WACOBU News



Two male students at the Wagga Agricultural College, Ray Gaynor (left), 18, of Gunnedah, and Peter Matus, 18, of Dubbo, had no particular concern for women's lib. when they welcomed the college's first female students yesterday.

The students are (from left) Michelle Philip 18, Robyn Pitt, 17, Merilee Morris, 18, Michele Gairn, 18, and Helen Rieck, 18.

Photo: Courtesy of Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society

2022



Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union Newsletter

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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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EDITORIAL



50 years ago the first intake of female students at the College arrived on campus with five "grotts" joining 61 motts at Wagga Ag in 1972.

They were a brave lot, but became well respected amongst their peers!

These young women were pioneers of WAC and led the way for others to follow and study agricultural sciences and take up a career in the industry.

Since 1972, female students in agriculture courses have continued to increase in number significantly and now recent statistics show that they are greater in number than male students right across Australia.

Over this time at CSU Wagga, female agriculture students have provided tremendous input into the various aspects of college life right across the board from the academic, sporting, social and cultural clubs on campus and contributing greatly to the university as a whole.

CSU is a better place as a result of all their efforts.

Many rural businesses throughout Australia have employed CSU agriculture graduates and are utilising their skills and knowledge to benefit the individual businesses they work for, the rural sector and the community in which they live and work.

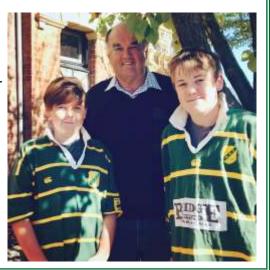
All of the pre1970's old boys of Wagga Agricultural College saw their time at college dominated by males.

Half a century later CSU Wagga agriculture students see a totally different picture – and everyone is better off because of that change.

All graduates of agriculture courses at CSU can look back on their time at College with pride and realise the significance of this period in their lives, the strong mateship that developed amongst "the aggies" and their place in history as students of agriculture at Wagga Wagga.

Some things never change.

VIA TRITA VIA TUTA





50 YEARS OF FEMALE STUDENTS STUDYING AT WAC

2022 marks 50 years since the first female students enrolled at WAC.

Respectfully referred to as Grotts, five brave ladies joined 61 Motts in 1972 and graduated in 1974 with equal status and qualifications.

This first group of ladies set the platform for those following on and now there are more and more women joining the list of WAC graduates and working in all levels of agriculture.

In more recent times, CSU records show that since 2010, courses where the most noticeable increases in female enrolments are:

- ** 181 per cent increase for Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- ** 111 per cent increase for Bachelor of Horticulture
- ** 22 per cent increase for Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management
- ** 386 per cent increase in Bachelor of Wine Science

For 100 years agricultural education in Australia was provided for males only with specialist agricultural high schools and post-secondary agricultural colleges established - but in almost all cases the early versions of these institutions described their mission as "educating boys, lads 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 agricultural courses, 15 years after gender balance had been reached across the whole university sector.

There has been a real turnaround with agriculture now considered one of the success stories of gender balance, particularly in respect of agricultural education and training.

Since 2003 female enrolments in Australian universities in agriculture has exceeded enrolment by males.

Agriculture gender percentages are now on par with the average enrolments across all areas, and similar to those in commerce and the sciences.

The sector is constantly evaluating whether it truly provides the working arrangements to benefit fully from the talents of its women workforce by ensuring equal pay rates, opportunities for promotion and flexible working arrangements and support for employees with family responsibilities.

The annual WACOBU scholarship has been awarded to a number of female students in recent years.

These women are keen to make their mark in the agricultural world and the scholarship assisted them with their studies.

They are joined by the 2022 recipient Sarah Fraser (see separate article).



2021 WACOBU scholarship recipient Tasha Hurley (Condbolin) with Ted Wolfe and Stuart Kanaley.



2019 WACOBU scholarship recipient Annie Matthews (Grenfell) with Stuart Kanaley.



Sarah Fraser

2022 WACOBU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The Charles Sturt University Foundation Trust celebrated scholarship donors and recipients at its scholarship presentation ceremony in Wagga Wagga on Thursday, June 9.

