

WACOBU NEWS

Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural
College Old Boys Union

2017



Ag Students boarding bus at college c. 1960s

Credit: Wagga Campus History, CSU Regional Archives

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Got News?

Any old boys with news stories, photographs, upcoming events and reunion news are asked to contact Graeme:

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GRAEME'S EDITORIAL



Once again another 12 months has flashed by and the WACOBU newsletter will hopefully bring some quiet reading time for Old Boys and their families over the festive season and beyond.

It is still amazing to see the bond that was developed by students at WAC.

The college year reunions that continue to be held reinforce this fact.

Congratulations to the crew from WAC 1968-1970 who get together every two years with their families and have a great time. Their story is remarkable.

The contribution of many Wagga Ag College Old Boys and staff members to farming, agricultural industry and research, sport and the broader community is substantial.

Some were pioneers in their field and have left a strong legacy on the land.

The contribution by lecturers and staff to WAC has probably not been highlighted enough in the past but in this issue there are glimpses of their work and the involvement of their spouses in college life over several decades.

There are eulogies and stories on the passing of WAC Old Boys, staff and family members. Thanks to the families of these people for allowing their stories to be told. They were very special people indeed.

Many ex-students have had their share of misfortunes and the WACOBU network can and will assist people in tough times. Don't forget to ask "**RUOK**".

The annual Ag Race Day continues to financially support Old Boy Peter Worsley and it was great that Peter was able to attend this year's highly successful event.

Thanks to the Ag Race Day President Will Whiteley and the committee for their ongoing commitment in helping a mate.

The effort by the Motts of 1992 to raise money for MS in their Sydney to the 'Gong bike ride and the annual WAC Rugby Club challenge with the Bushpigs in men's and women's AFL to help people with disabilities deserve our support.

Get involved in WACOBU.

WACOBU needs a voice at CSU to ensure the legacy of WAC is not lost.

The organisation is working with CSU management, awards an annual scholarship to a student, provides a network for Old Boys and provides pathways for current students in their future careers.

Help the committee keep WACOBU strong and relevant today - and into the future.

Contact the President Stuart or any committee members if you wish to become more involved.

The WACOBU committee wishes all members and their families a merry Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy 2018. Regards "Benny"





WAGOBU PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017

STUART KANALEY

RENEWAL

Renewal seems to be the flavour of the season.

In Sydney it's the sports stadia.

In Wagga, CSU is commencing a significant upgrade of ageing student on-campus accommodation.

Going this summer is the Doman Block, along with the Nappy Alley cottages. Eventually the Butler Halls (A, B and C) are scheduled for replacement too.

The cottages of Nappy Alley have seen some 30-35 years of housing staff, some with growing families, hence its name "Nappy" Alley.

For over 40 years they have been home to students, mostly Aggies in the late 1970's and 1980's, much less so in later years.

Each cottage could be the subject of many stories.....

We can applaud CSU for this investment in renewal of accommodation.

Most of these buildings have little or no heritage value.

The cottages were a tribute to fibro, whilst Doman block is a study in 1960's brick blandness.

In contrast, the Eastern (John Bowen Hall) (circa 1912), and Western (circa 1907) Blocks, do represent the heritage of the campus, a link with the early days of Ag education in Wagga and NSW.

The only other physical evidence of the old college for those who know is part of the old dairy building, which makes up part of the Eastern Annexe of the Farrer Centre building, and is unrecognisable.

It is important the planners at CSU refrain from the temptation to demolish East and West Blocks.

Rumours circulated earlier in the year that both blocks were on the list of those to go.

Demolition plans have been denied, however we need clarification from CSU regarding the future plans for these buildings.

They are our rural equivalent to the sandstone halls of the old city universities, providing a visual reminder of the generations of students who have passed through them.

Sadly, years of contemporary repairs and maintenance have left their mark on the buildings.

The Western Block has suffered from neglect, and generated much negative comment from visitors attending the many important functions conducted at Joyes Hall and the Convention Centre on the old Centre Block site.

The rusting roofing iron and general dilapidated appearance are a real indictment of CSU's care of its old buildings.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent by CSU on innovative new facilities across the campus, many now glistening with solar panels with an energy neutral goal.

As any building owner knows, ongoing R & M costs are roughly proportional to the capital cost of the structure.

The future depreciation and R & M of this massive building program must be enormous.

Yet CSU can't find some money for the West Block roof!

The time has come for CSU to recognise it has precious little heritage to care for.

It should provide a plan for the Eastern and Western blocks, including a sensitive restoration, in order to restore some pride to the appearance of an area seen as the ceremonial heart of the campus, where students, families and VIP's gather for the most important ceremonies of the year.

If accommodation remains a feasible option, there is much which could be achieved by marketing the rooms recognising the "Heritage" standard, providing additional facilities, furnishings and enhancements which may make the overall package more acceptable for the internet generation.

Even free internet and extra meals could be a part of the offer, along with a "Heritage price deal"

The WACOBU could even play a role, providing names and achievements of some of the former residents of specific rooms, for an online record as part of the students' building webpage.

In closing, renewal continues with the flood of young Wagga graduates filling many roles, particularly across regional Australia.

They have been outshone, for now at least, by a new star, 1976 graduate Mike O'Hare and his wife Velia, recently announced as NSW Farmers of the Year by Minister Nial Blair.

Mike's innovative use of aerial seeding hard seeded legumes at "Greendale", Beckom has received much publicity since the announcement.

It is a well-earned reward for attention to detail and innovation in their farming operation.

All the best for the festive season and beyond

Cheers,

Stuart



WACOBU SCHOLARSHIP 2017



Awarded to Peter McNamara, Bachelor of Applied Science Student

Peter received his scholarship at the CSU Scholarship Assembly from WACOBU committee treasurer Ros Prangnell.

The Charles Sturt University Foundation Trust greatly appreciates the continued support of WACOBU each year to assist students financially during their studies at CSU.



Peter receiving his WACOBU Scholarship from WACOBU Treasurer Ros Prangnell

Peter McNamara responded to being awarded this scholarship with these words:

This accomplishment is greatly cherished within my family, immediately alleviating the financial stress placed on our shoulders. It makes them exceptionally proud of my attendance and involvement in the Charles Sturt University and Wagga Agricultural Club community. Not only does it benefit me directly it also encourages my younger siblings to pursue involvement in their agricultural community.

As mentioned previously, receiving this this scholarship alleviates the financial pressure for me and my family, living away from home during my studies. This scholarship allows me to support myself through accommodation, text books and various other living expenses incurred. This means a large amount of stress is reduced from everyday life.

Personally I am passionate and interested in getting people involved in agriculture and the WAC community at university.

This scholarship will allow me to make connections with other scholarship recipients currently at CSU and also previous recipients. Further it may allow me to pursue other courses like truck licence or chemical certification that will support my formal university degree in the future.

Thank you very much for this scholarship. Your continued support of this scholarship is greatly appreciated. Further, I think the scholarship could be advertised more within the CSU Ag Club community to increase the number of worthy applicants.

Congratulations Peter and all the best for a successful career in agriculture!

WACOBU Scholarship Support

The WACOBU Committee is asking Old Boys for further donations towards this annual scholarship. The Scholarship has doubled in value to \$2000 this year

If a reunion or get-together is organised please consider making a donation to the scholarship. All recipients have benefitted greatly from their scholarship and it is one way of ensuring that WACOBU remains in the spotlight at CSU.

Donations can be made to WACOBU by direct debit or cheque.

See the last page of the newsletter for banking details.

Your support will be greatly appreciated !



STUDENTS HARVESTING

Wagga Experiment Farm 1896-1949, Wagga Ag College 1949-1975

Credit: The Daily Advertiser





CLASS REUNION

THE 1970 OLD BOYS

THEIR 23rd BI-ANNUAL REUNION

LIGHTNING RIDGE, MAY 2017



This mob of Old Boys is legendary, holding a reunion every 2 years since 1973, with each function well attended, family orientated and diverse in their location. The group also hold an annual arvo Christmas near Dubbo the first week in December.

What an achievement!!

This year's reunion, organised by Ross ("Dorrie") Sawtell from Dubbo and Bruce ("Peaso") Peasley from Inverell, was at Lightning Ridge in north-west NSW over four days in May.

It was the 23rd catch-up for these 1970 group of Aggies.

The extended weekend was a chance for the organisers - Ross Sawtell and Bruce Peasley, to showcase the uniqueness and character of this amazing place.

Both Ross and Bruce had spent many of their working years in and around the area in a range of landscape assessment and committee organisations.

The local contacts and detailed understanding of the area's features made the various excursions very interesting and enjoyable.

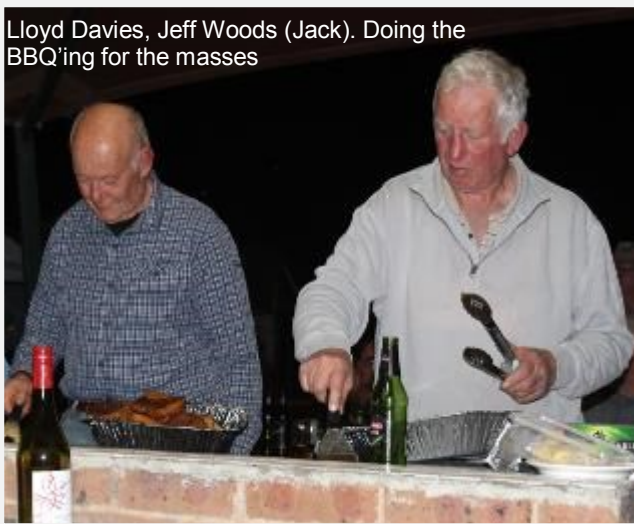
The group were again privileged to have both **Dot Levick and Judy Atkins, wives of the late Col Levick (Lecturer) and Brian Atkins (Principal)** with us for the Reunion.

The weekend went this way:

FRIDAY 12th evening was spent around a welcome BBQ where we were all reacquainted with catch ups of family, fortunes, retirement activities and ailments.



