

WACOBU  
P.O. Box 1092  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

# WACOBU News

Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

DECEMBER 2014



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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

### Agricultural education – history speaks for itself

This year Charles Sturt University celebrates a quarter of a century of education.

It is 65 years since Wagga Agricultural College accepted its first batch of motts.

And in 1896 the Wagga Experiment Farm started operating.

The 118 year link between these three institutions is unbroken and the common theme is educating people in the agricultural sciences.

The thirst for knowledge about agricultural systems has never been quenched and the desire to continually improve productivity, sustainability and profitability in all agricultural sectors remains very strong.

Agriculture needs young people studying the subject, both at school and at CSU and other tertiary institutions.

There is still a very strong demand from employers for graduates from WAC – something that has not changed since 1951.

There is a need for WAC Old Boys to promote the positive aspects of young people studying agriculture, especially at CSU Wagga campus, at every opportunity.

With so many career pathways for graduates in the diverse agricultural workforce, it is time to be involved and promote our Alma Mater as a great educational institution for young people to study and make a difference.

Use the WACOBU network whenever you can.

Ensure the fine traditions of WAC continue — well into the future.

Graeme Worboys | Editor

### WACOBU Newsletter Editor

Graeme Worboys (1973) is the editor for the newsletter.

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

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## 25 years of CSU and 65 years of Wagga Ag College

This year Charles Sturt University (CSU) celebrates 25 years as a university and it is important to note that the previous history of this institution links directly back to the Wagga Experimental Farm being established in 1896 and the formation of Wagga Agricultural College in 1949.

The University's origin dates back to the establishment of Experimental Farms in Bathurst (1895) and at Wagga Wagga (1896) and also includes the development of Teachers Colleges on those sites in Wagga Wagga in 1947 and Bathurst in 1951.

### The University's Timeline:

- 1895 - Establishment of Bathurst Experiment Farm offering vocational agricultural education.
- 1896 - Establishment of Wagga Experiment Farm offering vocational agricultural education.



**Centre block of the Wagga Experimental Farm - opened in 1902**

*(Photo: Courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser)*

- 1947 - Establishment of Wagga Wagga Teachers College.
- 1949 - Establishment of Wagga Agricultural College on the site of the Wagga Experiment Farm.



**The first graduating class of 1951 from Wagga Ag College**

*(Photo: Courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser)*

- 1951 Establishment of Bathurst Teachers College on site of the Bathurst Experiment Farm.
- 1971 Bathurst Teachers College reformed as Mitchell College of Advanced Education
- 1971 Wagga Wagga Teachers College reformed as Riverina College of Advanced Education (RCAE).
- 1975 Merger of the Wagga Wagga Agricultural College into the Riverina College of Advanced Education.
- 1984 Riverina College of Advanced Education re-named the Riverina-Murray Institute for Higher Education with campuses in Albury-Wodonga and Wagga Wagga.
- 1989 Merger of the Mitchell College of Advanced Education and the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education and incorporation of Charles Sturt University with campuses in Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst and Wagga Wagga.



**The current crop of ag students**

*(Photo: Courtesy of Kieren L Tilly)*

- 2006 Transfer of the Orange Campus of the University of Sydney (formerly Orange Agricultural College) to Charles Sturt University.

Since its establishment in 1989, Charles Sturt University (CSU) has grown to become Australia's largest regional university and the country's leading provider of distance education.

## Find a career in agriculture

*Planning now for the future a must.....*

Highly respected and long serving CSU Emeritus Professor and Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture (ACDA) secretary Jim Pratley has provided an insight into agricultural education at school and tertiary level, after a 12 month review process.

The most alarming statistic is that there are less students taking on tertiary education in the agriculture field, despite the high demand for graduates.

In the past 20 years, tertiary qualifications in the Australian workforce have increased from under 10 per cent to 25 per cent, but in agriculture that figure is only around 7 per cent.

The main points from Professor Pratley's review include:

- A shortage of agricultural professionals is affecting the entire rural industry spectrum – especially in agronomy
- The number of agriculture graduates is about half of what the whole agricultural industry needs
- Universities across Australia have the capacity to handle extra students who wish to study agriculture
- Job prospects for tertiary agriculture graduates is close to 90 per cent, with demand currently far outweighing supply
- High school students are not receiving accurate information from their careers advisors in relation to job prospects in agriculture and are not electing to follow a pathway into agriculture



(Photo: Courtesy of Southern Weekly)

**Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley – a leading voice for agricultural education in Australia**

- The number of senior high school students studying agriculture needs to increase

The main message that needs to be communicated is that there are jobs available “out there” in agriculture.

WACOBU members need to be proactive in this area and promote the role of agriculture in society and enhance the job prospects for young people in the many and varied rural industries that are found in Australia.

It is a great industry to be a part of.

