

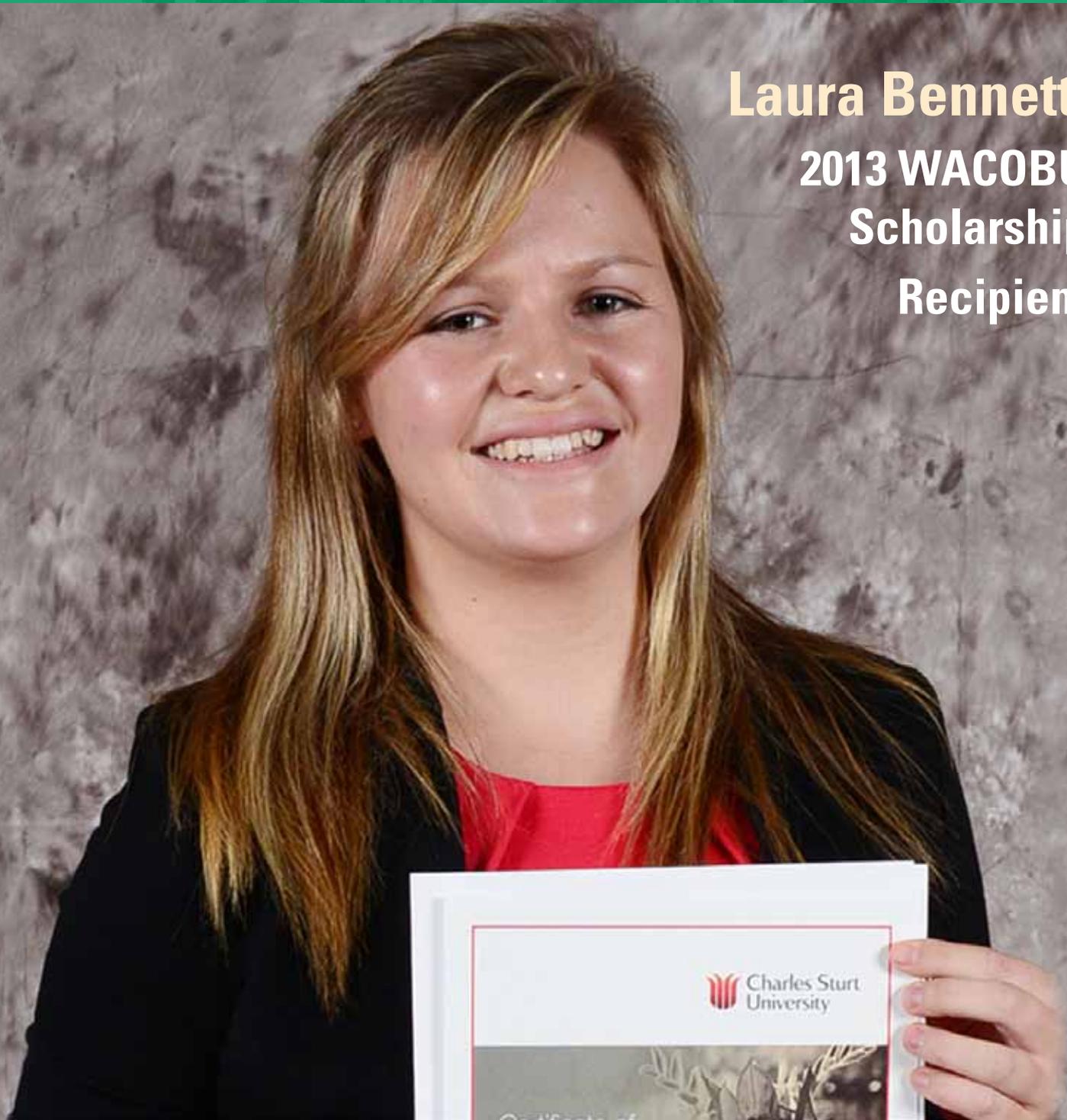
WACOBU  
P.O. Box 1092  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

# ***WACOBU News***

*Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union*

DECEMBER 2013

**Laura Bennett:  
2013 WACOBU  
Scholarship  
Recipient**



# WACOBU COMMITTEE

## WACOBU COMMITTEE

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

### Importance of scholarship

Earlier this year, in May, I was given the opportunity to present the WACOBU Scholarship to Laura Bennett.