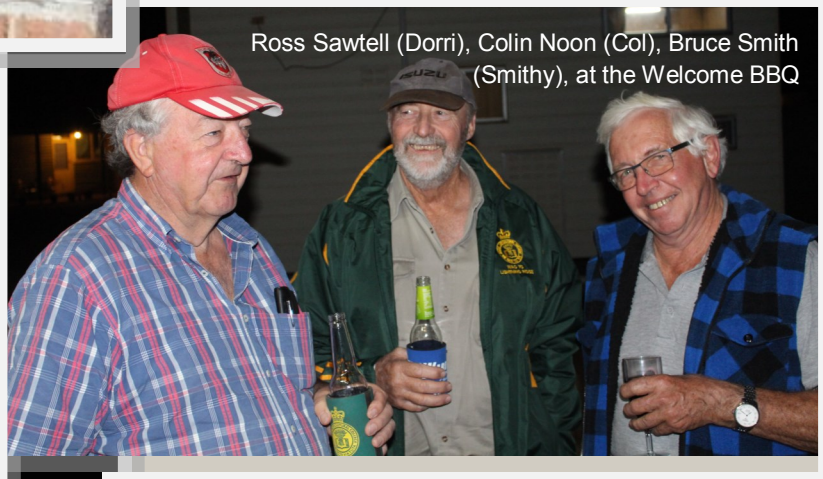
Doug Walker (Rubbery), Dot Levick (Mum), Rubbers



Lloyd Davies, Jeff Woods (Jack). Doing the BBQ'ing for the masses



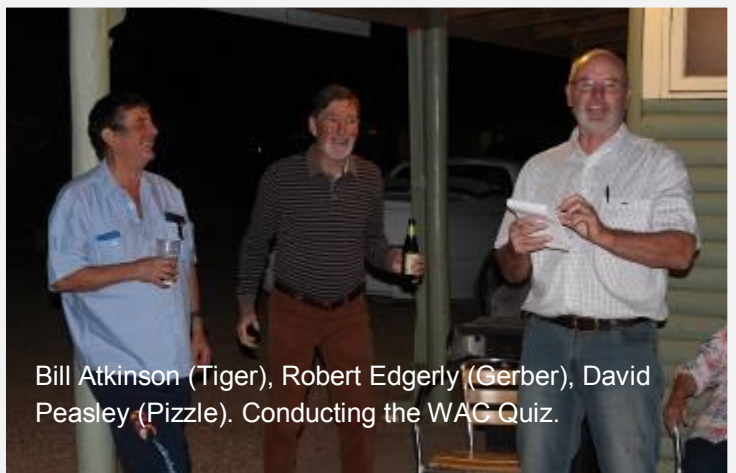
Phil Morrison (Stick), Bernie McMullen (Scummy) doing justice to the cooking.



Ross Sawtell (Dorri), Colin Noon (Col), Bruce Smith (Smithy), at the Welcome BBQ



Bill Muir (F), Colin Noon (Col)



Bill Atkinson (Tiger), Robert Edgerly (Gerber), David Peasley (Pizzle). Conducting the WAC Quiz.

SATURDAY 13th was a TAG along tour. Ross had engaged a local expert guest who with Ross, provided extensive and entertaining commentary.

The tour included checking out the local Post Office, Court House, Bowling Club, Medical Centre, race course, golf club, and the swimming centre and bore baths. They got a guided tour through Amigo's castle before an exploratory visit over an intensive mining area.

The group were also fortunate to go through John Murrays Art Gallery – about 4 days before it was completely destroyed by fire.

Later that morning the group descended into an underground mine: CHAMBERS OF THE BLACK HAND – an unbelievable experience seeing opal mining in action plus an exhibition of cave artistry chiselled into the walls.

SATURDAY EVENING consisted of the main Reunion dinner which included about eleven acts performed by members of the group – some unearthed talent did emerge – some very hilarious and some need to practise for 2019.



Ann and Gordon Herbert



Debbie and Stuart Bell



Steve and Julie Dunn



Debbie Bell, Denise Cracknell, Sue Peasley, Bea Edgerley, Caroline Noon, Laurelle Smith, Ann Herbert, Julie Dunn

SUNDAY 14th was a long day bus tour to;

Aboriginal cult heritage site Narran Lake meeting with Aboriginal Elder for a walk over significant middens and ancient camp sites.

Grawin opal fields – Sheepyards pub, Glengarry Hilton pub for lunch then for a bit of fossicking.

Under Ross's direction we stopped to check out some significant vegetation communities and some evil looking Hudson Pear.

Cumborah village for afternoon tea provided by the Cumborah Trust ladies.

MONDAY 15th was a Tag along tour heading north stopping at the dry Coocoran Lakebed, currently under standing wheat stubble then at the Narran River crossing on the Goodooga road to look at a typical inland river weir.

Onto Goodooga, driving around to check out a typical remote Aboriginal town looks like before heading to Hebel store/caravan park for a top morning tea and a visit to the infamous Hebel Pub.

From Hebel onto Angledool and onto the Colly road stopping at the Narran River for a walk in a river reserve to check out an array of unique Aboriginal tree carvings.

Then onto the property "Birrah" to look at recently completed Cap and Pipe artesian bore scheme with commentary from the property owner and Peaso.

From there a visit to the property "Bando" owned by the Turnbull family.

Mr Robert Turnbull has an amazing collection of old wares/machinery to the public. This collection and display is only just being opened for public tours. We were most fortunate to get a detailed and extensive guided tour – it was an excellent set up.

The Turnbull's were also shearing and we took the opportunity check out their large western NSW shearing shed in operation and their expansive modern machinery used for large scale cropping - which were waiting for a much needed fall of rain.

Monday evening was spent in the resort with more yarns, lies and a heathy debate for the next reunion.

It was finally decided on a 3-4 day Murray River cruise in 2019 with a Special 50th anniversary function at the College in 2020.

All departed Tuesday morning after being well fed, watered and entertained at one of the premier reunion events we have held.

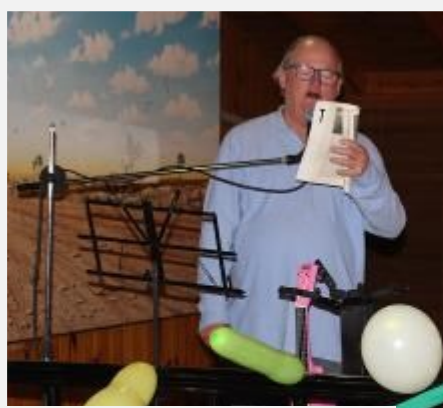
Bob Wilton (Rev) with a great sound – probably from dairy cow serenading!



Julie Dunn, Bob and Kerry Wickson (The performers), Ross Sawtell the Compare.



Phil Morrison (Stick),
Ross Sawtell
(Dorrie).



Bernie McMullen (Scummy) – Oh NO!!,
bring back Danny Boy, Please



Ross Sawtell (Dori) With an interesting rendition of
"The Latrine Song"

Two Footnotes:

ONE: After much grey cell recalling from all, David Peasley has put together a history of reunion event dates for the WAC 70 'ers dates, venues and organisers.

- 1973 - Somersby (Gosford) - Bob Wickson
- 1975 - Sunny Corner –David Alexander
- 1977 - Kincumber – John Heuston
- 1979 - Woolbrook – Caroline and Colin Noon
- 1981 - Wagga - Phil and Julie Morrison
- 1983 - Pittwater/Church Point - David and Jenny Alexander
- 1985 - Hastings Point – David and Sue Peasley
- 1987 - Wyangala – Bill and Di Atkinson
- 1989 - Scotts Head – David and Jenny Alexander
- 1991 - Lake Macquarie – Debbie and Stewart Bell
- 1993 - Canberra –Peter Bradley, Doug Walker then Bob Wickson and Bernard
- 1995 - Mt Seaview –Caroline and Colin Noon
- 1997 -Mt Victoria – Laurelle and Bruce Smith; Di and Bill Atkinson; and Bob Wickson
- 1999 - Lower Portland - Laurelle and Bruce Smith; Col and Dot Levick
- 2001 - Tocal – Ken Ryall and Lloyd Davies
- 2003 - Khancoban – Ann and Gordon Herbert
- 2005 - Dubbo – Ross and Lyn Sawtell; Frank and Anna Syrch
- 2007 - Broken Hill -Bruce and Junette Peasley; and Jack Woods
- 2009 - Narooma - Ann and Gordon Herbert; Bob Wilton and Les Mackie
- 2011 - Tweed Valley –Sue and David Peasley
- 2013 - Hunter Valley - Steve and Julie Dunn
- 2015 - South Durras – Robert and Bea Edgerley
- 2017 - Lightning Ridge –Ross Sawtell and Bruce Peasley.

Guided tour of Aboriginal Significant sites on Narran Lakes



TWO:

A note from Berny McMullen (Scummy) with a point to ponder on the lighter side from The Ridge Reunion.

Obviously credit where it is due to Dorrie and Peaso.

Thanks to Bob Barrett the local Ridge expert and Kat at the resort.

- The Rev (Bob Wilton) must now have a much greater understanding of aboriginal heritage given the number of questions he hammered Ted (the Aboriginal Elder at Narran Lake) with. Another point to make on this outing was Tiger's dog (SATAN) getting riddled with galvanised burr from head to tail.
- The portrait shot of the weekend had to be Rubbers asleep on the bus with his mouth agape.
- The strengthening romance between Frank and Stick in the mobile home. FRANK: If I can get Stick on the ***** roof, he can stay there. STICK: Cranky old bastard. This got even better when Frank told us that a would-be intruder (thinking maybe a Pizzle dog) to **** off in no uncertain terms when he heard something crawling up the ramp of his drover's truck. It was Stick, coming back from the bush urinal.
- Stick however did feature in a couple of high points:-

Best dressed on day one with a top embroidered with his name 'STICKS', followed on day two with a magnificent high-viz top that was envied by all.

After a truly magnificent concert the judges gave Sticks "Guess the Tune" act first place by a bee's dick from the other 10 acts tied for second.

