taken to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. This turns out to be a tangled tale of overenthusiastic turn-of-the-century engineering, longstanding Chinese New Year traditions, overwhelmed pet owners, much government spending and an urgent call for recipes other than gefilte fish which might make the carp a more useful member of the community after all.

Following the annual general meeting, there are more excursions – to the magnificent works in the Art Institute, to the architectural river cruise and more – while the skies resound with the echoes of those daring young men in their very modern flying machines roaring out their stuff along the lake shore as part of the Chicago Air Show.

6:00 pm, Trump International Tower. Everyone is Dressed Up, oh yes. The pearls and diamonds are out, and there are fancy ties and sequins and silks galore. A far cry from the drowned rats of last night. We sip our cocktails and mingle, with the magnificent Chicago skyline as backdrop. The closing Awards Banquet is definitely the highlight of the weekend, and chef Frank Brunacci does us proud. Crab bisque, barramundi, lamb, a reconstructed pavlova and – Tim Tams? Australian Consul General Libby Schick talks among other things about US perceptions of Australia and the other way round, Philip Minter presents the SUGUNA Jim Wolfensohn Award to a very surprised but very deserving Michael Challis. Gerry Bassell leads us all in a round of the Aeroplane Jelly song and Waltzing Matilda, and it’s all over way too soon. But no, wait – the city of Chicago has kindly put on a farewell fireworks display, seemingly just for us, and from our prime spot in the Trump Tower it seems a fitting farewell to a really spectacular conference.

Thanks to Ron and the heroic Sonia Ettinger, Wanda Hascheck-Hock and Michael Challis for their work on yet another stellar SUGUNA event. What a great job.

Next year it’s in Vancouver, BC. WE WILL SEE YOU THERE, OLD FRIENDS AND NEW.
The centenary of the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Veterinary Science was celebrated preceding the SUGUNA Conference at a luncheon and afternoon program for Veterinary and Medical Sciences alumni on Thursday afternoon, August 12th.

The organizing committee consisted of Paul Canfield, Paul Lancaster, Warwick Arden and Wanda Haschek-Hock.

Professor Paul Canfield, representing the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney gave the luncheon address - Celebrating the Centenary of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. Paul, due to his serving as archivist for the faculty, gave a history of the faculty with appropriate visuals and touch of humor.

The luncheon was followed by the One Health Symposium moderated by Wanda Haschek-Hock. Roger Mahr, CEO of the One Health Commission, set the stage in his address on One Health: Assuming Our Collaborative Responsibility. One Health can be defined as “the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines – working locally, nationally, and globally – to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment” (AVMA One Health Initiative Task Force). These challenges require integrated solutions and call for collaborative leadership from health professionals.

Robyn Alders (Tufts University) spoke on Challenges and opportunities associated with the prevention and control of emerging pandemic threats in resource-poor locations. She described her work with smallholder farmers in Africa as part of the RESPOND Project within the USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats Program that has training and communication components.

Paul Lancaster (University of Sydney) spoke on Reproductive health benefits from veterinary research, providing a history of medical and veterinary scientists in Australia that made significant discoveries in the reproductive and perinatal epidemiology and birth defects area.

Charles Mackenzie (Michigan State University) gave a presentation titled Worms, drugs and global collaboration: Global approaches to eliminate two major tropical diseases. He described his work investigating and treating River-blindness in Ecuador and developing chemotherapy-based elimination programs for lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis) in Tanzania.

A panel discussion featuring Barry Catchlove, Gerry Bassell, Paul Canfield and Wanda Haschek-Hock on Facilitating student and early career exchanges between the University of Sydney and North America followed.
The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, reaches 100 years of age

Paul Canfield DVSC, PhD GradCertEdStud, FRCPATH FACVSC MRCVS, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney

In 2010, the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney celebrates 100 years of continuous veterinary teaching and research.

