



Vic Rail and Hendra virus films

Accession number 30154

Date 1994-2011

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Scope and content This collection contains material relating to an uncompleted documentary film by Brian Benson relating to the outbreak of Hendra virus in Brisbane in 1994 and the subsequent death from the virus of horse trainer Vic Rail. The collection includes unedited video of interviews and related footage as well as transcripts for some of the interviews, scripts, clippings and other papers. The interview subjects include horse trainer and fiancé to Vic Rail, Lisa Symons; stable veterinarian Peter Reid; racing steward Ray Murrihy; Dr. Keith Murray (CSIRO); Dr. Ian Douglas (DPI); Allan Callaghan (RSPCA); horse trainer Bart Sinclair; strapper Jock Lloyd; stable hand Ray Unwin. The collection also includes footage from Mackay relating to the death by Hendra virus of Mark Preston and interviews with his wife Dr. Margaret Preston and father John Preston.

System of arrangement Arranged into 4 series

Description 19 videocassettes ; 7 transcripts ; 2 boxes

Additional format Digital copies available

Guides A series and item list is available

Administrative / Biographical history Brian Benson is a Brisbane-based film maker and motion picture photographer. Vic Rail was a well-known South East Queensland horse trainer. In September 1994, a virus broke out amongst Rail's horses at his training complex in the Brisbane suburb of Hendra. Vic Rail and the stable foreman Ray Unwin both then contracted the disease from the horses. Rail passed away within weeks from related symptoms. 14 of the 21 horses involved also died.

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright.

Conditions of use Licensed under Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-SA

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0>

Preferred citation

30154, Vic Rail and Hendra virus films, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

[View full catalogue record](#)

Series 1: Video tapes (1994-1996)

Series number 1

Series title Video tapes

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

Uncut footage filmed for an uncompleted documentary on horse trainer Vic Rail and the Hendra virus. The footage contains unedited interview and cut away scenes.

Author / Creator

Description

Description 19 videocassettes

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Items in this series:

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 1 (1994?)



Unit ID 30154/1

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Raw footage of Hendra stables and surrounds (0:00-4:04); Uncut footage of conversation with Lisa Symons and Jock Lloyd in lounge room setting (4:05-7:35); Uncut interview footage with stable veterinarian Peter Reid (7:35-24:35).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Reid, Peter

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS tape)

25 minutes 17 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 2 (1994?)



Unit ID 30154/2

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Uncut interview footage with stable veterinarian Peter Reid.

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS tape)
32 min. 53 sec.

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

The digital copy displays some quality issues resulting from damage to the original tape. The

burnt timecode does not match the actual time.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 3 (1994?)



Unit ID 30154/3

Date 1994?

Scope and content

- Uncut interview footage with stable veterinarian Peter Reid (0:00-6:19);
- Raw footage around Hendra stables; clean-up footage (6:20-9:25);
- Uncut interview footage with racing steward Ray Murrihy (9:26-24:18)

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Reid, Peter;

Murrihy, Ray

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS tape)

24 minutes 36 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

The digital copy displays some quality issues resulting from damage to the original tape. The burnt timecode does not match the actual time.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 4 (1994?)



Unit ID 30154/4

Date 1994?

Scope and content

- Raw footage around Hendra stables (0:00-3:10);
- Uncut interview footage with Lisa Symons (3:12-33:03)

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS)

34 minutes, 7 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

The digital displays some quality issues resulting from damage to the original tape. The burnt timecode does not match the actual time.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 5 (1994?)



Unit ID 30154/5

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Uncut interview footage with Lisa Symons.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS)

27 minutes 21 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

The digital copy displays some quality issues resulting from damage to the original tape. The burnt timecode does not match the actual time.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 6 (1994?)



