



DOMAN

Sherry Morris



DOMAN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

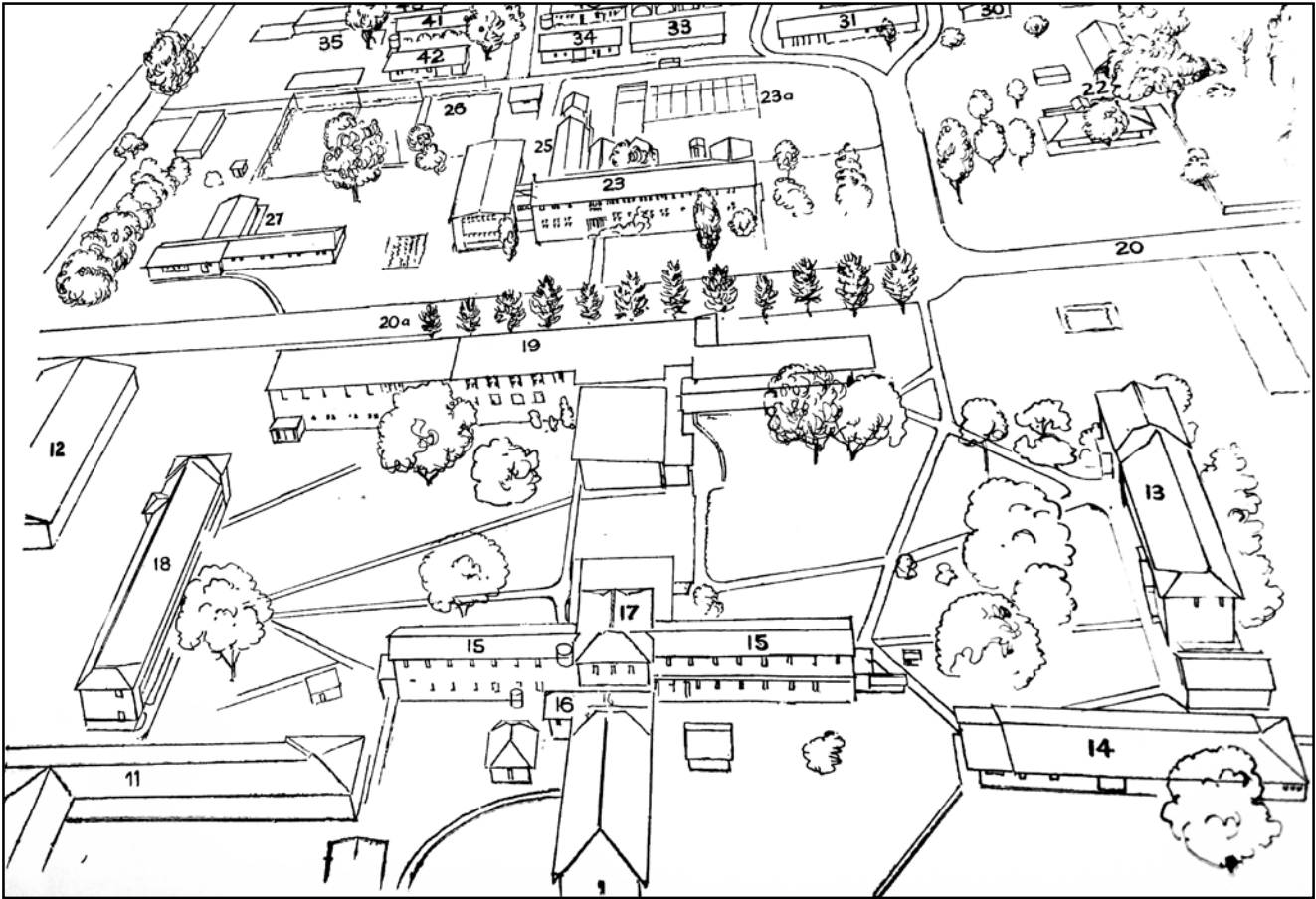
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INTRODUCTION



Above: Sketch of Doman Dormitory Block and associated buildings, late 1960s.
Key: 11. Doman Block, 12. Hall, 13. East Block, 14. College store, 15. Centre Bock, 16. Kitchen and ancillaries, 17. Dining room, 18. West Block, 19. Graham Block, 20. Main access road from Wagga Wagga, 23. Agricultural Research Institute.

Doman Hall was built in response to a dire need for more student accommodation at Wagga Agricultural College. The first principal of the college, Bernard (‘Dick’) Doman, and the house master, Don Joyes, began agitating for a new accommodation block from the early 1950s but funds were not available until August 1959.

Sketch plans were approved by the Department of Public Works by September 1960 and a set of drawings were completed by Sydney architect, Neville Gruzman, by March 1961. Tenders were called in May 1961 and HC Buckman and Son Ltd of Wagga Wagga was awarded the contract. Delays were caused by poor design, serious structural faults and numerous other faults and incomplete work which had to be fixed or completed, and the overlooking or deliberately ignoring of many items which should have been included despite several reminders. It was not officially opened until 24 April 1964.

The accommodation was named Doman Block after Dick Doman, the first Principal, much to the delight of his successor as principal, Fred Butler, the Students

Representative Council (SRC) and the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union (WACOBUE). Although originally called Doman Block, by 1985 it was known as Doman Building and by the 1990s it was referred to as simply ‘Doman’ or Doman Hall.

I have enjoyed the research for this booklet and found the history of Doman quite fascinating. Most of the information and photographs were obtained from files on the Wagga Agricultural Collection at Charles Sturt University (CSU) Regional Archives (CSURA). The National Library’s Trove resource also proved invaluable in finding references in various newspapers. I am grateful to CSU’s Division of Facilities Management, which financed the project, and to the staff of CSURA, Wayne Doubleday, Jillian Kohlhagen and Paul O’Donnell for helping me locate relevant files, scanning photographs and proofreading.

I also appreciate the assistance of Carol Carlyon and Katie Brussels, daughter and granddaughter of Dick Doman, who supplied valuable information and photographs of Dick Doman.