- Rubbers Junior delaying proceedings on the last day while he got his car registered.
- How to get Cod Turnbull to streamline his act? Easy – get Wickson out of the audience. With time approaching midnight and all in vehicles, he was still enquiring. Good thing the Rev wasn't there or we would not have got home until 4 in the morning.
- Time does heal. It was overheard that Dottie did not recognise Col when the photos went around on the last night.
- Goodooga looks a likely investment spot. Ding and Rubbery will organise funding and valuation at mates rates for SUCH BLUE CHIP real estate.
- Pizzle abusing Bob (the dog) and Bob Barrett (not knowing Bob the dog) asking "what the f*** have I done?"
- Estimated 5 people at least knocked off a bit of Hudson Pear for their cacti garden.

- Wickson looking for a replay of the Eels game at the club hoping the score might change.
- Denise (I'll be Terry) being part of The Boys on the drink at the bar.
- The high level of **tolerance** by Stunner to Julie's gluten **Intolerance** was duly noted.
- Tiger (intoxicated) abusing Scummy after he rang and advised "we are still 4 hours away, just left Dubbo", when in fact they were booking into the resort.
- The would-be truckers in convoy on the last day with their radios, including one mechanical wizard who asked "how do I turn this bloody thing on?!"
- Rubbers hilarious recall of Rubber Juniors conception "I might have submarined him, but at least I made him best man"
- Ding missing the start at Hebel waiting for a call from the bank. It was rumoured he was organising funds to shout everyone the weekend, but that didn't happen.
- His Majesty (Rossco) mentioned that when he could afford it, he would purchase some new light weight speakers. The number 1 roadie suggested sending the hat around to make it happen sooner rather than later.
- On the down side; a couple of gluten free moments, a minor accident and ailment or two, the Dragons got beat and a rendition of "Danny Boy" didn't get a start. In reference to the latter the only person not disappointed was the vocalist elect.
- Excellent comradery between all parties with differing ages, lifestyles, religious beliefs and political persuasions. Most surprisingly, a couple of Manly supporters were even tolerated!
- The bush urinal in front of Frank's camped truck. The Tasmanian waste killed the Wilga tree!!



Doug Walker (Rubbery), Steve Dunn (Stunner), Kerrie Wickson, Judy Atkins, Paul Loder (Bear), Bob Wickson, Dot Levick.
Lunch Time at the Glengarry Hilton Pub



Julie Dunn, Frank Syrch. Opal Fossicking.

Junette Peasley, Jeff Woods (Jack), Bruce Peasley (Peaso). Morning Smoko at the Hebel Tea House.



Acknowledgements:

- Ross Sawtell for the program development and local contact arrangements
- Bruce Peasley in program development assistance and Reunion Jackets
- Steve Dunn for the photography
- Peaso in his role as Chief Steward organised an order of swank all-weather jackets that included a WAC 70 Lightning Ridge 2017 logo. The lads certainly looked the part!!!

Editor's note:

This reunion is a great statement about the mateship that developed at WAC.

And what about Dot Levick and Judy Atkins turning up?

Fantastic to see their involvement with this group!

As mentioned earlier, the next reunion for this group is a 3-4 day cruise along the Murray River in 2019.

That will be followed by a special 50th year function in 2020.

Congratulations to all Old Boys from 1970 and their families and we look forward to hearing about the 50 year reunion in 2020 at Wagga.





DOT LEVICK ~ a name from the past ~

The Editor received a phone call out of the blue from Dot Levick, whose late husband Col was a well-respected lecturer at Wagga Ag College for many years. Even though he studied at Hawkesbury Ag College – Col obviously saw the light and moved south!

Dot lives an active life, keeping busy with family, friends and travel.

She has attended some year reunions and loves catching up with WAC Old Boys for a chat.

Dot, along with Judy Atkins (wife of the late Principal Brian Atkins), made the trek to Lightning Ridge for the 1968-70 WACer's reunion in May this year and had a wow of a time.

Dot has many fond memories of her days at WAC and the college obviously still holds a special place in her busy life.

Her best memories of college life were when students and staff lived on campus and interacted with each other, the success of Ag College rugby teams and seeing students graduate after three years of college life.

Dot's still lives at 7 Morton St, Nth Richmond and loves to catch up with people from Wagga Ag College.

Thanks for making contact Dot and all the best for 2018 and beyond.

DOMAN HALL HISTORY

Sherry Morris is writing a booklet on the history of Doman Hall. Sherry has obtained a lot of information on the construction of the building from the WAC files at Charles Sturt University Regional Archives but has very little information on Doman Hall after 1964.

If any Old Boys have any information, any reminiscences, funny stories etc. or know of anyone who has, could you please contact Sherry.

Contact details are:

Sherry Morris

Phone: 0269229337

PO Box 752, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.

sherryjmorris@me.com

Any information will be greatly appreciated.



Doman Hall in 2017. The single storied northern wing is on the left and the two storied southern wing on the right. There were also two interconnecting wings.

If you have any information, reminiscences, funny stories associated with Doman Hall (also known as Doman Building or Doman Block), if you were a resident anytime between 1964 and 2016 as an internal or external student or attending a conference could you please ring me on 0269229337 or email sherryjmorris@me.com. Thank you, Sherry Morris

WANTED

INFORMATION ON DOMAN HALL CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY



Bernard (Dick) Doman
First Principal of WAC



—photo by permission of D. Gyger, Wagga Wagga.

THE DOMAN BLOCK

South-western aspect—featuring southern wing students' rooms (both floors) with sickbay, dispensary and Matron's flat (ground floor—foreground).

Photographed August, 1963.

WAGGA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STAFF—1964

Principal: F. C. BUTLER, B.Sc.Agr.(Syd.), Ph.D.
(Cantab.)
Deputy Principal: J. R. SUTHERLAND, B.Sc.Agr.(Syd.)
Librarian: Miss M. I. WAIGHT
Matron: Mrs. J. A. HACKETT

LECTURERS

K. G. BEIRNE, B.Sc.Agr. (Syd.)	Agriculture, Genetics and Plant Breeding
K. S. LYSAGHT, H.D.A.	Sheep Husbandry
B. P. HEALY, B.V.Sc.(Syd.)	Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry
D. J. CAMPBELL, B.Sc. (Tas.), Dip.Ed., T.T.C.	Biology
R. K. SWAIN, B.Sc.(N.Z.)	Chemistry and Physics
A. C. NICOL, H.D.A.	Supervisor of Students Practical Training

SECONDED LECTURERS

WAGGA WAGGA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

F. A. ANTHONY	Metalwork and Mechanics
A. G. CHAPPELL	Welding
W. G. COLLINS	Farm Engineering
B. C. LEAHY	Surveying and Building Construction
A. MOFFAT	Farm Book-keeping
E. E. MORGAN	Woodwork
C. S. RUSSELL	Woolclassing

*Doman Block, named in honour of the first principal of Wagga Agricultural College (WAC), Dick Doman .
Source: Program for the Official Opening of The Doman Block, WAC (now Charles Sturt University)
by the NSW Minister for Agriculture, A.G. (George) Enticknap, 24 April 1964*

BIG CHANGES UNDERWAY AT THE OLD CAMPUS

As described in our President's report the infamous Nappy Alley cottages are scheduled for demolition during this summer, not being certain it means all or some.

WACOBU doubts anyone can argue these unique fibro cottages have not reached their "use by date" and shouldn't be replaced with modern accommodation.

But with them go many stories of staff, and then many, many unprintable student stories.

One story that is able to be printed is:

WACOBU President Stuart remembers Lindsay Beer and wife were residents of No. 6 and Max the kitchen manager was in No. 11.

There were a couple of incidents in 1979 and 1980 at least, of ignorant motts being urged to launch reprisal raids on Nappy Alley student cottages, only to get it horribly wrong and rort the above two cottages.

Much diplomacy was required of the senior years', and doubtless the motts were made to pay for the indiscretion - yet again.

According to WACOBU committee member Deb Slinger, Butler Hall, A, B and C Blocks will be demolished in the future.

These also have their stories for those who resided there - or visited. These blocks do not have many redeeming features, although the bathrooms were good for showering after footy games.

Stuart also commented that with such major changes in process he can see why some individuals in the planning department at CSU would like to erase East and West Blocks too if they were given free reign.

If this proposal ever eventuates WACOBU will be in there fighting tooth and nail to make sure these two structures remain as an integral part of the CSU landscape.





THE FIRST GRADUATES OF 1952

The editor received this note from Fred Benecke in January 2017, after the publication date of the 2017 Old Boys newsletter:

“You may not have caught up with the news that Ken Triffitt died in 2016.

He was one of the few remaining Old Boys from the first students to be awarded the WDA.

WACOBU members may recall that 17 students received their awards from Eddie Graham at the first Diploma Day in March 1952.

There are now four of us left:

- *David Bryant of Cowra
- * Murray Haddrill of Trungley Hall
- *Barry Smart of Orange
- * Myself, Fred Benecke of Turramurra.

I admit to being a bit sentimental about our class of '49.

We were very close in many ways and I dearly miss our departed friends.

Wishing all a splendid 2017

Regards,

Fred”

Footnote:

Thanks Fred for that information and sad to hear of another WAC Old Boy has passed away. Fred and his three remaining class mates have an undeniable link with WAC.

Their achievement in being the first graduates of the college laid the foundation for what was to come – a long, proud history and wonderful tradition.

1959 WAC GRADUATES REUNION 2018

A reminder notice that the next reunion of 1959 WAC graduates will take place in Mooloolaba in the week 22nd to 28th October 2018.

Contact Peter Beinssen for more details.

Peter’s email address is beinssen@bigpond.net.au

Don't
Forget!

1966 WAC OLD BOYS REUNION MAY 7-11, 2018 CENTRAL COAST & HUNTER VALLEY, NSW

There is plenty of interest in the 2018 reunion of the crew from 1966 and their partners.

Planned for the Central Coast/Hunter Valley in NSW, the itinerary looks very interesting and will give the group a great opportunity to catch up again after their last reunion in Darwin.

