

Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

2019



WACOBU COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT

Stuart Kanaley ('79-'82)
Tel: 0428 637 280
stu.kanaley@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Warwick Nightingale ('92-'94)
Tel: 0447 826 732
warwick.nightingale@basf.com

SECRETARY

James Brady ('94-'97)
Tel. 0428 959 936
jbsagronomy@gmail.com

TREASURER

Ros Prangnell ('75-'77)
Tel. 0403 504 773
rozza1957@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Graeme Worboys ('73)
Tel. 0490 241 926
gandsworboys@bigpond.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Slinger ('78 - '81)
theslingers@bigpond.com

Craig Cowell ('92 - '94)
craig.cowell@bigpond.com

Craig Whiting ('92 -'94)
Tel. 0427 755 323
whittings4@dodo.com.au

Deb Slinger ('79 - '81)
Tel. 0427 026 207

Jeff Angel ('95 -'97)
jeffa@flrural.com

John Mahon ('60 - '62)
0428 694 089
jmahon@wagga.net.au

Ross Henley ('79 - '82)
ross.henley@bayer.com

Got News?

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

PO Box 95 Cootamundra NSW 2590
0490 241 926
gandsworboys@bigpond.com





What is the significance in a name?

A lot if you went to Wagga Agricultural College.

Earlier this year Charles Sturt University went through a long process of deciding whether their name should be changed to Sturt University.

The University is in the midst of a \$104million overhaul of its “strategy” and by 2022 will see the majority of these funds allocated to improving teaching, learning and student services.

This revamp will be the most significant since 1989 when the Mitchell College of Advanced Education and the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education (RMIHE) merged to form Charles Sturt University.

A lot of people had their say on this option, including many WAC Old Boys.

John Mahon, a CSU companion and champion of WACOBUS was not in favour of the name change.

“The university has some standout courses that have national and international standing like their wine science, veterinary science and their agricultural science courses that are prominent in Wagga.

“The University has been boasting about their high employment rate of graduates so why they would want to change the name of the University that achieves this”, said John.

Other people opposed to the name change included noted education expert Dr Cliff Blake.

“There is only one Charles Sturt - the distinguished explorer of inland Australia and the name uniquely places the University in the region it seeks to serve”, said Dr Blake.

Those two prominent people were amongst many who opposed the proposal.

After much debate and community feedback the University decided not to go ahead with this proposal.

Common sense prevailed.

WAC Old Boys know a lot about name changes.

From Wagga Agricultural College to Riverina College of Advanced Education to Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education and finally Charles Sturt University, in a relatively short time frame of about 16 years, saw massive changes in the landscape in the 1970-80’s and concerns about the identity of WAC into the future.

Now 30 years later let’s maintain the tradition of WAC (and now CSU) of producing graduates in agriculture that find employment and then make significant contributions to the agricultural sector and other industries in Australia.

Let’s never forget Wagga Agricultural College and what it stands for.

Ego Yah!

Graeme

Picture: Graeme with grandsons Alex and Ben wearing WAC rugby colours with pride



30 years of CSU

A note from Vice-Chancellor

Professor Andrew Vann

As we celebrate 30 years of Charles Sturt, I have been reflecting on how our University first came to be from its early days as experimental farms and teacher colleges.

From reading our history, it is clear that the people of our cities had a strong desire for a full university of their own.

This is because cities know that it is important to have education and research carried out on the ground in regional areas.

They also know it is very hard to get people to come back from the big cities, so you are much better to educate people locally.

Given the roots of the University, there has always been a strong focus on higher education that is grounded in practicality.

My predecessor, Ian Goulter, described Charles Sturt as a university with dirt under its fingernails.

This pays off for us, for our communities and for our students. The national data has just shown that we have now had the best full-time employment outcomes for four straight years – and we were second for the two years before that.

This is because of the way the academics at Charles Sturt approach their job. Even though they are often at the forefront of their disciplines, they are strongly linked to the professions they serve and think just as hard about how to produce graduates that will make a difference to their industries and to the world. It is of course also a tribute to our graduates who are the ones who actually get the jobs, engage in their careers and deliver through their work. Charles Sturt is full of people working hard to make our communities and our regions a better place.

That's what makes being the Vice-Chancellor of Charles Sturt such a wonderful privilege. We have a university full of really passionate and well-motivated people who work every day to contribute to the Public Good.

When I first came here, I described Charles Sturt as a university with a soul and I think that does really fit.

We also adopted the Wiradjuri phrase '*yindyamarrawinhanghana*' – the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in.

I am very proud of this University, its staff and its students. I'm proud of our student outcomes, of what our graduates go on to contribute, of our contributions in research and I'm proud of our leadership in issues like the environment where we were Australia's first university to be federally certified as carbon neutral.

I'm also proud of the work we have done in gender equity – achieving the Athena SWAN Bronze Award and WGEA Employer of Choice and in the inclusion space in relation to LGBTIQ students and staff.

We do genuinely world-leading work here at Charles Sturt. Because we are based in regional Australia, this doesn't always get recognised and celebrated as much as it should do.

So please, take a moment to acknowledge the first 30 years of Charles Sturt University and let's look forward to many decades and centuries more.

Every day I am also proud to learn of another success from one of our alumni.

Across the country and around the world, Charles Sturt graduates are making game-changing contributions to their communities, industries and professions.

At this time of year, as I attend 16 graduation ceremonies in 10 days, I get a chance to reflect on the achievements of our graduates and alumni.

In 2020, we will get close to 215,000 alumni for this relatively young University. We have a lot to be proud of and I can't underscore enough how important our alumni are in encouraging other graduates to use their education, skills and contacts to create a world worth living in.

With the hands-on experiences our students gain during their study, Charles Sturt grads are uniquely placed to go out into the world and enjoy a career that makes a real difference.

This year has been a tough one for many people and the environment with the drought and recent bushfires having a very significant impact on our regions and communities.

Unfortunately, it seems this impact is set to continue over the coming months. We are committed to ensuring we can give affected students the best chance to continue pursuit of their studies through our Charles Sturt Bushfire Scholarships.

We have kick-started the scholarships with \$30,000 and will match each dollar donated.

If you would like to support this scholarship fund, or any other dedicated scholarships, please visit our Giving to Charles Sturt page.

I look forward to hearing more success stories from our alumni in 2020 and beyond. On that note I would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season.

*Merry
Christmas*

Editor's note: Information taken from CSU's Thrive Magazine and A Vann's letter to alumni.



DEDICATION TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH - **St John's ANGLICAN**
CHURCH, WAGGA WAGGA.



One of Wagga's best illustrations of Wagga Agricultural College and agricultural education and research is located in St John's Anglican Church.

The stained glass window is a reflection on the love and vision for agriculture education and research and of course Wagga Agricultural College held by former NSW Minister for Agriculture and Food Production Eddie Graham.

The window was donated by the family of WAC Old Boy Rob White ('73).

Rob, who attended a recent WAC class reunion, said his mother and grandmother donated the window to the church in memory of Mr Graham, who was the NSW Minister for Agriculture and Food Production between 1944 and 1957.

"In the window are things dear to Eddie's heart - especially Wagga Ag College," said Rob.

There is the Wagga Agricultural College crest and also various depictions of agricultural research and farming in the Riverina district.

Edgar Hugh "Eddie" Graham (19 January 1897 – 13 November 1957) was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1941 until his death. He was a member of the Labor Party and held numerous ministerial positions and was the Minister for Agriculture for 13 years.

The Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation at the CSU campus is named after him.

Since 1892, agricultural research and education have been conducted at the site now occupied by NSW Department of Primary Industries and Charles Sturt University.

Initially known as the Wagga Wagga Experimental Farm in 1893, the Farm was later developed in to the Wagga Agricultural College (1948) and the Agricultural Research Institute (1954).

Early researchers included William Farrer, Nathan Cobb and Albert Pugsley.

In 1976, the education and research functions of the Agricultural College became part of the Riverina College of Advanced Education, which later became the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education and finally, Charles Sturt University in 1989.

