

WACOBU  
P.O. Box 1092  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

# WACOBU News

*Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union*

JULY 2011

## WACOBU Scholarship Recipient – Ally Dingjan



Emer. Prof. Ted Wolfe, Prof. Jim Virgona and Ally Dingjan caught discussing developments in School of Ag and Wine Science

**WACOBU newsletters:**

[http://news.csu.edu.au/alumni/director/publications/wacobu\\_newsletter.cfm](http://news.csu.edu.au/alumni/director/publications/wacobu_newsletter.cfm)

**WAC Rugby - [www.agrugby.rugbynet.com](http://www.agrugby.rugbynet.com).**



# WACOBU COMMITTEE

## WACOBU COMMITTEE

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

### Staff –

#### *A vital part of the WAC community*

The news of the passing of former WAC lecturer, rugby coach and all round good bloke Marty Doran will leave many former students of WAC from the 1970's and WACOBU members saddened.

Marty's passing should also allow some time to reflect on those members of staff who contributed much to student life at WAC, especially during the time when the college was a stand alone educational institution - prior to the amalgamation with the Teachers College and the formation of RCAE and Charles Sturt University.

In this era most students lived on campus and there was more to college life than just the lectures and prac lessons.

Many lecturers, like Marty, became actively involved in college life and took the time to assist students during their studies and life on campus.

Marty was keen on rugby and his coaching style led to premierships for the First XV in 1972-73. He also was involved in other aspects of college life and was committed to pastoral care and Christianity. His main aim was to improve the knowledge and skills of students in the classroom and provide opportunities for them outside the lecturing rooms. He stuck to his principles, was a good communicator and had a great rapport with students. He gained their respect quickly.

For most students lecturers like Marty are fondly remembered. Their contribution and commitment to the students helped make WAC a great place to live and learn in the 1970's.

Speaking of lecturers, there is also some interesting "blatherings" in this newsletter from former 1969-70's era Chemistry lecturer Ron Smithard (students will better remember him as "Smoothie") and he mentions he keeps in contact with other staff members including former Principal Brian Atkins and lecturer David Glastonbury.

This seems to indicate that staff of WAC also formed solid relationships and have made the effort to keep in touch since moving on, much like WACOBU.

Ron and other staff from this era would be very sad to hear of Marty's passing. WACOBU offers their sincere sympathy to the Doran family.

## 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.

It is planned to have two issues each year.

Graeme's contact details are;

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## Ally Dingjan wins WACOBUScholarship

Ally Dingjan was the outstanding candidate for the WACOBUScholarship from an impressive list of 22 applications.

After much discussion amongst the WACOBUScommittee five candidates were selected and interviewed.

Each of the five had been prominent in providing leadership and support for their fellow students in the Schools of Ag and Wine Science (SAWS) and Vet and Animal Science.

They were of a very high standard and would have been worthy recipients of the scholarship.

Ally had been selected by Syngenta to participate in their inaugural Connections program, which was created to involve agriculture students in research projects overseas.

The aim of the project was to not only involve students in research, but also to build awareness of agriculture in other countries.

It was a volunteer role, in which a small group travelled to rural India working with farmers and members of the Punjab Agricultural University to install equipment to help improve water use efficiency.

This aims to not only improve the growth and development of the rice crops, but also to assist in addressing water shortage issues.

Ally has been elected to the NSW Young Farmers Committee, is on their Animal Welfare Committee and is part of a resurgence of interest in NSW Farmers Youth at CSU Wagga - where membership has soared.

It is great to see students taking an interest in the wider industry, an indication they will make a valuable contribution wherever their career leads.

Ally is also an intern at the EH Graham Centre - an indication she's being assessed for research/academic roles.

Ally was also selected for the Rural Supply and Marketing Association Award, normally chosen and presented by Max Croker, former prominent local grain and fertiliser merchant, now retired to Bondi.

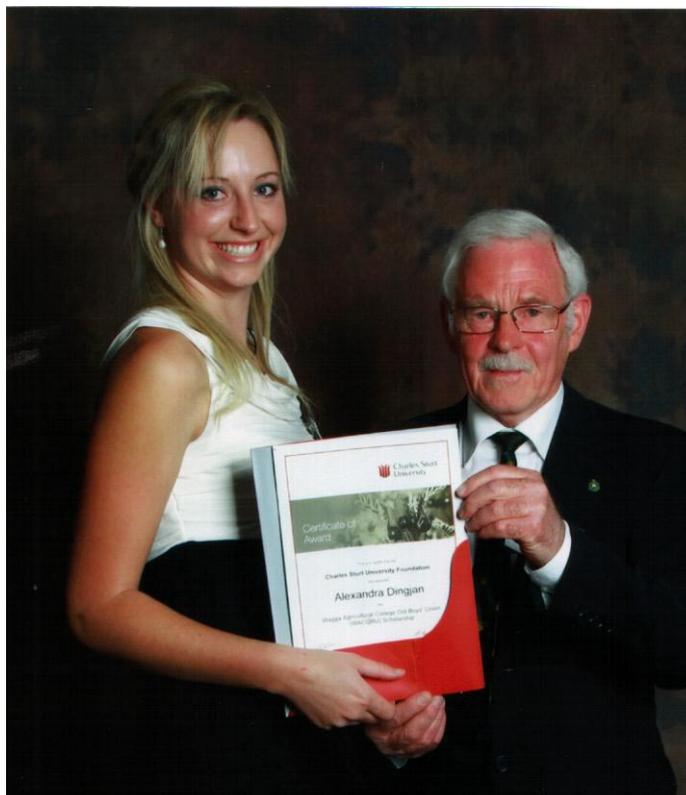
Unfortunately Max is in poor health and Ted Wolfe has been acting for Max in his absence and should be commended for his support of this scholarship.

The WAC year of 1957-1959 was invited to present the scholarship, as they had made a wonderful financial contribution of surplus funds after their last reunion.

