

WACOB
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WACOB News

Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union



2018

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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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DOMAN HALL

Great Memories



Another part of WAC's history disappeared from the CSU landscape with the demolition of Doman Hall.

An appropriate and important ceremony was held in Joyes Hall at CSU on February 15 this year to recognise the importance of Doman Hall in WAC's long history.

As revealed at the ceremony, Dick Doman and Don Joyes – two significant men in WAC's growth, worked hard to ensure that an accommodation block was built to improve the quality of college life for students.

CSU provided an excellent program for the occasion and combined with the launch of the book "Doman" by Wagga historian Mrs Sherry Morris the significance of Doman Hall in the history of WAC was reinforced.

Dick Doman's daughter and grand-daughter also attended, highlighting the importance of what the first Principal of WAC achieved in getting this building constructed for the benefit of students.

Many WAC Old Boys will have their own stories of their college life at Doman Hall, with some printable (as shown in Sherry Morris' book) and others destined to remain out of the public arena.

Stu Kanaley, WACOBUS President, gave an excellent talk and it was pleasing to see several Old Boys turn up for the occasion and talk to members of Dick Doman's family.

The changes in the landscape at CSU's Wagga campus continue at a rapid rate and with the changes in the delivery and variety of courses at the university, this ceremony was a time to reflect on the "good old days" of WAC and college life.

May the stories and memories of student life in Doman Hall continue to be heard from the students of WAC in years to come at reunions.

Doman Block Demolished...

A significant piece of the history of Wagga Ag College has ended with the demolition of Doman Block.

Charles Sturt University removed this landmark building after it has served generations of students at WAC and CSU as an accommodation block.

Doman Hall opened at the Wagga Agricultural College in 1964 as a student residence, a role it served until 2017.

The building was named after Mr Bernard 'Dick' Doman, the first Principal of the Wagga Agricultural College. He and the College's House Master Don Joyes lobbied throughout the 1950s for a new student accommodation block.

A ceremony took place at Joyes Hall at CSU on Thursday February 15, 2018.

The invitation to ex-students stated:

As an Alumni of Charles Sturt University we invite you to join us for a celebration of the Doman Block.

Doman Block has a long and colourful history and holds special memories for many.

It was named in honour of the first Principal of the Wagga Agricultural College, Mr Bernard 'Dick' Doman, and was 'home' for many students over the years.

Relive your memories and reminisce with friends as we pay tribute to this special part of university history.

Join the relatives of the late Dick Doman, CSU staff and members of the community for a celebratory morning tea and the launch of a commemorative book "History of Doman" by Sherry Morris.....

Thursday February 15 2018,

10.30am

Joyes Hall

Executive Director of the CSU Division of Facilities Management Mr Stephen Butt said the University wanted to acknowledge the history of Doman Hall.

At the same time a book about Doman Hall's 53 year old history by Wagga historian and author Mrs Sherry Morris was unveiled.

This book is available for purchase. A google search will reveal information on the book – which has a great story and tremendous photo collection.

A plaque and interpretative signage will be erected on the site of Doman Hall, and along with the book by Mrs Morris, the legacy of the building and the important role it played in many people's lives is remembered.

Doman Hall has reached the end of its useful life and as a result the University has decided to demolish the building to mitigate risk and undue maintenance costs.

The site has been landscaped and a nearby carpark expanded.

Relatives of the late Mr Doman joined past and present CSU staff and students, and members of the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union (WACOBU) and the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society at the book launch and the unveiling of a plaque and interpretative signage.

WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley gave a talk on the significance of the building for students of WAC.

Although Stuart related many anecdotes about the antics that happened in Doman block, many of the stories that could have been told were thankfully left unrevealed.

Many ex-students can relax – those stories remain “in-house”.

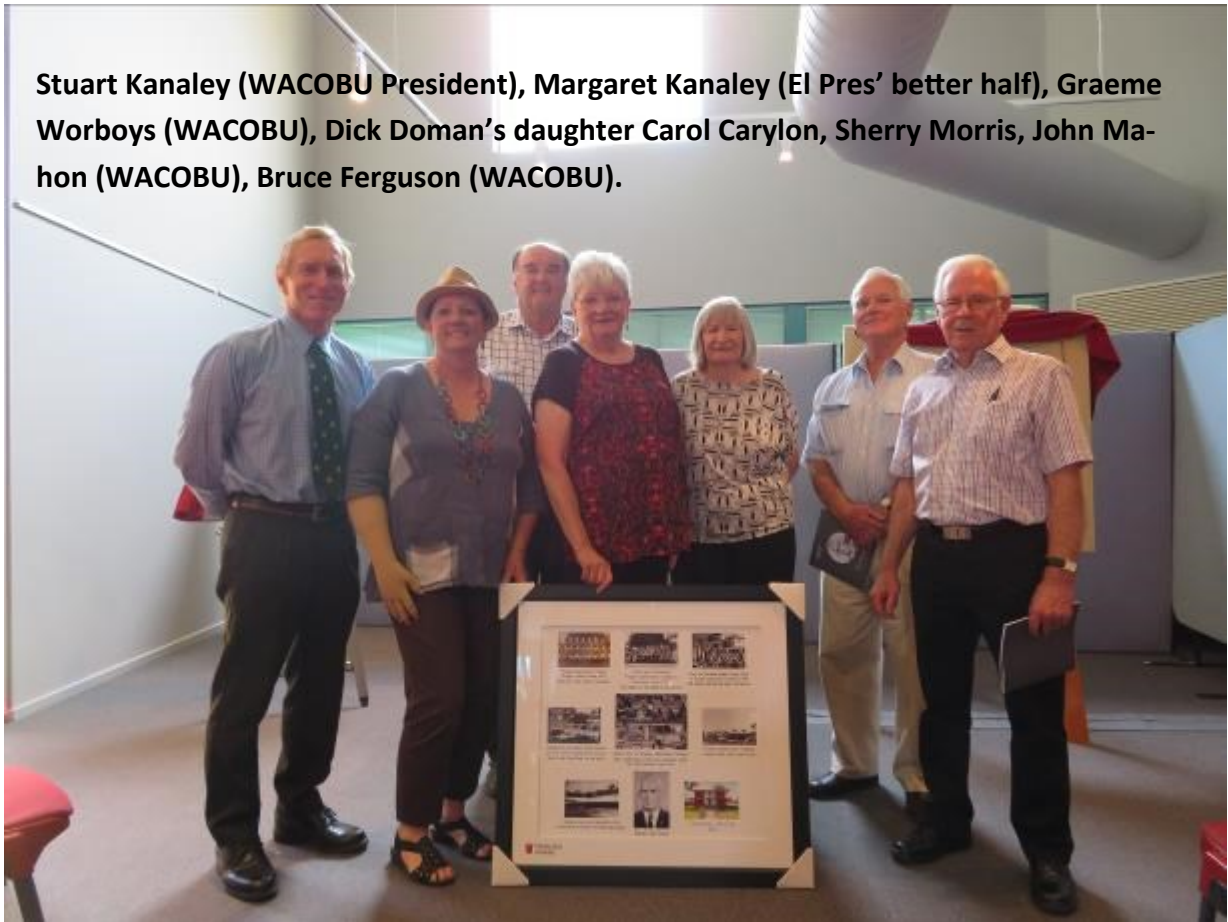
CSU should be acknowledged for organising this occasion and ensuring the legacy of Dick Doman remains a significant part of Wagga Agricultural College history.