In 1996, the NSW Agriculture Research Institute became a Centre of Excellence for Southern Farming Systems and Viticulture and today is known as the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute.

Eddie Graham is still respected for his pioneering role in developing rural policies and education.

He opened the Department of Agriculture Wheat Research Institute in 1950 and the Agricultural Research Institute in 1954

Mr Graham was born in Wagga and was the son of a farmer.

He was educated to elementary level at state schools and initially worked as a butcher. He later worked as a stock agent and pig breeder.

Mr Graham was elected to the New South Wales Parliament as the Labor member for Wagga Wagga at the 1941 state election.

He defeated the sitting Country Party member, Matthew Kilpatrick in the landslide victory that allowed William McKell to form a government and held the seat at the next five elections.

Mr Graham passed away in 1957 when still the sitting member for Wagga Wagga.

Thanks to the White family the significant contribution that Wagga Agricultural College has made in providing opportunities in both education and research in the broader agriculture sector can be seen with this window at St Johns Church.

Photo: the stained glass window in St Johns Anglican Church in Wagga Wagga that reflects the significance of Wagga Agricultural College and agricultural education and research.

WACOBUSCHOLARSHIP 2019



ANNIE MATTHEWS

Annie Matthews of Grenfell, a final year student in the Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management course, received the WACOBUS Scholarship for 2019.

Thanks to all of the WACOBUS donors who make this scholarship available each year. It is great to see the Old Boys helping out current students annually with this scholarship.



Annie Matthews receives the Scholarship from
WACOBUS President Stuart Kanaley

Annie was a worthy recipient and wrote to WACOBUS's President Stuart Kanaley, Secretary James Brady and Old Boys expressing her appreciation

WACOBUSCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

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

The scholarship has doubled in value to \$2000.

If a reunion or get together is organised please consider making a donation.

All recipients have greatly benefitted from their scholarship.

This scholarship is one way of ensuring that WACOBUS remains in the spotlight at CSU.

Donations can be made to WACOBUS by direct debit (see last page of newsletter for details)

YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Dear Stuart, James and WACOBU donors

I am writing to express my gratitude and honour to be a recipient of a WACOBU Scholarship for 2019.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

I am the first in my family to receive a scholarship, and having received one based on my own merit and achievement, it is truly appreciated.

Growing up in a sixth generation farming family and a small rural community, especially one that is currently affected by the drought, receipt of this scholarship is appreciated not only financially, but also reinforces support for me in pursuing a career in the agricultural sector.

I have begun my final year studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management and this scholarship will assist me in purchasing textbooks and required resources for my course, accommodation and living away from home expenses, and other incidentals incurred as a full time student.

I am proud and passionate to be involved in the Wagga Ag Club, and feel privileged to have been a part of the Committee for two years now.

I have enormous interest in getting people involved in WAC and the agricultural community we have here at CSU Wagga.

With this scholarship I feel more driven to promote and endorse the greatness of our club.

Last year I had the role of races representative and organised the Fashions on The Field event at the Wagga Ag Races, which was the biggest event in Wagga for 2018. This year, I have taken on the role of Merchandise Coordinator and I absolutely love this role and managing the job in between study commitments.

Additionally, this scholarship may allow me to further my career by studying for a Wool Classing Certificate or completing additional industry practice and placement as part of my course and work experience.

This is highly beneficial to both my personal life but more so toward my professional career and for that I am very thankful.

Thank you very much for this Scholarship and the opportunity to represent WAC, and WACOBU.

I greatly appreciate your continuous support.

Kind regards

Annie Matthews

Editor's note: Congratulations Annie and wishing you every success in the future.





Robert “Fido” Barwell AM

Geoff Bushby and Graeme Hockey noted that WAC Old Boy Bob Barwell received an AM in 2019 for his services to the beef industry. Congratulations “Fido”.

Bob Barwell from Balala, was honoured in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his work in the beef cattle industry and bio-security.

Erica and Bob Barwell AM (photo courtesy of Armidale Express)



Mr Barwell is working nationally on many projects including:

- Obtaining trade access for rural produce
- Identifying any risks to trade which is fundamental to our national economic development.
- A member of the Cattle Council of Australia and Member, Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Consultative Committee.
- A Member of the Industry Systems and Food Safety Consultative Committee.
- Chairman of several organisations, including the Target Testing Working Group (Residues), Cotton Trash Working Group, Bobby Calf Residue Solution Working Group, HGP User Working Group, and he is a member of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Device Based Status Working Group.

Bob had an interesting life after he left Wagga Ag College and wrote some notes on this part of his life a few years ago.....

After leaving Wagga Ag College I did a Sheep & Wool course in Sydney, then went to Southland at the bottom end of New Zealand to work on sheep farms (the first winter almost killed me it was so cold and the local beer was akin to dish water).

Apart from the cold, it was a great learning experience - cutting edge sheep production and pasture improvement, far in advance of Australia at the time.

It was also a great location, about half an hour's drive to go deer stalking, and 3 hours to Queenstown. I returned to Australia (Carrathool, NSW Riverina) in the middle of a drought and heat wave.

The property, owned by Dalgety's (as it was then) was a Merino stud, and eventually conditions became so bad the breeding flock, plus that of another Dalgety owned stud nearby at Darlington Point, were moved initially to Gurley (also owned by Dalgety) and then across northern NSW on numerous properties on agistment.

I ran into Geoff Bushby again at Gurley. When it eventually rained again in the Riverina, the sheep were all moved back, however I stayed on at Gurley.

Geoff and I had an altercation with some cows one night coming back from Moree, Geoff's ute was a write off, Geoff received some fairly bad cuts and bruises and I managed to get some bad internal bruising and broke one of the vertebrae in my lower back (no seat belts in those days!).

After a week in Moree Hospital it was decided I would get better treatment in Sydney so was shuffled off there for a few months.

Eventually got back to Gurley, and Geoff and I were sent down to another property near Mudgee that was being managed by Dalgety for an absentee (English) landlord.

My back continued to cause problems (still does), so had to give agriculture a miss for about 6 months, moving to Sydney to work in a less physical environment, before moving down to a property near Yass as Overseer.

We were at Yass for 3 years and then moved to the New England (NSW) district to manage a property for an overseas owned company.

I stayed with the company for a bit over 20 years, becoming General Manager and a Director.

In that time the company expanded, purchasing other properties including row crop irrigation, broad acre farming and more livestock country, and had farming interests in New Zealand and Fiji.

All good things come to an end, and in 1991 the shareholders thought they had given Australian agriculture a fair run, and decided (correctly) they could make more money elsewhere (i.e. overseas), so the Australian operation was slowly sold off. I sold the last property for the company in late 1993.

In 1992 my wife and I bought a small farming block of our own, and I did some consultancy work, before becoming part of the working group that developed the Cattlecare program.

In 1994 I was appointed National Coordinator and ran the program until March 2002, when I decided it was time to retire.

After 3 months, I was asked to join the NSW Farmers Cattle Committee, and was then appointed to the Cattle Council of Australia as a Councillor.

I am heavily involved in food safety and trade risk and description areas for the cattle industry, representing Cattle Council on SafeMeat (chairing a few working groups), AUS-MEAT and a couple of other cattle industry enterprises.

Editor's note: Bob Barwell - another WAC Old Boy success story.

JIM PRATLEY- AM

In the 2019 Australia Day honours list, CSU Emeritus Professor James Pratley better known as Jim or “Pup” received the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his lengthy career in agricultural science.

Starting off his academic career at Wagga Ag College as an agronomy lecturer in 1972, Jim has played a significant role in both agricultural education and research for more than 45 years – based at Wagga.

He is still a strong advocate for the CSU agricultural courses on offer and the quality of graduates that are highly sought after by industry personnel justifies his stance.

The 2018 edition of WACOBU News contained an article on Jim’s career so we pre-empted what was going to happen with his AM!!!!