Sherry Morris
Historian (Wagga Wagga)

WAGGA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Established in 1892 by the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Agriculture, the Wagga Agricultural College was an experiment farm to meet agricultural research and education needs. Initially named the Murrumbidgee Experimental Farm, it was soon referred to as the Wagga Experiment Farm.

Up until the 1870s, agricultural development in the Wagga Wagga region had been minimal. Squatters and pastoralists used the land to cultivate just a few acres of grain and hay for use among their families and employees. Farmers who did take up selections under the *Crown Land Acts of 1861 (NSW)* eroded many larger lease holdings and, for the most part, only eked out a meagre existence on such inadequate holdings.

Then the 1880s saw a remarkable increase in wheat production, even more so with the extension of the railway line to North Wagga Wagga in 1878. The Riverina's share of wheat acreage in Australia increased from less than a tenth in 1891 to one-third by 1901.¹

Unfortunately, farmers' knowledge of soils, seeds, implements and climatic conditions was lacking, and funding such learning conflicted with day-to-day farming priorities. The situation fuelled the need for agricultural education to ensure long-term viability of these farms.

The urgency of such education became abundantly clear in the 1889 wheat season, when the harvest was almost destroyed by rust fungus. This opened the way for agricultural societies and farmer and settlers associations, and by the late 19th century such groups began pressuring governments to establish agricultural colleges. Roseworthy College in South Australia (SA) was established first in 1885, followed closely by Dookie in North-Eastern Victoria in 1886. NSW lagged behind until forming a Department of Agriculture in March 1890; the state's first college, Hawkesbury Agricultural College, was established in March 1891.

Since Wagga Wagga and the surrounding district was one of the major focal points of Australia's most extensive mixed farming enterprises (wheat and sheep),



Left: Member for Wagga Wagga and Minister for Agriculture Eddie Graham speaking at the opening of the Wagga Agricultural College, September 1949.

it was chosen for the site of an experiment farm the following year. October 1892 saw the dedication of an official site for an experiment farm taking in some 1993 acres of Crown land in the Parish of North Wagga Wagga and part of North Wagga Wagga Common.

The farm was to have two functions: conducting experiments and training young men in the practice and science of agriculture. Unlike Hawkesbury Agricultural College, the farm at Wagga Wagga had no provision for dairying. It did, however, include all other scientific agricultural training.

Officially opened on 2 October 1896, the Wagga Experiment Farm School offered two-year courses. These included some lectures on the scientific principles underlying agriculture but concentrated far more on the practical and routine aspects of farming, like planting and harvesting crops and looking after livestock.²

After the Second World War, similar courses to those offered at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College were being sought. The Member for Wagga Wagga and Minister for Agriculture, Eddie Graham, initiated plans to convert the experiment farm into an agricultural college, and on 16 September 1949, the Wagga Agricultural College and Experiment Station became its official name. It was later abbreviated to Wagga Agricultural College in 1961.

The Wagga Course in Agriculture, which began on 3 March 1949, was intended to meet the needs of students who wanted to obtain thorough knowledge in the various branches of agriculture and livestock and intended to take up practical farming, teaching or instructional work as their profession. The curriculum, lecturers, demonstrations and practical fieldwork were similar to what was being provided as part of the Agriculture Diploma Course at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

In recognition of its equal status with the Hawkesbury college, Wagga's agriculture course awarded its own diploma known as the Wagga Diploma of Agriculture (WDA).³ On graduation, students were qualified to manage mixed farms, irrigation farms, dairies, wheat farms, piggeries, poultry farms, orchards and vineyards. They were also qualified for field staff positions in the NSW Department of Agriculture, Department of Conservation and Valuer-General's Department.⁴

Such was the local interest that the first course was fully booked with 32 students, 13 of these ex-servicemen drafted to Wagga Wagga for their first academic year because of overcrowding at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.⁵ The Wagga Agricultural College and Experiment Farm was officially opened by Eddie Graham on 23 September 1949.

BERNARD 'DICK' DOMAN

Born in Nottinghamshire in England on 1 August 1909, Bernard Doman, or 'Dick' as he became known, arrived in Sydney with his parents, Bernard and Gertrude Doman, on the P&O steamship Ballarat on 29 May 1914. Emigration documents list Bernard Senior's occupation as 'farmer' and both Bernard and Gertrude as 26 years of age. Doman was later described by his only child, Carol Carlyon, as a placid, quietly spoken and highly intelligent man, and although his parents continued to speak in a distinct Cockney accent, she insists her father did not have an accent at all.⁶

The family moved to Yass, where Bernard Snr worked as a stonemason or monumental mason.⁷ Bernard Jnr attended Yass Public School and then Yanco Agricultural High School in 1923 and 1924. His final year results helped him win a Department of Education scholarship, which admitted him to the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. In May 1928, Dick graduated from the Hawkesbury Agricultural College with the second-highest aggregate, a prize for the best essay on 'Western Tour' and a College Honours Medal.⁸

Doman went on to attend the University of Sydney as a student in the Faculty of Agriculture. He was awarded Second-Class Honours with his Bachelor of Science: Agriculture qualification at the end of 1931.⁹

A wide and successful career in the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Agriculture followed. After his graduation ceremony at the University of Sydney in January 1932, he was appointed assistant plant breeder at Cowra, NSW. In July that year, he was transferred to the Temora Experiment Farm on probation for 12 months.¹⁰

Notably, Doman developed the wheat-breeding program at the farm, which was previously not possible given the lack of expertise. He was also responsible for the evolution of hardier wheat varieties that were suited to limited rainfall conditions. According to the Wagga Wagga Express in 1936, in the previous years Doman had examined wheats from almost all known countries of the world in order to find varieties resistant to, in particular, loose smut. He was successful in producing two new wheats (Kookaburra and Sturt).¹¹

Wedding bells chimed on 20 February 1936, when Doman married Irene Ruth Giles (known as ‘Rene’) at St Paul’s Church of England, Temora. The daughter of William Giles and Dora Wells, she had been born and raised in Temora and was regarded as a member of one of Temora’s most widely respected and well-known families.