Planned programme for the week:

From Monday 7th May

Monday - Welcome dinner at Nelson Bay Diggers

Tuesday - Tour Hunter Valley Wine Country

Wednesday - Reunion Dinner at Nigronis Italian Restaurant, Magnus St Nelson Bay

Thursday - Ferry ride to Tea Gardens and lunch at pub.

Friday - Farewell breakfast at Nigronis Italian Restaurant.

Accommodation bookings to be made direct to the Halifax Caravan Park - Phone (02) 49811522

Contact **Graeme Hockey** (0458 405 511) or **Peter Polack** (0418 275 477) for more details.

WACOBU hopes the reunion is a great success and passes on their best wishes to the organisers and participants.



**Have a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from all at WACOBU**



The MOTTs of 1992



WAC TEAM RAISES \$20,000



WACOBU committeeman Craig Whiting and 9 other fellow Motts celebrated 25 years since they started Ag College in 1992 in a unique way.

They entered the 2017 MS Sydney to the Gong Ride to support people living with multiple sclerosis (MS).

WACOBU was represented by Craig Whiting (Coit), Greg Condon (Skeg), Tim Condon (Enzyme), Ian Herbert (Bert), Ben Hogg (Cirrus), Craig Cowell (Kremmen), Greg Sefton (Turd), Steven Bourke (Gears), Rob Hart (Gilligan) and Simon Coddington (ACME)

Chief organiser Craig said "it's pretty shit to think that four people are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in Australia every working day

"It is a lifelong disease for which there is no known cause or cure."

Coit's goal was to make it to the Gong, limit the amount of lycra rash and raise some serious cash to help change lives.



The group of 1992 Motts raised almost \$20,000 from donations received from WACOBU members and they really appreciated your support.

All of these funds raised from the ride will be used to fund vital support services to help make the everyday possible for those living with multiple sclerosis.

“Thank you for your support – \$20,000 is a great result and it really means a lot and will make a difference to MS sufferers.

“Last year we said goodbye to Allison (*Laurus*) Rowland’s mother who had suffered MS for over 30 years.

“Allison was in our year at Ag College and is still very much a close friend, so all the boys in the MS Sydney to The Gong Ride were riding not only for us and remembering the 25 years since we were Motts, but also for her mother”, said Craig.

The team looked fantastic in their jerseys with the WACOBU logo proudly displayed.

Well done to the Motts of 1992, another great effort from WACOBU members.



Aggies Race Day



Photo: Former Wagga man Peter Worsley with Ag Races president Will Whiteley at this year's race meet.

Picture: Laura Hardwick WDA

Despite clashing with other major sporting events across the weekend, the Ag Race Day held at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club in Wagga, on Saturday, September 16 proved to be another spectacular success.

This Saturday was arguably the busiest day of the Wagga sporting calendar with grand finals being held in three football codes.

Ag Race Day President Will Whiteley celebrated his 21st birthday on the day in style and along with 5500 other racegoers was able to see the support for a family friend - Peter Worsley, one of Will's dad's best mates.

In a great boost for organisers, Peter was present on the day.

For 29 years, the second-biggest event on the Murrumbidgee Turf Club calendar has raised money to support Mr Worsley who suffered a serious rugby union accident, leaving him a quadriplegic in 1987.

Mr Whiteley said he and fellow-organisers were expecting the popular race day to raise more than \$30,000.

"I'm really happy about the weather after last year's meeting was greatly affected by extremely wet conditions," said Will.

The vet-science student said racegoers were predominately university students or former graduates but some visitors had come from as far as Queensland and Tasmania.

Races beneficiary, Peter Worsley said it was great the Wagga Agriculture College had managed to start the races and sustain it for almost 30 years.

Peter also presented the William Farrer Hotel 2017 Aggies Cup to Zarina's Gold trainer Michael Sparrow.

Murrumbidgee Turf Club chief executive Scott Sanbrook said this year's crowd was close to record breaking.

"It's up there with the all-time highs.

"It goes to prove it's as popular as it's ever been.

"I think it's wonderful for Wagga to put on an event such as this.

"It's a real draw card for the city.

"There is no limit to the future success of the Ag Races," said Mr Sanbrook.

It was close to an all-time record crowd and continued a sharp increase in numbers in recent times.

The Ag Race Day also appears to be winning the battle of the sporting codes.

While keen to avoid clashes in future years, Sanbrook said Ag Races cannot move.

"This is the traditional day for the Aggies.

"This is the best possible date we could get for them in regards to where their exams and semesters fit.

"We cannot change the date," said Mr Sanbrook.

Congratulations to the Ag Race Day Committee which worked tirelessly with the Murrumbidgee Turf Club to ensure the popular event continue to be a successful day.

It was great to see WAC Old Boy Peter Worsley in attendance at this year's races and he continues to appreciate the on-going assistance he receives from his former Ag College footy mates, the Ag College Old Boys network and the current students of CSU.



Photo: Courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser





WAC Rugby 2017



The Aggies fielded first, second and thirty third grade teams in the men's division and a women's 7-a-side team in the Southern Inland Rugby Union competitions.

The First XV made the semi-finals in fifth spot and is looking to build on that effort in 2018.

SIRU was a very strong competition with Leeton being the dominant team at the top level.

The Phantoms first grade side played electric rugby all year and were undefeated – a rare occurrence in any team sports in the current era.

Aggies had their share of highlights and were impressive in the latter half of the competition proper to ensure they qualified for the business end of the season.

However Tumut defeated them in the first week of the semi-finals to end their year on the paddock.

Cam Duffy had a great season for the Aggies and was named co-winner of the Bill Castle Medal for zone best & fairest.

Congratulations to Cam on a great year of rugby.

The Ag College Rugby Club continues to prosper and is hoping 2018 will be a strong year both on and off the field.



Ag College v Waratahs. July 2017
Credit: The Daily Advertiser

SOUTHERN INLAND RUGBY UNION GRAND FINALS

No.1 Oval, Leeton

August 26th 2017



1st Grade

Leeton 30 d Wagga Waratahs 29

Best & Fairest- Rivcoll Old Boys Medal – Simon Vunilagi (Leeton)

2nd Grade

Wagga City 22 d Wagga Waratahs 17

Best & Fairest- Warwick Tout Memorial Medal-- John Blackmore (Wagga City)

3rd Grade

Deniliquin 20 d Wagga Waratahs 17

Best & Fairest- Ken McMullen Medal--Hugh Sutton (Deniliquin)

Women's 7-A-Side

Leeton 32 d CSU 27 – after Extra Time

Best & Fairest- Adamson Medal-- Rebecca Vaughan (Leeton)

Bill Castle Medal – SIRU Best and Fairest Player in 2017

Equal Winners – **Cam Duffy (Wagga Ag College)** & **Noa Rabici**
(Leeton)

Alicia Quirk Medal - Best and Fairest Player in 2017

Winner – Claudia Obst (CSU)

Runner Up- Rebecca Vaughan (Leeton)

According to Mick McTaggart, CEO of SIRU, the grand final held at Leeton instead of the normal venue (Wagga's Connolly Park) was one of the best days of finals footy that the zone has seen in a long time.



Angus Aims For Independence



AG COLLEGE RUGBY HELPS OUT AGAIN IN 2017



Photo courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser

Ag College Rugby once again supported the Angus Aims for Independence charity in 2017 after a great inaugural event 12 months ago.

Angus Pennington is the brother of star Aggies player Hamish Pennington.

Angus, who has cerebral palsy, graduated from the Elouera Special School at Cootamundra and has immersed himself in the agriculture industry, working for Landmark in their Cootamundra Wool Store and attending the fortnightly Cootamundra Sheep sale.

Angus is a much loved member of both the Wagga Agricultural Rugby Club and the Cootamundra Tricolours Rugby Club communities.

He is passionate about rugby, supporting both teams on a regular basis and getting among the players on and off the field.

Wagga Ag College Rugby hosted a charity day on October 7, with Charity AFL games between the Aggies and the CSU Bushpigs AFL men and ladies teams at Peter Hastie Oval.

All funds raised went to assist Angus Aims for Independence and Coota Carers in their endeavours to help young adults in the region live independently.

There were many fundraising events on the day including all 40 jerseys up for auction following the game at the William Farrer Hotel.

In the men's game, CSU survived a scare to maintain university bragging rights with an 18-point win over the Ag College team, 74-56. It was a great effort from the Aggies playing a foreign game. CSU scored a dominant win in the women's game, an additional boost to the spectacle this season.

Organiser and former Ag College club captain Thomas Macleay was thrilled with the performance on and off the field.

“It was a marvellous day and the night was an unreal success,” Macleay said.

While donations are still coming in, Macleay believes around \$40,000 has been raised for the cause. He said is on par with last year's inaugural event.

“It is amazing considering the amount of university students involved in purchasing jerseys and the generosity of the community is just amazing,” Macleay said.

Macleay believes it is a good sign for the longevity of the fixture, with plans to go again once more in 2018.



Photo courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser



Bushfires have major impact on former WAC student Helen (Rolls) Riek

Severe bushfires in the Port Macquarie area in February 2017 had a devastating impact on one of the first intake of Grotts at WAC in 1972, Helen (Rolls) Riek.

The Pappinbarra Rd fire burnt several homes down including one belonging to Helen and her family.

Helen also lost several valuable Arab horses that she has spent a lifetime breeding along selective bloodlines.

Horses that did survive were receiving treatment for their burns and other injuries sustained in the fire.

Basically the family just managed to get out with a few items (clothes on their back, phones and wallets), but nothing else.

Helen has been going through some tough times over the last few years, so this bushfire was a devastating blow for her.

Several WAC Old Boys contacted Helen and were keen to offer assistance to her.

Barney and Michelle Oldfield, Doug Harrison and John Harper were keeping WACOBU members informed.

Wauchope vets www.wauchopevets.com.au started a fund raising effort for Helen via 'Go Fund Me' to assist Helen pay for the on-going treatment of her horses.

From media reports the local community raised close to \$24,000 for all victims.

Messages of support would go a long way toward helping Helen remain positive about the future.

Even though this event happened 10 months ago, motts and grotts from the early 70's may wish to contact Helen and offer their support

The email contact for Helen is: mshriek@gmail.com



Helen was contacted by the WACOBU newsletter editor recently and she responded with the following message via email:

I have not recovered from the effects of the fire.