Jim still likes to keep in touch with Old Boys and was a guest at the 1971-73 reunion held in Wagga in October. Congratulations Jim – a worthy honour.



Photo: Stephen Burns (The Land)

MEMORIES OF WAGGA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

by Dave Heptonstall – WAC Dairy Lecturer 1965-69

In January 2017 I wrote some notes on my five years at WAC from 1965-1969.

More recently I have been fortunate to make contact with Old Boys who were students at that time.

These include personal communication with Dick Kobelke and Roger Clough and digital contact with Dick Redfern, Dave Barrow and Graeme Hockey ('66), who has included me in his frequent communications with fellow students in his years (1964/66).

Of equal delight was to receive a telephone call from Peter Maloney (our outstanding rugby 5/8 from 1965-67), who now resides in Hobart.

I was also pleased to receive copies of recent WACOBUS Newsletters.

As a Life Member and past President of the HACOBUS (*Editor's note: won't hold that against you Dave*) I know how important this "line" of communication is to Old Boys – and regrettably this discontinued some years ago at HAC.

These issues have again stimulated me to record some more thoughts on my "Wagga Years", when I was a lecturer from 1965-69.

These thoughts include:

1. They reminded me of my earlier three years at Hawkesbury (1952 -54)
2. The range and diversity of students with most "skewed" to the welfare of each other and of the need to contribute to College "life and tradition".
3. My responsibility for the management of the College Jersey herd and section with the objective of enhancing student's practical experience and knowledge of the dairy industry.

Two students, Ross Coomber and Don Battese subsequently worked with me in the Dairy Section of the Department of Agriculture.

4. The need to contribute to the "lives" of the fellow 15 families who resided at the College.
5. The pleasure at being asked by 1st XV Captain, Dick Redfern, to coach the College team (this despite me being an ex "League -y"!!). This job continued for four years and the team were Grand Finalists on two occasions.
6. A similar feeling as Chairman of the College Sports Club which included organising Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, annual Inter College Competitions and the NSW Pentathlon Championship.
7. Our children being able to take advantage of the magnificent College facilities.
8. I was also fortunate to play cricket in Wagga and be vice-president and selector of the Riverina Rugby Union.

The five years at Wagga were certainly among the most enjoyable of my 41 years with the Department of Agriculture.

I know many "Old Boys" have similar sentiments – irrespective of their subsequent careers.

MARILYN – ALIVE AND KICKING

(Now here is a story!!)

(Photo and story Courtesy of Ed Gannon @ The Weekly Times—Printed Wednesday June 5 2019)



Photo: Melbourne University agriculture students Tom McGillivray and Luke Allison with “Marilyn” back in Melbourne before her return to the Dookie campus.

Any former Wagga Ag College students and other agricultural colleges from the past 50 years will most likely know what we are talking about if we mention the name **Marilyn**.

And they will be delighted to know that Marilyn, as in glamorous US movie star Marilyn Monroe, is alive and well and at her old home at Dookie Agricultural College.

Intrigued? Let's explain.

Since 1956, a certain picture of Marilyn became a highly prized trophy sought by students at various military and agricultural colleges in Victoria, NSW and the ACT.

Originally brought to Australia by US sailors training at Flinders Naval Base in SA, Marilyn soon found herself in the loving care of our own Aussie sailors.

Not long after that she was pinched again, turning up at the Sale air force base, before being whisked away to Duntroon and then eventually Hawkesbury Ag College.

What started as a prank became a tradition.

For five decades Marilyn bounced between the colleges from Hawkesbury to Wagga Ag College, Dookie to Longerenong and Yanco to Tocal to Orange, as students sought to kidnap and keep Marilyn for themselves.

Now the reason Marilyn garnered so much interest from what was back then a largely male cohort, was the fact Marilyn is pictured full monty — tastefully it must be said, in the manner of a 1950s “glamour” photograph.

Stories of Marilyn's adventures in countless night-time raids became the stuff of legends.

According to former Hawkesbury student Dave Goodfellow who has written a history of Marilyn, at one stage a Duntroon contingent blew a hole in a wall at Hawkesbury to get hold of her.

In the process they destroyed the original picture, requiring a new one to replace her.

Needless to say, such extreme antics had college administrators huffing and puffing and wanting the tradition banned, prompting the introduction of some rules, including one that Marilyn must be hung in a reasonably accessible place to prevent damage by would-be kidnappers.

Marilyn's whereabouts became a bit of a mystery until a few weeks ago when some Melbourne Uni ag students received a tip-off that she was alive and well and in hiding at the Hawkesbury Ag college, now a campus of the University of Western Sydney.

Students Tom McGillivray and Luke Allison revived the decades old tradition and planned a mission to find her.

Slipping into Hawkesbury undercover as ... err ... students, they spent hours scouring the campus, eventually tracking her down and triumphantly returning her back across the Murray.

Tom was stoked to have revived this great old tradition and was delighted Marilyn was once again back at Dookie after a long absence.

They would look for an appropriate place to hang Marilyn and while abiding by the rule that she must be accessible, he said they didn't want to make it too easy for any would-be kidnappers.

Marilyn is now again in play.

Long live Marilyn.

Editor's note: Now there is a challenge!!!!!!!!!!

PETER WORSLEY “SAC”

still inspiring people

Story from Tanya Marschke Journalist, Central Western Daily – (published 7.11.19)

Former WAC student, Peter Worsley, who suffered a serious injury when playing rugby for WAC, hopes to inspire rehabilitation patients at Orange hospital with two sculptures he made from reclaimed steel.

Peter has an impressive CV in Paralympic shooting being an international gold medallist, started creating metal sculptures after his injury and two of those art works were recently installed in the hospital's rehabilitation garden.

Peter is very happy with his artwork.

"I'm so pleased I went down this path, everyone needs a good hobby.

"I would love to think that seeing this sort of work some other people might consider something they didn't think was possible and get as much joy out of it as I do.

"I've always liked metal work and growing up on the farm whenever there were wet days I was in the shed fixing things and making gates," Peter said.

Many years after his accident a friend of Peters was going away and asked if he could leave his tools and bits and pieces at his place and one of things was a welder.

Peter thought he wouldn't mind having a go and seeing if he could weld.

Peter initially used a splint he was given in rehabilitation to hold a table tennis paddle and he used that splint to hold the welding hand piece.

He no longer uses the splint because it took a long time to put on and had a tendency to catch fire so he now uses a piece of storm water pipe and duct tape- in true Aussie style!!

"I've got no use of my fingers at all so I just weld these steel hooks onto everything so I can put my fingers in those hooks and loops, that's how I pick everything up. I then use my armpit and two hands to hold things.

Mr Worsley was asked to display his sculptures after rehabilitation medical director Dr Sumitha Gounden saw his works in an exhibition.

“Peter is a high-level quadriplegic, meaning he has no movement in his legs and has minimal movement in his arms and no hand function.

"Peter is the only quadriplegic welder in the world and this achievement must be celebrated.

"It's so nice for our patients to be able to come into the gardens to not only enjoy looking at the beautiful sculptures but to feel inspired," said Dr Gounden.



GARDEN INSPIRATION: Sculpture Peter Worsley and garden curator Kerry Campbell in front of his sculptures. Photo: JUDE KEOGH (Central Western Daily)

Editor's Note: Peter Worsley – champion !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





CLASS REUNION

60 YEAR REUNION FOR WAC 1959 OCTOGENARIANS

By Bruce Ferguson & Peter Beinssen

Nineteen of the original 1957-1959 WAC student cohort of 33 gathered in Wagga on November 11-13, 2019 for a special 60-year reunion.

People travelled from the USA, Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, Queensland and the ACT.

The group, ranging in age from 79 to 85, has lately been meeting in Mooloolaba every two years, but decided on this important milestone to gather back at Wagga to celebrate sixty years since graduation.

Our all male cohort has always included partners in its reunions, and over the years the ladies have totally bonded with the group and with each other. This year they numbered 20 and included two who have sadly recently lost their husbands.