The young couple relocated to Richmond 18 months later on 30 August 1937 for Doman to take up his appointment of lecturer in agriculture at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. During his tenure at the college, Doman took military leave from 3 February 1942 until 2 January 1946 to enlist in the Australian Infantry Forces to fight in World War II (allotted to the First Armoured Division with the number NX84233).¹² According to his daughter, Doman’s lecturing experience saw him retained in Australia to educate soldiers on health and safety.

Doman further proved his value by learning to assemble radar systems brought to Australia by American soldiers and turned over to the Australians without instructions. During the war, Rene became a ‘camp follower’ to accompany her husband whenever possible. Their daughter recalled childhood stories about her mother’s disappointment when her father was unable to fix their iron, despite being able to assemble radar systems!¹³



Above: Dick and Rene Doman.



Above: Dick Doman in uniform, World War II.

After the war, Doman returned to Hawkesbury Agricultural College and continued in his lecturing position.¹⁴ In 1948, when a principal was required for the new agricultural college and experiment farm at Wagga Wagga, he was the obvious choice. While at the experiment farms in Temora and Cowra, Doman obtained wide experience in the general management of these farms under southern wheat-growing conditions.

Equally attractive to the recruiters was the college administration and lecturing experience he had gained while working at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. In fact, Doman’s skills and experience were not unnoticed by the then Minister for Agriculture Eddie Graham, who pointed out that Doman was “a man of outstanding technical, practical and administrative training”.¹⁵

Accordingly, Doman was seconded to Wagga Experiment Farm from 27 September 1948 until 2 October 1948 as acting manager for Stan Hodgson. He assumed responsibility for the position of manager on 25 October 1948 after officially handing over his duties at Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

On 2 March 1949, Doman (pictured right) was appointed Principal of Wagga Agricultural College, which was officiated on 5 April 1949. Like the principal of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, he was directly responsible to the undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture.

In May 1949, he and Rene were able to move into the principal’s cottage. Initially, his annual salary was more than £1000, but this had risen to £2962 by August 1960.

When he was appointed, he paid an annual rent of no more than £84, which rose to £112 in 1960. Additionally, his employment conditions allowed him to purchase fresh farm produce of milk, cheese, eggs, fruit and pig meats at wholesale rates.



Above: Bernard ‘Dick’ Doman.



Above: Staff and students beside Centre Block at Wagga Agricultural College in 1949. Dick Doman (Principal) is sixth from the right in the second row.



Above: Students and staff at Wagga Agricultural College on Diploma Day, 1954. Eddie Graham, Minister for Agriculture, and Dick Doman, Principal of Wagga Agricultural College, are in the middle of the front row.

PLANNING A NEW DORMITORY BLOCK

The Domans became heavily involved in Wagga Wagga's social life, attending many agricultural college balls and dances, and not always in an official capacity. Doman was a dedicated Rotarian and was president of the Rotary Club in Wagga Wagga for a few years in the early 1950s.¹⁶

Despite his professional achievements and obvious standing in the community, Doman was modest. So much so that when he tried to join the Wagga Wagga Show Society, he wrote that his occupation was 'public servant'. The application was ignored, until he reapplied with his occupation listed as 'Principal of the Agricultural College', when he was accepted almost immediately.¹⁷

Under Doman's guidance and direction, Wagga Agricultural College developed and progressed. There were new buildings, more essential services and improved facilities for lecturing and demonstrating to students. By January 1961, there was a staff of 90 at the Wagga Agricultural College comprised of the principal, seven clerical staff, 16 professional staff, 11 general staff, 46 administration staff

and nine casual staff. Over the 12 years since its establishment, the college had experienced a relatively faster growth rate than most other divisions of the Department of Agriculture. Student numbers trebled, staff numbers doubled, maintenance expenditure multiplied about six or seven times and approximately £400,000 worth of loan funds were expended. The construction of a new accommodation block, named Doman Block in honour of the first principal, was about to commence and it was expected to cause a 50 per cent increase in student numbers from the beginning of 1962. Expenditure from consolidated revenue was then more than £100,000 a year.¹⁸

In August 1961, Doman was appointed as the principal of Hawkesbury Agricultural College after the resignation of his friend, Harry (HR) Richardson.¹⁹ A decade later on 10 September 1971, Doman retired and was subsequently awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire).²⁰ Doman died at Kiama, NSW on 13 February 1992. His wife, Rene, also died at Kiama on 23 November later that year.

Dick Doman did not take his role as the first principal of the Wagga Agricultural College lightly. He strongly advocated for the college, and agricultural colleges generally. In fact, Doman believed the Wagga college had the potential to develop into one of the leading agricultural colleges in Australia; however, financial difficulties arrested its physical growth and development.

Applications for entrance to the college always exceeded vacancies, given the lack of accommodation available for students. It worried Doman, fearful students on waiting lists for several years would turn to alternative occupations.²¹

In 1949 only three student residences existed, all built for the Wagga Experiment Farm back in the early 20th century. During the 1953 graduation ceremony address, Doman complained about the lack of finance for student accommodation.

He had managed to squeeze in an additional five students, "mainly because of a certain amount of improvisation and inconvenience to some of the students", but added:

The lusty and robust infant born in 1949 has run into financial drought, which has disturbed its plans of nutrition and arrested its physical growth to an extent which might have serious long-term consequences... It cannot be too strongly reiterated that the optimum student population for this particular institution is about 90, and, until sufficient amenities are provided to make this possible, no true assessment of the unsaturated demand which might or might not warrant the founding of further agricultural colleges, is possible.²²

The following year, Doman was finally able to announce that plans for new buildings were "in the concrete stage" and it was hoped accommodation for at least an additional 90 students would be available within two years.²³



Above: Wagga Experiment Farm student quarters, Centre Block (left) and West Block (right). Centre Block was demolished in 1969 to make way for the construction of Atkins Hall.