### Vale

#### Bill Baker

*Des Spurway contacted WACOBU to let Old Boys know that Bill Baker, a highly respected figure in agriculture, passed away in October this year.*

*He was 83 years of age.*

BAKER, William John

19.04.1931 - 26.10.2014

Passed away peacefully with loving care at Ascott Gardens, Orange.

Loved and loving husband of Rita for fifty years.

Adored father and father-in-law of Maryanne and Mannie, Eleanor, Paul, Christopher and Wendy.

Beautiful grandfather to Michelangelo, Carmen, Mayatili, Clancy, Sam, Freya and Sidney.

Devoted brother of Father Harold Baker (MSC), Isabel Mooney and Mary Sarkis.

Much loved by the Bacigalupo family.

A Requiem Mass for the Eternal Repose of the Soul of Bill was celebrated at St Mary's Catholic Church in Orange on Friday October 31, 2014 with donations made at the service to Parkinsons NSW.

### WACOBU – helping to prevent suicide

2014 was another sad year for many people right across Australia as the incidence of suicide in the wider community continued, despite a greater focus on the issue from many sections of society.

Closer to home for Old Boys, a Riverina family lost its life during the year.

The tragedy involved a farming family with connections to WACOBU.

The simple message from one leading community organisation is to ask the question to your family and friends:

“R U OK”

The question “are you OK” might seem a very simple one but it could be one of the most important questions you ask.

Please take the time to ask that simple question to your mates – it might make a huge difference.

**R U OK?**<sup>TM</sup>

A conversation could change a life.

# 2013 Agricultural Science Medal

Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Agricultural Science graduate Brendan Stacpoole, received the Agricultural Science Medal at the graduation ceremony held in December 2013.

Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley donates the Medal at CSU each year.

Brendan received the medal for his outstanding contribution and commitment to agricultural science.



(Photo: Courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser)

Brendan Stacpoole at the 2013 graduation ceremony.

## Heartfelt thanks from the Sefton family

*The Editor received the following note from Greg Sefton via WACOBU committeeman Craig Whiting...*

*Pamela Sefton of Deniliquin would like to say:*

"On Behalf of the Sefton family of Deniliquin I thank my son Greg's Wagga Ag College mates who were present at Greg's father, Les Sefton's funeral on January 28, 2014.

It was a pleasure to see such a strong representation of Greg's friends from Wagga Ag College.

One of Les' proudest moments was seeing Greg and his close friends graduate in 1995.

I am sure he would be proud to see you all sticking together some 18 years after the completion of your degrees.

Your sincere thanks,

Pamela Sefton.

## Looking for whereabouts of Tom Hanmer

Steve Sutherland is attempting to find some information about Tom Hanmer.

Steve was reliably informed that Tom was one of the initial intake of students from the 1949 -51 WAC group.

The reason for being interested is that Tom swapped his 1926 Pontiac utility for my father's Super Excelsior motorbike.

Dad then converted the Pontiac utility into the "incubator".

Anyway, one of my brothers is a keen motorbike collector and he asked if I could find out if any parts of the old bike still exist.

If anyone knows of any contact details for Tom or any of his family, please contact Steve and Sue Sutherland on:

Ph: 0448 254 503

E-mail: slsutherland@bigpond.com



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

## 2014 WACOBU Scholarship

Interviews for the annual scholarship were held in early April with the WACOBU panel comprising of Dr Ted Wolfe, former Head of School, leading proponent and supporter of the scholarship, Deb Slinger, (1981) former long serving OBU secretary and current Centre Director of the Wagga Agricultural Institute and Manager of Southern Cropping Systems for NSW DPI and Angus Swann, (2002) Rural Manager, Rabobank, Wagga.

In the panels' words:

"Laura Bennett impressed the panel with her commitment to agriculture and enthusiasm for the sector and its future. Laura was able to clearly articulate her leadership qualities and the values that she brings to the student body through her role as Ag Club Secretary and Women's Rugby enthusiast." Laura sufficiently impressed the panel, as the incumbent scholarship holder, to warrant receiving the award for the second year running. The presentation ceremony was in Joyes Hall on May 21 and it afforded the opportunity for Deb Slinger to represent WACOBU, in presenting Laura Bennett with her scholarship. She finished the year as Vice President for the 2015 Ag Races committee, having filled other active committee roles over the past 2 years of the students' largest charity fundraiser. Another highlight for Laura this year was being selected as a Young

Farming Champion, representing Cotton Australia. This allowed her to attend the Australian Cotton Conference at Broadbeach in August.

There she joined recent graduate Dwayne Schubert, now in his third year of cotton agronomy at Gunnedah, another Young Farming Champion. The role involves bringing awareness of their industry to the urban population, through web based blogs and school visits. The program is an industry funded initiative open to all young Australians.