I haven't had help with anything, fencing still needing repairs and replacing.

Any work done on repairs has been by myself as it is extremely difficult to find anyone as so much construction is going on in the area.

Finally found a dozer driver who would clean up burnt sheds and cottage.

Neighbour issues are causing much angst.

My neighbour bulldozed all his felled trees and old fence wire into our place before I could finish removing it from shared boundary.

Then wouldn't discuss fencing and just started bulldozing with crawler tractor pulverising the house yard pathways.

This neighbour is actually fencing out the driveway to the house site that comes off Pappinbarra Rd as it seems no provision was made for it when the road was altered from previous track.

Without this access we would not have survived.

The only other possible access due to steep cliff is at the western end of the property where the fire inferno came from.

My other neighbour is allowing his cattle to graze on the road and in our place and is not repairing the boundary fence.

I can't risk having horses there so I am still struggling to hand feed horses in small paddocks around the yard of the house I now rent.

I am still waiting for a shed that was generously donated by the Rotary Club, but doubt if anything will happen now until 2018.

My eldest son became very unwell following the fire and was admitted to hospital.

My car was written off but managed to repair it and the horse float needed major frame work replacement and work on the electrics and new tyres after the fire.

It just seems like every turn since the fire has been a hurdle or a roadblock and they just keep coming relentlessly.

Feeling why do I bother and often extremely difficult to keep fighting to stay afloat with what seems like one lead weight after another dragging me down and out.

So not a cheery update sorry wish it could be otherwise but seems not in my life story.

Cheers

Rolls

Obviously Helen needs some support so let's get her back on her feet ASAP.

Rolling her own...



By
BRIAN SHEPPARD

"Germaine is great," commented Helen Rieck (pictured) as she nonchalantly licked the glued edge of an expertly rolled cigarette.

"I'm all for women's lib," the 18-year-old daughter of a Lake George district farmer added. The casual-shirted, be-

COLLEGE IS NOW CO-ED

jeaned everyman's image of women's lib is the spearhead of another major breakthrough for women into one of the last male bastions of educational institutions — the Wagga Agricultural College.

Helen and five other

young women yesterday became the first residential female students to undertake a three-year agriculture diploma course at Wagga.

"They'll be given no special privileges," said the principal, Mr. Brian Atkins.

"They'll be required to undertake the full practical requirements of the course," he added.

But that's the way the women want it.

"We would rather be treated as individuals and not women," quipped Helen, with the ready vocal support of her fellow female students, Michelle Philip, 18, of Grafton; Robyn Pitt, 17, of Oberon; Merilee Morris, 18, of Wellington; and

★ PAGE 2



Vale Ian Taylor

A pioneer in Agriculture

The ceremony to commemorate the life of Ian, ‘Sacko’, ‘Tad’, Taylor took place in Dubbo on Wednesday 13th September 2017.

Sacko was another good old mate who is now, sadly, no longer with us.

During the service, several moving tributes were spoken. Ian’s wife Callie and Ian’s son Stephen both courageously gave loving accounts of this wonderful, quiet, decent, high-achieving man.

Phil Goldrick and Ian Mashman in their separate eulogies spoke of their long association with Ian and recalled events that illustrated his many attributes and achievements.

Ian’s old mate and business partner Bob Smith, who presently lives in Costa Rica wrote, and Tim Harbutt read, an account of Ian’s pivotal role in the development of Tandou, the agribusiness they established together near Menindee.

After the service there was a reception at The Western Plains Cultural Centre where memorabilia and photos were displayed and where there was food and drinks and fellowship aplenty.

On the day after the funeral service, three prunus trees were planted near the cottage into which Ian and Callie were soon to retire.

These “Memorial Trees” were bought from our reunion kitty on behalf of the Waddies with whom Ian graduated from Wagga Ag College in 1959 and their wives.



Photo: The planting ceremony.

Eulogy delivered by Ian Mashman

It is with great sadness that I stand here today to deliver this tribute to my mate, great friend for 60 years, my groomsman, and a friendship that has stood the test of time.

Ian, a true gentleman, husband, father, lover of life, a farmer, a teacher, a student in Agriculture, a John Deere man through and through, a pilot - to name but a few of his many qualities.

An expert driver but unfortunately he had an inability to read fuel gauges. On three known occasions, running out of fuel mid-way between Cobar and Wilcannia, between Coober Pedy and Alice Springs and another time between Albury and Goulburn.

Ian and I first met at Wagga Ag College in 1957, a shy retiring lad straight from Barker College and Pymble where he spent his childhood.

A long lanky lad with big ears and which became his badge of attraction. Whenever requiring his attention, you would place your hand up to your ear and give it a shake. It worked every time. He remained of similar build all his life, not like most of us who have undesirable changes in body shape. To my knowledge Ian had never been in hospital in his life, always fit and healthy, until struck down in these last 8 weeks.

On graduation, our parents spoilt us with a month long trip to NZ, two weeks in the north and two weeks in the south island - camping every night and being serious students of Agriculture visiting Agricultural institutions through the day together with enjoying the beauty of NZ.

Pulled up by a policeman in Hamilton for no reason other than he thought we were foreigners in a hire car, his first question was "did we receive any mail from home"; we were somewhat speechless, but to cut a long story short, the policeman was a philatelist, so for some years we forwarded him Australian stamps and new releases. He took us home, fed us, gave us a bed and a beautiful night we had with his wife and family.

There were a few more fun times in NZ which we had to leave there!!!!

On return from NZ, Ian took over the management of the family farm "Canema" at Kerrabee in the upper Hunter Valley. A farming and beef production property "out in the sticks" being about 160 km from Muswellbrook, which was their main shopping town.

He married Judy in Broken Hill and four children were born during this period. Judy and Angela are now deceased.

One of Ian's claims to fame during this period, he grew triticale, a new crop to NSW and he became the President of the growers association.

The family moved to Dubbo no doubt to provide better education for the kids and to save Judy a 100 mile drive on dirt roads to the school in Sandy Hollow.

"Raymond Hill" was purchased and subsequently "Cumboogal" and then "Merton". Vast improvements were made over the years, especially with Centre Pivots irrigators. Specialist cropping was a feature of the family's management.

The whole family, Chris, Belinda and Stephen lived and worked on the properties.

Tandou Station, the other great achievement of Ian's life will be covered by his friend & college mate Bob Smith.

Bob lives in Costa Rica these days and Tim Harbutt will be reading his words.

Ian's marriage to Callie for the past 8 years has resulted in blissful times, travel, and given them both a depth of understanding and great love. Callie's great cattle knowledge has improved their herd and they have both shared the pleasures of cattle management.

Ian & Callie were preparing for retirement and to this end they were renovating an older cottage on about 320 ha in which to live and on which to run some cattle.

I will miss Ian as he has been a wonderful friend to me over many years and I'm sure that feeling extends to all those gathered here today.

Bob Smith's Eulogy for Ian Taylor, spoken by Tim Harbutt

My name is Tim Harbutt, a long-time friend of Ian's, and it is my honour to present a eulogy written by Bob Smith, a long term friend and business partner of Ian's, who presently lives in Costa Rica, and regrettably is unable to be with us today.

I will speak as though I were Bob.

My relationship with Ian Macpherson Taylor, whose life we celebrate today, is one of both friend and business colleague over a period spanning 60 years, during which time we were the Best Man at each other's weddings.

My wife Colleen and I really regret not being able to be with you today, but we were fortunate to stay for two nights with Ian and Callie last July, just prior to Ian being subjected to his long round of tests, and have been in constant touch with Callie since. In thinking of Ian as a friend and business colleague over the past 60 years, one word sprang to mind: LOYAL.

I found some definitions that I believe apply completely to Ian:

A person who stands by their friend's side through good and bad times
Faithful to a cause or ideal
Providing complete and lasting support for someone
In addition to these qualities, Ian was a very private person, especially where finance was concerned, and was at all times humble, never seeking the lime-light.

What a principled man, what a friend and business partner---I could not have wanted more. I can truthfully say that in all our 60 years association, I cannot remember any argument or disagreement with Ian Taylor.

This was not because he accepted everything I said, but because he would respond after giving the matter careful thought with an improvement, or well-reasoned alternative point of view.

Having given you my recollections of Ian as a person, I would now like to tell you something of our time together:

We first met in 1957 at Wagga Agricultural College in our first year of tertiary education. Here the 30 young first year students were subjected to a series of initiations by the third year students, which ensured we were all reduced to one level, regardless of our backgrounds.

We were called Motts, and compelled to recite:

"A mott is the lowest form of fungal growth capable of existence on the scrapings from the anus of a gnat".

And with the initiations, so our bonds were formed.

Ian and I shared a desire to learn to fly aeroplanes while at Wagga Wagga, and by training at weekends we both gained our private pilots licenses on the same day, flying a prop start tail dragger Auster. We then proceeded to gain experience taking fellow students who could PAY on local flights, and even as far as Broken Hill.

A photograph of those times recently sent by Ian reminded me how inexperienced we were, and how game were our passengers.

While at college I had the privilege of spending some time at Ian's parents' home in Sydney. Here I was welcomed by Ian's parents and younger brother Andy, and the menagerie of animals kept in support of the RSPCA.

One weekend Ian visited my home at Broken Hill, and I arranged a blind date for him. It was not very long before I heard that Judy had moved to Sydney, and that the road between Ian's upper Hunter cattle property and Sydney was being worn out by his travels. I was soon to be Best Man at their wedding in Broken Hill.

It is only fitting that this eulogy makes mention of Ian's involvement in our major partnership; the large-scale Irrigation project on Lake Tandou, at the Southern end of the Menindee Lakes.

It was Ian's wish that the history of this project be written for the benefit of each of our families, and I have his blessing to disclose some of the financial steps necessary to get this highly entrepreneurial project operating successfully.

In 1972 I held options to buy three Western Division grazing properties, which all met in the middle of the 45,000 acre Lake Tandou.

The funds to purchase the options came from a Dick Shannon, a large American Cotton Grower, who I had met in Warren in May, just before my first visit to California.