This ceremony in Wagga was one of five held across the other University's campuses at Dubbo, Bathurst, Albury-Wodonga and Port Macquarie.

In total, 401 Charles Sturt Foundation Trust scholarships, valued at \$2,539,950, were awarded to students across the University in 2022.

At Wagga, over 150 scholarships worth \$1,040,900 were presented to students, with the WACOBU Scholarship presented to Sarah Fraser by WACOBU treasurer Ros Prangnell.

Chief Executive Officer of the Charles Sturt Foundation Trust Ms Sarah Ansell was delighted the scholarship presentations could take place to not only recognise the outstanding achievements of students, but also recognise the contribution of valued scholarship donors, including WACOBU.



Ros Prangnell (WACOBU Treasurer) presented the 2022 WACOBU Scholarship to a delighted Sarah Fraser at Wagga on June 9, 2022 (Photo: from CSU)

Letter from CSU Advancement Office re scholarship award

Dear Stuart and Ros,

I hope you have both been keeping well since we spoke last.

I just wanted to get in touch and send on a thank you letter we received from your scholarship recipient, Sarah Fraser as well as the photo from the ceremony.

Thank you for your continued support, it makes all the difference in the world to students like Sarah.

Thanks again, stay safe and I look forward to speaking with you again soon.

Best wishes,

Brogan Finnerty

Development Officer | Advancement Office Charles Sturt University

Sarah Fraser's Letter to WACOBU Members

Dear Stuart, Ros, James and Old Boys,

It is a great honour to be awarded the Wagga Agricultural Old Boys Union scholarship.

This support lets me continue to attend classes to develop my knowledge base on the many concepts that surround agriculture and participate in meaningful academic discussions on agriculture therefore maintaining the high level of academic achievement that I pride myself on.

As the Wagga Agricultural Collage saying goes "Via trita, via tuta", the beaten path is the safe one, receiving this scholarship allows me to live by the saying as there is an assurance and in walking the same path that you have taken (university) but it provides the opportunity for me to be a trailblazer and leave a new path for those who will come after me.

Being the successful recipient for the WACOBU scholarship means a great deal to me and as discussed in my interview, agriculture is not just about what you know but who you know.

That being said to, I would love to gain some knowledge from your experience if you're ever at one of the home games for the Aggies.

Regards,

Sarah Fraser

Bachelor of Agricultural Science





AGGIES CLASS OF 1960 BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

(Story and photo courtesy of ABC Riverina)



The Wagga Wagga Agricultural College class of 1960 reunited in the Riverina from all over Australia in early September, almost 62 years after their graduation.

As history shows, the Wagga Ag College was established by the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1949 and was one of the founding institutions of Charles Sturt University.

ABC Riverina spoke to some of the attendees of the reunion, including Colin Brett from Waterloo Station in the Northern Territory.

He started his career with the Department of Agriculture and sixty years on he now runs up to 50,000 head of cattle over more than a million acres.

He travelled all the way from the Northern Territory to be at the event and says he would never miss a chance to catch up with his former classmates.

"I'm in my early 80s now, but crikey to get together with the boys and the memories!

"I met the most wonderful people at Wagga Ag College and we've had a great relationship with each other since our college days.

"This will probably be our last reunion, as when you get into your 80's everyone is starting to get pretty old but these reunions are just great," said Colin.

Ed: Pleased to read how successful the reunion was!



The Class of 1960 at their September 2022 reunion



The Class at WAC



Fun and games!



What is it about cars?



Ready for pracs

Photos courtesy of ABC and Dave Sloane





1968-70 WAC Old Boys Album

The WACOBU received a copy of the WAC 1968-1970 50Th Anniversary 2020 photo album from Old Boy David Peasley.

It is an outstanding publication.

The album was put together with help from everyone in the year and is a wonderful collection of stories and photos captured at every reunion held in various places right across Australia.

Bruce Peasley sent an email to the newsletter editor regarding a Tenterfield reunion of the 1968-70 old boys planned for March 2022.

The year has held reunions every two years since 1971 but unfortunately had to miss the milestone 50th get together in 2021 in Wagga due to COVID-19.

WACOBU President Stu Kanaley has the album and was deciding on the best place for it to be placed for Old Boys to access at CSU.