Fortunately, Old Boy Bruce Ferguson was available for the task. Ian Mashman informs us Bruce was very nearly Dux of the Year, so was a worthy choice for the job.

Bruce has retired in Wagga following many years of service to the Sheep and Wool industry through the NSW DPI.

Bruce was amazed at the travel and study opportunities available to current students, certainly a contrast to earlier days.



Ally Dingjan receives her award from Bruce Ferguson of Wagga, representing the 1957 - 59 year group.

## Donations needed for WACOBUScholarship

Donations toward the WACOBUScholarship are necessary to perpetuate the award.

To date, the largest contributions have come from a former Head of School, and spouse of a former lecturer.

Former Motts and Grotts are lagging behind the donation drive, so if any year is organising a get together, or any individual ex-student wishes to contribute please do so. Contact Stuart Kanaley or any committee member.

WACOBUS need to keep this scholarship alive.

As can be seen many talented students like Ally benefit greatly from this scholarship.

Please give it some thought.

## Scholarship Application 2011 - Ally Dingjan

### Community Involvement:

Throughout my schooling and university I have always tried to contribute and stay involved in what I'm doing and in the community. I am a member of the Ag Club, and am on the Ag Club Committee as the Events and Publicity Manager.

In addition to this I am on the Ag Races Committee, which involves organising one of the universities biggest social events, as well as the second biggest race meet in Wagga. I'm a member of the Ag Netball team too, representing the club in the Riverina League competition.

In addition to my involvement at university, I'm dedicated to assisting and being involved in the Agricultural Industry.

I have helped at events such as the Henty Field days, and am a NSW Young Farmers representative, and on the NSW Farmers Association Animal Welfare committee. I hope to be elected to the Young Farmers Committee in March.

In 2010 I was part of the Inaugural Syngenta Connections program, which was created to involve agriculture students in research projects overseas. The aim of the project was to not only involve students in research, but also to build awareness of agriculture in other countries.

It was a volunteer role, in which a small group of us travelled to rural India where we worked with farmers and members of the Punjab Agricultural University to install equipment to help improve water use efficiency. This aims to not only improve the growth and development of the rice crops, but also to assist in addressing water shortage issues.

These involvements, especially the trip to India, have taught me a huge amount, and I plan to continue contributing as much as I can.

### Academic Achievements:

I have always tried to maintain a high level of achievement in anything that I put my mind to.

I was always the top of my class at school, and am trying to maintain this in my agricultural degree.

I have ridden horses all my life, and one of my proudest achievements, was saving up for and buying my own horse, breaking him in and educating him myself, gaining a place with him on the state dressage squad and then placing 5th at a national level two years in a row.

In regards to my university work, while I may not be a straight 'high distinction student', I have had a number of other commitments such as my community involvement.

What I am proud of is my ability to know when I need to change something or improve. In the first semester of 2010, I worked a minimum of three nights a week as a waitress at a pub in town to pay for my university fees and horse's feed and agistment.

Each shift didn't finish until around 4am, and most days I was exhausted, and found it hard to concentrate in class. I stopped working there before mid year exams, but I only achieved passes in each subject. Instead of letting this get me down, I tried extra hard in second semester, and despite missing time at uni due to India and a broken leg, I managed to turn it around and pull my marks back up again.

### Other achievements

I am proud of receiving the 2010 HV McKay award, being selected for the Syngenta trip, and being quoted and referenced in the media on some of the issues dealt with while in India. I'm also proud of being chosen for my roles on the various committees, also my current job, working for Barry and Gillian Kirkup on their mixed farming enterprise, specialising in rice in Leeton. I think that this involvement in my university and chosen industry, are just as important as study.

### Goals

Over the next five years, three main goals that I wish to achieve - graduating from my agricultural degree and completing an honours project, gaining employment that can help me to develop and contribute to the agricultural industry and contributing to world agriculture.

I aim to graduate at the end of this year, but continue with my studies and move on to do my honours. My main interests lie in food security (especially rice and meat production) and the wool industry.

I would like to conduct research into one of these areas, and would like to continue to increase my knowledge of and involvement in each of these industries, through committees, conferences and work and work experience.

At the completion of my studies, I want to gain employment in the agricultural industry, in a position that can allow me to give back to agriculture, and help to strengthen the industry that I love.

I have a large interest in agronomy and extension, and think that one of the most important things for the industry is to have a good working relationship between farmers and businesses.

My trip to India last year has also inspired me to do further travel overseas. The best thing about the trip was that we weren't tourists; we were there working, and being part of the community and actually contributing to agriculture in the area. I would really like to do more travel like this, and work on projects which will benefit agriculture in that country.

I am dedicated to working in Australia and really building the strength of agriculture here, I would also like to use my knowledge and the knowledge and practices that we have here, to help improve agriculture in developing countries, to work towards greater food security.

# PASSING OF MARTY DORAN

*A note was sent from Stephen Blunden and others to relay the sad news of Marty Doran's passing.*

## *Stephen wrote:*

I am writing to you in your capacity as a WACOBU Committee member.

In looking through the Committee you appear to be closest to the time when Martin Doran was teaching at WAC.

I think he started in 1970 or maybe 1969, he was a Farm Manager lecturer and had a significant role with students in coaching the Rugby Union teams.

Marty would be well known to students of that era, and I understand he kept in touch with the reunions of the year behind us.

He had a heart attack some years ago when working in Zimbabwe for the World Bank and had an operation in South Africa which as I understand was not very satisfactory and ever since his health has not been good.

Although a HAC graduate who did an Honours degree in Economics at UNE, where he met his lovely wife Robyn, he coached with passion to win whenever we played HAC.

He had a tough exterior but had a warm heart for us students and at the time of his arrival he was not much older than us - so there were long lasting relationships established.