Right: Centre Block with East Block on the left

However, despite the urgent need for additional accommodation for students, funds were not made available for its construction until August 1959.

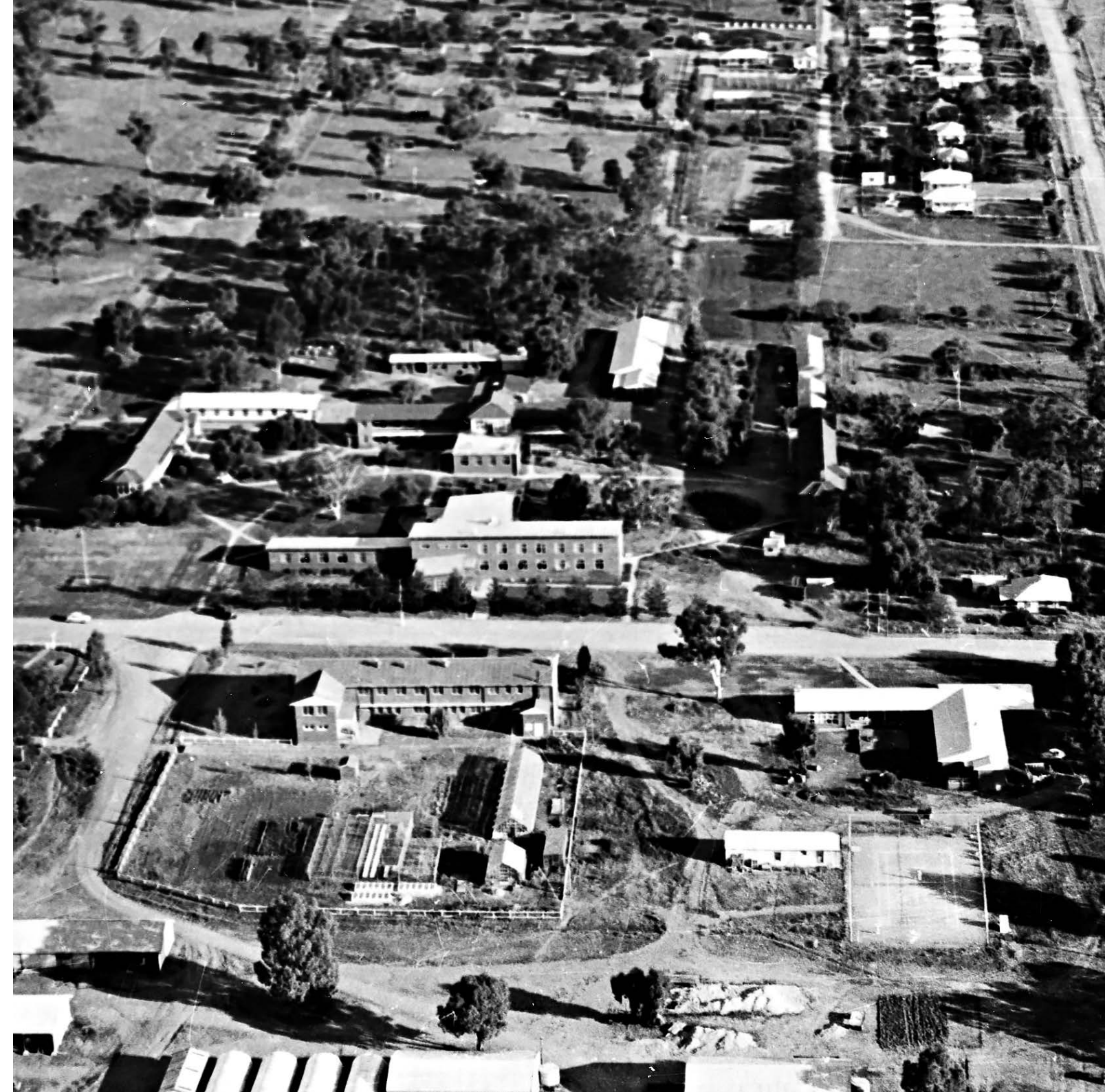
In a personal discussion with LE Bourne, the inspecting architect from the Department of Public Works, Doman suggested that two small two-storey buildings, rather than one large building, should be constructed and include double study bedrooms in lieu of single bedrooms and separate common and study rooms. More than six months later, the Department of Public Works sent copies of the sketch drawings to Doman, describing it as a “balanced and symmetrical design”. It included a single-storey central block and a two-storey dormitory block on each side. The blocks were connected by a covered way. It would include heating throughout and was estimated to cost £131,490.

On 13 August 1960, the college was informed that working drawings had been commenced and that every endeavour would be made to have the building ready for occupation by the beginning of 1962. It was then estimated that it would cost £136,000. Doman stressed the need to proceed urgently with the plans, specifications and bill of quantities with a view to calling for tenders as early as possible because of the pressure on accommodation and the need for completion and occupation of at least one of the dormitory wings by the first session in 1962.

Then, just four days later on 17 August 1960, Neville Gruzman, a well-known consultant architect from Sydney, arrived to inspect the site.²⁴ He advised Doman that he had been given carte blanche by the Department of Public Works to modify the original plans architecturally as long as the ultimate modifications met the requirements of the building.

On 8 September 1960, Gruzman sent a copy of the revised plans for the dormitory block. He had completely re-orientated the building so it fronted onto the same road as the main building while still being readily accessible from the secondary road. Rooms were arranged around two courtyards so all bedrooms except two faced to the north or the east, the majority having a northerly aspect. All bedrooms were single rooms, with shower and toilet facilities convenient to each room. The main northerly block was two storeys in height and the balance a single storey. It was proposed the whole building be constructed completely of brick with a galvanised iron roof to match the existing buildings.

Right: Aerial view of Wagga Agricultural College before the construction of the new dormitory block, late 1950s. The site of the new dormitory block is centre right. Graham Block is in the centre of the photograph.