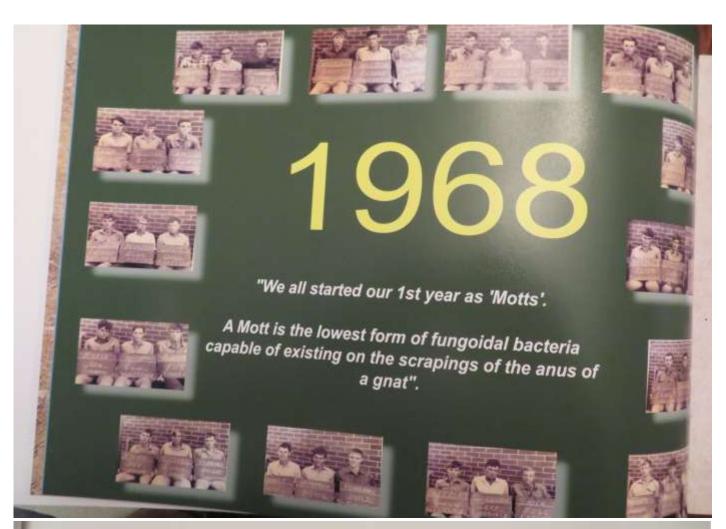
David Peasley's contact details are:

<u>peasleyhort@bigpond.com</u>

124 Farrants Rd Farrants Hill 2484

0427 126 245





50th Annivesary WAC 1968 - 70

About this album...

Well, who would have thought such a mixed mob of fresh faced 'youths' who began their agriculture training at Wagga Ag College in 1968, would still be together 50 years later, meeting every 2 years to re-live their somewhat tortuous, character building, unforgettable days at W.A.C.

This album was put together to record some of the raw experiences of college life, the 24 reunions which have been held all over the State, the characters, and those who are gone but not forgotten.

While some of the photographs of the early days are not the best quality, they do capture the essence of college life.

A big thanks to those who contributed photos to make this album as complete as possible.

This 50th anniversary album celebrates all of those WACers who have shared our amazing journey since 1968.

We hope you enjoy it.

Pizzle & Sue







Agriculture Graduates In Demand

(Article from ABC Rural News September 2022)

There were six jobs to every agriculture graduate in 2022!

But this is not a new figure, with graduate numbers consistent over the past four to five years.

So why is an industry that has excellent job prospects struggling to attract workers?

A report produced by the Australian Farm Institute titled "The employer of choice or a sector without workforce?" found the number of students graduating from agricultural courses at university was well short of what was required to address labour shortages in the sector.

Jim Pratley, first author of the report and a Professor of Agriculture at CSU and the Secretary of the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture, said the findings of the report indicated a disparity between jobs available and the number of graduates.

Professor Pratley said the industry has failed to promote what a career in agriculture really means.

"I think we need to get back into the year twelves at school and the teachers to let them know that this is a really strong market with very good employment prospects, both on farm and off farm," he said.

Professor Pratley said competition for workers across sectors such as mining and health was at an all-time high and agriculture needed to step up.

"Agriculture can't just sit back and expect it to happen.

"All employers need to get really involved in investing in students to come into our industry," the respected professor said.

Gemma Burger is the GradLink coordinator for agribusiness recruitment company Rimfire Resources and highlighted the fact that the agriculture industry was struggling to fill employment gaps.

"I would certainly say we have a shortage.

"There are definitely plenty more roles available than there are graduates and competition to attract new graduates is fierce," Ms Burger stated.

Ms Burger said that was good news for recent graduates as there was exceptionally high demand for them across all sectors of the industry.

"It's significantly higher than levels that we've seen in the past, through all sectors and across all levels of experience, but particularly in that graduate sector. I would go as far to say it's unprecedented," she added.

Ms Burger said the silver lining of the labour shortage was that it had opened new doors for graduates.

"There's such a shortage of people in agriculture in general, so companies that wouldn't have previously considered taking a graduate on are now doing so because they need to build their own talent pipelines," she said.

The future holds a very promising outlook for employment opportunities for agriculture graduates of CSU, with employers keen to utilise the skills and knowledge of these people.

Networking is important.