Regards  
Stephen  
Adjunct Fellow  
School of Natural Sciences  
University of Western Sydney  
Mobile 0429341400

## *A note from Stuart Kanaley, WACOBU President*

Stephen,

Very sad news indeed.

Marty was well enough to attend a small rugby reunion for the 1972 premiership team at Beres Ellwood oval - I think that was winter 2009, and another in Canberra (a report was in the June 2010 WACOBU newsletter).

Tough news for all around your time at WAC.

Regards,  
Stuart

**Marty Doran (third from left) enjoyed the company of the 1970-72 Old Boys at a reunion held in Canberra. Students who attended the get together were: (l-r) Terry Coates, Barry Woolacott, Graeme Clifton, Attila Babos, David Seaton, Ralph Wilson, John Irwin and Michael Rafferty.**



# WACOBU 1966 REUNION



Over 8-11 April 2011 we saw one fantastic reunion of the 1964-66 Wagga Old Boys at "Warrawee" Gilgandra, the home of Ross and Jenny Stockings.

The following old boys and their wives and partners included David and Kaye Aldous (Ormiston Qld), Geoff Bushby (Coonamble), Geoff Cornell (Tallebudgera Valley Qld), Barry and Sandra Cunnington Bilambi), Richard and Jill Dutton (Mona Vale), Terry Ellis (Camden Head), Bart and Pam Gannon (Batemans Bay), Bill Gornall (Samoa), Greg Harris and Catherine Sawkins (Canberra), David Hazlett and Victoria (Varroville), Graeme Hockey (Darwin), Roger and Keri Hood (Parkes), Dick Kobelke (Warriewood), Graeme Martin (Tenambit), Tony and Cathy Meares (Albury), Barry Medway (Gunning), Warwick and Carol Pickette (Ulamambri), Bruce Rennard (Manilla and Chile), Neville and Pam Semmler (Diamond Beach), Charlie Smithwick (Albury), Neil and Sue Warner (Crawford River, Frank Watson and Trish (Queanbeyan), Murray Weir (Golden Beach Qld) and Stuart and Judy Whalan (Bateau Bay).

Veterinarian lecturer Roy "Doc" Everett (now retired in Armidale) was a guest.

Apologies were received from Gerry Bolla, (in Thailand), Roger Clough (in Mauritius), Ray Clark (Broken Hill), Geoff and Vida Howe (ballooning in Northam, Western Australia), Andrew Humphrey, Barry Hungerford, Bruce Irvine, Ray Jeffrey, Nick Knight, Noel Linder, Chris Lord, Mick Duck (hip replacement), Reg Hill (Ballarat), Colin Rathbone (clan reunion), Roger Wee

(Sarawak), Peter Polack, Peter Meier, Colin Mew, Ray Moir (Brunei), Dick Gill, Bob Barwell (medical), David Thorold (Kopopo, Papua-New Guinea), Max Cook (medical), Graeme Thomson and John von Drehnen.

We sadly have not been able to locate the whereabouts of, Col Maybury, Peter Ferris, Bruce "Salty" Thompson, and John Balfe.

We also remembered those that have passed on in Tony Phahl, Geoff Townsend, John Heckendorf, Pete Ferris, John Howard, Ken Warner and in the last year Stewart Weekes.

Facts that emerged:

- Five "new" faces" returned in Terry Ellis, Roger Hood, Geoff Bushby, Frank Watson and Barry Cunnington.
- Ross Stockings did his 1000th sky jump in 2010 in a 13 person configuration.
- Seven did time in New Guinea following graduation- Nick Knight, Neville Semmler, Reg Hill, David Thorold, Bill Gornall, Graeme Hockey and Roger Clough.
- Our mascot, a framed picture of Marilyn Monroe, is in safe hands of Col Rathbone and can be seen each reunion.

Prepare yourself for the 2014 Reunion!!

It will be around Easter 2014 at Barry and Ros Medway's "Hillcrest" in Gunning, N.S.W.

## Class of 56 Reunion

*A report from Ian Perrett*



**Front Row, Left to Right; Tom Kennaway, Rod Shearer, John Furner, Jim Harris, Bob Alexander, Ross Shepherd**

**Back Row, Left to Right: Ken Packham, John Peterson, Dave Elder, Ian Perrett, John Grellman, Bruce Irvine, Jeff Bailey, Lex Govaars, Jim Piper**

The Class of 56, held a most successful reunion.

It was organised by John and Jennie Grellman in Salamander Bay in October 2010.

Every living member and their partner attended except for Alan Barton, who was unable to come down from Longreach.

Also present, and very welcome were Eileen Douglas and Wendy Fuller, widows of the recently departed Alan Douglas and Ian Fuller.

As always, it was a very happy occasion, with the innovation this year of three members being asked to tell their life story post College days, at the dinner.

The next reunion is planned for Canberra in 2012, with Lex Govaars doing the organising, and everyone is looking forward to another great reunion next year.

A photo was taken at the dinner, with John Grellman looks as though he is about to throttle John Furner, but I can assure everyone it was a much more friendly affair than that!!

### It's reunion time.....

Motts and Grotts (and friends) of 1979 and those who made it to graduation in 1981!!

#### Reunion

- In Wagga
- August 12 -14, 2011
- Contact Rooster- 0428 033 396

### *Special invitation*

Old boys from 1959-61 and their partners are invited to celebrate 50 years since their graduation at the Ag College Race Day on October 15 at the MTC Race Club, Wagga.

### **1961-63 Reunion update**

There was a 1961-63 reunion held in Wagga on March 19-20.

Showing true WAC spirit, the Old Boys from this era have started work on publication of a 50th Anniversary Year Book.

Now, this will be worth a read!!

More details in the next newsletter.

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## Fergal O’Gara

*A note from Fergal to Stuart Kanaley*

Received the XMAS 2010 newsletter, very well produced and good to catch up with all the news and the great things Ag College is doing.