CONSTRUCTING THE NEW DORMITORY

Doman liked the general layout although he retained some reservations. His four main criticisms were:

- the building was too extended in an east–west direction; some rearrangement appeared essential and probably a second courtyard at the eastern end could be formed by inserting a further row of eight bedrooms
- insufficient protection from the weather for the southern and western doorways
- appearance of too much glass, which could lead to an increase in repairs (as ‘boys will be boys’) and there would be too much light and heat
- matron’s flat was too close to the common room, adding that this was not necessarily a serious objection.

Doman included a list of specific points which gave the most trouble in the existing older buildings. Gruzman’s sketch plans were approved by the Department of Public Works by September 1960 and a set of drawings was ready for tender by March 1961. Doman had been sent a set of drawings for his perusal but Gruzman warned that only minor alterations could be made.

Doman discovered several of his recommendations were omitted, but rather than cause any delay by changing plans and specifications, he thought such modifications could be made during the course of the work from the contingency fund. The estimation of cost, previously £136,000, had increased to £176,925. A sum of £1800 was allocated for 1960–1961, £125,000 for 1961–1962 and £50,125 for 1962–1963. But it was still hoped the construction would be completed by the beginning of 1962.

Tenders were called in May 1961,²⁵ and the following month the minister gave approval for the lowest tender of £159,844, or £167,936 including the surveyor’s fees, submitted by HC Buckman and Son Ltd. Buckman had been a builder in Wagga Wagga since the 1920s while his son was his clerk of works.²⁶

Doman did not stay to see construction of these new buildings through to completion, as he became the new principal at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. He departed Wagga Agricultural College at the end of 1961, but was optimistic the new dormitory would help the Wagga college to realise its full potential as one of the leading agricultural colleges in the Commonwealth.

Despite earlier optimism, construction progress was slow. Although the building was not completed in time for the 1962 classes, the new principal, Frederick (Fred) C Butler, was hopeful that 56 new enrolments could be accepted for 1963 and accommodation provided for 120 students in the first term of 1963, then 134 in February 1964. These figures had been approved by the Department of Agriculture’s undersecretary and comptroller of accounts in October 1962.

Although the building was still incomplete by the start of the term and not officially open, some third-year students moved into the accommodation in 1963 and for the first time the total numbers in residence exceeded 100, with 109 to be exact. Butler pointed out:

The new accommodation block, though in use, still awaits the final touches from the viewpoints of electrical installations, plumbing, interior decorating and landscaping. Despite certain shortcomings, it presents many desirable features and facilities; the individual rooms, for example, are a big improvement on those in the old residential blocks and the common room–games area is particularly spacious and well designed. I am not so happy, however, about a number of other features and venture to suggest that my feelings concerning the eastern level of

the building, in particular, will be shared by Old Boys who manage to get back for Diploma Day on the 3rd May.²⁷

By May 1963, Butler was still frustrated with the Department of Public Works at Cootamundra because, other than installing laundry facilities to matron’s flat, none of his complaints had been fixed.

With so many faults in the new building, Butler wanted a full investigation and appropriate steps taken to rectify the situation. But there was worse to follow when a number of major structural shortcomings and building faults became apparent.

More problems presented surrounding the buildings. Works on the associated access road had not even commenced, debris and spoil had not been cleared away by the contractors and incomplete concrete paving work meant the commencement of landscaping activities was stalled.

In October 1963, after receiving reports from both Butler and Gruzman, the Department of Public Works explained that contract documents drawn up by architects and engineers on behalf of the Department of Public Works were unsatisfactory.



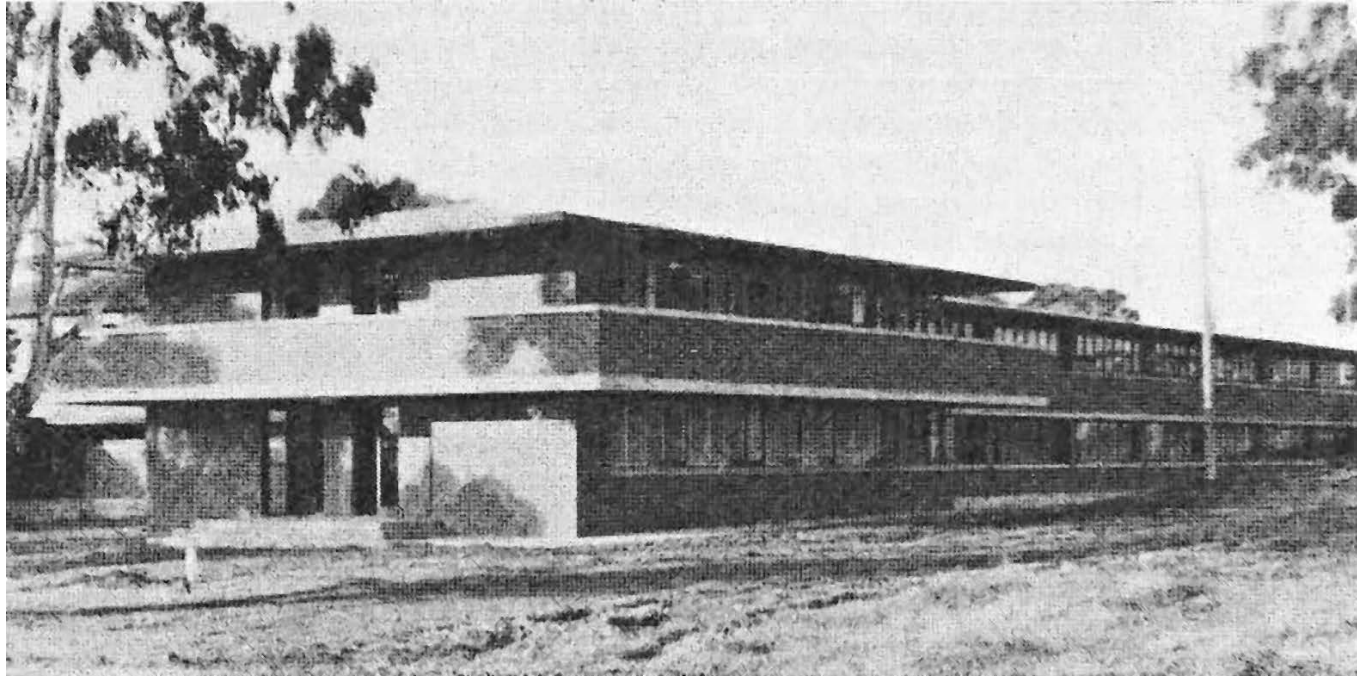
At Buckman's request, the architect from the Department of Public Works again considered the design, and later the consulting architect Gruzman himself examined the partly constructed building. Some alterations in the design were made but according to Buckman these alterations were insufficient. Fife maintained the building was in a shocking condition and public funds had not been handled well by the government.²⁸ After lengthy negotiations, Gruzman admitted liability to the extent of £1000. This money was paid by his firm to cover in part the cost of necessary remedial measures, and it was accepted by the Minister for Public Works. The restoration work was expected to cost a total of £2867.50. Funds to the extent of £1867.50 were requested to enable this work to be carried out.