Old Boys who are on farm, in R&D, in rural businesses and associated industries are always keen to meet up with and employ agriculture graduates of CSU.

All past newsletters can be found on the CSU alumni website:

alumni.csu.edu.au/news-and-events/newsletters/wacobu







Gulbali Institute of Agriculture, Water and Environment

The Gulbali Institute of Agriculture, Water and Environment (AWE) was launched at CSU in Wagga with an emphasis on growing research and embodying **Gulbali** - **to understand country.**

The new name comes from the Wiradjuri phrase 'Gulbali ngurambang', which translates as 'to understand country'.

The Institute will assist with the University's goal of growing research by 2030, focusing on climate change, bushfire, biosecurity, water management and more.

Its aim is to drive research outcomes that optimise farming systems and enhances the health of freshwater ecosystems.

The Institute will employ more than 20 new research-only positions and build on almost \$40million for CSU led research and partnerships in AWE.

Along with rural health, cyber security and data science, Charles Sturt's research in AWE has been targeted for strategic investment, with the University committed to research which has impact across Australia and the globe.

CSU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Renée Leon, said research remains one of the University's highest strategic priorities.

"Research is, and will always be, a vital part of what Charles Sturt University does.

"We will deliver our research goals - in agriculture, water and the environment, as well as rural health, cyber security and data science - under a bold new strategic vision to be carried out on our regional campuses and in our regional communities.

"Establishing the AWE Institute is an important milestone for Charles Sturt University, one which will prove a cornerstone of the collaboration with our partners on research with impact," said Renee.

Charles Sturt University Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Michael Friend said the AWE Institute will integrate important research projects in the University's footprint across the Murray-Darling Basin.

"The AWE Institute will build on Charles Sturt University's existing research strengths in agriculture, water and the environment to generate outcomes which enhance farming systems and freshwater ecosystems in the decades to come.

"The AWE Institute will centralise not only existing research but also the funding opportunities for future projects so that Charles Sturt University and its partners can produce more impactful research which benefits regional Australia," said Michael.

The AWE Institute announcement comes after announcement that researchers from CSU will lead the \$3.6 million Next Generation Water Engineering and River Management Hub.

The Albury-Wodonga-based Water Hub will support eight new, regionally based positions within the University and will develop solutions to the problems threatening inland Australia's waterways.

That project is the latest in the CSU-led research and partnerships in AWE. Other projects include:

- The Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.
- The Global Digital Farm Australia's first 'hands-free' farm built in collaboration with Food Agility Co-operative Research Centre.
- The planned expansion of the AgriSciences Research and Business Park (AgriPark)
- The University's research partnerships with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), NSW Wine Industry Association and others will continue within the AWE Institute.

DPI Director General, Mr Scott Hansen, said the DPI has worked closely with Charles Sturt over the years on important and innovative research projects that have supported the wine and grape, grain and red meat sectors.

"Our collaboration over many years in the various centres has delivered many benefits for primary industries in NSW, including new disease-resistant grapevine selections in cool and warm wine regions, reducing the impact of herbicide resistance, and a range of research on red meat to support producers to gain greater value from their product.

"The new AWE Institute will see us collaborate to work on some of the most challenging issues for the agriculture sector," said Mr Hansen.

All funded research will continue to be supported from 2022, either within the AWE Institute or elsewhere at the University.

In establishing the Gulbali AWE Institute, the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation has ceased operation.

The achievement of the Graham Centre in 15 years of research and partnership with industry bodies has been notable.

The Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation was established in 2005 as a research alliance between Charles Sturt University and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

The Centre has administered \$79.8 million of research funding since that time including:

- The Evergraze project that resulted in more than 4,400 farmers making changes onfarm, with demonstrated increases to their productivity and profitability.
- The Functional Grains Centre has improved knowledge of the potential therapeutic benefits of grains for diseases like cancer and diabetes paving the way for product development and new marketing opportunities for the industry.
- Research on integrated weed management has provided strategic guidelines for farmers in southern NSW to alter management practices to better control herbicide resistant weeds while improving productivity.

The Graham Centre has also had a huge impact on inspiring the next generation of scientists.

