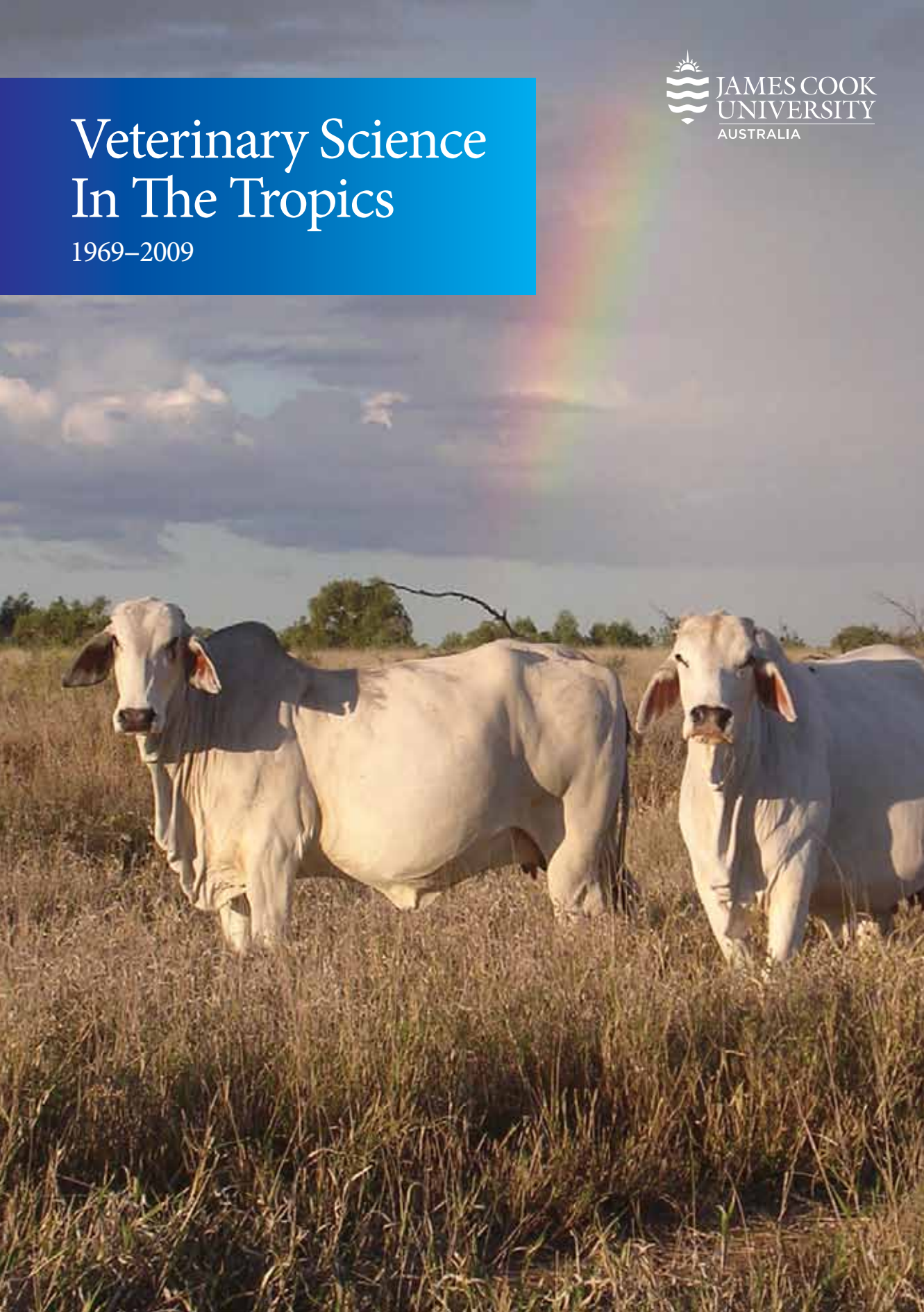


Veterinary Science In The Tropics

1969–2009



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1969–2009

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Preface

When the decision was made in 1967 that the University College of Townsville would become an autonomous university in 1970, it was recognised that a university situated in Australia's tropical north had unique opportunities to develop teaching and research on the tropical aspects of a wide range of disciplines. It was this tropical emphasis which attracted many highly qualified academics to the young University and one of those was Rod Campbell, who arrived in May 1969 to establish the Graduate School of Tropical Veterinary Science.