The impressive ceremony was held at Joyes Hall, with a large attendance of students, staff, family and friends.

The WACOBU Scholarship is an important component of the Old Boys charter and it needs your support.

Students apply for the scholarship and then interviewed by members of the WACOBU committee before a student is selected to receive the scholarship.

WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley has stressed the need for more financial assistance from Old Boys for this legacy to continue.

In recent times, the major contributors for the scholarship have been a former Head of School and a spouse of a former lecturer.

There has been only minimal support from other people associated with WACOBU and CSU.

The value of this scholarship to the recipient is apparent.

2011 recipient Ally Dingjan stated that the support of WACOBU and its scholarship allowed her to attend several courses and field days which were invaluable to her studies.

The latest recipient Laura Bennett was also appreciative of the scholarship, stating that the high costs associated with studying at CSU were a real strain on herself and her family and the financial support was welcomed.

If any year group is having a reunion please consider making a donation towards this WACOBU scholarship.

Individuals can also make a donation.

Contact any members of the WACOBU committee for further details.

We must keep this scholarship alive.

### WACOBU Newsletter Editor

Graeme Worboys (1973) is the editor for the newsletter.

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

It is planned to have two issues each year.

Graeme's contact details are;

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## President's message

Time has come to acknowledge the sterling support of the CSU Wagga undergraduate scholarship program given by Malcolm McKay (1957).

Malcolm is a trustee of the HV McKay Charitable Trust which first presented a scholarship to a Wagga Ag student in 1951, making this the oldest scholarship at CSU.

For many years Malcolm has returned to Wagga from his home at Winchelsea, south west of Geelong to interview candidates and present the award.

Early 2010 saw CSU centralise all scholarship management functions to Bathurst, whereupon a range of problems emerged.

By August 2010 Malcolm was so disenchanted with the process, he began contacting other scholarship donors on the Wagga campus and found experiences in common.

Malcolm enlisted assistance from Anne Hart and Bernard, long term donors to School of Ag scholarships and supporters of the School.

They canvassed all the Wagga campus donors, arranged a gathering to identify common problems, and commenced representations to CSU, which were acknowledged, but received little action.

Malcolm resisted pressure from other family trustees to end the frustration by dropping Wagga in favour of another Victorian campus.

Throughout 2011 and 2012 many hours of phone calls, numerous trips to Wagga for meetings, Malcolm rallied community support to request better treatment for student applicants and donors.

Early in 2013 a concession was achieved, with management of the scholarship program for the whole university moving to the Division of Marketing and Communications, based in the former WAC Principals residence.

WACOBU has participated in the discussions throughout, as a number of Old Boys and long term associates were directly involved.



**Malcolm McKay with Matthew Gould, winner of the 2008 HV McKay Scholarship.**

As a leading Alumni group, we were able to give voice in representations on behalf of many of the Riverina donors.

Issues raised went to the heart of how the multi campus institution chooses to interact with the Riverina regional community.

We will continue to watch with keen interest how the University re-engages with the Riverina Community.

Well done Malcolm McKay, a huge personal effort to highlight issues the University tried to gloss over.

**Stuart Kanaley**  
**WACOBU President**



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

# Laura Bennett

## 2013 WACOBU Scholarship Recipient



Laura Bennett was a proud recipient of the 2013 WACOBU Scholarship.

In an impressive ceremony at Joyes Hall in May this year, Laura was presented her scholarship by Graeme Worboys (1973), who represented WACOBU.

Laura was a worthy recipient of this scholarship after making application to and being selected by the WACOBU committee.

Growing up on a family run farm on the North Coast of NSW, Laura has a great love of agriculture and is currently studying in that field at CSU, after making the decision to switch from a course specialising in veterinary science.

Laura has shown academic excellence, strong leadership skills and community commitment during her school life and has carried on those traits at CSU in 2012 and 2013.

Her involvement with the Wagga Ag College Women's Rugby Club is very pleasing and she has taken a leadership role in the management of this club, both on and off the field.