164 graduates have been associated with the Graham Centre, while 132 Honours scholarships and 112 student internships have given undergraduates a taste for research.

Over the years the Graham Centre has also showcased careers in agricultural, animal, and food science to thousands of primary and high school students with an annual event bringing students on-campus for practical activities in the laboratory, glass house or field site.

2022 has seen a new phase of agricultural research at the university, with the establishment of the Gulbali Institute leading to benefits for rural Australia.





Old Boys Affected by Floods



(Photo: Eugowra flooding - courtesy of Mat Reid)

The very serious flooding that took place in 2022 in most areas of eastern Australia saw significant damage to cities, towns and agricultural land, with many old boys affected by these weather events.

The north-east of NSW copped a hammering earlier in the year and then many western rivers country was inundated later on, following well above average rainfall in the past 24 months.

Life in rural Australia has its challenges and 2022 saw the extremes of nature take its toll on many communities in a devastating way.

Most long-time residents of many towns had never seen the extent of the flooding in their life.

La Nina was predicted to occur, but not with the intensity it displayed in 2022 and forecasts show it is expected to ease in early autumn 2023 and see a return to drier weather cycles in eastern Australia.

To any Old Boys and their families who were affected by these events take care, ask for help and have a chat to your mates from your WAC days, listen to a podcast from John Harper and his Mate Helping Mate crew or contact Riverina Bluebell or a similar organisation.







Riverina Bluebell is a not for profit, volunteer, community organisation, committed to raising awareness about mental health issues in the Riverina and encouraging people to get help and support.



COL Cup victory to WAC Rugby

WAC recorded their first Col Cup victory against Waratahs on May 14 in front of a huge parochial crowd at Beres Ellwood Oval.



The Col Cup - in WAC Rugby's trophy cupboard!

In a day filled with emotion and team spirit, the First XV had a 15-7 win over the 'Tahs in a top effort. The second grade also recorded a massive 60-7 win and the ladies team won nail biter 27-24 to record three wins for the day with the 3rd XV going down to the Wagga club 33-0.

Three out of four is not bad!

The Col Cup and Charity Weekend is in support of the Epilepsy Foundation was established following the untimely passing of a Wagga Ag College rugby life member and Mott legend Andy 'COL' Stanham, who suffered a fatal epilepsy episode that shocked everyone at WAC.

The rugby match, after match function and auction saw over \$40,000 raised in an outstanding show of support to COL's family and friends.

The club thanked Justin Harrison for attending the day, donating a jersey and organising for Stan Sport to capture WAC Rugby's special day.

A huge thank you was also extended to Andrew Muirhead, Nick Frost, Lachlan and Ryan Lonergan and Zac Elliott from the Brumbies for making the trip to Wagga to make the junior's coaching clinic a great success.

As always, the Wagga Wagga Waratahs Rugby Club were pleased to a part of the day and contributed to the success of the event.

Will Mitchell did a power of work to bring the event together. He has an amazing knack of gathering people together and bringing out their best, turning a devastating heartache into such a positive day and remembering COL and his family.

This was another event that shows the strength and importance of WAC Rugby to both the university and the wider community.

What a great way to remember Col and help the Epilepsy Foundation to continue their vital work.

Well done to everyone involved with WAC Rugby!



2 life members with the COL Cup! Thank you to everyone involved today, a great day for the club.

#COLCUP #GOYOUAGGIES



FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME







Southern Inland Rugby 2022 Wrap

The SIRU rugby season led to grand final day at Wagga in early September with Wagga City snaring a trifecta of premierships in all three men's grades against the Griffith Blacks.

Ag College had all teams contest the final series in a great effort by the Club that has set a great platform for success in 2023.

The First Grade saw City defeat a gallant Griffith Blacks 20-15, backing that up with 17-12 win in second grade and a 17-0 win in the thirsty thirds.

CSU Reddies won the women's trophy with a win over the 'Tahs.

Best and Fairest awards for each grand final went to:

Men's First XV - Reddies Old Boys Medal - Steven Tracey (Wagga City).

Women's X's - Adamson Family Medal - Biola Dawa (Reddies).

Men's Second XV - Warwick Tout Memorial Medal - Ben Schreiber (Wagga City).