With no guarantee of water rights for the properties, my plan was to raise \$1million from investors, so as to be debt free after purchasing sheep, and machinery to farm as the floodwaters receded from the lake bed.

At this point I rang Ian, to see if he would be interested in becoming one of the investors.

He came and looked at the soil surveys, trial crops, contour maps and the water receding in the lake bed and said "Why don't you and I go it alone? I've got some BHP shares earning only 2%, and I'd like to do something better with them".

After purchase was completed, our wives, each with babies, visited, and Ian and I left them in a caravan on the shore of Lake Menindee while we investigated the circumference of Lake Tandou on motor bikes.

The lake still held water and we were racing through trees on the shore most of the time. Suddenly we were forcibly thrown to the ground--- we had encountered the top wire of one of the properties boundary fences that had not rusted out. We wore no helmets or protection in those days, and as we picked ourselves up, we realized that we could have been beheaded and left two widows on the shores of Lake Menindee.

Needless to say, we completed our survey at a more responsible pace. As the water receded in the lake and the fodder grew, we purchased 40,000 merino sheep at an average cost of \$4.00 per head.

By January 1973 drought breaking rains and the introduction of the Reserve Wool Price scheme saw the value of our stock rise from \$160,000 to conservatively \$600,000, giving us equity in the project.

Meanwhile our efforts to change the usage requirements and gain water rights for the properties continued for three years, but after some political support and an expensive land board hearing, we succeeded.

At this time Ian moved his family to Dubbo, so as to be closer to his interests, selling the Hunter Valley property and buying Raymond Hill in the process.

The purchase of a 6 place Piper Lance aircraft, registered "ITJ", standing for Ian Taylor and Judy, made the commute to Tandou a much easier journey.

Throughout this time Ian was chairman, requiring daily involvement as I sought his advice and kept him informed.

Our luck with our early operations enabled us to take our wives on two trips overseas, once to California to see my vision for Tandou, and later on a world trip, which included a trip on the Concorde from London to New York.

As we together fulfilled the vision for Tandou we developed 33,000 acres of row crop Cotton, built our own cotton Gin, developed 2000 acres of sub-surface drip irrigation for cotton, 800 acres of wine grapes, 100 acres of intensive horticulture, a 600 cow dairy, and a 20,000 tonne winery.

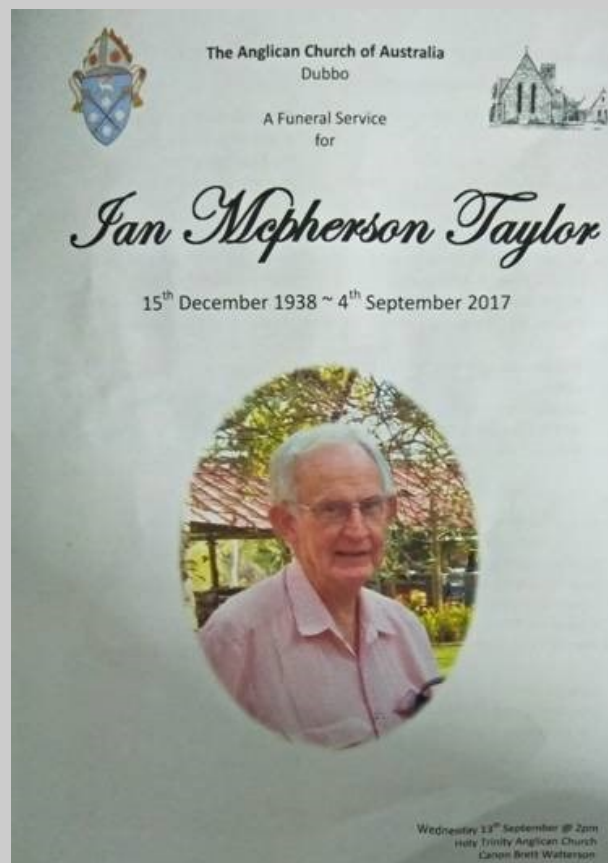
In all of this we were blessed with the support of our loyal employees, some of whom were with us from 1973 till retirement. By now we felt it was important to float the business as a public company, allowing each of our families to sell equity according to their circumstances, and releasing Ian and myself from any personal guarantees.

Accordingly Tandou was listed in October 1987.

I hope this snapshot serves to support my opening remarks about my mate and best man.

He was a loyal friend and a wise business partner, and will be sadly missed by all those whose life he touched and enriched.

Vale, Ian Macpherson Taylor, a good bloke and loyal friend.



Vale Harold Carey

Lecturer in Farm Mechanics at WAC in the 1960's

Harold Alfred George CAREY passed away on Saturday 15th April 2017 in the Mary Potter Nursing Home in Wagga Wagga after a long battle with heart problems, aged 77.

He was educated at All Saints College at Bathurst and graduated from university in engineering.

He worked on the Snowy Mountains Scheme before commencing work at the Wagga Agricultural College as maintenance engineer and lecturer in Farm Mechanics.

He started working at the Agricultural College in the early nineteen sixties but left in 1969 when it became the College of Advanced Education as he did not have a teaching degree.

He then worked for Fiat Australia as NSW Service Manager for Tractors and Earthmoving equipment.

After living in Sydney for 30 years Harold and Jean retired back to Wagga Wagga in 2002.

Harold is survived by his wife Jean, daughter Michelle, son in law Joel and grandchildren Oscar and Skye.

Harold was buried in Wagga Wagga on Friday 21st April 2017.

Footnote:

Well known ex-staffer Phil Morrison passed this obituary on to WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley, stating:

“I am sure a lot of aggies will remember him from the sixties.”

As Stuart commented:

“Many of our former staff are quietly living out their retirement unbeknown to us, or have passed away, sometimes with little acknowledgement or awareness amongst their former students.

Some of this is perhaps due to WACOBU not maintaining contact with former staff members, which has been mentioned in the past.

The truth is probably more due to communication limitations prior to email, and the fact most of us are just a bit slack when it comes to networking.

Vale June Sutherland

“Mrs Jungle”

June Sutherland affectionately referred to as Mrs Jungle by WAC students, was described as many things in her life –a mother, a matriarch, dignified, intellectual, refined and a leader. Mrs Sutherland died peacefully in her sleep on June 7, 2017 just days after her 96th birthday.

She was born on June 2, 1921, an only child to John Cade Murray and Alice Isabel Dawson. Mrs Sutherland was educated at Finley and then the Methodist Ladies College before completing her Leaving Certificate in 1938.

She completed a Bachelor of Arts and diploma at the University of Sydney and her career began as an English and history teacher, and eventually a head teacher at schools in Wagga and Gunnedah.

She was also an author, philosopher, teacher, historian, Christian and genealogist.

She travelled to around Australia and to Ireland, Egypt, Spain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

She married John Ramsay Sutherland, a former deputy principal of the Wagga Agricultural College, on May 7, 1943 at St Paul’s College in Sydney and they had nine children.

One of her most trying times came after the family home was destroyed by a fire in 1964.

She went back to work as a teacher at Mount Austin High School to help get the family back on its feet.

Mrs Sutherland was a former president of the Wagga Arts Society, a district commissioner of Girl Guides, a member of the Business and Professional Women’s Association, Toast Mistress, Zonta International, a member of Wagga and Canberra bridge clubs and the Wagga High School P&C.

Her published books include Folio of Australian History (1980), A Biography of Australian Artists (1996), From Farm Boys to PhDs (1986-1996) and Grist to the Mill (2001).

Mrs Sutherland’s funeral was held at St John’s Church in the ACT on June 16.

She is survived by nine children, 22 grandchildren.

Footnote:

By WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley

Steve Sutherland let me know of the passing of his mother June - another significant figure in the history of Wagga Agricultural College.

June has been perhaps our most regular correspondent in past years, regularly acknowledging receipt of WACOBU Newsletters or other updates.

To the point she was still grateful to receive Newsletters, even as her eyesight had failed and she required assistance reading her emails.

*June's great contribution to us all has been her fastidious documentation of the history and growth of WAC in her centenary publication "**From Farm Boys to PhD's: Agricultural Education at Wagga Wagga 1896-1996**".*

June utilised her own intimate knowledge of the staff and goings on around the campus whilst "Jungle" was lecturing chemistry through the 50's and 60's.

She researched so much more detail both before and after, to compile a thorough history.

WACOBU sends its condolences to the family.

Vale Luxton "Soapy" Walker



Eulogy given by his daughter Sarah at his farewell service

Every one of us here today knew Dad in a slightly different way. To some of you he was an old mate. To others he was your uncle. To others of you he was a neighbour or a loving cousin. To Cam, Neva, Gryff, Jack, Ralph and Harry he was their grandfather; their Papa. To our beautiful Mum, he was her devoted husband of half a century. And to Dougall, David and to me, he was our father.

As you can imagine, we have a raft of family memories - amongst them the annual summer pilgrimage to the South Coast features. Dad loved getting down to Narooma with his harvest tan. He'd have us packed up and ready to leave 'Boomerang' well before dawn - sometimes it felt like midnight! Our convoy must have been quite a sight. Mum would have the car of kids and bags, Nanna and Grandfather would be the next car (the one with the air-conditioning - where we all wanted to be) and then there would be Dad, in his ute, pulling the boat, and on the back of the ute would be the chest freezer that would return home filled to the brim with flathead to 'see us through to Good Friday'. Dad never did anything by halves.

Or there are those many memories of working with Dad all day in the sheep yards. The height of summer, flies and dust, a massive sense of humour failure and working conditions that would have a union rep shaking their head, only to be sworn at and told you were 'worse than useless' (in truth, that was probably only me...) for not being able to read the mind of sheep (let alone the mind of Dad!).

Then there are the memories of those great big fingers tickling his children and grandchildren to the point of torture – Dad loved to stir up all the kids and then walk away leaving someone else to clean up the mess.

Or the memories that hinge on Dad's turn of phrase. I recall living in a shared house - Mum and Dad had come to stay. On the kitchen wall was a Pablo Picasso print titled 'Nude Woman in a Red Armchair'. I recall how Dad came out one morning, looked quizzically at that picture, shook his head and simply said: 'If it was a sheep, you'd cull it.'

