

For Immediate Release

11 June 2013

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOUR FOR VET

The woman whose work made it possible for horses from around the world to participate in the Melbourne Cup and the Sydney Olympic Games has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Dr. Patricia Ellis, a Victorian veterinarian who has been a passionate advocate for the horse industry since 1968, has been made a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her service to veterinary science, particularly through the development of quarantine and biosecurity protocols.

"Dr Ellis is highly respected by her veterinary peers and throughout the horse industry here in Australia and overseas. She particularly deserves this honour as it is an appropriate recognition of her many valuable contributions to the field throughout her career," said Dr Mike Bond, CEO of Animal Health Australia.

"She has also been an outstanding international ambassador for the horse industry, combining the regulatory and welfare aspects of equestrian sport along with her work in quarantine policy and regulation, which has allowed horses from around the world to come to Australia with relative safety and ease."

Dr Ellis' early career was spent in mixed and specialist equine veterinary practice in Australia, England, Ireland and Bahrain. She later took research and teaching positions at Melbourne University and Box Hill TAFE. She also spend time working at the prestigious Animal Health Trust Equine Research Station in Newmarket in the United Kingdom.

In addition, Dr Ellis has been a Senior Veterinary Officer for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, representing Australia on quarantine matters across the globe, including Canada, USA, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

She travelled to the UK on behalf of the 1996 Melbourne Olympic Bid Committee and subsequently developed and supervised operational procedures for the first Australian private quarantine station, including exercise facilities to maintain fitness in imported competition horses. This new quarantine facility paved the way for the participation of international entries in the Melbourne Cup.

"Throughout her career, Dr Ellis has made a substantial contribution to national biosecurity and equine health and welfare policy and programs," said Dr Hugh Millar, former Executive Director of Biosecurity in Victoria.

Dr Millar said Dr Ellis worked for some time as an equine species specialist with the Victorian Department of Agriculture. He added that in recent years, Dr Ellis has continued to play a major role in enhancing emergency disease preparedness arrangements for horses, including the development of *Horse Alert Victoria*

Dr Ellis made a significant contribution to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney through her input into operational procedures for importing horses and advice to the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG). "It was largely through Dr Ellis' efforts, working closely with Racing Victoria, that the Victorian Spring Racing Carnival saw its first international competitors in 1993, when the Irish horse Vintage Crop famously won the Melbourne Cup," Dr Millar said.

During the 2007-08 equine influenza outbreak, Dr Ellis played a key role representing the Australian Racing Board on the national committee convened to deal with animal health emergencies.

"The eradication of equine influenza after only six months was an outstanding achievement, unprecedented worldwide in terms of national animal disease control. Dr Ellis' contribution at several levels (and usually in an unpaid capacity) was very significant and widely acknowledged," said Dr Mike Bond.

Dr Ellis has published a number of scientific papers and journal articles on subjects as diverse as measurement of blood pressure in horses, veterinary supervision of endurance rides, detection of therapeutic substances in racing horses, international movement and quarantine of horses, equine sports physiology, health and disease and horse rider injuries.

She is an international member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Horse Magazine* (USA).

In November 2006 Dr Ellis was honoured by the University of Melbourne when she was included in the 100 Australian female veterinarians, graduates of Australian and overseas universities, named *Outstanding Women Veterinary Science Graduates*.

Currently, Dr Ellis is a Director of Racing Analytical Services Ltd.; a member of the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria Panel for complaints related to equine practice; Principal Advisor to the Australian Racing Board (ARB) on issues relating to animal health and emergency animal diseases; Secretary of the ARB National Equine Integrity and Welfare Advisory Group which provides advice on the control of prohibited substances and practices, and the protection of horse welfare and Secretary of the ARB International Committee for the Movement of Horses; and a member of Racing Victoria's Equine Research Fund Committee (since 1996).

Dr Ellis lives at Yarra Glen in Victoria's Yarra Valley.

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