He proved to be indefatigable in the promotion of tropical veterinary science, of tropical studies generally and of the University itself. He lobbied vigorously at all levels in the community and in Government, Local, State and Federal, for more recognition and more funding. Forty years have not dimmed his enthusiasm!

From the outset Rod Campbell recognised the importance of the international dimension of research and teaching of tropical animal production and animal health and of the contribution his School could make to Australia's development assistance program, especially in South-East Asia.

This history records the growth and development of the School over forty years and recognises the many people who have contributed to its success: academic and technical staff, graduate students and visitors and, most recently, those who developed the new undergraduate course. I am confident that their commitment and scholarship contributed in a significant way to the recent international ranking of James Cook University as being in the top five per cent of the World's Universities.

Ken Back

*(Warden, University College of Townsville 1963–1970;
Vice-Chancellor, James Cook University 1970–1985)*

January 2010

Acknowledgments

This work is the result of efforts by many hundreds of people over the past forty years. It began with the vision of the Townsville University Society, was fostered by the innovative Vice-Chancellor Professor KJC Back and his Council, and implemented by staff and students of the School.

To the contributors to the History, previously listed, the General Editor extends his thanks for essays, sometimes written under considerable pressure in their various organisations. Members of staff include the veterinarians and other scientists who dedicated themselves to the advancement of knowledge in a myriad of fields and to the training of their graduate, and more recently, undergraduate students. Particular appreciation is offered to Professors Phillip Summers and Lee Fitzpatrick who have had the responsibility for steering the School through hazardous and potentially lethal waters in recent times. Little could have been achieved without the highly skilled technical staff who have shown immense ingenuity, effort and tolerance far beyond the call of duty. Honours are also due to the secretarial staff whose impeccable work has graced prestigious journals and reports worldwide and who, unsung, have acted as counsellors and social workers to students from all continents of the world with personal, financial or other problems. Jill Peters, Lorna Adrian, Carmel Lloyd, Phyl Medlen, Kaye Griffiths and Lorraine Henderson are among those paragons.

The work of the School has been immensely helped by veterinary practitioners in North Queensland who provided material or introduced us to properties, farms and other facilities in the course of research and training programs. And to many other graziers, farmers, friends, supporters and roustabouts who, nationally and internationally, have attached themselves to our endeavours from time to time, we are most grateful. Having a cup of tea with a Javanese farmer beside his rice paddy can be an educational and political revelation as he discusses his work, the rising cost of oil and school fees, and the inadequacies of the local politicians. Just like home.

Of particular, inestimable, value have been the numerous contributions to our work, in Australia and overseas, by many other organisations, universities, Government departments, international agencies and individuals who have taken part, whether in training or research or with infrastructure. These were critical in the early days of the School.

Our gratitude is extended to the graduate students from almost one hundred countries who have contributed so much, not only to science, but also to our understanding of their cultures: Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, Christian, Animist, Communist, Hippy, and others difficult to define. The occasional shrine was seen under a laboratory bench. It might be mentioned in passing that many foreign students from developing countries, through their work, have contributed to the economy of Australia, an example of reverse aid. This will be an original idea to many.

The assembly of the History has depended largely on the skills and fine judgment of Mrs Phyl Medlen, former style mentor of many staff and students of the School, and on the command of graphics and modern publication techniques of Ms Gemma Berry. Associate Professor Natkunam Ketheesan and Ms Louise Veivers compiled the large and very complex bibliography.

Never before commended, to my knowledge, are the wives, husbands and partners of staff members, whose tolerance and support of their spouses' frequent absence at the laboratory, somewhere else in Australia or a remote country, and who have played a significant part in what has been, in my experience, a uniquely harmonious and productive organisation; none more so than my beloved wife, Monica, who did not live to see the modern School.

Roderick Campbell

Emeritus Professor, James Cook University

Dedicated to

Professor Robert Harry Johnson AM

Professor Douglas Bruce Copeman AO

Professor Robert Godfrey Hirst

Professor Phillip Martin Summers

Friends and colleagues in veterinary science in the tropics, and greatly missed.