Then there are the more memories. Of Dad getting to an appointment so early that he would get in to see the doctor (or whoever) before the person who had the appointment prior to him. Mum would tell him he was wasting time and he would like nothing better than being able to turn triumphantly to her and say: 'There you go – I made up time.' And that's how it went and that's how he lived life: always early. 'If you could be half an hour late, you could be half an hour early,' he'd say. It was hard to argue with Dad's logic.

Dad was many things to many people. He saw himself as being a part of something greater than himself and he was a man of great faith - which is comfort at a time like this.

First and foremost Dad had a great loyalty to his extended family but Dad also saw himself as being a member of a community and he felt a deep obligation to look out for others. A semi-load of hay would be sent off to the 'poor blokes' in drought up north. The offer of a day's work for a neighbour in need was always there.

Dad believed that leadership was a form of service. When the bushfire tore through in 1997, I think it is fair to say that all those who were affected – many of whom are here today - were understandably blind-sided. There was so much cleaning up to do; so many fences to put up again. True to form, Dad stepped up. So much so that he became affectionately known as the Minister of De-Fence. He oversaw working 'bees'. He cracked the whip but he led by example. And, when his ute appeared on the horizon, everyone would stop talking and start working again. We all know he was a bit of a taskmaster. He had high expectations of himself and he had high expectations of others. And he had a phenomenal work ethic.

As part of his service to the community, Dad served as a member of the NSW Bushfire Brigade his entire life; he was an office-bearer to the NSW Farmers and gave 28 years of service to The Rock Show as President and Treasurer. He was a mason, an elder in the church and for years he acted as secretary to the Uniting Church Parish. He ran the Plahgoman Landcare group. And then, of course, there were the hours and hours and hours of his life that were dedicated to the Wagga Waratahs Rugby Club- coaching, mentoring, helping countless young men to see that of which they were capable; and generally taking an interest in the lives of others.

And Dad was particularly good at the latter. Dad had the common touch. He could talk to anyone and he would, especially if they were on a tram in Melbourne and looked like they didn't want to talk.

But, strangers aside, he saw it as being important to stay in touch with those he loved and he worked hard to stay in touch.

He'd sit up at the kitchen table, his feet on a chair, phone in hand.

Dad was a great communicator.

And every Sunday night he would ring us in Hobart and, if we weren't there, would leave his signature message: 'It's your Dad. Just ringing to see how your week's been.'

Years ago, I was working at a girls' school in the leafy and privileged streets of Armadale in Melbourne. It soon dawned on me that the vast majority of the girls had very few connections with rural Australia; that they had little understanding from where their food came.

And so, with Dad's help, I devised a unit of work in which they would become virtual farmers for a month.

They were to watch weather patterns, scrutinise commodity prices and try to understand that feeling of being at the mercy of that which you can't control – a feeling that many of you here today know too well. Mid-way through the project, Dad came to visit as the school's first ever *farmer-in-residence*.

He came into the classes and spoke to the girls and gave them advice on their farming ventures. I can still recall how smitten those girls were with him; how they kept looking at this 'real live farmer' and how they stared at his hands. Eventually, a girl named Jess - who was so taken with Dad - asked my permission to hold those great hands.

And with those great hands, Dad touched the lives of many. We will all ultimately see Dad through the lens of our own experience. And whether it was in a shearing shed or on a rugby field, those of you who spent time with him will have come to realise that Dad was a deep thinker.

I liked to think of him as a dawn philosopher because sunrise was Dad's time of day. He was never happier than seeing a beautiful sunrise or noticing a spider web laced with dew. He would drag Mum (and when I was home, me) out of bed: *'Come on, get up. Let's go walking. You don't want to miss the best part of the day.'*

Of course, he would already have moved a mob of sheep or, at the very least, have checked the Elders website to see if there was any rain on the way.

He would have the porridge half cooked, bread sitting in the toaster, table set and tea ready to draw for when we returned.

Those dawn walks with Dad, I am beginning now to realise, are among my most treasured memories. He would thrash out the world's problems because he cared deeply about the world that would be left for his grandchildren. He would bemoan red tape and how it had tangled up the world (Dad *loathed* bureaucracy). He would marvel at the quality of the light or the seasons changing. We would talk about the books we were reading – Dad was an avid reader – and, if the moment seized him, he would quote poetry as we trod the path ahead musing on the fragility of life and death.

As Mum, Dougall, David, Cam and I camped around Dad's bed in those last four days - keeping our vigil - we saw just how indomitable that spirit was. My goodness, our father put up quite a fight. His enormous heart pounded and pounded and pounded to the very end. He did not go gently.

One of our vivid childhood memories was riding on Dad's shoulders. With one swing of those mighty arms he could hoist us onto those broad shoulders from where we would look out at the world. We felt secure up there. As kids, we would feel invincible knowing that he was walking us through life. And that's why today is so hard – because, to us, Dad always seemed invincible.

He was such a strong man – strong of heart and strong of will. He was a man defined by a strength that manifested as grit and perseverance in all he did. He was so determined. He had a passion for life that was evident in his unfailing optimism and, in a world of cynics, that quality is all the more admirable. He was one of nature's gentlemen. And he was one of the most contented people we knew. He sought neither riches, nor power nor ambition but rather lived a life in harmony with nature, undertaking the noblest of professions: feeding the world.

Yes, Dad didn't suffer fools gladly, and he was sometimes terrible at small talk and pleasantries, but he rarely had a bad word to say about anyone. He actively chose instead to see that which is good within us all.

I have tried to find the right words to honour the life of this great man you all knew: your mate, your uncle, your neighbour, your cousin, your grandfather, your husband (Mum) and our father. No matter how you will remember Dad, I think it will start with him being a good and decent man; a man of great personal integrity.

Robbie and Susie Stewart would have dearly loved to be with us today but couldn't be. In reflecting on Dad yesterday, Robbie said the following:

'Luxton was always a joy to be near; he was a man of great integrity. To go with him around 'Boomerang' recently was a lesson in history. He also had plans for the future of every paddock and all those sheep – he almost knew each one by name. He was a man of immense love and passion for everything around him, especially his family and his beloved 'Boomerang'. We will all miss him and I will especially. RIP mate, until we meet again.'

Robbie Stewart was Dad's mate for nearly 59 years.

They shared many memories including 8 First Grade premierships and a Country NSW rugby tour of NZ during which they faced the All Blacks. Like many of Dad's old mates here today, Robbie has a swag of Soapy memories but this one moment of Dad on a rugby field has always stayed with him:

'Forwards were never the fastest men on the field, but every so often one could show some pace. I remember one time when I passed the ball to Luxton. We had won the ball. Freddy passed to me I was about to give it on to Beres Ellwood when who should loom up beside me but Soapy. He was in full flight. So, I gave him the ball. Ten metres in front of him was Ken McMullen. Soapy did what is now called a Jona Lomu step over Kenny only to be confronted by Bryce Miller & Poncho Gray who he dragged impressively for another 10 metres before being brought down...'

Dad's brief illness was the Bryce Miller and Poncho Gray that stopped him in his tracks. But, prior to the past fortnight, Dad lived in the full flight that Robbie so fondly remembers.

Most of us live life as though we are immortal. That there will be an end to this minute, this day, this life is something we know and yet something upon which we choose not to dwell. We live as though we will live forever and we know that we cannot. But, for those of us who knew Dad well, if there was someone who may have been able to defy that immutable truth – that we all must die – then it was Dad. But even he couldn't do that.

Now there's a Luxton-shaped hole in the universe and, for those of us who loved him, that hole is gaping. Dad's absence seems impossibly big right now – it is 'like the sky spread over everything' (C.S. Lewis).

For those of us left behind, it feels as though a limb has been amputated and that we're entering an unfamiliar landscape with a hell of a limp. We are heartbroken. But a source of strength for us all will be your memories of Dad. So please keep his memory alive.

Dad has left us. And although it seems too early, he has also left much behind. Where those great hands of his have toiled he has left behind a legacy including thousands of trees and beautiful pastures; he's left behind paddocks brimming with fat lambs; he's left behind the mysteries of an impossible waterworks system at 'Boomerang' that *no one* can understand; he's left behind words of wisdom that comprise a fine template for how a good life should be lived. And he's left behind children and grandchildren and in each of us Dad continues to live.

Dad was so proud of the fact that he got to coach both his sons and his nephews Jim and Budge during his First Grade coaching career. So, as a final tribute, I thought it might be appropriate to leave you with a half time talk (of sorts). I'd like you to imagine Dad is here and giving it. And, if he was, it might go something like this:

OK, you lot...

You know that life's a cycle so why are you looking so sad.

Come on, pick yourselves up, there's a second half to be played.

I have never been on the bottom of the ladder in my life and I'm not going to start now.

Just remember if you start a job, you see it through.

If you give your word, keep it. Be honourable.