Stephen Butt and his staff did a great job and the ceremony was a fitting occasion for Dick Doman's family and those associated with WAC and the Old Boys Union.

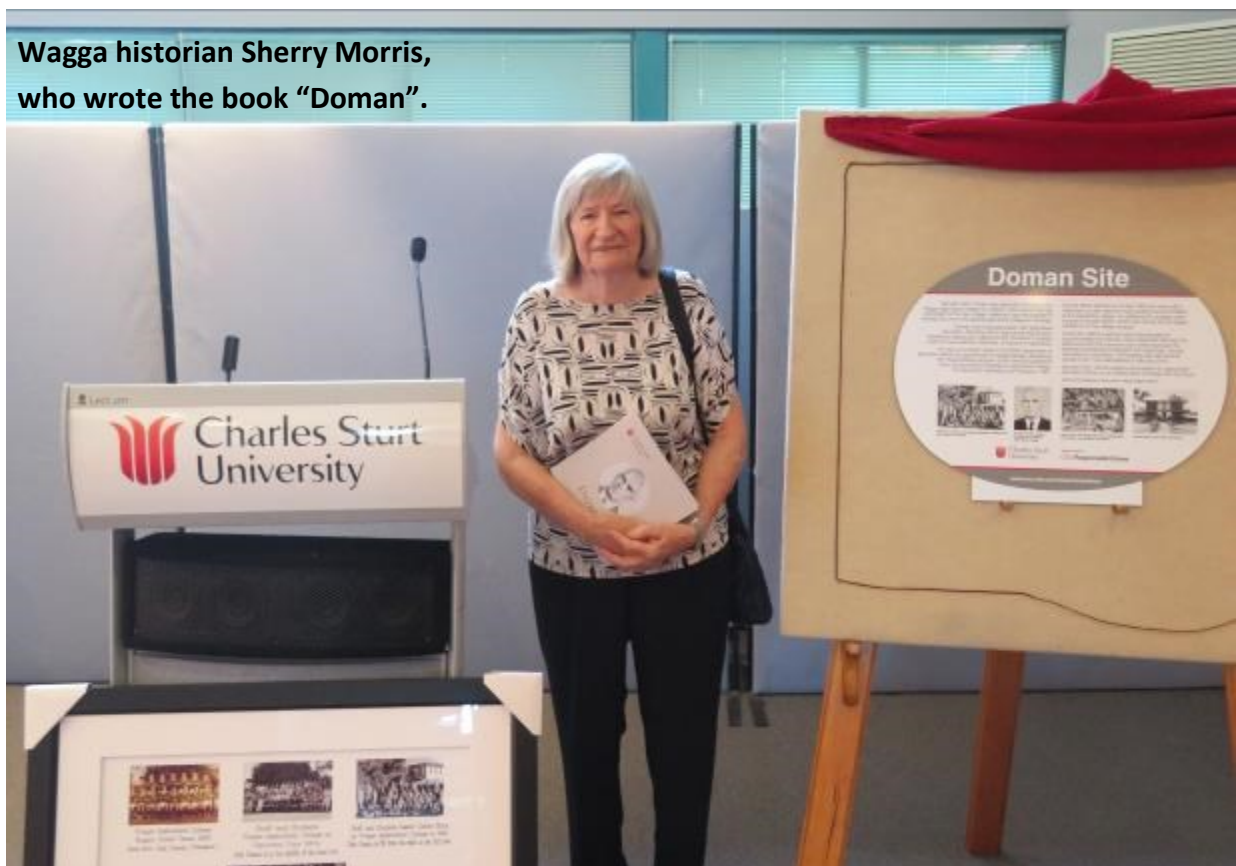


At the Ceremony...

Stuart Kanaley (WACOBU President), Margaret Kanaley (El Pres' better half), Graeme Worboys (WACOBU), Dick Doman's daughter Carol Carylon, Sherry Morris, John Mahon (WACOBU), Bruce Ferguson (WACOBU).



Wagga historian Sherry Morris, who wrote the book "Doman".

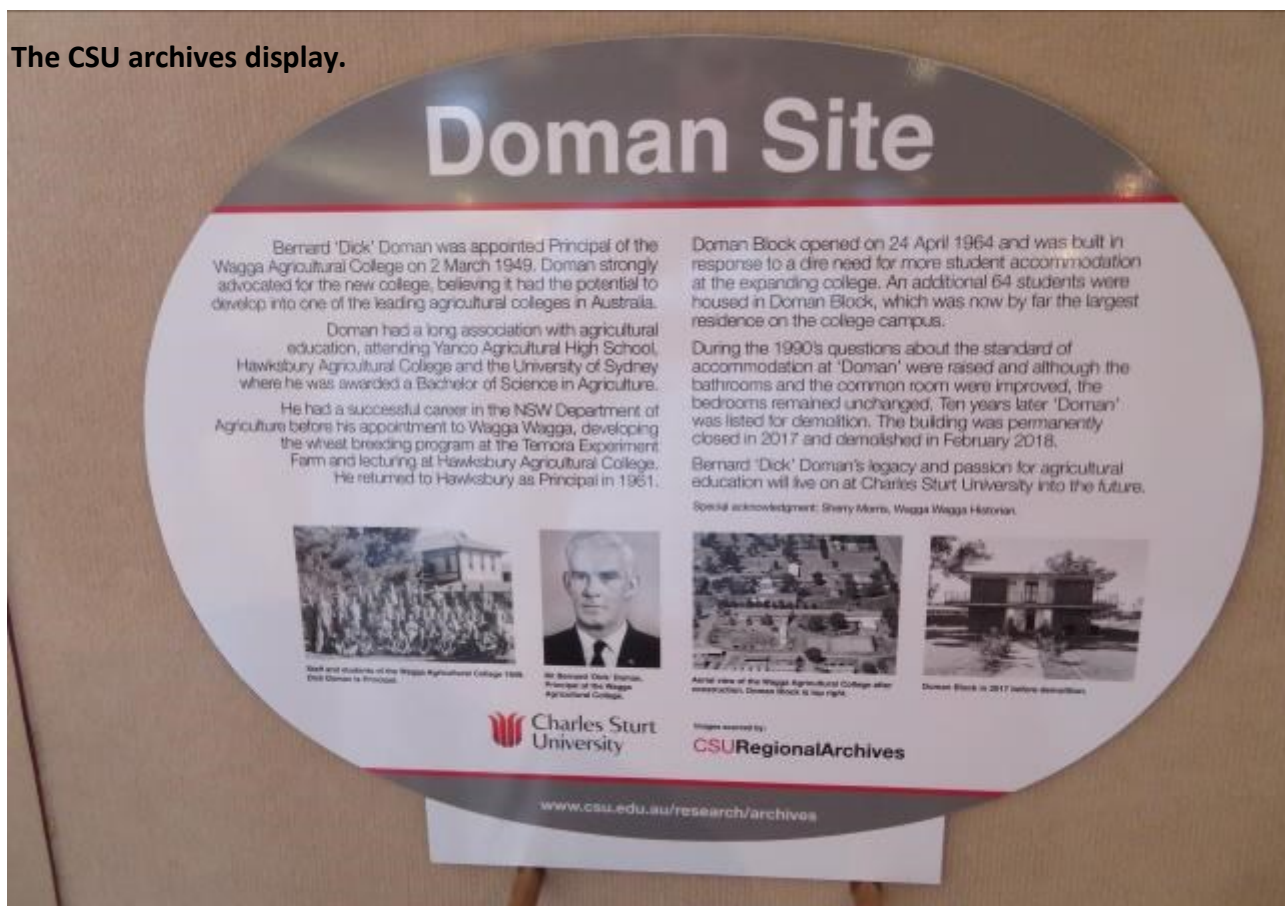


Dick Doman's daughter Carol Carylton, who was very pleased to be able to be at the ceremony along with her daughter Katie Brussels.