Bruce Ferguson, a Wagga resident, organised five events which kicked off with a dinner on the Monday night in the Gallery Room at the Mercure Hotel Wagga attended by 36, including guest speaker Stuart Kanaley (WAC 1979-1982), President of WACOBU. Bruce welcomed everyone, Ian Mashman passed on apologies from those unable to attend and mentioned that he had received letters from two of them. George Kinniburgh paid tribute to the seven we have lost.



On Tuesday morning we travelled on a Makehams Coach to the CSU Wagga Campus, where we met Professor Jim Pratley and two students, who guided us around the Campus on both sides of the hill. We left the bus to enter Joyes Hall and walk past West Hall (West Block) up to Bowen Hall (East Block) and past the Beres Ellwood Oval to Sutherland Laboratories to check out the WAC memorabilia in the foyer.



Back on the bus we then travelled on the north side of the Murrumbidgee via North Wagga, Oura and Wantabadgery. We used the “low level” or Tenandra Bridge to cross the river to Mundarlo so that we could cross to the west bank of Hillas Creek and follow it downstream to Fred and Noela Horsley’s home at “Tawarri” just upstream from the “Yabtree” homestead.



The Horsleys had generously invited us all to a magnificent lunch on their lawn overlooking Hillas Creek with its magnificent river redgums, all with the close backdrop of a steep and rocky granite hill. Margaret Walker and Sue Stewart assisted Noela and her sister Shayne with preparations. Geoff Plasto presented Noela with a bunch of flowers and an appropriate bottle of fluid.





From “Tawarri” we travelled back past the historic Junction Inn (on the original Port Phillip Road), past Deltroit Station, and back to Wagga via the Hume and Sturt Highways. On the bus Bruce Ferguson provided commentary and some local history about Wantabadgery Station; the tragic 1852 flood and rescue of many people by the aboriginal, “Yarrie”, using a bark canoe, and a lot of history about Horsleys’ “Yabtree Station” and it’s collection of heritage buildings, including Hillas Hut.

About 28 of us had dinner on the Tuesday night at the Thirsty Crow Brewery & Café in Fitzmaurice Street.



On Wednesday morning 18 of us gathered for a final breakfast at the Trail Street Coffee Shop before going our separate ways.



THOSE ATTENDING:

Peter & Beryl Beinssen, Roger Coddington, Bruce & Jenny Ferguson, Tim & Sue Harbutt, Richard & Delma Hilder, Fred & Noela Horsley, Jim, Felinda & Brooke Kilby, George & Martha Kinniburgh, David & Ann Lock, Ian & Dorothy Mashman, Michael & Marilyn Melville, Richard & Janice Perlowski, Don & Beth Phillips, Geoffrey & Jane Plasto, Bernard Scott, Bob & Colleen Smith, Bob & Sue Stewart, Callie Taylor, Phillip Walden, Margaret Walker, and Roger & Elizabeth Wilkinson.

APOLOGIES FROM:

Mike Buswell, Denis & Joy Cavanough, Lynn Coddington, Bruce & Georgina Coghill, Kathy Hook, Per & Mary Gunn, Bob & Wendy Roberts, Allan & Pat Ross, Helen Scott, Dawn Walden and Bill Watts.

Editor's note:

Obviously a wonderful few days back in Wagga on a very special occasion. Great to see WAC is still being celebrated 60 years on.



CLASS REUNIONS

WACers OF 1964

A note received early in 2019 from Bill Barnett informed WACOBU that the class of 1964 had caught up at various times since graduating.

As Bill stated “we were a bit slack in providing reunion information for the WACOBU newsletter”

Better late than never Bill!!!

There are photos and captions from some recent gatherings and these should rekindle some memories from Old Boys from that era.



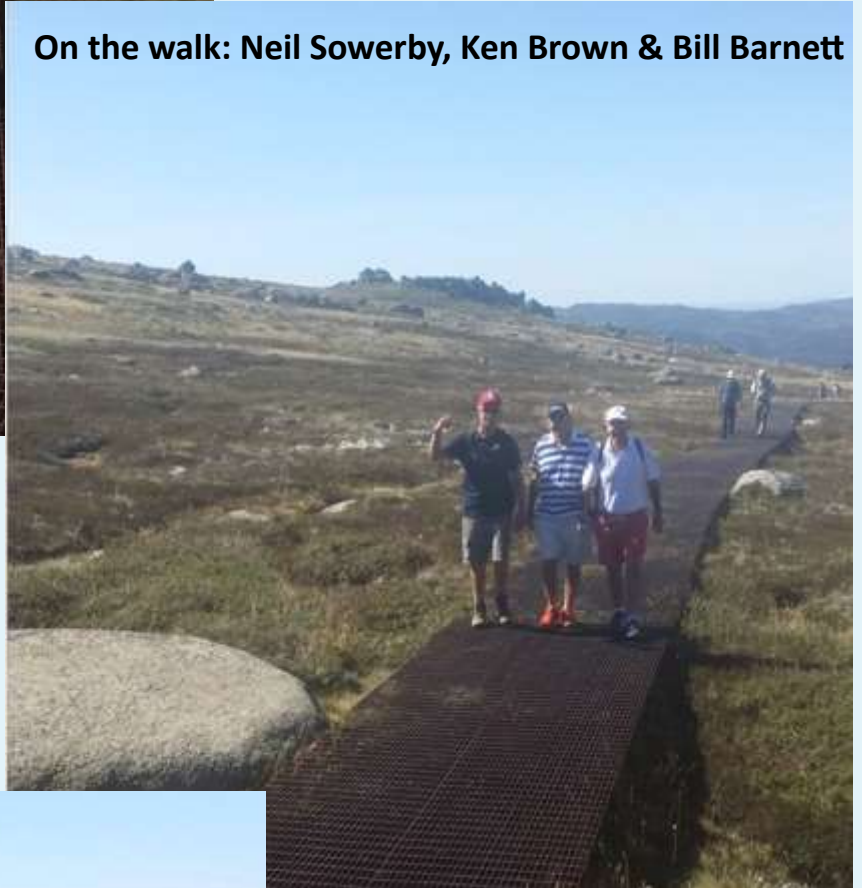
Class of 1964 Reunion walk to Mt. Kosciuszko in 2016

Reached the top: Dave Stewart, Tony Gelling, Pat Booth, Bill Barnett, Tony Quinn, Alex Stewart, John (Spider) Webb, Leanne Quinn, Neil Sowerby, Hazel Sowerby, Bill Booth, Rita Gelling, Sharon & Tom Stacy.



Spider Webb & Peter Rohan

On the walk: Neil Sowerby, Ken Brown & Bill Barnett



Tony Quinn & Bill Booth.

Reunion at Victor Harbor 2017

Near Kangaroo Island: Peter Rohan, Neil Sowerby & Spider Webb.





Adelaide Hills lunch: Tony Quinn (Gerogery), Peter Rohan (Killarney), Ken Brown (Adelaide), Neil Sowerby (Tintenbar), Spider Webb (Tumbarumba), Dave Plant (Adelaide), Bill Barnett (Noosa), Dick Crouch (Dolphin Point), Dave Stewart (Melbourne), Malcolm Carberry (Canberra) & Bill Booth (Wagga).



Editor's note: Thanks WACers of 1964 – great memories of a talented bunch.

CLASS REUNION

1971-73 CLASS REUNION IN WAGGA

(by Rebecca Tomkins @ Charles Sturt Media)

Over the October long weekend the 1973 graduating class of Wagga Wagga Agricultural College celebrated their 46-year class reunion, returning to their former stomping grounds.