Laura appreciates the benefits of living in the country and the strong community links that exist in the bush.

She is committed to working in a regional centre after completing her university studies.

Laura sees a positive future for agriculture and is confident of gaining employment in her chosen field after graduating from CSU.

Her involvement in the community has very commendable and with strong family support Laura has been able to continue her studies in agriculture at Wagga.

When presented her WACOBU scholarship, Laura was very appreciative of this financial support from the Old Boys which will help her meet some of the costs associated with life as an agriculture student at CSU.

Laura is well aware of the history of Wagga Ag College and the important role it has played in agricultural education over the past 64 years.

Congratulations Laura on your success in being selected as the recipient of the 2013 WACOBU Scholarship.

Old Boys need to be made aware that WACOBU needs some assistance in ensuring this Scholarship does continue.

If any Old Boys can assist in making a donation to WACOBU for the scholarship please contact any committee members.

If any ex-students are arranging a reunion or there is an informal get together, please mention the scholarship and how it benefits students who are studying agriculture at CSU.

Your support would be greatly appreciated by the WACOBU committee.

## ***Laura Bennett: Thank You***

Dear Charles Sturt University Foundation Donor,

I am writing with sincere gratitude in allowing me to win a scholarship which will prove vital in assisting me to study Agricultural Science at the CSU Wagga campus

This campus has a rich history in regards to Wagga Agricultural College and the traditions and way of life still live on vigorously through the Rugby Union Club.

To be awarded this scholarship which is funded by past students of Wagga Agricultural College is not only a great opportunity in allowing me to study at my highest potential, but it is also an honour to be recognised as a contributing student to this great institution.

The scholarship assists me with my studies by allowing me to purchase recommended textbooks along with writing and technological materials for university.

It also helps with my travel allowance which allows me to journey to other agricultural areas for placement which again reinforces my knowledge of agriculture and allows me to gain practical skills in the field.

As cotton is my passion it allows me to travel large distances to the north west of the State where the crop flourishes.

Also as I have chosen to study at Wagga due to its renowned reputation for producing excellent agricultural scientists I have to travel great distances from my home town to reach the university.

This scholarship allows me to travel home during the winter break to see my family which again is a great bonus.

I aim to be a diligent and successful agricultural student at university, involving myself in all aspects of the degree and social side by actively helping to organise events such as the annual Ag Races day and also continuing to play rugby for the WAC women's side.

I then aspire to be a knowledgeable young agricultural scientist when I graduate and I hope to be able to prove myself in the field as a well-informed agronomist, with the aim of increasing food and fibre production for a growing world population.

This scholarship assists with helping me reach this goal and for that I am forever grateful of your generous donation and for the opportunity to win this scholarship.

I am also thankful for the opportunity to meet the donors and some of the contributors to the scholarship and hope to keep helpful and friendly contacts like these throughout my agricultural career.

Kind regards,

***Laura Bennett***

## WAC 1971-73 | 40 Year Reunion



**Back: Peter Sutton, Phil Stomou, Steve MacDonald, Hugh Holland, Iven Denyer, Phil Dawes, Middle: Peter Jones, Graham Nicol, Graeme Worboys, John Burbidge, Geoff Spence, Dave Blackall Front: Stew Thomson, Alan McGufficke, Phil Hawe**

An enthusiastic group of WAC Old Boys from 1971-73 and their partners enjoyed a weekend together at the Mercure Resort in the Hunter Valley in late August to rekindle friendships and recall life as an Aggie four decades ago.

Following a meet and greet at Harrigan's Irish Pub on the Friday night, Saturday saw the group spend an enjoyable brunch with wine and cheese tasting at the Australian Regional Food Store and Café.

This was followed by pre-dinner drinks, reminiscing over a tremendously interesting memorabilia display brought along for the occasion and the WAC 1971-73 40 Year Reunion Dinner at the Mercure Resort.

There were several apologies including one from Beef Husbandry lecturer Lindsay Beer who had planned to be present at the Dinner but due to unforeseen circumstances could not attend at the last minute.