What’s with all these competitions and study tours to India and Vietnam and academic high achievers..... we were lucky to get a trip to Sam Mancini’s farm in Griffith!!!

Times have changed.... and thanks for the kind words.

Stu, just one thing - why did you cut and paste in a picture of yourself from 1982 into the picture of you presenting the award.... ??

You haven’t changed a bit since the college days

Take care and all the best to you Margaret and family for 201

Fergal

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## Ray Moir (1966)

After graduation in 1966 I began a career in Sales and Marketing with Ciba Geigy (now Syngenta) and progressed to General Manager - Animal Feeds for Australia/Asia for Carnation Company (now owned by Nestle).

Becoming sick of constant domestic and overseas travel and disenchanted with raising kids in Sydney I opted for a “sea change” and moved to Perth in 1982.

I saw an opportunity to start a turf farm as turf sales were non-existent in WA at that time.

I sourced some seed capital investors and floated on ASX to raise \$5 million which allowed me to set up the largest turf farm in WA.

I ran the Company until 2000 and sold out to “retire”.

However, during the Asian boom period I grassed 17 golf courses in SE Asia and also 3 new polo fields for the Sultan of Brunei and became recognised as a “sportsfield expert”??

I was the approached to consult to Sultan of Brunei, Education Dept, Ascot Racetrack, numerous golf courses, private schools and councils and am still consulting (and still trying to retire!!)

My major role last year was being retained by FIFA to oversee the pitches in South Africa for the Soccer World Cup.

Last year I hosted a reunion in Perth for the 64-66 boys and had a great time with 40 people travelling West for the occasion.

I would be interested to know what old boys are here in the West?

Best Regards,  
Ray Moir  
17 Dreyer Way,  
BULLCREEK WA 6149  
(08) 93121836 or 0427320541

NB: Stuart Kanaley let Ray know that he had a long yarn one night to Bill Creswell 1960-62, who had been farming at Williams ever since he left WAC.

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## Scott Boothey

*(formerly on WACOBU committee) - 1988*



Scott Boothey (“Coit” 1985-88) is working his way up the international corporate ladder, having just been appointed Managing Director – United Kingdom & Ireland for multinational agrochemical company Dow AgroSciences.

He completing his degree in agricultural science in 1988 and then commenced work for Australian Fertilisers (now Incitec Pivot) in a sales role in Wagga, before completing a graduate diploma in agricultural marketing by correspondence in 1991, again through CSU, then moving on to work for local agricultural business, Hanlon Enterprises based in Junee.

In 2000 he commenced work for Dow AgroSciences working with other Old Boys Col Plater and Hugh Mayo, being involved in a variety of sales and marketing responsibilities during his 7 years based in Wagga.

“Coit” continued his studies at CSU, again by distance education but this time outside the school of agriculture and graduated with a Master of Business Administration in 2005, before being transferred to New Zealand in 2008 as Marketing Manager for that country.

During his 10 years with Dow AgroSciences he has had the opportunity to visit and work in Canada, Singapore, Thailand, China, the USA, Japan and now he’ll add the experience of living in England for the next few years, on top of having just experienced living in New Zealand for the last three years.

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## Martin Forbes (1971)

martin.forbes5@bigpond.com

Thank you very much for the newsletter and recent contact.

As I said, I am now in Ballarat, having moved here from Gundagai after living at Narrandera and working at Yanco Ag College.

I understand David McGhee (66-68) is also in the Ballarat area and have been trying to contact him as I knew him at YAHS as well.

I attended WAC 1969-1971 and also completed a DipEd there in 1979.

I was also on the Executive Committee in the 70's and am also a life member - having signed up whilst on the executive.

The 1971ers are having a big reunion this year to celebrate 40 years - plans are still being made but I would hope that Wagga is selected.

Regards

Martin Forbes

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## Steven MacDonald (1973)

Hi Graeme, Thanks for the newsletter.

Sad to hear of the passing of Colin Munro who roamed the Rural ABC office when it was on the 4th Floor of the Westpac building in William Street (Pre Harris Street/Ultimo premises) and then went on to representing ABC in broader capacity.

He also made it to my "25 years with ABC bash" at the Kempsey studio a few years back. . I have very fond memories of my 25 years with ABC Radio and Colin Munro.

ABC Radio on the mid north coast now operates out of Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

Also Phil Doyle Beef Officer based at Coffs Harbour for many years who was always at the ready for an interview on beef breeding and what could be done to improve your herd.

Two great WAC Old Boys!

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## Vale – Terry Cracknell (1970)

WACOBU Life Member Terry Cracknell (1970) passed away after a long battle with melanoma in Tamworth on Wednesday January 19 2011. Terry is survived by wife Denise son Paul and daughter Meaghan.

Denise (nee Milliken) was Brian Atkins secretary at the Wagga Ag College.

Terry's funeral was held on January 25 at St. Johns Anglican Church Tamworth.

(Note forwarded from Phil Morrison - 1970)

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## Ted Wolfe – taking on another key role

Ted Wolfe continues to contribute greatly to the wider community in southern NSW by assuming the role of Chair of Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.

Ted will be a great asset for Landcare and should be a great bridge across the divide between community and govt.

The Murrumbidgee Landcare committee for 2011 are made up of the Chairs (or their representatives) from the 15 Landcare Networks in the Murrumbidgee catchment, with 12 Landcare Networks in NSW and three in the ACT.

Executive

PROFESSOR TED WOLFE, CHAIR

Geoff Henderson, Deputy Chair

Lynton Bond, Treasurer

Tony Robinson, Secretary

Committee members include

Glenys Patulny, Lyn Jenkins, Gus Sharp, Skye Bellamy,

Nick Austin, Peter McCallum, Peter Lawson, James Male and Ian Auldlist.

NB:

Ted is also very prominent in working for cancer support groups in Wagga Wagga.