Fortunately, the first part of the rectification works had been completed by the time of the official opening and in March 1964 Butler advised the college's Old Boys' Union:

As recent Old Boys will know, the Doman Dormitory Block had some deficiencies and weaknesses which needed correcting. The original contractors had been commissioned to effect these corrections and at the moment the brick railing around the western upstairs verandah has been replaced by a light iron framework and the heavy guttering has been replaced by a light copper guttering of conventional style. Those Old Boys who occupied the building in 1963 and at various times suffered sore heads from the sharp corners of the built-in tables, will be pleased to know that these are being sawn off. Also of interest is that the book shelves are being transferred to the opposite walls instead of over the beds.²⁹

In 1964 there were 119 residents and numbers continued to rise steadily to the expected maximum of 134, as was dictated by bedroom capacity, in 1966. Doman Block was by far the largest residence, accommodating 64 students as well as the matron. West Block housed 28, Centre Block 25 and East Block 16. Fifty-two students were in first year, 46 in second year and 36 in third year.

Left: Construction of the two-storey section of the new dormitory block by HC Buckman and Son Ltd next to West Block (on the right).



Above: Doman Block, south-western aspect, featuring students' rooms in the southern wing (both floors) with sick bay, dispensary and matron's flat on the ground floor in the foreground. The photograph was taken by D Gyngal in August 1963 and included in the Official Opening Booklet, 24 April 1964.



Above: Common room and verandah of Doman Block at the front of the single-storey section.

Page 22: Aerial view of Wagga Agricultural College after the construction of the new dormitory block (top right) behind West Block. Graham Block is in the centre of the photograph (behind a row of trees).



THE OFFICIAL OPENING

Doman Block was officially opened on 24 April 1964, more than 12 months after the first residents took up occupancy. Preparations for an official opening had begun soon after the Department of Public Works assured Principal Fred Butler the building would be ready for occupation on 11 February 1963. When it became obvious such a timeframe would not be met, contractors guaranteed works would be finished by June 1963. Accordingly, the opening was scheduled for 20 September 1963.

New South Wales (NSW) Minister for Agriculture, Ambrose George Enticknap, agreed to perform the opening ceremony. Enticknap was a popular and convivial politician who always walked with a limp, having lost a leg at the age of seven from an infection of the bone known as osteomyelitis. He was a practical farmer, with an extensive knowledge of rural affairs from his farming and political work in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

Butler decided not to perpetuate the 'directional nomenclature' that had come into vogue with the naming of the main college residential buildings on a directional basis – Centre Block, West Block and East Block.

He recommended that the new accommodation block be named Doman Block in honour of the college's first principal, Dick Doman. After Doman's long association with the college, it was a fitting tribute to his tireless work. His recommendation had the support of the local Students' Representative Council.

The Wagga Agricultural College's Old Boys' Union (WACOBUS), particularly those who attended in the pioneering period of the 1950s, appreciated how much Doman deserved such recognition, agreeing:

In this fitting way, Mr Doman's name will be for ever linked with the college that he so ably guided and developed from 1949 until the end of 1961.³⁰



Don Joyes, House Master



The Member for Wagga Wagga
Wal Fife



NSW Minister for Agriculture
AG (George) Enticknap

Left: Dick Doman, first principal of Wagga Agricultural College, at the official opening on 24 April 1964 expressing his appreciation for the great honour in naming the new dormitory residence after him.



—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

P. 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

Above: Doman Block and list of staff, Wagga Agricultural College.

Left: AG (George) Enticknap, Minister for Agriculture and Conservation (standing on the left) next to FC (Fred) Butler, Principal of Wagga Agricultural College, at the official opening of Doman Block. Ivan Jack, Mayor of Wagga Wagga, is sitting on the left and Wal Fife, Member for Wagga Wagga, is on the right.



With all plans in place for the September opening going well, serious structural faults which had appeared in the brickwork, concrete work and roofing members were plaguing the official opening deadline. In August 1963, a decision to defer the official opening was made. Butler insisted that all of these will be remedied before an official opening or the building will be something of a 'laughing-stock'. As such, the printing of the invitation cards was cancelled and arrangements for the opening were suspended until a new date was set.

Certain dates were suggested for the official opening after 20 September was abandoned. Dates in November as alternatives were unsuitable for the minister, and 15, 22 and 29 November coincided with study vacation and examination times. Since the final day of term was 6 December, it too was not ideal. Eventually a date was agreed: Diploma Day the following year, Friday 24 April 1964.

Fortunately, the official opening on Diploma Day was very successful. Official guests included Enticknap and his wife, Rose; Dr HJ Hynes (deputising for Grahame Edgar, the Director-General, Department of Agriculture) and Mrs Hynes; Dick and Rene Doman; Tom Keough, President of Mitchell Shire, and his wife; Alderman Ivan Jack, Mayor of Wagga Wagga, and his wife, Annie; Wal C Fife, Member

for Wagga Wagga and Assistant Minister for Education and Science; H Heath, Member of the Public Service Board; and Alex McLennan, President of WACOBU.