1973



Back l-r: Stew Thomson, Phil Thearle, Peter Jones, Mick Bateman, Steve Cressey, John McClure, John Burbidge

4th row l-r: Marty Dickens, Mick Wood, Iven Denyer, Hugh Holland, Phil Hawes, Alan McGufficke, Laurie Raper

3rd row l-r: Don Burbidge, Steve Barnes, John McGrath, Kim Malafant, Geoff Spence, Chris McGee, Phil Dawes, Graeme Worboys

2nd Row l-r: Ross Rynhart, Ken Muller, Steve MacDonald, Ian Baird, Clive Sefton, Ian Braithwaite, Pete Raward, Don Russell

Front row l-r: Gary Barrett, Trevor Gilbert, Peter Sutton, Phil Stomou, Graham Nicol, Dave Blackall, Malcolm Ward

2019



Standing l-r: Eugene Maloney, Norris Henman, Stewart Thomson, Tony Schneider, Don Burbidge, Steve Cressey, Iven Denyer, Mick Bateman, Hugh Holland, Peter Jones, John McClure, John McGrath, Geoff Spence, John Burbidge, Alan McGufficke, Ian Royds

Kneeling l-r: Ross Rynchart, Steve MacDonald, Clive Sefton, Ian Braithwaite, Chris McGee, Graeme Worboys, Phil Hawes,

Sitting l-r: Trevor Gilbert, Peter Sutton, Phil Stomou, Graham Nicol, Dave Blackall, Malcolm Ward



The reunion was the class's largest reunion to date, with 30 graduates making the trip to Wagga Wagga. Their previous reunion was in the Hunter Valley in 2013 to celebrate 40 years and have held get-togethers at Canberra and Cootamundra prior to that.

Classmates have forged diverse careers in many agricultural industry sectors, farming, education, film production, higher education, counselling and the media.

Thirty students from the class of 40 travelled from Toowoomba, the Far North Coast, Dubbo, the Blue Mountains, and the Mid North Coast to make the three-day reunion event a success.

The graduating class kicked off the reunion event with a dinner at the William Farrer Hotel on Friday night.

On Saturday, the classmates went on a tour of the Wagga Wagga campus, which included a trip to the University's winery, and then they finished the day with dinner at the RSL Club.

During the dinner, classmates took part in a 'light-hearted awards ceremony' and were given a special edition of 'Kulpana', which was the college newsletter back in 1973.

The special edition included individual biographies and before-and-after photos of the 1973 graduates.

The reunion concluded with a fantastic breakfast at "Tambea Gardens" on Sunday as guests of former aggie Eugene and better half Michele Maloney.

During the weekend's festivities, the graduating class caught up with Professor Jim Pratley who started working at Wagga Wagga Agricultural College as a lecturer in 1972.

Professor Pratley continued his career at Charles Sturt and is currently a Research Professor in the Charles Sturt School of Agricultural and Wine Science.

Another lecturer from the 1970's Lindsay Beer was an apology.

Chief organiser of the reunion, 1973 graduate Iven "Goanna" Denyer, who lives in the Mid North Coast region of NSW, said he decided to organise the event because this year seemed like the best time to reunite.

"Since graduating, we all went on to lead busy lives with family and work.

"I haven't seen a third of my classmates since I walked through the doors after graduating.

"Many of us are retired or semi-retired now, and I thought it was a great time to get together and reminisce about the good old days, so I reached out to my classmates to organise a reunion and I got a very positive response.

"I saw people over the weekend that I haven't seen in 46 years.

"It was wonderful for us all to go back to WAC and catch up after all these years", said Iven.

Iven said that his favourite memories of his time studying in Wagga Wagga are the comradeship he had with his classmates and the many sporting events and 21st birthday parties.

The reunion was organised with help from the Charles Sturt Advancement Office which undertakes many initiatives to better connect, engage, celebrate and congratulate the University's alumni.

The assistance from CSU was invaluable and allowed the organisers to cater for a successful reunion.

Well done to all concerned.

Plans are underway for a 50th reunion in 2023.

1971-73 REUNION IN WAGGA

– the real story

Iven “Goanna” Denyer, the supreme prankster of the class of 1971-73, decided to do the hard yards and get the group back together, with everyone responding and making the effort to attend - if at all possible. Thanks Iven.

His work paid off with a great roll up of WAC Old Boys and their partners.

He had plenty of help from Macca, Forda, The Greeze, Dutch, Clarry, Perc and a few others to put together a top show.

CSU’s Alumni Office also did a great job and helped put together another edition of the Kulpana magazine (showing the varied and interesting post-ag college lives of the class, some special awards and contact details), organised a visit to CSU and farm tour for the Old Boys and put on a flash morning tea at the winery.

The William Farrer Hotel on Friday night was abuzz with old faces recognising each other and reminiscing about our times at the Tourist Hotel – “their pub in 1971-73”, the Dirty Duck, the famous 750ml KB Gold Can at College, kegs on the river and successful and unsuccessful attempts at home brews.....and other topics.

Saturday morning was a trip to the old digs, photos, a bus tour of the farm, graffiti still seen at the shearing shed, cuppa at the CSU winery, more talk.....

Saturday arvo saw people go to the Thirsty Crow or the Sportsman’s Hotel, the Picnic Races or did their own thing before the Official Dinner at the RSL Club, who catered for the group very well.

WAC blazers and ties, some excellent memorabilia, comprehensive slide show, special awards and Jim Pratley in attendance made for a good night.

Jim gave a talk on WAC and the transition to CSU.

The group made a donation to Riverina Bluebell for their work with Riverina people, including CSU ag students, raising awareness of mental health issues and encouraging people to get help and support.

On Sunday morning a fantastic lazy brunch was held at Eugene and Michele Maloney’s Tambea Kitchen and Garden at Shepherds Siding. (Incidentally, the property was previously owned by Des Heaton-Harris – a lecturer at WAC).

The group then made tracks and headed home to all parts of Australia and some even ventured overseas.

Reminiscing.....

When our year started in 1971 – WAC, all male college, everyone lived on campus including lecturers and other staff, motting, rugby, Chalkie women, getting used to Old Kent ale, kegs, cars, food fights, water fights, some dagging, most passed their exams – some didn't.

By 1973 – RCAE, very brave grots on campus, rugby, kegs, 21st's, women, food fights, some students kicked off campus, more cars, dagging, most passed our final exams, beers and cheers.....

A time of great change at WAC and not everyone was happy with it!

Some interesting facts from the 1971-73 crew:

Quite a few graduates did a DipEd (had to comply with scholarship conditions) at Wagga, Sydney or Armidale and taught agriculture at schools for varying lengths of time – some stayed the full distance.

Peter “Sundance” Jones and Ian “Movement” Baird are Life Members of the NSW Ag Teachers Association for their work in agricultural education in schools.

Ian “River Rat” Royds won a Gold Medal and two Silver Medals at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch in kayaking- and is still involved in that sport as an instructor. How good is that!!!

Some of the crew are still farming – Clarry, Noddy, Whitey, Cactus, Sparky, Eug and many others have dabbled in a range of agricultural enterprises in their time since WAC from dairy to pigs to beef cattle to fruit and vegetable production.

A lot of the crew have made significant contributions to the agriculture sector in their careers in service, advisory, extension and research fields.

The mid north coast is a mecca for many of this group – and they stayed even after having to listen to Macca on ABC Rural radio for many years!!

Ross Rynehart “Belly” spent time as Station Leader at Mawson in the Antarctic and built his own planes which apparently did fly!!

Other careers have included social work, rural counselling, RFS, university lecturing, timber worker and furniture maker, tree surgeon, real estate agent, stipendiary steward, wool buyer, wholesale food distribution, tourist bus driver, the list goes on...

Many have made significant contributions to their local community and employment sectors over a long period.

Some are still into home brewing and fixing cars.

Many have just retired from the workforce and enjoying a busy lifestyle proving once again that retirement is a myth.

Most have travelled extensively both in Australia being in the almost-grey nomad stage of their lives and overseas destinations are also common.

All are still good blokes, got on well with each other and from a group of motts from all parts of NSW enrolling at WAC in 1971 turned out OK!!

Many of the wives and partners of Old Boys have remained friends and helped make the reunions a success.

The 1971-73 crew agreed that WAC was a great place to be for 3 years and mateships that developed at that time continue today, proving the adage:

“The mates you made at WAC will always be your best mates”

RIVERINA BLUEBELL DONATION

WAC 1971-73ers

The WAC 1971-73ers made a sizeable donation to the Riverina Bluebell committee.