The get together was organised by Alan McGufficke, Steve MacDonald and Graeme Worboys and with the Hunter Valley turning on fine weather, the reunion was a great success.

The Old Boys from 1971-73 have led interesting lives and a diverse group of careers over the past four decades.

There was still a strong connection with agriculture within the group.

There were farmers, agriculture teachers, university lecturers, IT people, agriculture advisors, agricultural company representatives, business owners and even some lucky retirees.

All agreed they had a great three years at WAC and with a huge memorabilia display and Macca putting together a CD of college day photos the memories came flooding back.

Many of the stories told over the weekend reflected on the unique bond that forms between blokes who spent three years living on campus together, playing rugby and other sport, being a mott, sometimes attending lectures and even dagging before exams.

Quite a few of this group and their partners have stayed in regular contact with each other over 40 years and still have fond memories of their days at WAC.

Most people were recognisable at first, even if Iven Denyer was wearing a wig to make the job harder for some of us!

The group passed the hat around for the Peter Worsley Appeal and also purchased some souvenirs to boost the WACOBU coffers.

Graeme Worboys proposed a toast to the college with the following talk:

*Welcome everyone to this 40 year reunion of a good bunch of blokes and their partners.*

*A special apology from Lindsay Beer and his wife Agi who were planning to come but due to an illness in the family are unable to attend.*

*It says something about Wagga Ag College when the Aggies get together after 40 years and still remember the times we had at WAC like it was nearly yesterday.*

# WACOBU REUNIONS



**Iven Denyer, Geoff Spence, Phil Hawes and Dave Blackall looking happy with themselves**



**Graham Nicol with Olga and Phil Dawes - no doubt discussing the 1973 rugby premiership victory where Graham collected the man of the match award.**



**Peter Jones, Steve MacDonald and Peter Sutton enjoying a catch up at the reunion**

*Bennett from Woolgoolga, an enthusiastic and talented student who wants to work in agriculture and will succeed. She also plays rugby!*

*There are still many jobs out there for the agriculture graduates and the good name of WAC and the agriculture faculty at CSU sees a high demand for these young people..*

*The WACOBU would like to ensure this scholarship continues and I would ask that if anyone can chip in and support this cause please do so.*

*I put together the Old Boys newsletter (one edition/year) and now we have your email addresses you should get a copy.*

*Please renew your WACOBU membership.*

*Once again thanks to everyone for their attendance this weekend.*

*I trust you enjoyed the time and thank Gecko and Macca for their input into putting the reunion together.*

*I would like to propose a toast to Wagga Ag College, its students and staff, to departed students, staff and Old Boys (especially remembering Gary Wisely, Martin Dickens, Brian Atkins, Don Joyes and Bruce Thompson) and to those currently not well, especially Doc Ward, who would have loved to be here tonight.*

*Ego yah*

*A toast to Wagga Ag College.*

*Cheers*

*We all remember our college names, what motts are, what happened when the first grotts arrived, the food fights, the kegs on the river, Nappy Alley, the Dirty Duck and Tourist hotels, the Union Bar, Bellbird, rugby games against the Chalkies, Waratahs and Hawkesbury, Marilyn, Matron French, dagging, missing those 8am lectures and chasing those young ladies from Teachers College.*

*I still enjoy the camaraderie we formed and many of us have stayed in touch and enjoyed the good and sad times together over the past four decades.*

*Many of our wives and partners are good friends also – shows what good choices they made in picking those lads from Ag College!*

*39 of us graduated in 1973, unfortunately quite a few more kicked off in 1971 and did not make the grade in those three years and we also lost Garry Wisely in a car accident whilst he was at College.*

*We arrived from all parts of the State in March 1971 – some had a farming or agriculture background, many did not but we soon settled into life on campus as motts.*

*Winning the inter year rugby tournament against third year was a good start for our year.*

*The next three years were interesting in many ways but yet we all remained mates during that time despite our plethora of practical jokes and banter.*

*We were at Wagga Ag in a time of great change as there was the changing of the guard in education at that time.*

*Grotts appeared in 1972.*

*The merger of WAC and the Chalkies to form RCAE, the Diploma of Agriculture became the Diploma of Applied Science in Agriculture, many lecturers feared for their jobs in this merger and the practical side of agriculture seemed to be disappearing from courses.*