The Doman Block plaque showing the official opening in 1964.

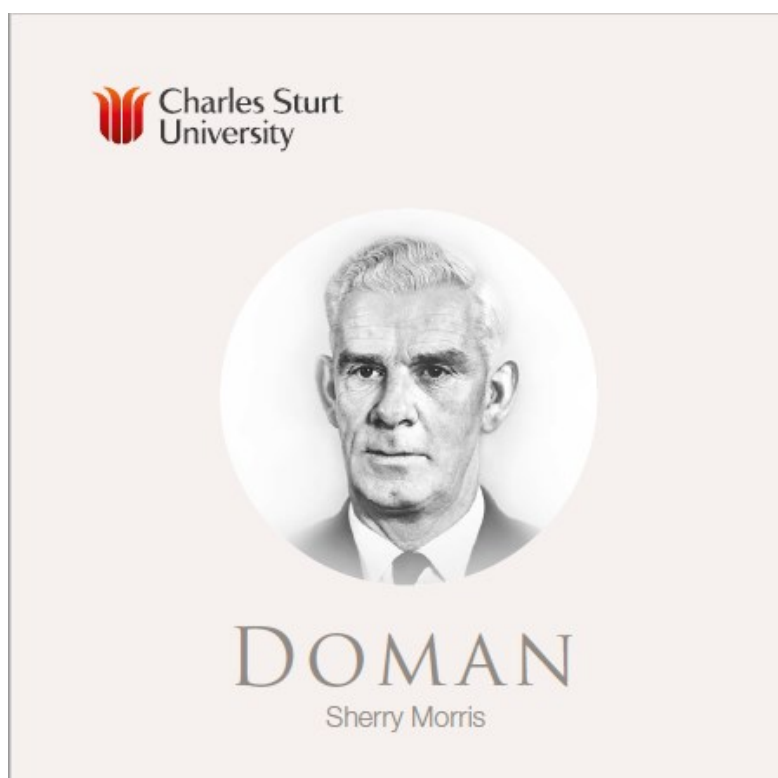
The CSU archives display.



A gift to Carol Carylton from CSU, giving a brief pictorial display of Dick Doman's life as WAC Principal.



Executive Director of the CSU Division of Facilities Management Mr Stephen Butt with Bruce Ferguson (WACOBU).



Sherry Morris, a local Wagga historian has written a book on the history of DOMAN HALL

DOMAN BLOCK ~ A HISTORY

Doman Block in the 1960's and 1970's

From accommodation.....



Doman Block as many students would remember it, serving as an accommodation block for many students.

There were many issues with the building when it first built and the final construction



Photos Courtesy of CSU

To car park in 2018.....



At least some of the heritage buildings remain!!



The finished product, 2018.

Doman Block – 1971 Aggie doing it tough!!

Steve MacDonald (1973) found this photo of himself doing the hard yards in early 1971.

Macca thought the chairs were pretty comfortable!!

Yes he did graduate and spent a lot of his time as the ABC Rural Reporter covering the north coast of NSW, doing a top job for “Aunty”.



History of Nappy Alley

Sherry Morris, who wrote the book on Doman Hall, is also writing a history of Nappy Alley for CSU.

Should be quite a read!

If there is anyone from WACOBUE who would be willing to share some printable reminiscences of their time at Nappy Alley in the 1970s or 1980s or have any photographs could they contact Sherry directly (via her facebook page may be the best option).



Awarded to **Liam Norrie**

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



WACOBUS Secretary James Brady presents Liam with his WACOBUS Scholarship at CSU.

In 2018 the Old Boys Union has awarded its scholarship to Liam Norrie, who comes from a family farming background at Eugowra, where this year, for the first time in living memory, many crops failed completely.

Liam was the Vice President of the Wagga Agricultural Club for 2018, and in 2019 takes on the newly created role of WACOBUS Liaison. The intent of this new role is to forge closer contact with former students in order to help the Wagga Agricultural Club executive operate at a higher level, drawing from past experience of successes, errors, and the maturity

Congratulations Liam. His statement for the scholarship read:

Upon graduating, I will utilise my degree and knowledge to better the rural communities in a number of aspects.

I aim to improve the environment and sustainability of small farming communities, as I have grown up in one, and realise the importance of these districts.

I believe this can be achieved through the use of contacts I have gained from my education at CSU.

Fellow students and scholars have shown me the importance of networking in order to gain understanding and educate each other on important issues that potentially threaten the agricultural industry.

This is important as the agricultural industry is responsible for the prosperity of many small towns, therefore making agriculture more sustainable that will in turn benefit local people and businesses.

I will also use my contact with local people, in particular farmers, to spread important messages such as mental health in order to potentially increase the well-being of the community.

This is very important to me as I believe a single conversation about the 'black dog' can be life changing to someone feeling the pressures of isolation, devastation and unpredictability.

I would also embrace any opportunity to mentor young people including school students, university students or young professionals. I believe this is an important aspect of rural life as it reduces the amount stress and pressure placed on young people within the agricultural industry.

Mentoring potentially increases the prosperity of the community and personal growth.

Upon graduation in 2019 I aim to gain employment within rural NSW, most likely in agronomy.

I will likely tailor this role to suit my keen interest in mixed farming, focussing on pasture production in rotations with winter cropping and livestock production.

This typical style of farming in the Riverina and Central West of NSW will allow me to expand my knowledge and potentially change the current practices of mixed farming to suit a more sustainable approach.

The emerging cotton industry in the Central West also offers new opportunities both within the cotton industry and other industries surrounding it. This will require adaptations to ensure the ongoing development of the cotton industry and to protect agricultural prosperity within the Lachlan Valley.

The opportunity to assist in making mixed farming and cotton sustainable in the same catchment area in order to protect both prominent production systems may arise as the development of cotton increases.

This is one example of the many arising opportunities for employment and change within rural NSW and the agricultural industry, which provides challenges that I am looking forward to.



WACOBU President Stu Kanaley, Jane Norrie (Liam's proud mum), Liam Norrie and WACOBU stalwart and CSU Council member John Mahon.



WACOBU Scholarship Support

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

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

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

See the last page of the newsletter for banking details.

Your support will be greatly appreciated !





THE 2018 Reunion of 1959 WAC GRADUATES

MOOLOOLABA, QUEENSLAND OCTOBER 22-28

By Peter Beinssen

The 1957 intake into Wagga Agricultural College and their partners reunited once again at Mooloolaba on Queensland's Sunshine Coast to celebrate 61 years since we were motts.

The weather provided glorious sunshine throughout the week which allowed us to enjoy the activities that were planned for each of the seven days.