This milestone has been reached through the extraordinary sustained efforts of alumni, staff, veterinary organisations and the Australian community. The Faculty is showing its gratitude by organising a series of celebratory events right through 2010, which will allow all alumni to participate and enjoy the occasion. A highlight so far has been the Alumni and Staff 100 Years Dinner, which was held in MacLaurin Hall (the first Fisher Library) on May 1st. It was an appropriate location as the first veterinary anatomy dissection class was held in the basement of that great building in 1910.

The ‘Veterinary School’ at the University of Sydney owes much to the vision of John Douglas Stewart, for it was he who nagged and cajoled the New South Wales Government and the University of Sydney to establish a university based course to replace the inadequate technical veterinary training in New South Wales. Perhaps it was pure chance that the establishment of the School in 1909 coincided with the first intake of veterinary undergraduates at the newly established veterinary school at the University of Melbourne, but it certainly provided an impetus to open the School in 1910 to the first intake of veterinary undergraduates, many of whom had waited patiently for years for this moment.

The Veterinary School was soon to feel hardship with the beginning of World War I, but it battled on - even being given Faculty status in 1919. The great Depression was the next major hurdle, which, sadly, saw the Melbourne Veterinary School closing its doors to undergraduates in 1928 and not reopening until 1963; but, once again, the ‘Old Prof’ used all his guile and political connections to keep the Faculty open until 1939 when he retired. World War II seemed a little easier for survival as the Faculty was capably led by the new Dean, Professor Ian Clunies Ross (soon to...
ONE HEALTH: ASSUMING OUR COLLABORATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

ROGER K. MAHR, DVM, CEO ONE HEALTH COMMISSION

As health science professionals convene together and seek to enhance our partnership among multiple disciplines and institutions, it is most fitting to ask:

• What is our value and responsibility as health science professionals?
• What is the value and responsibility of our professional associations and institutions?

A changing environment populated by interconnected animal and human contact creates integrated challenges. These challenges require integrated solutions and call for collaborative leadership.

It was upon that basis of a call for leadership that as president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), I collaborated with the late Dr. Ronald Davis as president of the American Medical Association (AMA). Through our respective leadership roles we articulated our collective vision for One Health, and were able to achieve a collaborative relationship between the AVMA and AMA.

In April of 2007, the AVMA committed to assume a major leadership role by taking action to establish the One Health Initiative by forming the AVMA One Health Initiative Task Force (OHITF). Two months later the AMA House of Delegates approved a policy resolution which called for the AMA to engage in dialogue with the AVMA to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between the human and veterinary medical professions.

The OHITF defined One Health as “the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines – working locally, nationally, and globally – to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment.” Certainly the One Health concept is not new, however, the call for a new professional imperative has emerged.

The first OHITF recommendation was fulfilled with the formation of an independent multidisciplinary One Health Joint Steering Committee. This eighteen member Steering Committee facilitated a transitioning process from the efforts of the OHITF to the establishment of an independent non-profit One Health Commission.

The One Health Commission (www.onehealthcommission.org) was officially chartered in Washington, D.C. on June 29, 2009. Two primary strategic goals have been identified to achieve its mission towards One Health:

• To inform all audiences about the importance and value of the One Health approach
• To transform the way human, animal, and ecosystem health-related disciplines and institutions work together.

Potential outcomes that may be possible from the One Health approach include:

• More interdisciplinary programs in education, training, research, and established policy
• More information sharing related to disease detection and diagnosis as well as education and research
• More prevention of diseases, both infectious and chronic diseases
• New therapies and approaches to treatment for unmet needs

As we now face the challenges of the 21st century, it is imperative that the One Health approach become a central focus for all health science-related professionals. The success of One Health will depend upon the collaboration of various health science professional associations, academic institutions, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industries worldwide.

It is our fervent hope and vision that professionals engaged in the health sciences will work to bring our disciplines into closer harmony. Assuming this collaborative responsibility will surely demonstrate that an integrated One Health enterprise is stronger and more valuable than the sum of its parts.