Unit ID 30154/6

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Raw footage around Hendra stables (0:00-15:50)

- Uncut interview footage with Dr. Keith Murray (CSIRO) (16:10-43:13);
- Shots of Lisa Symons at Flemington Racecourse, Melbourne including spreading Vic Rail's ashes on the track (43:20-49:30);
- Uncut Interview footage with unidentified representative of Flemington Racecourse (49:31-50:37);
- Raw footage of race day at Flemington Racecourse (50:38-57:37);
- Raw footage of horse auctions (57:38-1:10:11);
- Raw footage of horse paddocks at Hendra (1:10:20-1:27:32);
- Raw footage of CSIRO's Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong (1:27:53-1:43:38);
- Raw footage of Doomben Racecourse (1:45:45-1:49:05);
- Raw footage overlooking Brisbane from Mt Coot-tha (1:49:06-1:50:42);
- Uncut interview footage with Dr. Ian Douglas (DPI) (1:50:43-2:00:58).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Murray, Dr. Keith;

Douglas, Dr. Ian

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS tape)

2 hours 1 minute 31 second

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

The digital copy displays some quality issues resulting from damage to the original tape. The burnt timecode does not match the actual time.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 7 (1 September 1996)



Unit ID 30154/7

Date 1 September 1996

Scope and content

- Raw footage of Maraju Thoroughbreds Farm, Mackay (0:00-0:58);
- Uncut interview footage with veterinarian Dr. Margaret Preston whose husband Mark passed away from Hendra virus (0:59-16:00);
- Raw footage of Margaret Preston with horses and Maraju Farm (16:01-22:15);
- Raw footage of a photograph of horse and trainer (22:16-23:10).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Preston, Dr. Margaret

Description

Description 1 videotape (VHS)

23 minutes 55 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

This videotape has mould damage. It has been cleaned but some residual loss of quality is evident.

The digital copy displays some quality issues resulting from damage to the original tape. The burnt timecode does not match the actual time.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 8 (25 October 1994)



Unit ID 30154/8

Date 25 October 1994

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Unwin, Ray

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam tape)

22 minutes 53 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 9 (25 October 1994)



Unit ID 30154/9

Date 25 October 1994

Scope and content

- Uncut interview footage with stable-hand Ray Unwin (0:00-2:23);
- Raw cutaway shots of Ray Unwin (2:24-5:08);
- Raw footage of clean-up, stables (5:09-13:10);
- Uncut interview footage with strapper Jock Lloyd (13:11-22:54).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Unwin, Ray;

Lloyd, Jock

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam tape)

23 minutes 11 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 10 (27 October 1994)



Unit ID 30154/10

Date 27 October 1994

Scope and content

- Uncut interview footage with strapper Jock Lloyd (0:00-11:24);
- Raw footage of Lisa Symons and Jock Lloyd engaged in telephone conversations and discussions with each other regarding legal issues (11:25-23:05).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa;
Lloyd, Jock

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam tape)
23 minutes 20 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 11 (27 October 1994)



Unit ID 30154/11

Date 27 October 1994

Scope and content

- Raw footage of Lisa Symons at stables, Lisa Symons engaged in telephone conversations (0:00-12:20);

Uncut footage of conversation with Lisa with cutaways (12:21-17:16).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam tape)

17 minutes 30 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 12 (3 November 1994)



Unit ID 30154/12

Date 3 November 1994

Scope and content

Raw footage of Jock Lloyd working in stables (0:00-2:39);

- Raw footage of Lisa Symons engaged in telephone conversation and in conversation with horse owner Raechelle Wharton; traveling to lawyer's office; with Raechelle Wharton in discussion with lawyers regarding the destruction of horses by D.P.I. (2:40-34:27)

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa;

Wharton, Raechelle

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam tape)

34 minutes 57 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 13 (1994-1996)



Unit ID 30154/13

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

- Raw footage of Lisa Symons and Raechelle Wharton in discussion with lawyers regarding the destruction of horses by D.P.I. (0:00-34:16);
- Raw footage of Raechelle Wharton being interviewed by press (34:17-36:25).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa;

Wharton, Raechelle

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

36 minutes 25 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 14 (23 November 1994-24 November 1994)



Unit ID 30154/14

Date 23 November 1994-24 November 1994

Scope and content

- Uncut interview footage and cut away scenes of Alan Callaghan (R.S.P.C.A.) (0:00-8:51);
- Raw footage of fields and stock yards, Cannon Hill (8:52-14:16);
- Uncut interview footage with horse trainer Bart Sinclair (14:17-19:47).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Callaghan, Alan;

Sinclair, Bart

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

20 minutes 8 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Notes

A transcript is available for the Allan Callaghan interview at item 25. A transcript is available for the Bart Sinclair interview at item 26.