At this stage, because we are all getting to the end of our seventies or into our eighties, the program included a lot of quiet, unstructured time.

The week kicked off with a Meet-and-Greet session in the courtyard of the Peninsular Resort on Mooloolaba's seaside esplanade.



Richard Perlowski, Bernard Scott, George Kinniburgh, Janice Perlowski, Ann Lock, Colleen Smith.

On Tuesday morning a convoy of 7 cars headed to Elanda Point and 27 of us boarded a chartered launch that took us up the Noosa Everglades as far as Harry's Hut.



DEPARTING FOR EVERGLADES TOUR: Dave & Ann Lock, Bill Watts, Bernie Scott, Bob & Sue Stewart, Margaret Walker, Geoff Plasto, Peter & Beryl Beinssen, Jane Plasto, Bob Smith, Lynn Coddington, Bruce & Georgina Coghill, Dorothy Mashman, Roger Coddington, Fred Horsley, Ian Mashman (photographer: Noela Horsley)



Aboard the chartered launch crossing Lake Boreen on the way to the Upper Noosa River Everglades.

Wednesday was the Main Event Lunch which was attended by 29 people. Peter Beinssen gave the welcoming address and Ian Mashman passed on apologies and news of those who were unable to attend. He then proposed a toast to absent friends. A slideshow of old photos was shown, and several people recited their favorite poems, jokes and limericks. Not all are publishable.



REUNION LUNCH: Delma Hilder, Dave & Ann Lock, Jane Plasto, Lynn Coddington, George Kinniburgh, Sue Stewart, Bernard Scott, Margaret Walker, Peter & Beryl Beinssen, Jennifer Ferguson, Roger Coddington, Bob Stewart (obscured), Bruce Ferguson, Richard Hilder, Geoff Plasto, Fred Horsley, Dorothy & Ian Mashman, Bruce & Georgina Coghill, Janice Perlowski, Colleen Smith, Martha Kinniburgh, Richard Perlowski, Bob Smith, Bill Watts.

On Thursday a 'Recovery BBQ Brunch' took place at Mooloolaba Beach. Beryl Beinssen and her kitchen helpers organized the food and fruit platters. Dave Lock and Peter Beinssen and numerous volunteers slaved over the hotplates. Beryl was later thanked with the gift of a beautiful bunch of flowers.



RECOVERY BRUNCH: Ann Lock, Dottie Mashman, Peter Beinssen, Bernie Scott.



RECOVERY BRUNCH: Margaret Walker, Geoff Plasto, Bill Watts, Bruce Ferguson, Fred Horsley, Sue & Bob Stewart



RECOVERY BRUNCH: Bob Smith, Roger Coddington, Beryl Beinssen, Jane Plasto, Dave Lock, Jennifer Ferguson, Ann Lock, Margaret Walker, Peter Beinssen, Sue Stewart, Noela Horsley, Geoff Plasto, Lynn Coddington, Bruce Ferguson, Bernie Scott, Bill Watts, Fred Horsley, George Kinniburgh, Bob Stewart.

Geoff Plasto, our in-house auctioneer, together with George Kinniburgh, then entertained us with a “donation session” that raised \$656 to add to our kitty as seed capital for future reunions.



In the evening we met for dinner at Chances Restaurant on The Wharf.



Left to right and top to bottom: Colleen Smith, Ian Mashman, Lynn Coddington, Bob & Sue Stewart, Margaret Walker, Fred Horsley, Martha Kinniburgh, Dick & Del Hilder, Bernie Scott, Bill Watts, Dottie Mashman, Bob Smith, George Kinniburgh, Roger Coddington, Jennifer & Bruce Ferguson, Peter & Beryl Beinssen, Bruce & Georgina Coghill, Ann & Dave Lock, Dick & Janice Perlowski, Jane & Geoff Plasto, Noela Horsley.

On Friday four carloads of us toured around the base of the Glasshouse Mountains. We had morning tea at the foot of Mount Beerwah.



Ian Mashman, Roger Coddington Marg Walker, Peter Beinssen, Lynn Coddington, Dot Mashman, Geoff & Jane Plasto



Beryl & Peter Beinssen, Lynn Coddington, Margie Walker, Dot Mashman, Roger Coddington, Ian Mashman, Jane Plasto.

We had lunch at The Glasshouse Mountains Lookout Café



THE LOOKOUT CAFÉ: Dottie Mashman, Geoff & Jane Plasto, Georgina Coghill, Lynn Coddington, Beryl Beinssen, Bruce Coghill, Ian Mashman, Peter Beinssen, Roger Coddington.

On Saturday we met for breakfast at Via Italia on the Mooloolaba Esplanade.



VIA ITALIA BREAKFAST:

The final event was the STAYERS LUNCH on Sunday on the rooftop of Bob and Colleen Smith's seaside apartment in Buddina. We all chipped in and bought a heap of big, fresh, luscious, famous, Mooloolaba prawns which were served with salad vegetables organically grown in the Smiths' rooftop gardens. What a feast.



Dick Hilder, Peter Beinssen, Bob Smith, Martha & George Kinniburgh, Bob Stewart

NEXT REUNION

A meeting was held to discuss future reunion options.

It was decided that we would gather in Wagga in 2019 to celebrate the great occasion of 60 years since graduation.

Bruce Ferguson kindly volunteered to make the necessary arrangements for this significant occasion.

It was also decided that we would continue gathering at Mooloolaba every second year.

Looking at the itinerary and photos of this year's event – why not!!!!!!!!!!





1960-62 WAC Old Boys Reunion



ECHUCA, VICTORIA APRIL 19-22

On April 19-22, 2018 a reunion was held for the Wagga Agricultural College students of 1960-62. 15 of the 29 graduates were able to attend the get together over a few very pleasant days at Echuca, on the Murray River.



1962 WAC old boys

Top, left to right: John Harper, John Armstrong, John Mahon, Ian Donald, Rob Ellerman, John Caldwell, Bill Cresswell, Alan Wray.

Bottom: Jim Helps, Chick Maiden, Col Davey, Jim Rose, Bill Gordon, David Luke



Plus: Hugh Cox (missing in action when the group photo was taken).

The reunion was organised by Alan and Colleen Wray, who are residents of Echuca.

Activities included:

- a tour of the Echuca Beer Shed
- a BBQ lunch and afternoon at the Wrays'
- a guided tour of the historic Echuca wharf
- dinner at the Echuca Club on the Saturday evening to wind up proceedings.

While this was a great few days seeing Echuca, the real purpose of course was the reuniting of fellows who shared their lives for three years nearly sixty years ago. Some hadn't seen each other for all that time.

After adjusting to the obvious changed appearances, it was not long before talk continued as if it were only last year, with many experiences remarkably coming back to memory.

The wives were very understanding and patient, until they became immersed discussing their own interests.

A huge vote of thanks went to Alan and Colleen for organising the few days.

There was great appreciation extended to Ian Donald who continues to keep track of nearly all of the WAC 1962 Old Boys, providing a much appreciated network.

Should anyone wish to make contact with any of the '62 old boys, you can start by emailing Ian Donald on: iandon@bigpond.net.au





The Motts of 1964 14th Reunion



NELSON BAY, NSW - MAY 7-11

By Graeme Hockey

At our 13th reunion, held in Darwin in March 2016, when the group celebrated 50 years since we finished at Wagga Ag College and let loose to the big wide world, it was decided that the next reunion would be at Nelson Bay.