(Editor's note: check out their website)

This committee has the goal of "increasing the awareness about mental health issues and encouraging people to get help and support". They are a volunteer group who work in the Riverina, offering assistance to community groups, schools and individuals from Hillston to Tumbarumba and Hay to Harden.

They are also working with agriculture students at CSU – a service that is being utilized and having a support network for aggies can only be a good thing!

Riverina Bluebell is linked to Beyond Blue and other mental health support schemes and services like Life Line, Veterans help services, kids help line, suicide help and the gambling help line.

Everyone knows the name Riverina Bluebell – we used the common name Patterson's Curse (and in this dry year the weed has once again made its presence felt in many areas of the state!!)

Graeme and Sandra Worboys spoke to Riverina Bluebell committee member Chris Wilson who said the organisation is self-funded - so the donation from the Old Boys was greatly appreciated.



CLASS REUNIONS

Coming Up
Next . . .

2020

2020 MUDGEE REUNION

1964-66 WACers

Dates: Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2020 (4 nights).

Accommodation: Big 4 Mudgee Holiday Park 71 Lyons Dr Mudgee.

Phone (02) 6372 1090

e-mail info@mudgeeholidaypark.com.au

Plan "A" itinerary

Monday 25 Welcome at the Lawson Park Hotel (Red Heifer Grill)

Tuesday 26 Tour of Gulgong and their museums. There will be 4 museums in Gulgong when we visit. The Pioneer Museum is by far the largest and possibly warrants a visit, a lot of gear you will all identify with. We have been put in touch with the Gulgong CWA ladies and the President has indicated they would like to provide us with lunch in the CWA hall.

Evening: BYO BBQ at the caravan park.

Wednesday 27 Self- drive tour of the vineyards. We could arrange a tour with one of the Tour Operators but these start at around \$100/head, from 8.30am till 4.30 pm, visiting 6 wineries, including a basic lunch. We thought you would be better advised to organise yourselves in groups and do it that way.

Evening: Reunion Dinner, to be held at a restaurant in Mudgee or out in the vineyards.

Thursday 28: Leisurely day with a sausage sizzle at Windamere Dam.

Friday 29: Farewell breakfast.

Editor's note: Sounds like another great get together from this group of Old Boys

CLASS REUNIONS

Coming Up
Next . . .

2020

1970 WACers 50th REUNION

AUGUST 28,29,30 2020 @ WAGGA

Phil “Sticks” Morrison, David Peasley and Stuart Bell have issued an invitation to Old Boys from the 1968-1970/71 vintage to attend the 50th reunion of the graduates of 1970.

It will be held in Wagga on August 28th, 29th and 30th, 2020.

All members of WACOBU are invited to attend their dinner function on the Saturday night (August 29) as well.



First Year 1968

1970 REUNION OF WAGGA AG COLLEGE GRADUATES

If you attended Wagga Agricultural College in 1968, 1969 and 1970, you, your partner and family or friends are invited to attend a reunion at Wagga Wagga on Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August 2020.

Lecturers and student mentors are particularly asked to attend all or any of the activities.

At present we need numbers so that costs of meals at CSU and the winery and a bus can be organised with the least amount of cost - the more people the merrier.

Contact:

Phil (Sticks) Morrison

0269312002 or 0428281005

email: pgjmmoro@bigpond.com ASAP with your attendance

Your acceptance would be warmly welcomed.

ITINERARY

- ***Friday 28th: Dinner at the Farmers Home Hotel.***
- ***Saturday 29th: Morning Tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea at WAC campus (Central block) Brian Atkins Hall with tours of facilities at CSU North Campus.***
- ***Saturday 29th. Formal Dinner –three course meal at Bangayarra Room (near central block). Bus will be provided.***
- ***Sunday 30th Lunch at the CSU Winery and a BBQ TEA at the Big 4 Caravan Park Sturt Highway Wagga.***

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

- Big4 Wagga Wagga Holiday Park. BIG4.com.au This will be where the majority of people will be staying. Look it up on website.
- International Hotel. (It is near the Farmers Home Hotel and central to Wagga Wagga. It is more a motel than a hotel.) Google the International Hotel Wagga Wagga. It is brand new.
- Carriage House Motel 7 Eunony Bridge Rd Wagga Wagga (Google Carriage House Motel Wagga Wagga).

(NB: Bruce Peasley thanked the Editor for the article in the 2018 WACOBU newsletter from the year's Lightning Ridge reunion held in 2017).



Wagga Ag College campus early 1970's

DROUGHT AND FIRES

The ongoing drought and recent major bushfires have certainly had a major effect on rural and regional Australia.

There would be many Old Boys and their families affected.

WACOBU trusts that everyone remains safe and hopes that things can turn around for the better in 2020 and a worthwhile fall of general rain across our affected areas happens sooner rather than later.

To all those affected our thoughts are with you and WACOBU hopes you can bounce back.

**David Howard ('61)**

Many thanks to Stuart Kanaley and the other kind and devoted people who help compile the WACOBU newsletter.

It means a lot to us all I'm sure despite the obits which have a tendency to bring us all back to reality.

Please pass on my best wishes to all your colleagues involved in the newsletter and other Old Boys.

Here in Cairns there's a continuing epidemic of ex Gatton, ex Hawkesbury people but I let them live along in their ignorance.

Jack Murray ('74)

Hi mate, it has been a long time since we have spoken. I was sent a copy of a WAC newsletter and asked Stu Kanaley if he could put me on the list for the next one.

I speak to Graham "Norton" Nicol (73) on regular occasions and Eugene Moloney is a cousin.

All my year keep in touch with most of them come to reunions. I still talk regularly to Steve Gell, Tony Grant, Jock Munro and Jim Ross.

I am semi-retired, have been in the cotton industry now for 40 plus years and slowing down.

Ray Moir – ('66)

I am a 1966 vintage and catch up with my year at regular reunions.

However I am isolated otherwise.

I live in Carnarvon (NW Western Australia) and would love to have a beer with any old boys passing through.

It is a long way from Wagga but is on Highway One for anybody travelling around Australia and the welcome mat is open to any WAC Old Boys.

Contact Ray via: raymoir@bigpond.net.au

Graham "Tank" Quintal ('72)

I have recently moved from Sydney to Caves Beach and have changed my email address and therefore not been receiving the Old Boys newspaper. Please update my contact details.

I manage a database of our cohort so I can send that through to you if you wish, so that they can receive the newsletter.

Contact Tank via: gandjquintal@gmail.com

Ian Richardson

ianruthricho@gmail.com Living in Coffs Harbour and retired from teaching.

Milton Gower

Retired from teaching in 2016 at Macarthur Anglican School, Cobbitty after 28 years. Email: mandbgower@bigpond.com