In the morning, Enticknap presented diplomas to 22 of the 25 students who had graduated the previous year, plus various medals and prizes. (Three graduates were unable to attend because they lived long distances away.) About 300 students and guests attended on the lawns near the college. Since Enticknap had announced his retirement, students and staff presented him with a table cigarette lighter specially engraved and mounted with the college badge. A buffet lunch in the college dining room and on the lawns followed, and all visitors were invited to inspect sections and buildings.

The official opening of Doman Block began at 3pm. As principal of the college, Butler opened proceedings and introduced Enticknap, who unveiled the plaque commemorating the opening of the new building. As first principal of Wagga Agricultural College and current principal of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Doman expressed his appreciation for the great honour. Following afternoon tea, visitors were invited to inspect Doman Block.³¹

Left: Residences west 219 and Doman 210

RESIDENTS OF DOMAN HALL



Above: 'Marilyn' attached to a wall, possibly in Doman Block.

Above: Socialising in the courtyard.

The mostly male residents of Doman Block were initially the agricultural students, but major changes in the 1970s and 1980s saw shifts in the cultural environment.

From 1985 it was occupied by university students, both male and female, and the name had changed to Doman Building. The new name appeared on the front of the single-storied section of the building. By the 1990s, it was referred to as 'Doman' or 'Doman Hall'.

Doman once held the prized icon of agricultural students; a large, nude study of Marilyn Monroe. It was a trophy of raids and counter-raids between the agricultural colleges. Rules of its custodianship were written on the back.

It must be displayed in a public place;
It must not be kept under lock and key;
and Previous owners must be notified
of her whereabouts.

According to former student Stewart MacLennon, a group of students from the Wagga Agricultural College made a night raid on Yanco College "with a combination of SAS style surprise tactics and blood

curdling threats". They captured 'Marilyn', took her back to the Wagga college and fixed her behind a metal grill, bolted to the wall, in Doman Block.³²

The early 1970s signalled major changes at the Wagga Agricultural College, starting with 1970 when it was given the status of an advanced education college but remained under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. In 1972 female students were enrolled at the college for the first time, with six enrolled in the first year. By the 1990s females were the majority of students.

On 1 January 1976, the Wagga Agricultural College amalgamated with the Riverina College of Advanced Education, the former teachers' college. The agricultural college became the School of Agriculture in the Riverina College and was brought under the jurisdiction of the Department of Technical Education, which was responsible to the Minister of Education. For several years the Riverina College of Advanced Education had been occupying the former teachers' college while it was developing a site adjacent to the Wagga Agricultural College. After the amalgamation, it gradually moved

to the northern campus and the Wagga Agricultural College shared its facilities and later its accommodation. In May 1980, the Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen officially opened the northern, or Boorooma, Campus.³³

Despite the integration, agriculture students retained their sense of identity and purpose, and an already high-pitched animosity between the ‘Aggies’ and the ‘Chalkies’ intensified. Doman Block residents regarded themselves as Domanites or were criticised by others as ‘Domanoids’, and their volleyball and basketball teams were named ‘Dodgy Domans’. The traditional ‘Doman Run’, which involved running naked along the roof of Doman, remained. One student was not impressed.

It truly amazes me, how people become so excited about running along the roof of an old building. Where’s the joy? As I recall on several occasions one group (none of whom actually lived in Doman) running, pounding along the roof, then jumping off outside a window screaming ‘We love Doman! Yeah Doman’ and taking pictures.³⁴

In the mid-1980s the residential arrangements were reorganised. Agricultural students moved from student residences, such as Doman, to the row of houses formerly occupied by staff members and their families known as ‘Nappy Alley’,³⁵ Female students joined male students in Doman Building and its culture changed. As the tutors, Tracey King and Alison MacGregor, reported in the first yearbook produced by Doman Building in 1985:

Whilst it was a year different to that of the past in that the absence of Aggies in the halls of Doman was marked, and the historic Mott Row was mottless, it was, nevertheless, an eventful year. From the outset, Doman was a place where people from a variety of courses were mixed, and, unlike previous years, the first few weeks of college did not see a mass exodus of people who preferred a quieter lifestyle. The block seemed overall harmonious, though not without its nights to remember: the first block party, the No Talent Quest, barbeques, all coupled with participation as a Block in Union nights, such as the unforgettable Toga Ball, made the Block an enjoyable place to live in.³⁶

When the Faculty of Education held its first residential school for candidates enrolled in the Doctorate of Education in 1994, there were many complaints about the standard of accommodation at Doman Building. In fact, several of the participants removed themselves from Doman and sought accommodation in Wagga Wagga.

EJ Braggett, Professor of Education, found the comments disconcerting and asked for all accommodation to be off campus at the next session. At the request of Professor Richard Johnstone, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Andrew Callander, Manager of Residences and Catering Services, forwarded information regarding the accommodation arrangements for the participants. He explained that although substantial upgrading had been recommended for many years, major refurbishment plans had not been produced.

He had therefore: arranged for internal painting; ordered new carpet, which was to be laid in the near future; upgraded the bed linen; and provided new locks to all areas. New curtains, mattresses and doonas were scheduled for later that year. He recommended major refurbishment be undertaken and as a matter of priority:

- install modular furniture to bedrooms
- modernise bathrooms (extensive work required)
- establish three separate accommodation units (plans had been drawn up by Davin Davis in 1992)
- replace bed study chairs and common room furniture
- install evaporative cooling in the common rooms.³⁷

Although the bathrooms and the common room were improved, the bedrooms remained unchanged. Ten years later, Doman Hall was listed on programmed works for demolition and removal as an unused building.

It was suggested the project could commence as of September 2014. Some students were still residing in Doman Hall in 2016, but the building was finally closed permanently in 2017. Doman Hall was demolished in February 2018.