Peter and Margaret Polack volunteered to host this get together.

At the sit down dinner on the May 16 there were 39 people present comprising Gerry and Lyn Bolla from Wallarah, Ray and Debbie Clark from Carroll, Roger and Coral Clough from Pacific Pines, Geoff Cornell from Tallebudgera, Mick and Denise Duck from Collector, Bart Gannon from Batemans Bay, Mick Hazlett and Victoria from Bringelly, Graeme and Philippa Hockey from Darwin, Geoff and Vida Howe from Latham, Dick and Lenja Kobelke from Warriewood, Tony and Kathy Meares from Albury, Barry and Ros Medway from Gunning, Peter and Maggie Polack (our hosts), Colin Rathbone from Kiama, Bruce and Vilma Rennard from Manilla for half the year and Chile the rest, Neville and Pam Semmlar from Diamond Beach, Charlie and Peta Smithwick from Albury, Ross and Jenni Stockings from Gilgandra.

Lyn Warner wife of Ken who died back in 2003 and Sue Warner wife of Neil who died in July 2016 also renewed acquaintances.

In addition Doc Everett now from Armidale our vet lecturer and also from Armidale Rod Bates who ran the dairy section in 1964 before moving to Tocal were both in attendance renewing memories.

Since the last get together in Darwin and in addition to passing of Neil Warner we also lost Terry Ellis in September 2016 and Pete Meier in June 2017.

We almost lost Bruce Irvine in January 2017 when he rolled his beloved Western Star Concrete truck with a full load at Wagga. If it wasn't for an old gum tree he would not be here today!!

Apologies were received from the partners of Teddy Cornell, Bart Gannon and Col Rathbone as well as from Barry Cunningham, Bill Gornall, Bruce Irvine, Noel Linder, Chris Lord, Ray Moir and Dave Heptonstall our rugby coach and dairy guru (who was just back on his feet after breaking a hip earlier in the year).

The organised component of the week included a Hunter valley wine tour on the Tuesday and a ferry trip to Tea Gardens with lunch on the Thursday. The Wednesday was a free day with the dinner that night.

Graeme Hockey had Section 2 of “The First Seventy Years” of what we got up to during our college years and after that evoked even more discussion.



The crew enjoying the reunion and getting ready for the ferry.

And for another reunion, Col Rathbone put his hand up for the 15th get together to be at Kiama between Easter and Mother's day 2020, with Mick Hazlett, Peter Polack and Neville Semmlar volunteering as his cohorts.

And for another reunion, Col Rathbone put his hand up for the 15th get together to be at Kiama between Easter and Mother's day 2020, with Mick Hazlett, Peter Polack and Neville Semmlar volunteering as his cohorts.

The 1978 WACers catch-up in Wagga



By Marion Taylor

An assortment of well- preserved Aggies from the 1970s gathered at the Thirsty Crow in Wagga on Saturday night December 15.

The evening was originally organised to be a reunion of the graduation year of 1978 to celebrate their 40th anniversary of that auspicious occasion but the need for a few Mott waiters meant that this requirement was relaxed.

The high percentage of Uncles in this year were relieved that they were able to attend.

VIP guest for the night was Professor Jim Pratley who was looking very youthful for one who was lecturing this group in 1976!

After murdering their thirst at the Crow some intrepid souls wandered down Fitzmaurice St to Romanos Hotel to find that the sticky floored, squattocracy stud selecting yard had been disinfected and transformed into a sterile, Hampton's style establishment!

However, an entertaining night was had by all and everyone thoroughly enjoyed catching up on the last 40 years and revisiting past glories.

There was even an original copy of the WAC songbook produced and a keg "honesty sheet" where everyone's drinks were recorded and paid for the next day. (70c for a pint)

Special mention to travellers Charles Kidd (Treads) coming from Clare(SA), Greg Moore-house (Cess) from Adelaide and Kevin Melmuth from Toowoomba.

A follow up gathering is planned in 5 years.

Thanks to the organisers Maz Taylor, Jonty Shuter and Lindsay McClure.

JIM PRATLEY

A key man in agricultural education since 1972



Photo and article courtesy of Stephen Burns, The Land, February 2018

Jim Pratley is a long term educator and is currently an Emeritus Professor at Charles Sturt University, Wagga.

He also has the role of secretary of the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture.

Jim completed his secondary schooling at Bathurst High School and enrolled in the Wool Technology course at the University of NSW.

He grew up on the family farm 20 kilometres out from Bathurst that produced first-cross lambs and wool, and his family's intention was that Jim would return home once he had completed his tertiary education.

However his parents sold the farm and Jim's life took another course and he decided to follow a pathway in the academic world.

He did a PhD focusing on selenium nutrition in grazing livestock.

A year at the Wellington Field Station run by UNSW studying lucerne utilisation started Jim on his interest in livestock nutrition.

Jim then had a career change and successfully applied for a position at the Wagga Wagga Agricultural College starting in 1972

Jim's aim was for a three year stint, but he is still at Wagga 46 years later.

Jim started his role as a lecturer and was employed as lecturer/senior lecturer in agronomy and animal production for 18 years.

As there was not one text book based on Australian crop agronomy in Australia so Jim and several colleagues filled that void with a book that still remains the main text used in agronomy studies.

With the transformation of the Wagga Agricultural College into RCAE and then CSU, Jim was approached to take on a greater role in agricultural education.

He was appointed Dean of Science and Agriculture in a new university in 1990, and had the task of establishing agriculture as one of the main pillars of CSU courses. And it still is!!!

CSU is now the largest provider of agricultural education in Australia and provides a large proportion of professionals involved in Australian agriculture and a lot of CSU PhD graduates are sought after by research institutions based in the bush.

There is a continuing shortage of suitable graduates for the number and variety of positions available in agriculture in rural and regional areas.

Jim's aim was to rectify that problem and since 2012 there has been an annual increase of 10 to 15 per cent in graduates gaining employment in rural Australia, with graduate numbers also increasing.

Jim Pratley's role in agricultural education has been significant.

His role in promoting the study of agriculture at schools, at tertiary education levels and in providing career opportunities for graduates is unmatched.

And it all started at Wagga Ag College in 1972.



Review leads to significant changes in the teaching of Agriculture at all schools in NSW

CSU's Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at CSU Wagga, Jim Pratley's undertook a review into agricultural education and training in NSW in 2013.

This review has resulted in significant changes being adopted into the agriculture components in NSW school curriculums, starting in 2019.

This review, which received input from some WACOBU members, led to the NSW Education Standards Authority (NSWESA) adopting the recommendations and formulating a new curriculum for all students from K-12.

These changes include:

- Having mandatory components in the study of agriculture for both primary school and secondary school classes
- Allowing students to have greater choices and scope for studying agriculture and food technology
- Having mandatory skills that will start from kindergarten
- Providing subject matter in primary school to include topics on agriculture as a managed environment

The aim of this increased awareness of agriculture in primary school is to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to make a confident choice to pursue agriculture as an elective subject in high school.

The new syllabus was developed over 2-3 years with input from a wide range of people.

In the past 12 months teachers have undertaken professional development with the new syllabus.