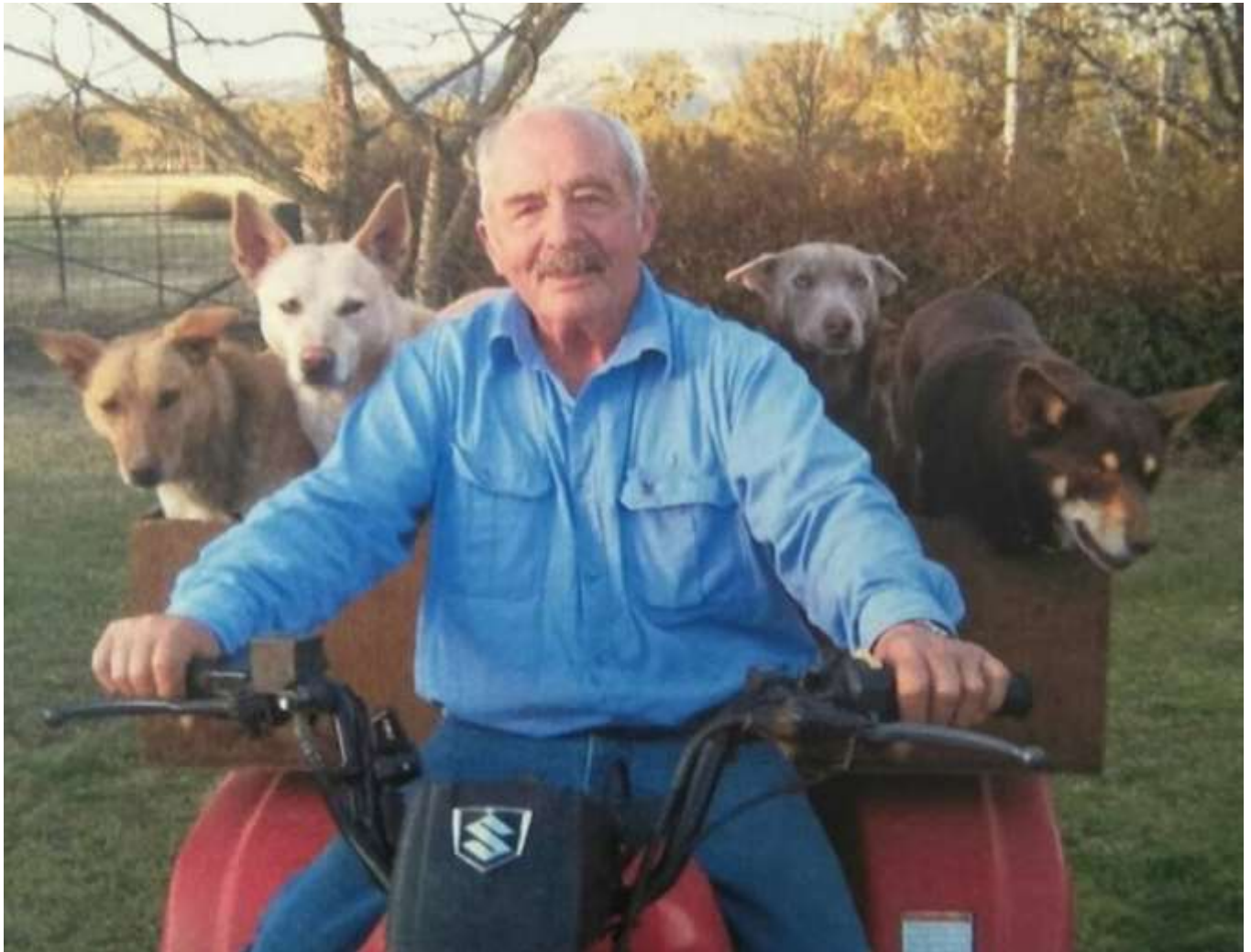
Richard Hilder

richard@rhilderconsulting.com.au 0418 289 983

Vale **Graham Charles “Hookie” Hook**

10.04.1939—03.11.2019

Aged 80 Years



This good and modest man was a central character in the cast of the 1957 intake of mots into Wagga Agricultural College.

He came with an impeccable pedigree and an interesting past - but fitted in immediately. He was a class act on the football field and played in the position of hooker in matches all over the Riverina.

On leaving WAC he studied law and practiced as a solicitor.

First in Bowral and then in the Upper Hunter area where he bought land, ran cattle and bred working dogs.

He was a man committed to the service of his community, doing lots of pro bono work and serving on numerous committees.

In 1962 he married Gillian (nee Price) with whom he had three children, Jamie, Henry and Serena.

He later married Kathy Robinson with whom he spent the second part of what he described as a 'blessed life'.

Hookie loved a good laugh and had a signature giggle that he came to Wagga Ag College with in 1957 - and stayed with him throughout his life.

Vale Hookie. A real good bloke.

(By Peter Beinssen)



Vale **Graham Smith (1966-68)**

WAC Old Boy Gordon Tink (1965-67) informed WACOBU stalwart John Mahon late in May 2019 of the passing of three identities from Orange who had strong links to agriculture.

One was a WAC graduate.

Graham Smith (who attended WAC from 1966-1968), was well known in the central west.

After graduating from WAC Graham spent some time in New Guinea before returning to Orange to set up an orchard which he operated for many years.

More recently he was involved with a roadside coffee lounge-eatery on the Molong Road just out of Orange.

He passed away after a short illness.

The second person who passed away was fellow orchardist Peter Darley who was almost a neighbour of Graham. Coincidentally, he passed away the same day as Graham.

The third person was highly respected rural retail identity Tom Ellis who operated Ellco Farm Supplies for many years in Orange.

Ian "Smiley" Johnson ('74) was one person who worked with Tom Ellis and gained a great appreciation of Tom's knowledge of and his service to agriculture in the central west during his Ellco days.



FOR THE LOVE OF RUGBY



70 YEARS OF AG COLLEGE RUGBY

Wagga Ag College rugby players do not forget their time in the green and gold.

Don Erikson played in the 1949 WAC rugby team and had photos of that team, which he wanted to share when he visited Wagga in August.

Don contacted WACOBUE and wrote:

I am not an old boy but I was a Junior Clerk in the office in those first days of the college and as I was 18 years old, a keen and experienced rugby player, I was included in the team.

When the 60 year celebration was held, a reasonable number of that team were still alive.

I'm not sure now without doing some investigation, but there are few left now.

There were, last I heard, I believe three of the 1949 WACers left in total from the 30 odd students, not the two teams specifically – (two teams were formed in that year, the Second XV being named North Wagga).

One of them is "Dick" Murray Haddrill at Temora, another is Dave Bryant at Cowra.

After contacting WACOBUE, President Stuart Kanaley and James Brady did the ground work for Don to catch up with some rugby players when he visited Wagga prior to the 70 year celebration.

After contacting WACOBUE, President Stuart Kanaley and James Brady did the ground work for Don to catch up with some rugby players when he visited Wagga prior to the 70 year celebration.

Don and his wife Margaret both enjoyed their visit to CSU and a short look around Wagga.

WACOBUs Bruce Ferguson (1957-59) sent Don some information on his visit and attended the games and caught up with Dick Haddrill (WAC 1949) who Don mentioned in his letter.

A great story and thanks to Don for his efforts in contacting WACOBUs and sharing his story of rugby at WAC 70 years ago.



Don Erikson, who played in the 1949 WAC Rugby side with current Ag College players Ethan O'Brien and Kellen LeMesurier holding a team photo of the 1949 team.

WAC RUGBY 2019

In the 70th year of WAC Rugby, the club responded in style by making the Grand Finals in both first and second grade in the Southern Inland Rugby Union zone.

It was a fantastic performance from both grades and was testament to the strength of WAC Rugby.

The tradition of playing for the green and gold lives on and every player should be proud of this achievement of two grand final appearances.

Special mention to first grade coach Will Mitchell who has steered the team to consecutive grand finals against the 'Tahs.

He lives and breathes WAC rugby and is a great ambassador for the club and rugby in general.

Second grade coach Jonno Andreou also did a fantastic job with his team and will step up a grade in 2020.

In first grade, WAC qualified for the big match with a great victory over Albury in the preliminary final, setting the stage for an almighty clash against Wagga Waratahs.

In the first XV match against Waratahs the Aggies started like a house on fire and led 13-5 at half time.

Their efforts in this first 40 minutes had everyone hoping for the dream result.

Unfortunately the 'Tahs woke up after half time and piled on 26 points to win an exciting game 29-18.



A great effort from our lads in the green and gold jerseys with every player giving 100% and you can't ask for anything more than that.

Captain Matt Harris and his team did the club proud and showed everyone at the ground what it meant to be part of the WAC rugby community.

The second grade XV went down 27-19 – also to Waratahs in a high standard match and surprised everyone with their effort.

Supporters gathered at the William Farrer Hotel post-game to celebrate a great year of WAC Rugby.

Ego Yah!!

In third grade the Griffith Blacks defeated the Deniliquin Drovers 36-17 and then won their second grand final of the day when their women's team defeated Waratahs in the Aon Australia Women's 10s match.