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## Jim Kemp, past WACOBU President, passes away.

Former WACOBU president Jim Kemp (1952 graduate) passed away on February 14 this year.

Jim farmed at "Kanimbla" Holbrook for many years, until shortly before his death at the age of 79.

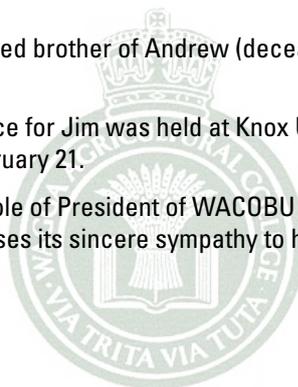
Jim was the loving husband of Janet, father and father-in-law of Rita and Charlie Bowler, Douglas and Jennifer Kemp, Jane and Duncan Scobie and Fiona and Stuart Anderson. He was a fond grand-dad of 12.

He was also a loved brother of Andrew (deceased) and Janet Lynn.

The funeral service for Jim was held at Knox Uniting Church, Holbrook, on February 21.

Jim took on the role of President of WACOBU in the mid 50's and WACOBU expresses its sincere sympathy to his family on his passing.

Vale Jim Kemp.



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## Stewart McLennan (1971)

Stewart has fond memories of Wagga Ag College and would have loved to be back in Australia to attend the 1971 year reunion planned for October.

Stewart wrote:

“I was last at a reunion the year I made a film on WAC for one of its milestones with John Millard and Colin Munro (other ABC guys). Extremely sad Colin has died.

Re the film, I will make a suggestion to you and to Ian McMillan, that someone digitises a copy of the film and puts it up on the WACOBU website.

Lots of places could make the digital copy and then uploading and linking it via say YouTube is not hard.

I have a YouTube account and would be happy for it to be posted there. They are free, so alternatively you could create a separate one for WACOBU.

If all else fails surely the people in the Media faculty at CSU could help. The challenge is to locate a copy of the video.

I know a number of our 71-ers have one. At least one copy to the best of my memory was given to the college archives.”

The reason Stewart will not be in Wagga in October for the reunion is that Stewart and Lesley are now in Europe living an adventure after designing and building a boat for travelling the waterways of Europe – and it had to be wheelchair accessible as Stewart has MS.

Initially, they found a boat building company which had experience in building barges, including those which are wheelchair accessible. These have mainly been for use by charities which take people with disabilities out on day or overnight excursions.

Stewart’s specific needs meant the barge had to be easy to live on, and drive.

This meant, for example, installing a hydraulically powered scissor lifter to take him and his chair up to the controls and from the wheelhouse down to the barge’s living quarters.

A special air-conditioning system manages the boats climate; essential for someone with MS. The boat is controlled via joysticks.

The boat was built at Mirfield, about 16 miles south of Leeds in West Yorkshire, and the first five weeks of life aboard Endellion were spent in this town while the builders worked around them.

Twenty months after Stewart’s first tentative phone call to the builders, they were heading off on a 36 tonne barge that Stewart can drive the wheelchair onto and around, can drive the barge as easily as anyone else and just Stewart and Lesley are able to capably manage her.

If anyone would like to hear first-hand about their experiences with the design, building and the support from the company they used during this project, contact Stewart and Lesley via their website.

Wheelchair users and folk in their 80s have similarly been able to enjoy accessible living and travelling on “Endellion”.

Their journeys are documented on their website ( google: endellion barge).

At the time the note was received the MacLennan’s were in Paris and were hoping to have at least one WAC mate, Ian McMillan and his wife Pam join them - as they travelled through Burgundy.



## A message from Ron Smithard

*“Smoothie” was a lecturer in Chemistry and sent this note to WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley.*

Dear Stuart,

Thank you for the copy of the WACOBU NEWS. I have had a look at Stewart MacLennan’s blog and was disturbed to find that he is in a wheelchair. Are you able to tell me how this came about?

Also, if you have an email address for him I would be grateful for the opportunity to write to him.

In your message you mention that Stewart is ‘set up’ in France; has he migrated or is he on tour?

I keep in touch (well I send him a Christmas letter) with Brian Atkins, and I hope that we will see Brian and Judy when we visit Oz in December. Similarly, we maintain some sort of contact with other former members of WAC staff; David and Lisa Glastonbury have stayed with us a few times before setting out on their cycling or walking expeditions.

We continue to live in the North East of England (Newcastle is 13 miles to the south; Edinburgh is about 110 miles to the north).

We are, of course, retired and have done a lot of travelling in Europe and the Middle East.

Our principal active recreation is walking, mainly in the Cheviot Hills (about 40 minutes away), but also overseas (last year it was Syria in April and Switzerland in September).

In your email you made an enquiry about our living in UK. Is there anything in particular that you wished to know or were you just being polite? I have a tendency to write too much so I shall wait to hear from you before plaguing you with my blatherings.

Best wishes,

Ron S.

See overleaf for Smoothie’s blather ▶



# Smoothie's (alias Ron Smithard) blather...

## Lecturer in Chemistry at WAC from 1969-RCAE takeover

Here for better or worse are a few random musings of a former member of staff of The College.

It is a curious fact that although I never shook off the feeling of being an outsider at WAC, at times when I have had (quite modest) international duties to perform I have chosen to wear a Wagga Agricultural College tie. Perhaps more of that later.

In 1969 when I was appointed to a lectureship at WAC, a rellie (himself a successful farmer) commented 'What would he know about agriculture?'

Alas that was all too valid a comment, and it was one of the reasons for my feeling a bit of a fraud.

The fact that so many of my colleagues like the Lysaght boys, Col Levick, Dave Heptonstall and Lindsey Beer came up through the Ag. College system, and that Brian Atkins, John Aiken and Peter Slater had Ag. Sci. degrees reinforced the sense of being an intruder.