A swag of other CSU Aggies were also selected as Young Farming Champions this year, notably the 2008 WACOBU Scholarship recipient Cassie MacDonald, who was representing the Dairy industry. Cassie created a media storm with her YouTube animation "The Truth About the Supermarket Milk Price War", produced in response to a Coles video promoting its home brand milk. Others selected were 2012 graduate Tegan Nock from Bogan Gate, past NSW Young Farmers chair. Anika Molesworth (2011) now Suncorp Griffith, representing MLA, particularly the lamb industry and current CSU students Jess Kirkpatrick from Beaufort Vic. representing Grains and representing the Wool industry Emma Turner from Ivanhoe and Pat Morgan from Colbinabbin Vic.

The WACOBU Scholarship seeks to identify and foster outstanding students who are destined for leadership roles in their community and industry, but also share a responsibility to improve the university experience of fellow students within the School of Agriculture and Wine Science, whether that be in social, sporting or university related activities.

The award endorses values which are held in high esteem by many former students of W.A.C. and the School of Agriculture, those same ones which see many, many well patronised reunions over the years.

Your committee is always keen to receive financial support for the annual award, currently set at \$1000.

Continuing the scholarship should be seen as a high priority, as a means of keeping the OBU prominent in front of students and other CSU alumni groups. Ideally we would like to see our scholarship program grow, funds permitting.

## Laura Bennett

### 2014 WACOBU Scholarship Recipient



Laura Bennett

Laura Bennett, the 2013 recipient, was awarded the 2014 WACOBU Scholarship, after another outstanding 12 months of study in the field of agriculture at Charles Sturt University.

Facing the WACOBU scholarship selection committee for the second time, Laura's academic excellence, strong leadership skills and community involvement shone through.

Laura has developed a special interest in the cotton industry and has been using her scholarship to improve her knowledge and skills in this exciting industry.

Having spent her early years on a dairy farm on the North Coast Laura was a leader at her school and local community before she started studying veterinary science at CSU.

However, realising her real interest was in agriculture, Laura switched courses and is now well entrenched in realising her goals in that field.

An outstanding young Australian, Laura Bennett is a worthy winner of the WACOBU scholarship for 2014.

### WACOBU Scholarship Support

The WACOBU committee is asking Old Boys for further donations towards this annual scholarship.

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 by WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley and the committee.

# Photos of the 1977-79ers

From Wayne Barry

Wayne has forwarded some interesting photos from the 1977-79 era at WAC.



The Wacers (mots) swim team 1977'

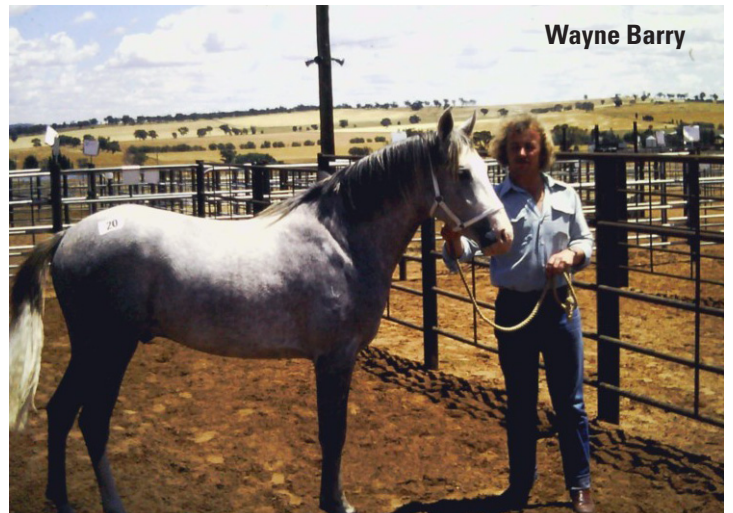


Col Carlson on a trout fishing foray.

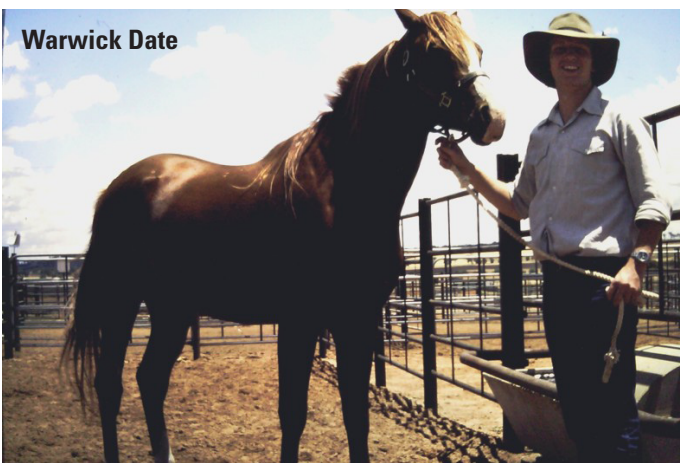
Col Plater, Mick Adams, Warwick Date and Wayne Barry presenting their horses for auction at the 1979 Arab sales.