The teachers received assistance from Royal Agricultural Society of NSW's AgVision program and resources developed by the NSW Department of Education, Catholic Education and Independent Schools. The NSWESA is currently reviewing stage 5 electives for Years 9 and 10 and 2019 will be the familiarisation 12 months for that syllabus.

This seems like a very positive outcome.

Benefits will include:

- Improving the intake of agriculture students at tertiary level in the future
- Increasing the overall knowledge about agriculture to all primary and secondary students in NSW.
- Improving the knowledge of many school students who have very limited or no access to agriculture, farming and food science industries.
- Helping overcome the cultural divide between city and rural communities

Jim Pratley has always been a strong advocate for improving the access of the wider community to knowledge about agriculture, farming and food sciences.

This latest step will see long term benefits for society in general as young people learn more about agriculture and its role in providing food and fibre.

Ag College Graduates do get employed

Agriculture graduates who studied in regional Australia are more likely to be employed in rural areas.

Professor Jim Pratley said the results of a study were based on information from Gradlink, a program operated by Rimfire Resources that puts graduates in touch with agribusiness.

The study compares information from graduates from seven Australian universities and Marcus Oldham College from 2004 to 2014, with graduates of final year students interviewed.

Key findings were:

- * Around half the graduates gain employment in rural areas, about one third in the cities and about 10 per cent leave the sector.
- * There was considerable variation between institutions however, with rural campuses having a strong bias towards rural employment and metropolitan institutions producing graduates more likely to have metropolitan-based employment.
- * No gender bias is evident in the employment of agriculture and related graduates with males and females employed in all categories.
- * Rural financing and rural retail/merchandising were the main employment sectors.
- * Farm production captured around 10 per cent of graduates.

"The data shows that universities are delivering graduates suitable for the full range of agricultural occupations.

"It is also clear that university location is important when employers are seeking new staff.

"Rural jobs are more likely to be filled and sustained by graduates from rural universities," Professor Pratley concluded.

Good news for CSU Agriculture graduates.



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

FOR THE LOVE OF RUGBY



WAC Rugby 2018

First XV play in 2018 SIRU Grand Final

WAC rugby's first XV had a top season, qualifying for the Grand Final against the undefeated Waratahs side.

After finishing third on the ladder, the Aggies qualified for the final after defeating Leeton on two occasions in the final series after also playing the Phantoms in the final competition game as well. The two teams got to know each other very well.

Following the tragic passing of Andrew Stanham late in the season, the team showed amazing courage to complete the year in fine style.

Everyone was hoping for the right result in the grand final and the Aggies showed great courage and commitment but found the Waratahs too strong on the day.

Congratulations WAC Rugby – a great season on the field that will give the team plenty of confidence looking ahead to 2019.

A special mention to coach Will Mitchell, who was an inspirational force behind the team all season, believed in his playing group and then overcame the tragic loss of his brother to steer the team into the grand final.



QUALIFYING FINALS

WAC 37 d Leeton 12

Tumut 29 d Albury 25

SEMI FINALS

Waratahs 47 d WAC 24

Leeton 22 d Tumut 21

PRELIMINARY FINALS

WAC 24 d Leeton 20

GRAND FINAL

Waratahs 38 d WAC 14

The WAC XV for the Grand Final

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Loose head prop | Duncan Woods |
| 2. Hooker | Pat Lemmich |
| 3. Tight head prop | Jack McIntosh |
| 4. Left lock | Matt Harris |
| 5. Right lock | Liam Mowbray |
| 6. Left flanker | Charles Callaghan |
| 7. Right flanker | Michael Van Diggelen |
| 8. Number eight | Ben Brooke |
| 9. Scrum half | Gerard McTaggart |
| 10. Fly half | Cameron Duffy (c) |
| 11. Left wing | Will Whiteley |
| 12. Left centre | Hamish Pennington |
| 13. Right centre | Lochlan Ramm |
| 14. Right wing | Andrew Knox |
| 15. Full back | Jock Ward |



Other Grades

Both second and third grade teams finished fifth and the Women's side seventh in their respective competitions.

The 2nd XV were defeated by Tumut in the qualifying final 24-12 and the Thirsty Thirds made it through to week 2 of the finals after defeating CSU Reddies in week 1 before losing to Deniliquin 27-5.

WAC Rugby 2019

The WAC Rugby Annual General Meeting saw the election of the 2019 committee.

Congratulations to the following people who will lead the club for the next 12 months.

President- Lachie Green, Vice President- Sam Webster, Secretary- Tareq Sorial, Treasurer- Katie Thomas, Registrar- Joe Hamblin, Club Captain- Matt Harris, Match Day Organisers- Duncan Woods & Pat Lemmich, Sponsorship- William O'Leary, Merchandise- Cam Duffy, Board Members- Riley Byrnes, Chantelle Meintjes and William Nixon, Club Tutor- Kellen Lemesurier, Spiritual Advisor- Ethan Brien.



WAC Rugby Club suffered a tragedy in the latter part of the season with the sudden passing of current First XV player Andrew "Col" Stanham.

A call to arms by WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley and WAC Rugby committee was sent throughout the WAC network and a huge crowd of current students and Old Boys turned out at Beres Ellwood Oval on Saturday July 21, where WAC hosted the Leeton Phantoms and Dianas in rugby matches.

The message that was relayed to the WAC community stated:

"Sadly I have to pass on the news of the death of Andrew Stanham, a 3rd year Animal Science student who was a valued member of the 1st XV WAC Rugby team, well known and liked, and brother of the current First Grade coach Will Mitchell.

Andrew was a known to have epilepsy, and it is presumed this led to him being found unconscious by house mates on Wednesday morning July 18 in his share house at Estella. He died shortly after.

Tragic as this is, it comes on top of some difficult weeks for students and Ag Rugby, who have been dealing with requirements placed on them by the university.

Yesterday I received a call from a mother detailing just how shattered students, friends, and players were, and requesting we broadcast the news, to encourage Old Boys to appear at the Ladies Day match tomorrow, where WAC play reigning SIRU premiers the Leeton Phantoms and their ladies team the Diana's.

This day of support is not really about the rugby, it is about a show of moral support for young rural people in crisis, mourning a friend.

Some of these young people have been dealing with a lot of problems of late.

So Old Boys just turn up at Beres Ellwood oval at the College, any time from the middle of the day.

If you have some colours, display them proudly.

Chat with some of the young ones, and hear their story.

It is already apparent a large number of students will be there.

An Old Boys war cry is entirely in order, even between every game.

*Even a note of support on the **WAC Rah Rah** facebook page won't go unnoticed.*

There is a poignant video of the assembled players and friends at Beres Ellwood Oval on Wednesday evening, where a stoic Will Mitchell addressed all prior to moving to the Duck for a long evening of mourning."

This is what being an Aggie is all about- not just the social events and gatherings, but the support to one another when things are tough.

Let's hope that the side line is flooded with green and gold for Andy, his mates and family.

Regards,

Stu Kanaley

EDITORS COMMENT:

Pleased to report that the turnout was huge as the WAC community supported each other in a way that WAC does so well.

The rugby teams responded on the field with gallant performances.

The First XV won 56-9, Second's won 53-7, the Thirsty Thirds won 28-12 (against Hay) and the WAC women found Leeton too strong 46-12 on a day that will be remembered for a long time.

The supporters did indeed make Beres Ellwood Oval a sea of green and gold in a day that made everyone proud to be associated with WAC Rugby.