Add to all that the fact that my subject, chemistry, was hardly central to Aggies' interests - and it is no wonder that I felt alien.

I arrived at WAC on the day after the first moon landing and learnt that Brian Atkins had declared the previous day a holiday so that students could watch the historic event on TV.

I had spent the day being indoctrinated and initiated into the Department of Agriculture.

The College and its life were a whole new world to me. I had not 'done agriculture'; I had never been away to college or university, in fact I had never been a full-time student. So being dropped into this strange culture and of acting, from time to time, as Duty Officer, was quite a trial.

That was especially so after I had been acquainted with an unpleasant experience that one of my colleagues had suffered in the dining room. Still it was a case of getting on with it.

And what I learnt was that the Aggies were just decent lively young blokes, and later girls, who were surprisingly tolerant and forgiving towards an agricultural novice.

The early 1970s were a tricky time for the WAC staff - it is the only time I have had to apply for the same job three times; first was for the original appointment, second was when WAC became a 'college of advanced education' and finally when WAC was invaded by Riverina College.

During those times we had hardly any idea of what was going to happen to us. But difficult as it might have been for the 'Indians', it must have been even worse for the Chief, Brian Atkins.

It seems to be an Anglo Saxon failing that we wait until somebody dies before we say a good word for him or her; I would like to break that custom and give it as my opinion that Brian Atkins is one of nature's gentlemen, a man of compassion and integrity. If he has a failing it is that of being too honest and upright to have been lumbered with the negotiations for the 'merging' of WAC and Riverina College.

Brian is one of those people that this world needs more of.

Ultimately when the Rivcoll take-over was complete only one member of WAC academic staff was shunted out of Agriculture, namely one R. Smithard. I was transferred to Applied Science.

After enduring the poisonous atmosphere of Rivcoll for a year or two I sought a sabbatical at CSIRO. For Rivcoll CSIRO was not acceptable, so I tried for a sabbatical in UK, ending up in 1978 at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and here we are still in the North-east.

One of the paradoxes of a fairly undistinguished academic career was that the two roles that provided the most success and satisfaction were both Honorary posts undertaken in addition to teaching and research duties.

One was that of Senior Warden of Castle Leazes Halls of Residence, the other was as editor of The Proceedings of the Nutrition Society. The latter, in addition to the obvious editorial tasks, involved the organisation of the Society's conferences in collaboration with the Programmes Secretary.

So it was that at meetings in Dublin, Galway, Belfast, Rennes, Paris, Dijon, Bordeaux and Aberdeen one of the delegates wore a WAC tie. The tie had been given to me by Don Joyes, as ever, more generous than he should have been. The tie had another outing at Peebles at my academic swan song, an invited paper Secondary plant metabolites in poultry nutrition at the WPSA (World's Poultry Science Association) meeting in 2001.

Over the twenty years at the university I had seen a number of retired staff haunting the place and I was determined not to do so. After retirement we got another life; we took up walking more seriously, we became welcomers etc. at St. Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle, room stewards at Lindisfarne Castle (a National Trust property) on Holy Island and members of the Northern Architectural History Society. And now here we are ageing disgracefully; our energetic pastime is walking (mainly in the Cheviot hills, but also overseas - I will not list the places, it would sound pretentious). One of my less energetic pastimes is making my own whisky. I also sip it.

We will visit Oz in December and I will leave with the archivist at Charles Sturt University a heap of photographic slides of WAC in the 1970s. There is nothing of any great significance among them but perhaps one day some historian might find a use for them.

I did warn that I write too much, but this is both too much and too little ... but here it is!

Ron Smithard  
3 North Whitehouse  
Stannington  
MORPETH  
NE61 6AW  
01670 789 342  
ron.smithard@gmail.com

## Vale Trevor Ronning

It is with considerable regret, respect and affections for the man, that I inform you of the sad passing of Trevor Rudolph Ronning -76 years DOB 24/10/1934, late of Cootamundra, NSW.

Trevor passed away at Greenwich Hospital, Sydney on November 21, 2010 with his immediate family in attendance.

Trevor attended Wagga Agricultural College 1951-1953, attaining his Diploma of Agriculture.

He is survived by his widow Janelle and their sons David (Sydney) and Philip (Cootamundra) and his seven grandchildren of whom he shared an unbounding admiration and love.

I liked Trevor from day one at College and envied the man's good looks, his very ready laugh and humour and the caring manner in which he referred to his parents and home life.

He was forever smiling or laughing with such infectious quick friendly nature which appealed to our diverse characters as students, as well as the academic staff and farm employees.

Trevor was slight of build and speedy and rightly earned a rapid hold on the wing in rugby and relished each opportunity of being fed a pass from the centres to deliver that ball just as far towards those sticks as he could. Whilst at Wagga Ag Trevor set a new sprint record which was held for a number of years. Trevor was also an accomplished swimmer, and seemed almost as fast in the water as on land.

His home farm was at Cootamundra and following his graduation made this country his home and future. His home property of "BYROCK" showed Trevor's care, planning and damned hard work raising sheep, cattle and cropping with success. The animal husbandry skills he learnt at WAC were applied with great success as Trevor's stock were always in good condition.

He married his life partner Janelle in 1959 and no man had a more loving, dutiful and charming wife. As the onset of his illness increased intensity, Janelle never spared herself to drive Trevor backwards and forwards to specialist interviews and treatment in Sydney. Janelle drove herself relentlessly for her mate.

Trevor was fiercely proud of his sons, grandsons and granddaughters and leaves a legacy of seven grandchildren

I am sure the fellows fortunate enough to have met and known Trevor will share my deep regrets as he finally lost the battle with disease, will treasure and honour his memory, and pass on our deepest sympathy to Janelle and her family.

