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# Obituary

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## Dr Trevor Bagust

May 1, 1944 – February 28, 2014



Dr Trevor Bagust, current President of the World Veterinary Poultry Association, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 69, at Warnambool in Victoria, Australia, on 28 February 2014.

Trevor was born in 1944 in Tauranga, New Zealand, and undertook his primary and secondary schooling in New Zealand. He moved to Australia in 1961 to undertake studies towards a Veterinary Science degree at

the University of Queensland, from which he graduated in 1966. He went on to undertake a PhD in animal virology at the same institution, and graduated in 1970. Between 1970 and 1973 he worked as a research scientist developing animal vaccines at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) in Melbourne.

As a result of his excellent work at CSL, Trevor was appointed in 1973 as a research scientist at the Australian government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) at their Parkville, Melbourne laboratories, where he worked on the development of Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) poultry flocks. This work provided a foundation for avian disease research, vaccine production and avian exotic disease diagnosis in Australia and the southern hemisphere for some 20 years. Under his leadership, the CSIRO SPF flocks were unique in the world - remaining free from infection with chicken anaemia virus.

From 1975 to 1985 Trevor developed and led a large CSIRO program of research into a number of infectious diseases of major economic importance to the Australian poultry industry. These included avian leucosis, reticuloendotheliosis, infectious bursal disease, infectious bronchitis, and infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT). His work improved understanding of mechanisms of pathogenesis, transmission, diagnosis, and control, of these viral infections and in the case of lymphoid leucosis virus, led to its eradication from Australian commercial flocks. In recognition of his knowledge and expertise, Trevor was invited to co-author the chapter on ILT in 'Diseases of Poultry', the world's leading textbook on the subject, which he did for three editions between 1991 and 2003.

In 1985 Trevor was appointed Officer-in Charge of CSIRO Animal Health Research Laboratory and between 1987 and 1989 was acting Chief of the CSIRO Division of Animal Health. While Officer-in Charge, Trevor was appointed Director of Australia-China Poultry Projects (1988-1996) operated through AusAID, the Australian international development agency. Under his leadership, China's national SPF poultry production facility at Harbin Veterinary Research Institute in northern China, the Poultry Diseases Diagnostic and Training Centre at Tianjin and the Beijing Laboratory Animals Research Centre were all established. This bilateral development assistance project was a recognised success story that laid the foundations for the subsequent development of

China's poultry vaccine manufacturing, diagnostic services and research into poultry disease; all underpinning the modern intensive poultry industry, now the largest in the world. The Harbin Veterinary Research Institute has since become the leading veterinary research organisation in China and host institute for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses in the Asia-Pacific, the Food and Agriculture Organisation Reference Centre for Animal Influenza and the OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza.

Throughout his time in CSIRO Trevor worked with and provided opportunities for many colleagues and was very supportive of, in particular, young scientists, including many from developing countries for whom he provided crucial training and opportunities.

In 1996, after the closure of the CSIRO Animal Health Research Laboratory in Parkville and its translocation to the Australian Animal Health Laboratories site in Geelong, Trevor departed CSIRO and was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne. In 1998 Trevor undertook the development of a Master of Veterinary Studies course for postgraduate specialisation in avian health for veterinarians. He taught face-to-face delivery of the course from 1999 to 2004, and from 2003 supervised its transformation to a distance-learning format suitable for delivery internationally via the internet. From 2004 to 2010, with funding assistance from the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre, Trevor was pivotal in the establishment and development of Avian Health Online™. This program provides postgraduate education and competencies training of avian veterinarians via online interactive learning. Avian Health Online™ is presented worldwide as an academic collaboration between staff of the veterinary faculties of the University of Melbourne and the University of Georgia, USA and both institutions jointly award the postgraduate certificate and master degree qualifications.

Trevor authored some 70 peer-reviewed scientific articles and textbook chapters. In recognition of his scientific standing and his seminal contributions to Avian Health Online™, in 2012 he was appointed an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Population Health the University of Georgia, USA and as an honorary Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. He was a Life Member of the Australian Veterinary Association and the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, and was an editor and member of the Advisory Board of Avian Pathology. Trevor was twice President of the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA) and represented AVPA within the Bureau of the WVPA for some 20 years to 2012. He was elected President of the WVPA in 2011; a position he was to continue until August 2015 but for his untimely and sudden death.

As President of WVPA, like his predecessor Dr Hafez, Trevor was keen to facilitate close linkages between WVPA and WPSA. Whilst joint World Congresses have thus far proven to be unattainable, due principally to the nature of the Constitutions of the respective organisations, there has been in recent times a much greater sharing of information and publications in the respective organs of the Associations. Additional to this, under their leadership and example, WVPA through its World Body and branches, has made a very valuable contribution to forums dealing with multifaceted problems affecting global poultry production.

In recent times Trevor had been enjoying 'semi-retirement' in coastal Victoria, devoting time along with his WVPA activities and responsibilities, to playing bridge, music, gardening, reading and furniture restoration.

To all who met him, Trevor was a man of great warmth and charm, invariably cheerful and optimistic and possessing enormous energy and enthusiasm. He will be sadly missed by many. Trevor is survived by his wife Joanne, daughters Fiona, Kathryn and Elizabeth, and grandchildren Jacob, Lachlan and Elise.

