

## TG HUNGERFORD CITATION

### ROBIN STANLEY

Robin Stanley was born in Adelaide. He was very fortunate to live and grow up in the school grounds of **St Peters College**, where his father was the deputy headmaster. His interest in the Sciences no doubt stems from his father's discipline of chemistry. However, his mastering of French leaves a lot to be desired, despite his mother being a French teacher. I have been told that the experience of hearing him attempt to speak French with a somewhat broad Australian accent is worthwhile! Robin left Adelaide and went to **The University of Melbourne** to study Veterinary Science at the age of 17. He enjoyed university life and played in the winning intercollegiate teams for Rugby (for Trinity College) and also for Hockey (for Kendall Hall, the Vet School's residential hall).

Robin graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1984 and initially had a strong desire to be a surgeon. His first job was at **Malvern Veterinary Hospital**, where Gail Anderson, a board certified small animal surgeon was working. On his first day he met **Rowan Blogg**, and quickly developed an interest in ophthalmology. After 18 months in general practice, Robin started a residency in Veterinary Ophthalmology with Rowan as his mentor. Robin took to ophthalmology like a duck to water, with a clear aptitude for the subject area, technical proficiency in the technical aspects of the discipline, and a string of publications in the best veterinary ophthalmology journals. He passed his Membership of the Australian College in Small Animal Surgery in 1988, quickly followed by Fellowship in Veterinary Ophthalmology in 1990.

He was the first Australian-trained Veterinary Ophthalmologist, and the second to do the Fellowship in Veterinary Ophthalmology with the Australian College. After a three year residency and two years post-residency at Armadale Veterinary Eye Hospital Robin started Animal Eye Care in 1991.

Whilst working with Rowan, Douglas Bryden invited Robin to contribute to the **PGF (now CVE) Symposia**, which were a new initiative of the time. There were two young vets, both in general practice, at the very first course, which was held at Leura in the Blue Mountains in 1991. It is no coincidence that both of these are now registered Veterinary Eye Specialists, namely Mike Bernays and Cameron Whittaker. These **Ophthalmic Symposia** were very successful and led to the publication of **Common Eye Diseases**, a publication for which Robin was an important contributor.

Robin was subsequently asked to become the **tutor** for the new **Distance Education program in Veterinary Ophthalmology**. This was the third program in the series, following on from the seminal two programs in cardiology and radiology by Russell Mitten and Graeme Allan, respectively. He has been the sole tutor since 1992, with only one year's sabbatical. **He is especially proud that two participants in this DE course have subsequently gone on to become Veterinary Eye Specialists, and another who is currently undertaking specialist training in South Africa.**

Robin has lectured the veterinary students at the University of Melbourne since 1988, and in 2010 he had the privilege to lecture to his wife, who is now a final year veterinary student! Robin holds an ophthalmology clinic at the Veterinary Clinic & Hospital, University of Melbourne so that students have the opportunity of seeing clinical eye cases with a specialist clinician, and also has undergraduate students rostered through the main clinic.

Robin has given numerous presentations around Australia and internationally. He has given seminal lectures and presentations in the USA, UK, Sweden, Italy, Thailand, Malaysia,

Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and New Zealand. His presentations, lectures, and workshops throughout Australia have been extremely well received. He cofounded a series of lunch time veterinary continuing education presentations in the early 90s that continue today under the sponsorship of Therapon. I have a great quote from a previous Hungerford Award winner, Dr Jill Maddison, who talks of Robin's talent as a communicator and orator 'He is one of the best lecturers I have heard – and that's in an area of veterinary medicine that holds no interest, but only terror for me!'

Robin is the director of Animal Eye Care which currently employs three other veterinarians. He has directly supervised three residents who have become Fellows of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (Chloe Hardman, Anu Reilly and Peter Collison) which I think may be a record, and currently has one resident in training. He has actively encouraged his team members to present at meetings both here in Australia as well as overseas. Animal Eye Care regularly produces newsletters and a monthly email providing veterinarians and dog breeders with useful practical information. Animal Eye Care regularly holds continuing veterinary education nights, with the case study sessions being particularly popular.

The **Australian College of Veterinary Scientists** has been another of Robin's passions, having helped establish the Ophthalmology Chapter of the College. He was a member of the Board of Examiners for seven years, then Chief Examiner and Councillor of the College for three years. Robin has also presented at College Science week meetings on numerous occasions.

Robin is a prolific writer and has contributed to a number of textbooks, including ***Common Eye Diseases*** with Rowan Blogg, ***Fundamentals of Veterinary Ophthalmology*** by Doug Slatter, ***Small Animal Veterinary Pharmacology*** edited by David Church, Stephen Page and Jill Maddison, ***Veterinary Ophthalmology*** edited by Bob Peiffer and Simon Peterson Jones, ***Canine Ophthalmology*** by Keith Barnett, Sheila Crispin and Christine Heinrich. In addition Robin has authored and co-authored numerous papers.

Robin has a commercial pilot's licence and a multi-engine command instrument rating, and regularly flies throughout Victoria attending regional clinics. This is a passion that he has in common with Doug Bryden, a previous director of the CVE – and as a result one can only wonder whether CVE business and deals in those days might not have been done more in the clouds than on *terra firma!*

This brief synopsis does not quite do justice to the man. It is what you would expect for someone who is at the top of his profession, who got there early and has stayed there for his whole career. The things that really impress us in the CVE, is his desire to help other people – his clients, his colleagues, the profession generally, and especially the CVE and the ACVSc. **Arguably, Robin has had more influence on his discipline area than anyone else in Australia, as he has afforded to outstanding Australian veterinarians the opportunity to train in a specialist discipline, without the requirement of moving to the USA or UK for several years.** In this respect he is exceptional, and I believe he is repaying a debt of gratitude to Rowan Blogg, his mentor, by passing the baton in turn to the next generation of veterinary ophthalmologists. He has at the same time raised the overall standard of care in veterinary ophthalmology, and been a key interpreter of new trends in diagnosis and therapy. He has disseminated this information widely, and in a timely manner for the PGF/CVE, through cases of the month; talks at our conferences; and contributions to the Control and Therapy Series. Much of what Robin has done for the profession is pro bono, and it would be fair to say he has done far more for the CVE than we can ever repay through financial remuneration. If for no other reason he deserves this award for being the biggest stirrer at the Tutors' Retreats, taking the best tutors we have from around the planet and placing them in the maximum amount of danger possible, whether it is bungy-jumping, jet-boating or white-water rafting.

It is with enormous pleasure that we bestow on Robin the highest award in veterinary continuing education available in Australia, **The Hungerford Award**. He is certainly a most worthy recipient.