

Biography

Dr. Capt. Peter Kerkenezov BM, BVSc, DipAppSc, Cert Equine Surgery, MAIMS

Peter was born in Lismore NSW during the 1948 flood and enrolled in boarding school in 1957. After nine years as a boarder at The Southport School and a further five years at King's College he graduated as a veterinary surgeon from the University of Queensland at age 22 years in 1970. Throughout the ensuing 49 years Peter worked in horse hospitals and horse veterinary practices in WA, Qld, Vic, NSW and the UK. He also served as the Magic Millions preferred veterinary surgeon for over three years during which time he undertook the endoscopic examinations of more than 3,000 yearlings, pregnancy testing mares and other clinical and surgical procedures.

Strange as it might seem, Peter's obsession for horses became spliced with a paralleled obsession with all things maritime that led to his graduating from the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania in 1993. Peter is likely the only veterinary surgeon to ever become a master mariner/captain of ships of unlimited size and areas of operation in the Merchant Navy. He has had command of numerous merchant ships to 50,000 gross tonnes including, during the Bougainville Revolutionary Army crisis, tenure as master of the 'Island Express' (2001) and "Coral Trader" (2002, 2003) lifting military equipment and stores into the war zone for the United Nations peace keeping corps. He has also worked as a commercial air diver to 60m depth and yet always found the time to practice veterinary medicine and surgery and raise a family of twin boys and a daughter with his wife, Susie.

Peter's immediate family settled in the Northern Rivers District after his father, a doctor during WWII, was demobbed and Ballina became their home and base. Peter established an equine hospital and a maritime company at Ballina and he and Susie also run a cattle property at Grevillia NSW where they run Santa Gertrudis cattle and horses.

In 1983 the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard awarded Peter with their highest award for bravery, the gold certificate and gold ribbon, following a sea tragedy off the NSW coast. He has subsequently been decorated with the Australian Bravery Medal (BM).

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