Mick Adams



Wayne Barry



Warwick Date



Col Plater

## “Fifty years since being Motts at WAC”

### A great reunion from a special group of Old Boys

From the 14th -16th March 2014, the celebration of 50 years since starting at WAC as Motts took place at Gunning NSW.

This was the twelfth reunion of the 1964-66 class from WAC and was held at the home of Roz and Barry Medway at “Hillcrest” Gunning who ensured we wanted for nothing.

A superb weekend was held, with a catered sit down dinner under the ‘big top’ on the Saturday night.

All attendees received show bags with polo shirts, caps and stubby holders embossed with the college badge, motto and “64-66’ 50 years Reunion Gunning 2014”.

We started in 1964, 54 strong, dwindled significantly that year, gained five from elsewhere in 1965 with 36 making it through to graduate at the end of 1966.

We remembered those who have passed on in Tony PhafI at college and since then John Heckendorf, Pete Ferris, Geoff Townsend, Ken Warner, John Howard, Max Cook, Stewart Weekes, Greg Harris and in November last year David Aldous.

#### “All good men taken too early”

Prior to the ‘09 reunion in Perth a concerted effort was made to track down all who started in ‘64 to get their stories since.

With the exception of Col Maybury, Bruce Thompson and John Balfe this was achieved and circulated.

Updates since have been added for this most recent get together.

It is a fascinating read of where people have ended up and what they have done.

Another project that brought back many memories and resulted in a couple of late nights was a document written a couple of years after leaving Wagga but did not see the light of day until recently.

It was the author’s recollections of what he and others did in their years at Wagga.

Short on academic labours but long on the exuberance of youth – great memories!!

Our mascot, a framed picture of Marilyn Monroe, was again present.

Much has been said about Marilyn.

But first, if you google WACOBU Newsletters (December 2004 and December 2005) you will hopefully find from page 10 of the former and page 18 of the later stuff on Marilyn.

The 2005 story is written by Ross Stocking and Bill Gornall about how they knocked her off from Dookie in 1966.

#### Report written by Graeme Hockey

But there is more not in the WACOBU newsletters.

In 1965 one Dick Gill snaffled her from Longerenong while on an intercollegiate shoot and brought her back to Wagga for the first time unveiling her at the Rugby grand final where WAC came second, again, to Waratahs.

We now move onto 2009 in Perth when Col Rathbone turned up with another Marilyn (a copy) that he picked up in Kiama.

When Col puts pen to paper and tells us how he got her then we can fill in a bit.

For instance, is this Marilyn the same one that was in a pub in Nowra when we were on a college excursion in 1966 and Stockings/Gornall considered ways to remove her from the bar, but didn’t.



**The famous Marilyn Munroe**

Back to the reunion!!

Those who attended were Gerry and Lyn Bolla, Ray and Debbie Clark, Roger and Coryl Clough, Geoff Cornell, Michael and Denise Duck, Richard and Jill Dutton, Terry and Gail Ellis, , Bart and Pam Gannon, , Mick and Victoria Hazlett, Graeme and Philippa Hockey, Bruce and Beth Irvine, Dick and Lenja Kobelke, Chris



# WACOBU REUNIONS

Lord, Tony and Kathy Meares, Barry and Roz Medway, Ray and Christine Moir, Peter and Maggie Polack, Col Rathbone, Bruce Rennard, Neville and Pam Semmler, Charlie Smithwick, Ross Stockings, Neil and Susan Warner, Frank Watson.

It was great to see both Lyn Warner (wife of Ken) and Catherine Sawkins (wife of Greg Harris) in attendance as well.

Veterinarian lecturer Roy Everett and Anne, now retired in Armidale able to make it again.

A wonderful group of ladies who were fondly remembered in the following description:

“The girls reminded me of a flock of Galahs in a pre storm excitement all trying to alight on a power line, some secure, some attempting to land and the rest swinging upside down and all screaming simultaneously”.

**The much admired “Flock of Galahs”**



The group photo shows a very healthy looking lot of ex- Motts (those who could be found anyway) the morning after a big night out.

Mustering cats would be easier than rounding this lot up for a photo!!

**The Motts of 1964**



# WAC 59'ERS Reunion

## Mooloolaba, Sunshine Coast, October 2014

Following a very successful reunion in Mooloolaba two years ago, the 1959 WAC 59'ers decided to do it all again in 2014, with October 20th the kick-off date for this enthusiastic group of Old Boys.

After all the reunions and informal get-togethers this year group has had over the past 55 years since they left Wagga Ag College, the Old Boys and their wives have got to know each other pretty well, with the wives as keen as the WAC 59'ers to catch up on a regular basis.