Men's Third XV - McMullen Memorial Medal - Atipela Junior Tuvale (Wagga City).

The major SIRU season individual awards went to Daniel Bozic from Griffith Blacks Rugby and Henry Chamberlain from Waratahs, who shared the Bill Castle Medal for Best & Fairest player in the first grade competition.

The 2022 Alicia Lucas (nee Quirk) Medallist was Amelia Lolotonga from Griffith Blacks Rugby who snared top honours.

The volunteer of the year went to Sam McLeod from Griffith. Sam is the Griffith Juniors President, Griffith Men's 3rd XV Coach, an active member of SIRRA often refereeing both seniors and juniors every weekend, and a member of the SIRU Board.

The Wagga Wagga Crows Junior Rugby Union manned the gate all day and then prepared for the Junior Rugby grand finals the following weekend at Grenfell, which saw some excellent rugby from boys and girls in 10 grades.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME





Planning for WAC Rugby 2023

A big thank you was extended to the 2022 committee and everyone who made the past season possible including the club's valuable sponsors, coaches and volunteers.

It was a strong year for the club with all four grades making the SIRU finals.

Next year we hope to go a few weeks deeper into the finals.

The 2023 committee was elected at the AGM:

President: Ted O'Rafferty

Vice President: Meg Seis

Secretary: Will Quirico

Treasurer: Ellie Burnett

Club captain: Jack Marcus

Sponsorship: Charlie Greer

Merchandise: Will Crawford

Registrar: Malcolm Bartlett

Match day organisers: Tom Heilman and George Hatty

Board members: Harry Cooper, Toby Haylock, Alex Farguhar and Trent Fordham

Club tutor: Doug Farquhar

Spiritual advisor: Lachlan Christie-Johnston

In a real boost for the Aggies head coach Thomas Lamond has signed on again for next year. Everyone is pleased he has committed to the role again after a tremendous 2022 with the club.











Ag Race Day ~17.09.2022 ~Murrumbidgee Turf Club, Wagga

The annual Ag Race Day at the MTC returned in style in 2022, with a large crowd enjoying a day at the races and its associated social activities.

The day was overcast and the track rated a Heavy 10 following weeks of wet weather, but that not deter the public from supporting the Wagga Ag community.



(Photo courtesy of MTC Wagga)

The main event was sponsored by the William Farrer Hotel with the Wagga Aggies Cup won in a photo finish by popular local horse Willybeafactor. The \$2.70 favourite was ridden by leading jockey Nick Heywood and is trained by George Dimitropoulos for a large group of Riverina owners. It was a popular win.

Dimitropoulos then won the next race the Riverina Wool Testers Open Handicap with \$13 chance Mouse Almighty, ridden by up and coming apprentice Molly Bourke to cap off a winning double for the local trainer.

Other races were sponsored by The Black Swan Hotel, Conqueror Milling Company, Riverina Co-Op, Futurity Pastoral and Huon Contractors with the support of these generous sponsors acknowledged by the organising committee and the MTC.

The Aggies Races Photo Gallery, thanks to **Campbell Cole Photography**, can be seen on facebook.

Three of these photos shown below.....

(Photos: courtesy of Campbell Cole Photography)











WACOBU MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS MEMBERSHIP: \$10/year (1 Sept - 31 Aug) **DETAILS:** Name: _____ Years at WAC: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____ phone: _______ **WORK DETAILS:** Employer-_____ Position Title-_____ ______ **I wish to join/renew annual membership from *1 Sep-Aug31 Amount: \$10 **Scholarship Donation: Amount: \$_____ TOTAL: _____ **WACOBU BANK DETAILS BANK: ANZ BSB**: 012-823 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 2070-98615 **REFERENCE:** (your name) **MESSAGE:** (eg, membership, donation) ** PLEASE EMAIL ROZ PRAGNELL ON rozza1957@gmail.com "I have transferred \$____ by EFT to WACOBU for eg, membership". A receipt can then be issued. *The membership period is 1 September to 30 August with allowances that if you join during the period 1 May to 31 August your membership will run until 31 August the next year. WACOBU scholarship donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Any donations are transferred annually to the Charles

Sturt Foundation.