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 15 (1994-1996)



Unit ID 30154/15

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

- Uncut interview footage of a Radio National interview with Lisa Symons (0:00-2:15);
- Raw footage of Ray Unwin working in stables and loading a horse into a horse float (2:29-8:10);
- Raw footage in and around Doomben Racecourse (8:11-11:30).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

11 minutes 48 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 16 (1994-1996)



Unit ID 30154/16

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

Raw footage of Lisa Symons working in stables and assisting in the birth of a foal.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

34 minutes 6 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 17 (1996)



Unit ID 30154/17

Date 1996

Scope and content

Uncut interview footage and cutaways scenes of John Preston regarding the infection and eventual death of his son Mark Preston from Hendra virus.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Preston, John

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

28 minutes 18 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 18 (1996)



Unit ID 30154/18

Date 1996

Scope and content

- Uncut interview footage with John Preston regarding the infection and eventual death of his son Mark Preston from Hendra virus (0:00-3:04);
- Raw footage of photographs of Mark Preston (3:05-9:22);
- Raw footage of John Preston in his office (9:23-11:02);
- Raw footage of the Mater Hospital (11:03-12:03).

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Preston, John

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

13 minutes 20 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20033 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Vic Rail Story Film Footage 19 (1994-1995)



Unit ID 30154/19

Date 1994-1995

Scope and content

Interview with stable veterinarian Peter Reid titled 'A Vet's Story' in which he discussed his account of the September 1994 outbreak of the Hendra virus in Brisbane. The interview has introductory titles giving background information and the title but no credits. The footage is a compilation of the footage from items 1-3 in this collection and is trimmed slightly.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Reid, Peter

Description

Description 1 videotape (Betacam SP tape)

54 minutes 33 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 20032 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

(19 digital)

Series 2: Transcripts (1994-1996)

Series number 2

Series title Transcripts

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

Typed transcripts of some of the interviews in Series 1. These transcripts were created from audiocassettes dubbed from the film footage. The audiocassettes do not form part of this collection.

Description

Description 7 documents

Additional format Digital copy available

Items in this series:

Transcript (1994)

Unit ID 30154/20

Date 1994

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with stable veterinarian Peter Reid. This is a transcript for the interview at items 1-2 and a partial transcript of the interview at item 19.

Description

Description 1 transcript

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Transcript (1994?)

Unit ID 30154/21

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with racing steward Ray Murrihy. This is a transcript for the interview at item 3.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Murrihy, Ray

Description

Description 1 transcript

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Transcript (1994?)

Unit ID 30154/22

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with Lisa Symons. This is a transcript for the interview at item 4.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Symons, Lisa

Description

Description 1 document

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Transcript (1994?)

Unit ID 30154/23

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with Lisa Symons. This is a transcript for the interview at item 5.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Description

Description 1 document

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Transcript (1994?)

Unit ID 30154/24

Date 1994?

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with Dr. Keith Murray (CSIRO). This is a transcript for the interview at item 6.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Murray, Dr. Keith

Description

Description 1 document

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Transcript (1995?)

Unit ID 30154/25

Date 1995?

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with Allan Callaghan (RSPCA). This is a transcript for the interview at item 14.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Callaghan, Allan

Description

Description 1 document

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Transcript (1995?)

Unit ID 30154/26

Date 1995?

Scope and content

Typed transcript of an interview with horse trainer Bart Sinclair. This is a transcript for the interview at item 14.

Author / Creator

Benson, Brian

Sinclair, Bart

Description

Description 1 document

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Series 3: Papers (1994-1996)

Series number 3

Series title Papers

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

Papers relating to the uncompleted documentary on Vic Rail and Hendra virus. Included are draft scripts and notes as well as a typed statement by John Preston regarding the infection and eventual death of his son Mark Preston from Hendra virus.

Description

Description 0 documents

Locate OMBOX Box 9870

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Series 4: Newspaper clippings (1994-1996)

Series number 4

Series title Newspaper clippings

Date 1994-1996

Scope and content

Newspaper and magazine clippings relating to the 1994 outbreak of Hendra virus.

Description

Description 0 newspaper clippings

Locate OMOSBOX Box 5527 O/S