This makes the group a very special one and perhaps unique as far as reunions of WAC Old Boys are concerned.

This year, out of a possible 28, 15 Old Boys and their wives attended (a 54% attendance rate) with one couple Bob and Colleen Smith travelling from Costa Rica, where they have just settled, to attend the reunion.

It seems everyone once again had a great time as evidenced by the unanimous call to gather again in Mooloolaba in 2016 for the 59th anniversary of being motts in 1957.

Activities this year began again with a meet-and-greet session on the Monday night followed by a beachside BBQ recovery brunch the next day.

Wednesday saw the "Official Lunch" which extended well into the evening before various other planned activities each day until Sunday.

There was plenty of unstructured time to catch up informally with everyone and enjoy the Mooloolaba Esplanade and surrounds.

During the festivities it was decided by a number of couples to plan a cruising holiday on the mighty Murray River in 2015 before organisation starts for the October 2016 reunion.

*Peter Beinssen*



**A fine group of WACers: Richard Perlowski, Peter Beinssen, Bruce Ferguson, Soapy Walker, Bob Stewart, George Kinniburgh, Roger Coddington, Geoff Plasto, Dave Lock**

# WACOBU REUNIONS



**Congratulations!**



**Geoff and Jane Plasto celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their friends at the reunion**

# Ag Race Day 2014



Photo: Courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser

**Another huge crowd enjoyed themselves at Ag Race Day at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club and be part of what has become one of the social events of the year in Wagga.**

**A great day for the ag college community!**

This year was the 27th annual Aggies race day, when the Murrumbidgee Turf Club launched its spring program with a record-smashing Aggies Race Day on Saturday September 20.

Basking in magnificent weather, the second biggest crowd of the MTC season turned out for the six-race card, with only the May held Wagga Gold Cup day drawing a bigger crowd.

There was one of its biggest race day crowds seen at the Wagga track with about 4750 race goers enjoying the day.

It is the MTC's second biggest race day of the year MTC chief executive Scott Sanbrook revealed that this year's event was bigger than previous Aggies days.

Two years ago the annual date was moved from October to the third Saturday in September due to a change in Charles Sturt University semesters.

Mr Sanbrook is thrilled with how the change in dates has worked for the club, the Ag College community and race goers alike.

"The new date has proven a real winner.

"We have also been lucky to have good weather for the past three Aggies meetings.

"We had 4750 people this year which is up by 20 per cent on 2013.

"There was a great feel about day," said Mr Sanbrook.

Sanbrook said the "social" side of Aggies Race Day set the meeting apart from the Wagga Gold Cup meeting in May.

"It was great to see so many young people dress up and get in the spirit of the occasion.

"There was a real atmosphere at the track and it is wonderful for Wagga to have such an event like this," said Mr Sanbrook.

Aggies Race Day was the launching pad for a huge spring program for the MTC.

Significantly, Mr Sanbrook revealed the MTC was very delighted with the responsible behaviour of Saturday's record turnout, with everyone enjoying themselves.

***Aggies race day raises money for Peter Worsley, who became a quadriplegic during his time at Ag College in 1987.***

***Worsley was the victim of a tragic accident during a rugby game between Ag College and arch-rivals the Chalkies, when a scrum collapsed and left him a quadriplegic.***

***The on-going support for Peter and his family from the WAC community has been tremendous and is much appreciated by "Sac".***

## WAC Rugby 2014

*Report from Club President Phil Koch*

**Phil Koch, WAC Rugby President – ph: 0401615312**

**W**AC Rugby had a very successful 2014, entering four teams in the SIRU competition.

All teams competing in the first week of their respective finals, three teams in the second week and the thirsty third grade narrowly missed out on the grand final win, going down 29-24 to the Junee Rams in extra time.

For the 2014 season, WAC Rugby registered more than 100 members, comprising of students, past students and members of the community.

To the President's knowledge, this is the second most number of members registered in one season with the Club.

WAC Rugby once again provided an opportunity for players to enjoy rugby at a higher level with five players selecting in the Southern Inland Rugby Union representative side.

Congratulations again to Stu 'VINCE' Garrett, Tanian Naude, James Grimmet, Jack Burey and Keifer Power on this fine achievement.

Further congratulations go to Vince, Tee and Jack for competing in the Brumbies Provincial side for 2014 as well – they represented WAC Rugby with distinction.

Phil would like to thank the 2014 committee for their efforts this year in the smooth running of the club particularly the Ladies Day/Charity Match held on the 17th of May.

This day raised an amazing \$6,110 for Bowel Cancer Australia.

Also the committee maintained crucial major sponsors for the 2014 season and formed partnerships with new sponsors - which will benefit the club for years to come.