DOMAN IN 2017



DOMAN IN 2017



Previous page: **Top left:** Single storey on the left and double storey on the right. **Top right:** Residential section of the double-storey building. **Bottom left:** Matron's quarters, sick bay and dispensary on the bottom floor at the front of the double-storey building. **Bottom right:** Front of the single-storey building. *This page:* **Above left:** Residential section, single-storey building. **Above right:** Rear courtyard with West Block in the background on the right. **Left:** Bedroom.

ARCHIVES



Above: Wagga Experiment Farm student quarters, Centre Block (left) and West Block (right). Centre Block was demolished in 1969 to make way for the construction of Atkins Hall.



Above: Students at the Agricultural College making lawn between West Block and Doman Block in the early 1960s.



Above: Wagga Agricultural College Rugby Union team, 1950.
Back: B Atkins (Coach), A Wild, J Winn, P Wearne, W Gunther, F Benecke, D Bryant, M Hadrill, Dick Doman (Principal).
Front: J England, A Donaldson, C Lawrence, R Lang, J Murphy (Captain), A Stannard, J Bowen, R Learmont, K Triffitt.

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- ¹ DN Jeans, *An Historical Geography of NSW to 1901*, Reed Education, 1972, p.218.
- ² Joan Pelc, Publicity Officer, Riverina College of Advanced Education, article for Orientation Week, 1978, *A Pictorial History of Agricultural Research at Wagga Wagga*.
- ³ *Cootamundra Herald*, 7 March 1949; *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, 3 March 1949; *Murrumbidgee Irrigator*, Leeton, 11 March 1949; *The Land*, Sydney, 4 March 1949.
- ⁴ *The Daily Advertiser*, 14 April 1961.
- ⁵ *Farmer and Settler*, 11 March 1949; *The Land*, 8 April 1949, 16 June 1950; *Murrumbidgee Irrigator*, 11 March 1949.
- ⁸ Carol Carlyon, telephone conversation, 16 September 2017; England and Wales, Civil Registration, Birth Index, 1837–1915; England, Census, 1911; United Kingdom Outward Passages List, 1880–1960; NSW Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826–1922; ancestry.com.
- ⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 August 1922.
- ⁸ *The Sun*, 15 January 1926, 4 January 1928; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 January 1926, 4 May 1927, 2 May 1928; *The Land*, Sydney, 6 May 1927; *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 14 January 1927, 11 May 1928.
- ⁹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 December 1928, 24 December 1929, 22 December 1931, 16 January 1932; *Labor Daily*, Sydney, 16 January 1932; NSW Electoral Rolls, 1930–1931.
- ¹⁰ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 2 July 1932; *NSW Government Gazette*, 19 August 1932.
- ¹¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 May 1933, 16 October 1933, 2 November 1935, 31 March 1936; *Albury Banner*, 10 April 1936, 27 August 1937; *Farmer and Settler*, 19 October 1933; *Forbes Advocate*, 7 April 1936; *The Land*, 19 May 1933, 6 November 1936; *Wagga Wagga Express*, 1 February 1936; *West Wyalong Advocate*, 20 October 1933; NSW Public Service Lists, 1935–1960.
- ¹² *Cootamundra Herald*, 11 February 1942.
- ¹³ Carol Carlyon, phone conversation, 16 September 2017.
- ¹⁴ *NSW Government Gazette*, 4 July 1947.
- ¹⁵ *Daily Advertiser*, 17 September 1949; *The Land*, Sydney, 30 September 1949.
- ¹⁶ *Daily Advertiser*, 3 July 1953, 1 July 1954.
- ¹⁷ *Daily Advertiser*, 17 October 1953, 14 December 1953, 2 July 1954; Carol Carlyon.
- ¹⁸ CSURA, RW469/31/66, p.167: Doman, 9 January 1961.
- ¹⁹ CSURA, RW469/31/66, p.167: Grahame Edgar, Director-General, 21 August 1961; *NSW Government Gazette*, 26 January 1962.
- ²⁰ *NSW Government Gazette*, 24 September 1971.

3. Planning a new dormitory block

²¹ *Daily Advertiser*, 17 September 1949 (official opening of the college), 3 March 1949, 15 October 1949, 10 June 1950, 14 April 1951, 21 December 1951, 19 April 1952, 8 January 1953, 18 April 1953, 31 December 1953; *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, 21 September 1949; *The Sun*, 7, 8 January 1953.

²² *Daily Advertiser*, 18 April 1953.

²³ *Daily Advertiser*, 14 December 1954.

²⁴ Bruce Rickard, ‘Vale Neville Gruzman’, *Architecture Australia*, volume 94, number 4, July 2005.

²⁵ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 May 1961.

²⁶ CSURA, SA469/31/57: Wagga Agricultural College, New Dormitory Block, correspondence, reports etc. concerning the plans for the new block.

4. Construction of the new dormitory

²⁷ Fred Butler, Principal’s Message, WACOBU Newsletter, volume II, number II, March 1964.

²⁸ *Daily Advertiser*, 21 April 1963.

²⁹ WACOBU Newsletter, volume II, number II, March 1964.

³⁰ Fred Butler, Principal’s Message, WACOBU Newsletter, volume II, number II, March 1964.

³¹ *Daily Advertiser*, 24, 25 April 1964.

6. Residents of Doman Hall

³² Stewart MacLennon, WACOBU Newsletter, December 2004; Sutherland, pp.107–109.

³³ Nancy Blacklow, South Campus: A History, CSU Print, Charles Sturt University, 2014, Chapters 6 and 7; Sutherland, Chapters 11 and 12.

³⁴ ‘Doman’, WACOBU News, March 1979; The Residential Files, 1995.

³⁵ Sutherland, p.134.

³⁶ CSURA, CSU1779/963: Doman Building Yearbook, 1985.

³⁷ CSURA, CSU2832/997: Correspondence re Residential School Accommodation, 1994.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Personal collection of the Doman Family by Carol Carlyon and Katie Brussels.
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