Stu Kanaley also reported that Andy Stanham's funeral, also held at Beres Ellwood Oval, was quite extraordinary to experience, with the green and gold casket on the dais set up under the goal posts. The emotion of the large crowd and the passion of the speakers indicated the impact of losing a very popular young man.

Graeme



WAC Rugby – Supporting Country Education

Ag College players donned specially designed jumpers to raise awareness and funds for the Country Education Foundation of Australia when they played arch rivals The Reddies at Beres Ellwood Oval on Saturday May 12.



(Photo courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser)

The Aggies came on top 47-24 in an exciting game to cap off a successful day. First grade coach Will Mitchell was expecting plenty of fire the clash and his team delivered another strong performance.

“The boys were really looking forward to the game. We feel as though we are starting to improve our footy and were looking forward to having a good hit out. It was a great result and gives us confidence for the rest of the season,” said Will.

The one-off special white jumpers were auctioned off after the game as a fundraiser for the Foundation which aims to support rural and regional youth with achieving a successful tertiary education.

The funds raised went directly to assisting disadvantaged rural youth study agriculture or veterinary science courses at CSU in Wagga.

Christmas Cheer from WAC Rugby



WAC Rugby's charity fundraiser Christmas Carols album has now gone live!

\$14.99 delivered to your door!

Funds raised will go to The Smith Family Christmas Appeal in Wagga.

Simply search "CSU Ag Rugby Store" on Google and follow the links to our club store.

Non-students will have to create a Webshop account (takes 12 seconds) then place your orders.





30TH ANNUAL WAGGA AG RACE DAY

Over 7000 people made their way through the gates of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club to the 30th annual Wagga Ag Races on Saturday, September 15.

A very cold day greeted patrons, but this failed to dampen the enthusiasm of race goers - who used the day as part of a big weekend of socialising.

As Old Boys know, the Wagga Ag Races were kicked off to raise money for Peter Worsley, who broke his neck in a game of rugby in 1987 that left him a quadriplegic.

Each year the current students of WAC, Old Boys and the wider agriculture community proudly continue their support of Peter and his family.

An Aggies Race Day Old Boys Luncheon was held prior to the main action of the day.

Amongst the usual races and fashions on the field events, the Andrew Stanham Memorial Cup race for the first years was held and won by Ethan Brien.

The award was created in memory of Andy, more commonly known as "Col", who was a high-spirited, friendly and loving member of the WAC community who sadly passed away in August.

In recent years, the popular Ag Races weekend has turned into what is now known as the WAC Weekend.

It all started with the WAC Ball on Friday night to kick off the celebrations within the Aggies community, before the races on Saturday and people then winding down at the 'races recovery' event on Sunday.

Doing their bit for the rural community, \$7450 was raised during the WAC Ball auction on Friday night in support of the Drought Angels charity.

The weekend has become a major social event and now attracts people from across the country that join in to celebrate the fun-filled weekend.

2018 was a very successful event with special thanks extended to the WAC committee and Murrumbidgee Turf Club's CEO Scott Sanbrook and his team.

WACMEN's MS 'Gong Ride 2018



Craig Whiting "Coit" and his WACMEN crew of Ian Herbert "Bert", Craig Cowell "Kremmen", Ben Hogg "Cirrus", Steven Bourke "Gears", Simon Coddington "Acme" and a few hangers on took part in the MS Gong Ride, raising valuable money for MS research.

They completed the journey from Sydney to the 'Gong in style, looking resplendent in their WAC colours.

The WACMEN raised about \$4500 via sponsorship, with many WACOBU members giving generous donations in support of this worthy cause.

Coit has done a top job in organising the ride and survived the bike, the lycra rash and needed beers afterwards.

Well done WACMEN.





Ian McLeod (1977)

A note from Ian.....

Old Boy Dean Gibson from Yeppoon passed me on the latest WAC Old Boys booklet.

I have been wondering whether there are any upcoming reunions of my year that finished in 1977.

On a personal note, I've been away from the married life for about 12 years now.

About that time, I had some sailing lessons in Yeppoon with a dinghy sailing club, KBSC.

After learning the basics and many capsizes, I purchased my own tasar, which is a 4.6metre two-crew boat.

It can be a fast boat at times and in winds over 15 knots it can be an adrenaline rush during the Sunday races as you skim across the water and looking to stay afloat.

Workwise, after realising that my 2 longest employers in the water and pumping business had no regard for loyalty and hard work I started my own business, Gracemere Water Solutions in January 2016.

Every 6 months my turnover has increased and the business is running well.

I have been in the Rockhampton area since 1983 and fell for it.

Craig Whiting “Coit” (1994)

Craig has recently had a change of jobs.

He is now working for NSW DPI after 20 years working in retail agriculture and 10 years with Bayer Animal Health in sales and marketing.

Coit is now the Leader, Southern Crop Genetics based at Wagga Wagga – not far from his old digs at WAC.

New work contact details for Craig are:

0488 497 672

craig.whiting@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Obituary **Warwick Selvey (1959)**

Ted Schulz via John Mahon advised the Editor of the passing of respected WAC Old Boy Warwick Selvey.

Warwick arrived at Wagga by train together with others of the 1956 intake of the Wagga Ag. College and Experiment Farm. At 17 years of age, Warwick was already over 6'4 tall, and had decided to excel at athletics and to have a career in agriculture.

Although he brought a javelin with him on the train, he could not afford a discus, so he practised with an axe head.

The area between the eastern and western residential blocks at the college was an ideal spot for Warwick to throw his axe head and javelin of an afternoon, and to practise his shot putt.

Other students soon learned to be careful.

Warwick had a unique approach to practical agriculture, especially in his first year.

He reasoned that dressing poultry by plucking the birds while dry would save water, and was immediately nicknamed 'Chook'.

He also thought that drinking colostrum, warm, from newly calved cows would give him better nutrition and build up his immune system.

Warwick had attended St. Andrews Cathedral Choir School in Sydney, and had an outstanding singing voice.

He was chosen as one of the three students to carry the Olympic Torch when it passed through Wagga Wagga in 1956, and declared that he would be representing Australia at the next Olympics.

Having entered the college on a Department of Agriculture livestock cadetship, he was posted as a Piggery Livestock Officer to Hawkesbury Ag. College following graduation, but his focus on athletics meant he moved to Melbourne, working for the Shell chemical company.

He was the only athlete from any nation to reach the final of both discus and shot putt at the 1960 Rome Olympics and again represented Australia at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic games.

While preparing for the Rome Olympics, he won the Australian Heavyweight Weight Lifting Championship, but concentrated on discus and shot putt thereafter.

Warwick won the gold medal in the discus and set a new record for the event at the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962.

Following the Tokyo Olympic Games, Warwick became qualified as an Osteopath, Chiropractor and Acupuncturist, and practiced for over 50 years in the ACT, NSW, and South East QLD.

In total Warwick won 18 Australian Championship athletic events; more than any other male competitor, plus his weight lifting title.

Warwick will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

WAC CONNECT



G'day,

The 2018 WAC committee in light of the events that have occurred this year have created a new role, WACOBU Liaison. This role serves the purpose of communication between the current WAC club and WACOBU.