The Club would like to thank James 'HAC' Kanaley for his efforts with the club over the past seven years particularly for his coaching role in 2014. Well done 'HAC'.

2015 will see the reappointment of Nick 'Coyte' McCarthy as First Grade coach.

The new committee is busy planning for a massive 2015 as the Club celebrates 65 years of WAC Rugby.

The tentative date for the 65th year reunion ball is the 30th of May, 2015.

WAC Rugby is inviting all old boys to come along watch or even dig out the old boots and have a run for the Green and Gold with a black tie ball to follow as we celebrate our club's great history.

More details will follow closer to the date.

The 2014 season came to a close on Presentation Night at The William Farrer Hotel where 100 members from WAC Rugby and Netball, celebrated the 2014 season with the presentation of awards for the year.



### WAGGA AG COLLEGE RUGBY 2014 CLUB AWARDS

Club Person of the Year	Tom 'HR' Macleay
Best Mott (First year)	Macky 'Ralph' Lawrence
Spirit of WAC Rugby	Mitch 'Gerbil' White
Most Outstanding Player	Stu 'Vince' Garrett

#### FIRST GRADE

Best and Fairest	Tom Hobbs
Best Forward	Tanian Naude
Best Back	James Grimmett
Most Improved	Rob Wiltshire
Coaches Award	Oscar Freeman

#### SECOND GRADE

Best and Fairest	Nick 'MR' Hogan
Best Forward	Hugh 'AI' Willoughby
Best Back	Hugh Nott
Most Improved	Kerry Landsdowne
Coaches Award	Hugh 'Queef' Platts

#### THIRD GRADE

Best and Fairest	Tim 'Auger' Tarlinton
Best Forward	Trent Martin
Best Back	Max 'Bubbles' Ridley
Most Improved	Jackson Byrnes
Coaches Award	Damo 'KDIMB' Roach

#### Women's Sevens

Best and Fairest	Rhiannon Busch
Most Improved	Ebony Fenton
Coaches Award	Harriett Elleman

## CSU supports NSW Country Eagles

Charles Sturt University (CSU) announced a two-year partnership with the NSW Country Eagles in the new National Rugby Championship (NRC) for the 2014 and 2015 season.

CSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann said the partnership for the 2014 and 2015 seasons is another example of the University's commitment to advancing regional communities.

"This is another important way in which we can be part of supporting country people to develop a really great initiative for our regions.

"There are active Charles Sturt University rugby teams in Bathurst, Wagga Wagga and Orange and the University is proud to be working with a team in this new national competition.

"This relationship with a national-level sporting team is an opportunity to build aspiration and participation in higher education for rural and Indigenous kids across our regions," said Professor Vann.

The NRC is the new domestic professional rugby competition and will be the highest tier of competition below the international Super Rugby tournament.

"We are thrilled to have Charles Sturt University on board for the next two NRC seasons.

"The University has such a strong rugby history and hopefully the NSW Country Eagles can add to that," said NSW Country Eagles General Manager and former Wallaby Mr James Grant.

Wagga Ag College Rugby President Mr Phil Koch said CSU's partnership with the Country Eagles will greatly strengthen the quality of rugby in country NSW, particularly for university aged students.

"This will provide direction and greater opportunities for development, for our student members who are currently playing high level representative rugby.

"This opportunity is essential for students to continue with their tertiary study within Country NSW," said Mr Koch.

### Celebrating 65 years of rugby in 2015

The new WAC Rugby committee is busy planning for a massive 2015 as the club celebrate 65 years of rugby.

The tentative date for the 65th year reunion ball is the 30th of May, 2015.

WAC rugby is inviting all old boys to come along and join in the day and night.

Come along and watch - or even dig out the old boots and have a run for the Green and Gold before lining up for the black tie ball to celebrate the club's proud history.

More details on the event will be released closer to the date.

Contact Ag Rugby Club President Phil Koch on 0401615312 for more details.

Pass the word around about this milestone event.



Photo Courtesy of Kieren L Tilly

CSU Rugby president Andy Bedford, head of CSU campus Wagga Miriam Dayhew and Ag College Rugby president Phil Koch at Beres Ellwood Oval after the partnership with the NSW Country Eagles was announced.