Bob Liebmann  
liebmann@tpg.com.au

## James Clyde Grellman

10.04.1931- 6.12.2010

Jim, when he entered the college in 1951, was two years older than the rest of the new students, who were generally straight from school, having been out in the workforce since passing the Leaving Certificate at The Kings School. He helped in the family blacksmithing business and then worked as a clerk, in the West Wyalong Shire Office, a position far from suited for one who loved the outdoors, until he had enough money to put himself through Wagga Ag. College. Two years age difference at that time of life seemed more like ten and he acted as a mentor to his classmates, for which we were very grateful.

"Grello" was a natural sportsman gifted with a "good eye" and excelled in rifle shooting, cricket, swimming, boxing and rugby, which he captained in his final year.

He was always on the lookout for any farming activity near the college that would expand his experience and that of his mates.

Because of his sense of responsibility and attitude he developed a very good rapport with the staff and this was of help to him, not only at the college, but within the Dept. of Ag. which he joined on graduation.

Joining the sheep and wool section of the department was a "natural" for him and it took him to Leeton, Glen Innes, Wagga and Cooma where he met and married a vet, Margot Archer. They were married on 6th September 1961.

He had always wanted to go out on his own, so he set up as a sheep classing contractor, at Cooma, having a ready list of clients from his departmental job. Such was his success in this field that he was offered a job, under the then Colombo Plan, to establish and manage a Corriedale breeding programme in India on the Rajasthan Plain. Jim found the Project "to be an enlightening experience". On one occasion he was unlucky enough to get swept up in the crowd of a riot and from which, he was fortunate to escape, unscathed but shaken.

Back in Australia Jim and Margot established a tree lopping and light excavation business and Margot recommenced practicing as a vet. His brother, John, had been managing a cotton enterprise at Wee Waa and with this experience they decided to purchase a small irrigation farm and commenced growing cotton. The family moved to Narrabri. After successfully establishing the enterprise, Jim, however, decided he preferred working with stock than farming so he dissolved the partnership with John and returned to a property at Terranora that he and Margot had acquired.

A few years later they moved back to Canberra and Jim bought land at Gundaroo where he ran his much loved fine wool sheep and cattle.

Jim died on 6th December and is survived by his widow, Margot and two daughters, Karen and Chantel.

## 40 Year Reunion



- **Graduating Year Of 1971**
- **In Wagga, October 13-16**

Our year is set to celebrate 40 years since leaving the college.

The event is scheduled for October 13-16 in Wagga, which also includes the WAC Race Day on October 15.

I have noticed that several other years have held reunions in Wagga and these have included a visit to the College.

The 1971 students are also planning to undertake a visit to see the old stamping grounds.

Obviously there has been some assistance provided by the university to achieve this.

Could the WACOBU committee give us some clues as to how to achieve a memorable event and provide a potential program for a visit.

Looking forward to your response.

Enquiries can be directed to:

Ian McMillan  
0418 340 658  
ian@cleargol.biz  
Martin Forbes  
martin.forbes@bigpond.com

## ***50 Year Reunion for the 1959-1961 Students***

The 1959-61 years will hold a special 50 year reunion at Wagga Ag College race day weekend in October.

Amongst the activities will be a tour of the University, with special emphasis on WAC.

It seems that Rex Brown, whose contact details appear at the bottom of the article, has volunteered to be the contact for Old Boys of this year.

Thanks Rex!!

There have been a number of successful reunions in recent years, so 1959-1961 Old Boys - here is your chance to catch up, enjoy a day at one of the biggest race days in southern NSW at Wagga and a weekend of reminiscing with mates from your college years.

Rex wrote:

"I attended WAC 1959-1961 but have been out of touch for a lot of years.

I was speaking to Bob Craze and he passed on your contact details to me.

Has any of our year expressed an interest in organising a 50 year reunion?

I would be very keen to attend.

If no one has volunteered to do the job I am happy to have a go at it if you can pass on any contacts you have for old boys from our year.

I am currently living in Orange my address is:

Rex Brown  
51 Green Lane,  
Orange, NSW, 2800.  
Phone 0419 467 806.  
wrbrown20@hotmail.com

PS:

I have been running a Lawn Mower sales and repair business here for 20 years but have recently sold and retired.

Regards,

Rex Brown



## Recent graduates Of CSU...

A new website promoting careers in agriculture NEEDS YOUR HELP

Rex Stanton, Research Officer at the E H Graham Centre in Wagga is requesting some help to assist the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture (ACDA).

They are developing a new website that will provide information to promote the variety of tertiary careers that are available in agriculture.

ACDA is currently leading the development of the website to promote tertiary careers in the cropping, fisheries, forestry, horticultural and viticultural industries.

## 2011 Careers Fair

The AAICF Agriculture and Animal Industry Careers Fair will be held on July 28 at Joyes Hall at CSU.

A number of WAC Old Boys will represent various employers and careers at this event.

Last year 12 Old Boys were present, covering a range of careers in agriculture and beyond.

The event is organised by a student committee with staff guidance.

Please spread the news and if you want to be involved contact staff at SAWS.

The careers are separated into pre-farm gate, on-farm and processing and retail sectors, and highlights the range of professions involved in the food and fibre supply chain.

As part of the website content, it is envisaged to include testimonials (around 150 - 200 words in length) from recent graduates for a range of job profiles, highlighting the exciting and diverse careers that can be pursued by students.

The type of information required in the testimonial would be:

Name:

Position:

Qualifications:

\* What the job involves

\* How you obtained the job

\* What you like/dislike about the job

\* Why you chose this career

\*\*NB: If you are able to supply a photo of an aspect of your job as well, that would be greatly appreciated.

More information on this project can be obtained by contacting:

Dr Rex Stanton

Research Officer

E.H. Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation

(an alliance between Charles Sturt University and I&I NSW)

Locked Bag 588

WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Ph. +61 2 6938 1618

F. +61 2 6938 1861

Email: rstanton@csu.edu.au

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

## Wagga Ag College Rugby Union Club (Est. 1949)

### 2010 Presentation Night Awards

Presentation Night 2010 was a cracker of an evening with 150 attendees coming from the rugby and netball clubs. Major sponsor the William Farrer Hotel put on a great feed and looked after us perfectly as always.