Southern Inland Rugby Awards

Bill Castle Medal

Liam Krautz of Albury Wodonga Steamers won the Bill Castle Medal for the best and fairest player in first grade in 2019.

There were not many points between the top 10 and there were a number of players in the running for the trophy.

WAC was well represented in the top 10 with **Ben Brooke** finishing 4th and **Michael Van Diggelen** 5th after both players enjoyed a great season.

Well done Ben and Michael!!

Volunteer of the Year

Capping off a good year for WAC Rugby second grade coach **Jonno Andreou** was rewarded for his enormous contribution to rugby when he was named 2019 SIRU's Volunteer of the Year.

He was also named Rookie of the Year by the Southern Inland Rugby Referee's Association.



Jonno has stepped up and will be coaching the WAC First XV in 2020.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

The WAC Rugby Club held their AGM at the William Farrer Hotel.

A big thankyou was extended to the 2019 committee, especially club President Lachie Green, for the work they did in a highly successful season for WAC Rugby both on and off the field in 2019. WAC Rugby is strong!!

The rugby club keeps the Wagga Ag College name alive and well.

The 2019 committee would like to extend our congratulations to the 2020 committee.

President- Tareq Sorial

Vice President- Ethan Brien

Secretary- Riley Catts

Treasurer- Mac Cusack

Registrar- William Nixon

Club Captain- Pat Lemmich

Match Day Organisers- Pat Crawley, Sam Chalmers

Sponsorship- Simon Miller

Merchandise- Liz Young

Board Members- Nat Martin, Cam Duffy, Ellie Burnett

Club Tutor- Kellen Lemesurier

Spiritual Advisor- Will Green

The committee looks forward to steering the club in the 2020 SIRU rugby season.

Ego yah!



31st ANNUAL WAGGA AG RACE DAY

September 21, 2019

Murrumbidgee Turf Club



Once again the agricultural community got together at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club, Wagga to attend the 31st Ag Race Day.

The day has become one of the premier race days in country NSW with another huge crowd attending.

Organised by the Wagga Ag Club, the event was started to raise money for Peter Worsley, an on old boy, who broke his neck in a game of rugby in 1987 that left him a quadriplegic. The students of WAC proudly continue their support of Peter and his family each year.

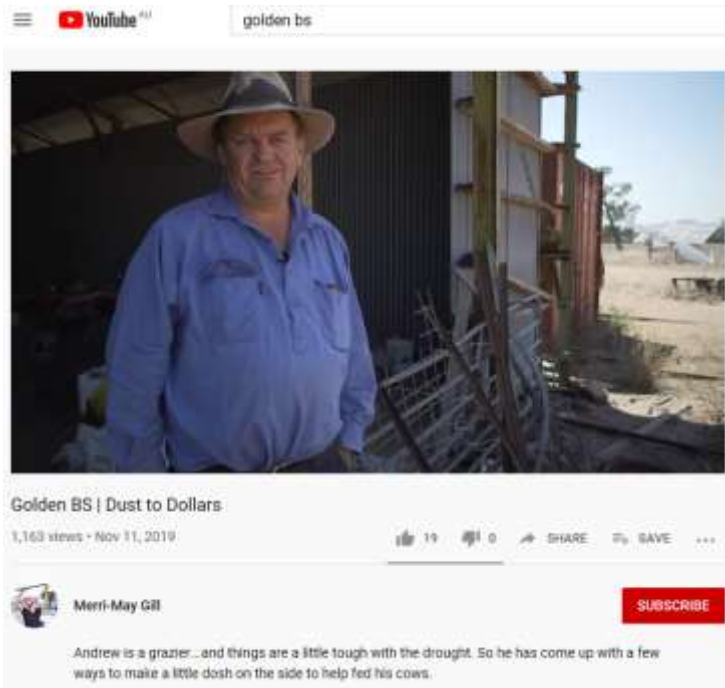
After 31 years of holding this race day the event continues to grow and is always well supported by a large cross section of the community.



Racegoers enjoyed the Wagga Ag Races at the MTC on 21.9.19

Photos: Courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser

SOCIAL MEDIA



*Check out this YouTube video that
Andrew O'Neill (Sphincter) has
done in response to the drought...
hilarious!*

Golden BS

facebook



Join the **Wagga Ag College Photos Through The Years** Facebook Community Page

<https://www.facebook.com/WACpics/>

WAGGA AG
COLLEGE
JINGELIC
REUNION

Private group

Motts of -91 Facebook Group



Join the **Wac Rah-Rah** Facebook Community Page
for all the latest Rugby Club News

<https://www.facebook.com/WACRugby>

WAC CONNECT



As 2019 comes to a close, I can definitely look back and say that it flew by. It proved to be another great year for Ag College showing a presence at events such as Euberta dog trails, WAC Meet and Greet as well as the annual Ag races weekend.

The 2020 WAC Committee was selected in September and is listed below.

2020 Committee

President: Kellen 'Listo' LeMesurier

Vice-President: Lexi Young

Secretary: Pat 'Fleabane' Crawley

Treasurer: Lachlan 'Barc' Woods

Event Co-ordinator: Georgie McMillan

Merchandise: Danielle Brown

Races President: Alex Smith

Races Representative: Heidi Noonan

Races Representative: William 'Sheets' Nixon

3rd Year Representative: Pat 'Lepto' Lemmich

2nd Year Representative: Riley Catts

WACOBU Liaison: Matt 'Mook' Hocking

WAC Rugby

2019 proved to be another ripper year for Ag College with the 1st and 2nd grades making finals and the women's once again having another strong year of rugby.

First grade was again coached by Will Mitchell this year with it unfortunately being his last year as the 1st grade coach for Ag College.

Grand Final day was another huge day for the college with support for teams being shown through a large passionate cheers squad that definitely didn't disappoint on the day.

Unfortunately, both teams went down to the Waratahs on the day, but it was a memorable grand final being the last game for Ag College for many graduating Motts and fellow players.

2020 looks to be another great year for Ag College rugby with new 1st grade head coach Jonno Andreou taking the reins from Will Mitchell.

Ag Races

The 2019 WAC Weekend was another huge weekend to remember with a black-tie ball being held on the Friday at the racecourse.

Saturday 'race day' started off with the standard morning Duck beers followed by a successful day of races with the annual 'COL Cup' Mott race being held in the afternoon.

This race demonstrated another line up of 10 first year Motts and was one by DEN Mott, proving that any dumb first year Mott is able to achieve greatness if he puts his mind to it.

Sunday at the Duck for the annual race's recovery proved to be another blinder of a day with hundreds of people attending in an effort to once again drink the duck completely dry.

Looking into 2020, the committee is looking forward to another great year with many memorable events being planned for the year.

I hope you all enjoyed the little update.

As the new WACOBU Liaison for 2020 I hope I can keep in touch and keep you up to date with any questions or queries that you might have throughout the year.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas, but more importantly 'EGO-YAH!'

Cheers!

Matt 'Mook' Hocking

0439 328 601



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

WACOBU MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

MEMBERSHIP: \$10/year (1 Sept - 31 Aug)

DETAILS:

Name: _____

Years at WAC: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

phone: _____

WORK DETAILS:

Employer- _____

Position Title- _____

****I wish to join/renew annual membership from *1 Sep-Aug31 Amount: \$10**

****Scholarship Donation:** Amount: \$ _____ **TOTAL:** _____

WACOBU BANK DETAILS

BANK: ANZ

BSB: 012-823

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 2070-98615

REFERENCE: (your name)

MESSAGE: (eg, membership, donation)

**** PLEASE EMAIL ROZ PRAGNELL ON rozza1957@gmail.com**

"I have transferred \$_____ by EFT to WACOBU for eg, membership". A receipt can then be issued.

**The membership period is 1 September to 30 August with allowances that if you join during the period 1 May to 31 August your membership will run until 31 August the next year.*

WACOBU scholarship donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Any donations are transferred annually to the Charles Sturt Foundation.