### SOUTHERN INLAND RUGBY

#### 2014 GRAND FINALS RESULTS

##### WALSH & BLAIR CUP

###### Premier Division

<b>1st Grade</b>	Griffith 16 d Albury 11
Best & Fairest	Richard Latu (Griffith)
<b>2nd Grade</b>	CSU 19 d Wagga Waratahs 10
Best & Fairest	Andrew Dutton (CSU)

##### ROMANO'S CUP

###### First Division

<b>1st Grade</b>	Wagga City 32 d Tumut 23
Best & Fairest	James Curgenvin (Wagga City)
<b>2nd Grade</b>	Young 38 d Wagga City 0
Best & Fairest	David Woodward (Young)

##### McMULLEN CUP

###### Third Grade

June 29 d Wagga Ag College 22 (in extra time- 17 all at full time)

Best & Fairest- Hugh Kanaley (June 29)

###### Under 17's

Wagga City 17 d Young 12  
Best & Fairest- Johnathon Lally (Wagga City)

###### Women's 7-A-Side

Wagga City 17 d Leeton 12  
Best & Fairest- Kira Hallam (Wagga City)

## SAWS News

*News from the School of Agriculture and Wine Sciences at CSU Wagga*

### Agricultural Education and Training Report

A report on Agricultural Education and Training in NSW by Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley, Research Professor of Agriculture in the School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences (SAWS), released in late 2013, underlies the importance of agriculture for all Australians.

The report clearly demonstrated there will be increased demand for Australian agricultural products over the coming decades.

This will benefit all Australians, but only if we are able to provide a workforce to allow the industry to thrive.

Australian universities will also need to work with industry to ensure the continued availability of suitably trained graduates to work in agricultural business management, finance, trade, and associated roles.

CSU SAWS course director Dr Yann Guisard said the report highlighted the need to better integrate agricultural issues into the curriculum for primary and high school students.

“What we’re seeing is that there’s a growing disconnect between the realities of agricultural business and practice in Australia, and the perception of it by students and the broader population.

“Modern agricultural practice demands skills in science and economics, and an appreciation of both Australian and international markets. It utilises the latest technology, it can take you around the world, and it’s evolving at a very rapid rate.

“All of these factors could be used as exemplars in school curriculums in science, mathematics, language studies, history, economics, geography, and the list goes on.

“Most graduates from Charles Sturt University’s Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management secure jobs before they have even finished their degree - such is the demand from industry.

“If we’re going to continue to meet that demand, we need to ensure we’re doing everything we can to show our future students the possibilities that careers in agriculture can offer them,” Dr Guisard stated.

### 10 years of veterinary science at CSU

Several hundred CSU staff and students, along with a mob of sheep and horses, marked 10 years of veterinary science education at CSU in Wagga with a parade down Agriculture Avenue in May.

The parade officially opened the new 1.3-kilometre stretch of road which has undergone a \$500,000 upgrade.

2014 marked the 10th student intake in the veterinary science program at CSU

In response to a shortage of veterinarians in rural and regional Australia, CSU accepted its first veterinary science students into the six year double degree in 2005.

The event was organised as Agriculture Avenue provides an important link between the animal, equine and veterinary science teaching and research facilities, the Charles Sturt University Farm and Equine Centre.

The first veterinary science students started at CSU in Wagga Wagga in 2005 graduating in 2010.

So far 174 veterinary science students have graduated from CSU with 99 per cent of the veterinary science graduates have taken their first job in rural practice.

### Barnaby Joyce visits the Graham Centre

Federal Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, visited the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation at Charles Sturt University (CSU) to see first-hand research to enhance Australian agriculture.

The visit, in November, followed an invitation to the Minister from Centre Director Professor Deirdre Lemerle extended through the Federal Member for Riverina Mr Michael McCormack, MP.

He spoke with academics and PhD students involved in a wide-range of research from the development of new hard-seeded legume options, to biosecurity and pest management, and improving the market value of chickpeas.

Talks were also held about agricultural education with Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley who compiled the Agricultural Education and Training in NSW report for the NSW Government in 2013.

The Minister’s visit was an opportunity to showcase this collaboration and highlight the research that Charles Sturt University students and staff are undertaking to increase on-farm productivity and profitability which is essential to the progression of the Australian agricultural industry.

Noting the strong demand for CSU agricultural science graduates, Minister Joyce told the media that he welcomed the investment in the Graham Centre to help Australian agriculture get ahead.

### CSU academic named as equestrian judge

Mr Hunter Doughty, an equine science lecturer from the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at CSU in Wagga, has been selected by the sport’s governing body to carry out the role of Technical Delegate at eventing competitions in the Polish town of Strzegom in September 2015.

His selection follows the leading role he played in the development of the Riverina Equestrian Centre, Charles Sturt University which was opened in October this year.

Mr Doughty has an international reputation in equestrian sports and this appointment by FEI puts him at the top of his field.

His equestrian industry experience and connections came to the fore in the negotiations, development and opening of the new equestrian facilities at Charles Sturt University.

Mr Doughty was also pivotal in establishing the first equine facilities at CSU including the cross country course and indoor arena. He lectures in equine science program at CSU.

## National awards for horticulture student and CSU graduate

A horticulture student from Charles Sturt University (CSU) has won a prestigious international travel scholarship.

Ms Caitlin Sawyer from the NSW Mid North Coast who is studying for a Bachelor of Horticulture, received the Sir John Pagan Horticulture Award during the Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) national awards dinner in Sydney in November.