*We survived all this and after three years headed off into many diverse career paths.*

*It is fair to say we received a good education at Ag College.*

*I think we became all-rounders having great general knowledge in all areas of agriculture which gave us an advantage over students who specialized in one discipline too early.*

*In our time at Wagga Ag we owe a lot to the Principal Brian Atkins (who unfortunately passed away last year), the late Don Joyes, who was a great humanitarian, and to the staff in general.*

*Brian Atkins fought hard for the College and its students and supported us in all aspects of our college life.*

*Many of those staff lived on campus with us and enjoyed a quiet ale or two at the Homestead, watching the rugby and surviving the meals at the Dining Room.*

*Some of the staff stayed on and joined CSU and Jim Pratley has a role at the university today and has played an important role in agricultural education in Australia in his career.*

*The uni is different to our days at WAC, but some of the "old" remains – especially the accommodation blocks, WAC Rugby, the footy ground (now Beres Ellwood Oval) and WACOBU.*

*The Old Boys Union is still providing a strong link to the past and provides many contacts to the aggies now at Uni.*

*WACOBU also provides an annual scholarship to one student and this year I had the pleasure of presenting that award to Laura*

## Reunion of 1959 Graduates of WAC

October 2012 | Mooloolaba Queensland

Compiled by Peter Beinssen

The five- day reunion of the 1957/58 intake of Wagga Agricultural College took place at Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland in October 2012.

Fifteen old mates and fourteen partners attended.

This reunion helped to keep the great memories of WAC and mateship alive!!

*Peter Beinssen made a "Welcome to Country" speech which included recognition of the central role our partners have played in holding our tribe together.*

### Welcome to Country

Hello Everyone.

I would like to do a brief "Welcome to Country".

It's very special for Beryl & me to have you here in our back yard.

By the time you leave here I hope you will have fallen in love with Mooloolaba and The Sunshine Coast (if you haven't already done so).

If you resist the temptation to move up here permanently then at least make sure you visit us when you come back here for your winter escapes.

That said, and before I hand over to our Commander in Chief, I would like to set the theme for this reunion – this 55th anniversary of our first coming together as lowly motts at Wagga Ag College in 1957.

The theme for this reunion starts with W – and stands for "Women", not the comely young, bikini-clad damsels sun-baking on the beach (that you fellas haven't noticed), but our wives - our wonderful wives - who have encouraged our friendships and become an intimate part of our tribe.

I want to focus on, and give a special welcome to, our wonder-women.

When we waddies first went to Wagga Wagga, we were single – we were one, so to speak.

Soon we discovered women. Whacko

We worshipped them and we wooed them.

We won them and we wedded them.

No longer was it just You – it was Double-You.

With our wenchies – our wives – our wonder-women, at our side, we waltzed off into the big wide world of work and wages.

Without the wit and wisdom of our women we would have been worthless and weak wishy-washy little whipper-snappers unworthy of our wenchies; alternatively, we may have become weird, wicked, wild or wilful, womanless wee wankers). Whatever...



L to R: Roger Coddington, Dave Lock, Mike Melville, Denis Cavanaugh & Ian Taylor

# WACOBU REUNIONS

Wow! ... Well well, that's enough wobble yous. This is getting wee-diculous.

Anyway, whenever you think Big W – think “Wife”.

There will be other speakers who will pick up on this wifely theme.

For now, let me thank you all for coming together – and for your co-operation in making the planning and organizing of this event a pleasure.

I hope you wonder-women will enjoy this reunion as much as your men.

I do want to say a special thank you to my own wonderful wife for her tireless toil and support in helping to make all this happen.

Thank you Beryl.

So.....

## Welcome Waddies

And welcome all WACOBU wives.

Enjoy the We-union.

Welcome to Old College Mates - Ian Mashman

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to stand before you today to welcome you to this reunion being held 53 years after leaving college.

It was kind of Peter to select me from amongst many, all of whom are equal to this presentation.

I thought issuing a welcome to you would be simple and easy but the more I pondered this pleasure, the more difficult was the task.