A newsletter type email will like this will be sent out when warranted filling you all in on the latest events and anything coming up. This year has seen a number of challenges face the members of Ag club which has resulted in old boys stepping forward to assist communication with the university, guide the WAC committee and members and just be around for support of the students involved. Notably the actions of Neil Durning, Stu Kanaley and James Brady have helped push the effort of further association between old boys and current students. Their effort and support of WAC this year has been second to none and we are all thankful for that.

2018 Committee

The 2018 Ag club committee hosted in excess of ten events this year including Euberta dog trials, WAC Meet and Greet and the Ag races weekend – it's been a jam packed year!

The 2018 committee consisted of:

President: Caitlin McRae (Temora, NSW) Vice President: Liam Norrie (Eugowra, NSW)

Secretary: Tom 'Otter' Rummery (Walgett, NSW) Treasurer: Laclan 'Barc' Woods (Bylong, NSW) Events Co-ordinator: Aimee Bolton (Shepparton, VIC)

3rd Year Representative: Sam 'VR' Webster (Dubbo, NSW)

2nd Year Representative: Will 'Grease Gun' O'Leary (Dunedoo, NSW) Races President: Will Whiteley (Cudal, NSW)

Races Representative: Dale 'Feltch' Lane (Bathurst, NSW) Races Representative: Annie Matthews (Grenfell, NSW)

The committee decided prior to the 2018 AGM that the roles would be slightly changed to accommodate with dealings with CSU, communication with WACOBU and the merchandise role, as this has become a big job for one of the committee members.

2019 Committee

From the AGM the following committee was elected:

President: Will 'Grease Gun' O'Leary (Dunedoo, NSW) Vice-President: Kellen 'Listo' LeMesurier (Eugowra, NSW) Secretary: Kate Green (Forbes, NSW)

Treasurer: Lachlan 'Barc' Woods (Bylong, NSW) Event Co-ordinator: Lexi Young (Bowral, NSW) Merchandise: Annie Matthews (Grenfell, NSW) Races President: Will Whiteley (Cudal, NSW) Races Representative: Liv Mellor (Red Hill, VIC) Races Representative: Riley Byrnes (Hay, NSW)

3rd Year Representative: Emily Walker (Tullamore, NSW)

2nd Year Representative: Pat 'Lepto' Lemmich (Black Springs, NSW) WACOBU Liaison: Liam Norrie (Eugowra, NSW)

WAC Rugby

The 2018 rugby season was kind to the Ag College with all three men's grades making finals and the women's having a competitive year of rugby.

First grade this year was coached again by Will Mitchell, his second year in the job and he announced the other day that he will be stepping up again in 2019. First grade came home string at the end of the season securing third position on the ladder then facing Leeton, Tah's, Leeton throughout the final then Tah's in the big dance. This came as a reward for the unbelievable efforts of Will, the first grade team and the whole of college. With a much greater support base at Connolly Oval Ag College displayed a great form of rugby however they were beaten by a much larger, more experienced side. The club had a successful year overall raising money for mental health, supporting local sporting teams and living the college dream!

Stay tuned for the upcoming 'WAC Rugby Choir Boys' Christmas Carol Edition!

2019 will see WAC Rugby celebrate 70 years of first class footy and the 10 year anniversary of the 2009 Grand Final win. More details to come about the celebrations of these milestones.

WAC Rugby is currently looking for sponsors for the 2019 season with a range of packages available according to cost of sponsorship. If interested please contact Will O'Leary 0457 805 472



1st Grade win over Leeton three days after the passing of COL

Andrew 'COL' Stanham

This year Ag College was rocked by the passing of Andy, better known as COL. COL started at college in 2016 as an Ag Business student. COL began playing first grade for college, having to prove himself particularly because his brother Will Mitchell was coaching Tah's at the time. After persuasion COL managed to snag Will from Tah's to coach college throughout the 2017 and 2018 seasons. His loss in July hit the whole college community hard, not only losing a key player of the first grade team but an all round college legend. The weeks after his passing saw all aspects of college change to form a family that we never knew the power of. The support seen from everyone in this time was unbelievable. COL will be forever remembered for his passion for college and all round love for his family and friends. At the rugby presentation night COL was announced a life member of Ag College rugby and you can see the messages written to him on the wall out the back of the Duck.



Ag Races

The WAC Weekend came and went in quite a blur as per usual. We lined up Friday night for a black tie ball in a marquee at the racecourse with a touch over 400 people attending. First year Mott auctions raised \$7000 for Drought Angels – a cause close to home for many.

Saturday was the usual Duck morning beers followed by the races then we flooded the Duck with around 600 people at the mighty Swan. The races saw over 6000 people come through the gates and plenty of old boys there to support Sac with the third annual Mott Race a success with Dipstick (also known as Dipshit) Mott coming through with the goods. The race was named COL Cup after he was the first winner of the Mott foot race two years ago.

Sunday at the Duck for the annual races recovery had approximately 250 people attending partying well on into the evening.

We all hope you all celebrated the 30th Annual Ag Races well and that the lunch was a hit.

2019 WAC Events (First half of the year)

The 2019 WAC Committee has ear marked the following dates for the annual WAC events:

WAC Sign up (uni bar): 8th March

WAC Meet and Greet: 9th March

WACOBU Event: 16th March

This date is to be confirmed but please pencil it in your diaries. It is likely to be a meal, BYO, semi-formal event with guest speaker to allow current and past students to mingle and to make a better connection between old boys and current students – plus an excuse to have a catch up over a cold beer! Stay tuned

First Year Ag Dinner: 27th March

Euberta Dog Trials/Auction: Last year 22nd April (WAC runs the bar)

Ag Cocktails: 22nd May

Start of semester 1: 4th March

Semester 1 mid session break: 8th April – 18th April

End of semester 1: 7th June

*Thanks for reading, feel free to share around and get in contact if need be,
Cheers Liam*

0437 628 820



WACOBU Merchandise



From Farm Boys to PhDs
Book - \$30.00



WAC 49er's Book
POA



WAC 100 Years
Video - \$30.00



WACOBU Centenary
Cap - \$12.00



WACOBU Pewter
Mug - \$50.00



WACOBU Lapel
Badge - \$2.00



WACOBU Wall
Plaque - \$30.00



WACOBU Sloppy-joe
Price - TBA



WACOBU Tie
\$30.00



Ladies WACOBU
Pendant
\$6.50



Ladies WACOBU
Shield Pendant
\$65.00



WACOBU
Keyring
\$15.00



WACOBU
Car sticker
\$1.00



WACOBU Merchandise Order Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of birth.....

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

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

TOTAL =

Please find enclosed cheque/money order for: \$

Make cheques/money orders payable to: WACOBU

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

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

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Name on card:

Expiry date: Signature:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- WACOBU (Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union) Membership



Please print this form then post to:

WACOBU
PO Box 1092
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Your details:

Student number or year of study _____

Given (first) names _____ Surname / family name _____

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

Address:

Number and street _____

Suburb/city _____

State/province _____ Postcode _____ Country _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Work Details:

Position Title _____

Employers Name _____

Membership details:

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

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

Payment details: - Note: Bank Drafts MUST be in \$AUD

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

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

1. Transfer your money by electronic transfer to:

Name of Financial Institution: ANZ

Name of Account: Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

BSB: 012-823

Account No: 2070-98615

Reference: "your name",

Message: eg, Membership

2. Please email Ros Prangnell ros.prangnell@dpi.nsw.gov.au 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.