The award includes an \$8 000 travel scholarship to the United Kingdom for further experience and training in horticulture.

Ms Sawyer is planning to take leave from her degree in 2015 to study and work in the UK.

"The Sir John Pagan Horticulture Award has opened some amazing opportunities for me.

"These would be impossible without the amazing support offered by the Big Brother Movement Youth Support (BBM), the AIH and Charles Sturt University.

"Already I have met some of Australia's horticultural elite, and collectively they have opened up a very exciting prospect of travelling to the UK with the opportunity of gaining valuable knowledge from some of the world's leading horticulturists.

"I'd love to see more and particularly younger people move into the industry, and I feel that with the receipt of this award I may now gain a broader perspective in the discipline and field."

Meanwhile, CSU horticulture graduate Mr Chris O'Connor from Sydney was named as the joint winner of the AIH Student of the Year Award.

Mr O'Connor is the policy and technical officer for the peak industry body, Nursery and Garden Industry Australia.

He used his acceptance speech to thank University staff from the School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences, noting that they were 'passionate, knowledgeable and committed to their roles'.

"Senior lecturer in horticulture Peter Mills deserves particular praise as his encouragement and support through the Bachelor of Horticulture program was first class," Mr O'Connor said.

"The Bachelor of Horticulture at Charles Sturt University is a great program for either commencing study in horticulture or building upon previous study."

Mr O'Connor will return to CSU in 2015 to study a Master of Sustainable Agriculture.

## National Merino Challenge

A team of students from Charles Sturt University has won the Tertiary Division of the National Merino Challenge, an initiative of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

The CSU team of Ms Catherine Worner, Ms Jordan Hoban, Ms Dione Howard and Ms Patricia Coleman, won the tertiary teams challenge.

Bachelor of Animal Sciences student Ms Hoban, from Macksville in northern NSW, was named the overall tertiary champion.

During the two-day National Merino Challenge in Melbourne, students competed in seven practical challenges including sheep selection, wool valuation and nutrition and feed budgeting.

The Challenge is designed to demonstrate skills in sheep classing, production and fleece assessment.

The CSU team has been trained by Associate Professor Michael Friend and Research Fellow Dr Susan Robertson.

The CSU team was sponsored by TA Fields Estate, Fox and Lillie Rural, Broula Merino stud and the Cesnik family.

## Wagga Agricultural Industry Ball

The Wagga Agricultural Club hosted a very successful inaugural Industry Ball on Friday, September 19 at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club.

This was the first official function of the Ag Race Day weekend and was an excellent way to start off the proceedings, with the races held the next day.

It was a celebration of Australian Agriculture, Wagga Ag College style!

A sit down dinner was organised to allow an opportunity for networking between students and employers.

Attendance was excellent, with everyone enjoying the evening and dressing up for the occasion with many stylish ball gowns and dinner suits on show.

The event showcased the agricultural industry, with industry speakers giving their thoughts on many successful and vibrant rural based enterprises and the opportunities that exist for young people in the industry.

There was also great entertainment from the band - The Mighty Yak.

Organizer Eliza Star should be congratulated for her work in putting the event together.

Along with a willing band of volunteers, the Wagga Agricultural Industry Ball was a great success and brought together a large cross-section of people from the world of agriculture.

Well done Aggies!



# Agricultural Ball



## *Report by Eliza Star*

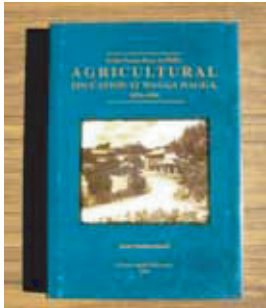
On the dawn of the 27th Annual Ag races, the Wagga Ag club seized the opportunity to commence the weekend with an industry based ball to encourage networking between student and industry representatives. 2014 saw the first Industry Agricultural Ball take place as an initiative to improve graduating ag students employment opportunities. The night consisted of three highly regarded industry speakers including CEO of Crop life Matt Crossley, Southern Ag Grain Manager, Chris Kochanski and NSW Young farmers chairman Josh Gilbert . Over 40 agricultural representatives including NAB bank, Rice Growers, DPI, Elders and University lecturers attended. The formalities were concluded with local band Mighty Yak. The night was a huge success, with tickets selling out and is expected to continue as an annual event. Many thanks go out to the Ball committee, sponsors and industry guests.





# WACOBU Merchandise

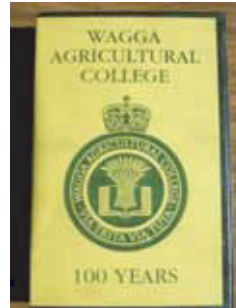
Post order form to PO Box 1092 Wagga Wagga 2650



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 \$AUD

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](mailto: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.