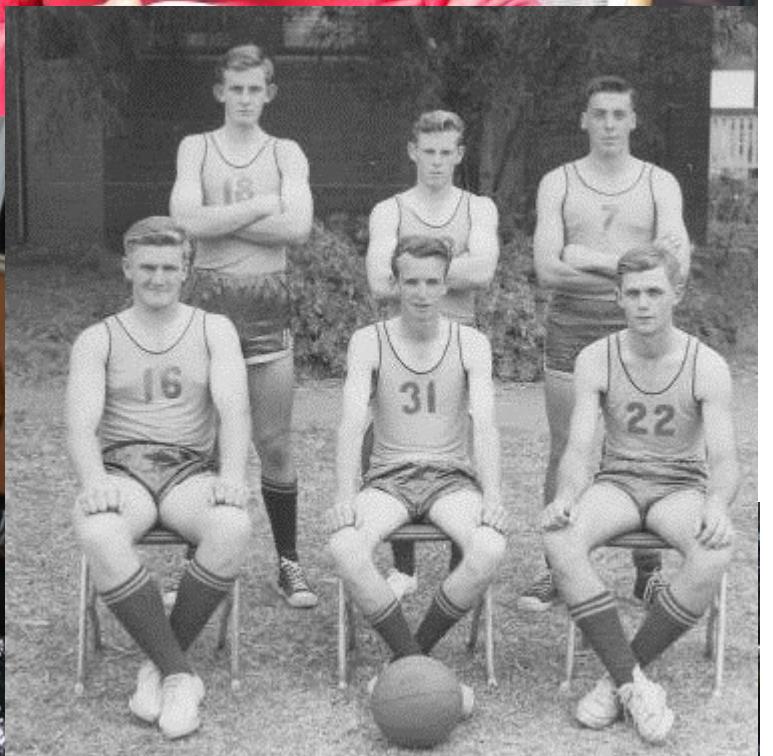
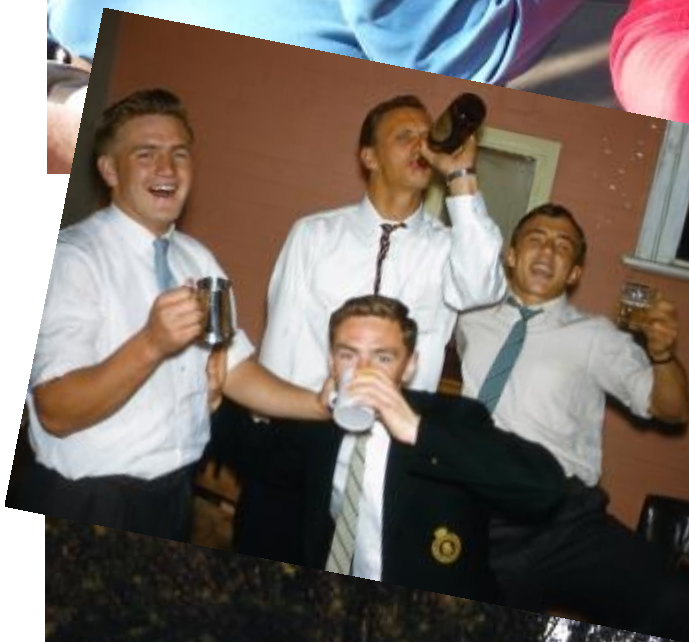
Don't forget that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. And just remember you need to earn the right to go wide.

Please make sure that all of you look after Margaret. Always show respect for each other; you have to look after your own. But you have got to respect your opposition.

And, when it's over, make sure you thank the referee.

Work hard. Be honest. Stay committed.

And never, ever stop trying.



2017 News from SAWS



School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences

Crop Competition success

CSU agricultural science students have claimed top honours at the Australian Universities Crops Competition (AUCC), held at Temora in September.

The annual competition is organised by the GrainGrowers organisation and tests students' practical knowledge of crop production and the grains industry.

CSU won the team competition and students from the University picked up the first three places in the individual category.

Andrew Lord, Thomas Jeffery, Fraser Harrison, Nicholas Grant, Danyon Williams, Angus Knight and Elliot Lade competed in a range of agronomic and assessment tasks.

Nich Grant was awarded first place overall, with Dan Williams second and Thomas Jeffery third.

All three students took part in a study tour of the United States in November this year where they competed in the Collegiate Crops Judging Contest in Kansas City.



Gender Balance in agricultural education

Agriculture can now be considered one of the success stories of gender balance, particularly in respect of agricultural education.

CSU Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley stated for 100 years, agricultural education in Australia was provided for males only. There were specialised agricultural high schools and post-secondary agricultural colleges but in most all cases the early versions of these institutions were for educating boys or young men.

From the 1970's onwards women were admitted to almost all agricultural education institutions but it took until 2003 for gender balance to become a reality in university agriculture. ***The first "grotts" arrived at WAC in 1972.***

Since 2003 female enrolments in Australian universities in agriculture has exceeded enrolment by males and agriculture gender percentages are now on par with the average enrolments across all areas, and similar to those in commerce and the sciences.



School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences

Mixed farming research

Careful selection and management of pastures can set mixed farmers up to capitalise on strong livestock prices, according to Dr Jeff McCormick, researcher with the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation and lecturer at CSU.

Trials on mixed farms in southern NSW were done in collaboration with the Farmlink Research Group.

These results point to the need for further research about the best ways of establishing pastures and their management to ensure they remain productive.

Dr McCormick's current research is examining whether lucerne pastures can be more productive if they are sown on their own. Further trials will compare sowing straight lucerne paddocks with a mix of lucerne and clover at various sowing rates.

Other experiments of hard-seeded annual legumes like arrowleaf clover and biserrula will explore water use and seasonal biomass potential for these species.

Representing Australia in the USA

Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management student Jake Bourlet from Temora and veterinary science student Lachlan Woods from the Bylong Valley, were named in the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging (ICMJ) team.

The pair will join three other Australian university students in a month-long trip to the USA in January 2018. The team will participate in a number of meat judging competitions as well as a tour of the US meat industry.

Major sponsors of this competition were Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and the Australian Meat Processor Corporation (AMPC). The students also received additional support from Rennylea Angus, Yavenvale Herefords and Australian Pork Limited.



School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences

Research dollars

GRDC Managing Director Steve Jefferies announced a \$2.7m GRDC grant which will see world-class glasshouses and phytotron plant growth chambers established at CSU in Wagga Wagga.

CSU is providing a co-contribution of \$300,000.

This investment is expected to improve the efficiency and productivity of crop research and weed science in southern NSW, helping to fast-track new research outcomes to growers' paddocks.

The investment in glasshouses and plant growth chambers will ensure the capacity to perform controlled environmental research with crops and weeds, which will complement and support the expansion of existing research programs.

The life span of the glasshouses is approximately 40 years and that of plant growth chambers 20 years.

The CSU investment is the second major infrastructure investment in southern NSW by GRDC as they also announced an investment of more than \$1.8 million to help drought-proof field trials for cereals, oilseeds and pulses at the Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre.

Text book to e-book

CSU's Jim Pratley began teaching at Wagga Agricultural College, in the 1970s and students were learning from American text books because there were no text books about Australian cropping.

So he set about compiling and editing a text book on field crops called Principles of Field Crop Production, which first appeared in 1980.

More recently, the landmark Australian text book has had a digital make-over and is now available as an e-book.

Over the last 35 years Jim has seen conservation farming techniques develop resulting in a shift from steel dependency to herbicide dependency, a focus on environmental management, soil sustainability and a focus on water resource management.

Many Old Boys will remember Jim and his days as a lecturer at WAC.

His lengthy contribution towards improving farming systems, rural research and agricultural education cannot be overlooked.

Jim's research has focused on conservation farming, herbicide resistance, weed science and the development and management of self-weeding crops and is currently leading the Graham Centre's plant systems research pathway unit.

He was the foundation Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at CSU, was President of the Australian Society of Agronomy and Vice President of the International Allelopathy Society.

He has also served on the Board of several Cooperative Research Centres, national advisory committees, and the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture.



WACOBU Merchandise



From Farm Boys to PhDs
Book - \$30.00



WAC 49er's Book
POA



WAC 100 Years
Video - \$30.00



WACOBU Centenary
Cap - \$12.00



WACOBU Pewter
Mug - \$50.00



WACOBU Lapel
Badge - \$2.00



WACOBU Wall
Plaque - \$30.00



WACOBU Sloppy-joe
Price - TBA



WACOBU Tie
\$30.00



Ladies WACOBU
Pendant
\$6.50



Ladies WACOBU
Shield Pendant
\$65.00



WACOBU
Keyring
\$15.00



WACOBU
Car sticker
\$1.00



WACOBU Merchandise Order Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of birth.....

Years at College (From).....(to).....

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>No. required</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
WACOBU car sticker	\$1.00		
WACOBU tie	\$30.00		
WACOBU lapel badge	\$2.00		
WACOBU Centenary hat	\$12.00		
"Farm Boys to PHD" Book	\$30.00		
WACOBU Pewter Mug	\$50.00		
WAC 49ers Book	POA		
Video	\$30.00		
WACOBU wall plaque	\$30.00		
Ladies WACOBU pendant	\$6.50		
Ladies WACOBU shield pendant	\$65.00		
WACOBU keyrin	\$15.00		

TOTAL =

Please find enclosed cheque/money order for: \$ _____

Make cheques/money orders payable to: WACOBU

Post to: PO Box 1078, WAGGA WAGGA, NSW, 2650 or FAX to: 02 6338 4766

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Please debit my credit card for \$ MASTERCARD / VISA / BANKCARD

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Name on card:

Expiry date: Signature:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- WACOBU (Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union) Membership



Please print this form then post to:

WACOBU
PO Box 1092
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Your details:

Student number or year of study _____

Given (first) names _____ Surname / family name _____

Former name _____ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy) _____

Address:

Number and street _____

_____ Suburb/city _____

State/province _____ Postcode _____ Country _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Work Details:

Position Title _____

Employers Name _____

Membership details:

I wish to join/renew membership:- (Please tick the appropriate box)

- | | | |
|--|------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WACOBU Membership White | \$10.00 per year | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation* (optional: can specify purpose) | \$ | |
| Membership period - 1 Sept to 31 Aug # | \$ | Total |

Payment details: - Note: Bank Drafts MUST be in SAUD

I enclose payment by cheque (payable to WACOBU for \$_____ OR EFT by internet banking:

Electronic Banking Details for Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union (WACOBU)

1. Transfer your money by electronic transfer to:

Name of Financial Institution: ANZ

Name of Account: Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

BSB: 012-823

Account No: 2070-98615

Reference: "your name",

Message: eg, Membership

2. Please email Ros Prangnell ros.prangnell@dpi.nsw.gov.au and put in subject line...

I have transferred \$X by EFT to WACOBU for eg, Membership A receipt can then be issued.

The Membership period is from 1 September to 31 August. If however, you join during the period 1 May to 31 August; your Membership will run until 31 August the next year.

*Scholarship donations are treated thus: the donation amounts are put into a WACOBU donation account and are TAX Deductible. Receipts are issued for these amounts. Once per year the money in this account is transferred to the Charles Sturt Foundation.