Award winners are as follows.

#### 1st XV

Best and Fairest: Aaron Seaman  
 Best Forward: Dave Armstrong  
 Best Back: Shahid Khalfan  
 Most Consistent: James Whitely

#### 2nd XV

Best and Fairest: Chris Stott  
 Best Forward: James Kanaley  
 Best Back: Tom Rookyard  
 Most Consistent: Cam Jenkins

#### 3rd XV

Best and Fairest: Stephen Laing  
 Best Forward: Nick Reid  
 Best Back: Chris Bettison  
 Most Improved: Steve Blacker

#### Club Awards

Best Mott: Bart Whitely  
 Best Clubperson: Helen Woodhouse  
 WAC Spirit of Rugby: Andrew Lean

#### Life Membership

Life membership to the club was provided to Mick Friend. Mick was been an intergal part of the club for some 10 years as a player coach and administrator. Mick has continued in the club this season coming in an administration capacity on the board as Vice President.



#### 2010 farewells

2010 was the last year at the club for several faces. First Grade captain Chris Molineaux is searching the greener pastures of Europe, James Kanaley is searching the Greener pastures of June!!

The Super Coach Gav Seaman has moved on to bigger and better things down south and several regular first grade players are getting closer to the end of their degrees.

#### 2011 season information

##### Club Officials

President: Campbell "Fibre" Wilson  
 Vice President: Mick Friend  
 Treasurer: Cameron Rosser  
 Secretary: Rob Harris  
 Patrons: Ramone Wacelberry  
 Trevor Fosdyke

### RUGBY WRAP - Ag College Rugby

Once again Ag College rugby has kicked off the season in fine style.

The First XV suffered their first loss for the season in Round 9 against the Cootamundra Tricolours at Beres Ellwood Oval in a major shock.

Up to this point in the competition Ag College has played strong rugby to defeat all other sides, including big wins over arch rivals Waratahs and Rivcoll.

However, it should be remembered that Ag College had several players on representative duty with the SIRU representative team, who played the Australian Police National team at Campbelltown on the same day.

A week earlier SIRU won the Brumbies Provincial Championship in Canberra, with several Ag College players featuring in the team's hard fought win over Monaro 36-20 and their easy victory over South Coast 79-7.

Wagga Ag College No. 8 Dave Armstrong was named player of the Tournament after playing outstanding rugby in a key position.

It was the second year that Provincial team has played the Police with the

result going the way of the Provincial side 50 to 26 in 2010.

This year the Provincial Team had 10 Southern Inland, 9 Monaro and 4 South Coast players from 13 different clubs across the Brumbies region and they made it two wins in two years with a hard fought victory 26 to 22 victory, with Aggie Tim Corcoran scoring a vital try.

There were many excellent performances in the Brumbies Provincial side but none were better than their No 8, Aggies David Armstrong who was voted by the Police side as the Brumbies Provincial Team's most outstanding player, backing up from a great effort the previous week.

Well done Dave!

The Ag College First XV side will now concentrate on their Club rugby and are hoping to go one better than last year.

The lower grades are also right in the mix for finals footy.

LETS GET BEHIND AG COLLEGE RUGBY AS THEY STRIVE FOR PREMIERSHIP HONOURS IN 2011.



## Ag College Celebrates Ladies Day In Style

The Aggies looked pretty in pink as they hosted arch rivals Wagga Waratahs in their Ladies Day at Beres Ellwood Oval.

Many sporting clubs in Australia host a "day in pink" to support research into breast cancer and the Aggies donned a special jersey and pink socks for the day.

With a large crowd in attendance, Ladies Day was well supported. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the day - both on and off the field.

On the field the First XV enjoyed a day out over old foes Waratahs, demolishing their rivals 51-7 in a fantastic team effort.

### FINALS AHEAD

The club seems destined to play finals football this season and the semi-final series kicks off on August 20 (venue not known). The second week of finals is on August 27 (venue unknown) with **GRAND FINAL DAY** at Connolly Park, Wagga on September 3.



# The Black Swan Quick Shear Competition

Saturday, October 9 2010 saw the running of the first Black Swan Quick shear competition at "The Duck", with over \$5000 raised for charity.

The event was organised in conjunction with two young Ag College shearers and "The Duck" with a crowd of over 300 at the well-known watering hole watching the competition.

It was a great day with over 30 competitors in 3 divisions - Uni - Intermediate and Opens. There was over \$4000 in cash and prizes to be won.

The open division title taken out by kiwi import Bevan Guy who shored his lamb in the final in 34 seconds being a real crowd pleaser and taking home \$1000 for his efforts. Major sponsors for the day included The Black Swan Hotel, Hamilton Luff Burton and Co livestock and property agents, Landmark, Elders, Western Wool Marketing, Australian Shearing Equipment and Ag N Vet services.

A \$5000 contribution was made from proceeds to the Beyond Blue foundation in support of rural depression.

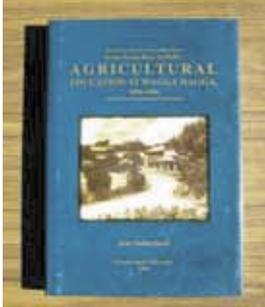
A great event and congratulations to all concerned.





# WACOBU Merchandise

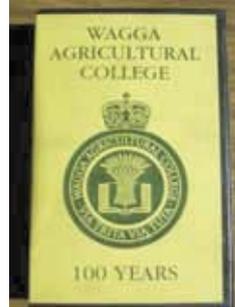
Post order from to PO Box 1092 Wagga Wagga 2650



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

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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)

WACOBU Membership White \$10.00 per year

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 WACOBYU 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@industry.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.