It would be easy to say: ‘Welcome’ to Mooloolaba and “youse all have a beaut time”.

But on reflection, we have known each other for 55 years, we have all wandered far and wide, we have all pursued many and varying careers & endeavours and yet, we arrive in Mooloolaba, excited about catching up with our mates and their wives: the opportunity to tell a few yarns (and a few lies!!) and recall the “best” of our experiences at Ag College.

Because it is the best of our experiences that we recall, not the bad times, or the dull times or the boring times.

Total boredom left some amongst us with the need to re-direct a car rally (remember – cattle grid was “out of use”) through to dead ends, into wheat paddocks, 10-15 cars spread all over the farm wondering where the hell they were going to end up.

This was a ‘secret’ check point, not on the navigator’s official instructions and while some of us recorded times, others were checking out the vehicles for members of the fairer sex.

The odd raid on the chook pen for a late night BBQ or for a more exotic dining experience, a prime roadside lamb roasted down by the “Bidgee”.

But many of us have endured trauma, sadness, grief, loss of partners and children, business failures, personal and family losses that we thought we may never rise above and yet, we as a group, and individually, have exhibited a bond and a resilience that allows us to move forward in life.

This strength of character, no doubt inherent, nurtured and developed in us by our parents, was to be tested and consolidated in our ‘psyche’ during our College days, especially during our initiation ceremonies in February 1957 and for some in 1958.

As I look around the happy, smiley faces of this group today, that quality is still evident and will perpetuate throughout our lives. It is amazing that after 55 years we have a roll-up like we have, and that the general health of all the “mots” is good enough for us to meet up here, providing we don’t listen to the odd moans that erupt from time to time.

Our wives, partners and lovers endure these reunions with goodwill. However I feel that they really enjoy the Company, for at times it is difficult to get a word in.

In concluding this welcome, I turn my attention to Peter and wish to congratulate him on a great effort in the organization of such an interesting and varied program, the processing of a 1000 emails over the past few months, the midnight oil burning together with the support of Beryl and her very strong inputs to keep Peter on track.

For those that may not know, Brian Atkins passed away earlier this year after suffering chronic heart problems for many years. He did receive a copy of our Fiftieth Anniversary Year Book which I know was much appreciated. I visited him a few times over the past 12 years at Nelson Bay and although limited by his illness, he was always switched on and eager to talk about our years at WAC.



Peter & Beryl Beinssen

# WACOBU REUNIONS



**Return from the Hinterland bus tour Standing L – R: Bruce Coghill, George and Martha Kinniburgh, Bernie Scott, Ann & Dave Lock, Mike Melville, Callie & Ian Taylor, Noela Horsley, Del & Dick Hilder, Luxton Walker, Geoff & Jane Plasto, Fred Horsley, Bob & Sue Stewart, Denis Cavanagh, Marilyn Melville, Sue & Tim Harbutt, Lynn & Roger Coddington, Joy Cavanagh, Dottie Mashman.**

**Kneeling L-R: Georgina Coghill, Beryl & Peter Beinssen.**

## **“Toast to Absent Friends” - Peter Beinssen.**

I would like to propose a toast to absent friends.

Let me start with our four mates who are no longer with us.

Ted Corlette died in a tragic accident.

Then there's Curley – Peter Davies – another wild and lovable lad who tragically lost his young life in a collision with a goods train on the way home from Parkes one dark night.

Johnny Carter's widow, Maureen had seriously thought of coming all the way from WA to join us but she celebrates her 70th birthday next Wednesday and her family have put her under house arrest.

Pizzle Harrison is still a mystery – “Missing in Action”.

Masho and Bernie and others have attempted to track him down or verify the rumour that he has died, but they have not been able to find out much other than that he worked for the Forestry Dept.

Sadly none of us are immune to tragedy. There are those amongst us who have lost partners and suffered the unimaginable pain of losing children or grandchildren.

When we raise our glasses shortly and drink a toast to absent friends I would like us all to reflect for a moment and remember those who are no longer with us including that good man and good teacher, Brian Atkins who died earlier this year and of course, Mr Chips – Waddy Joyes - and Faye whom we all remember with great affection.

Finally I would like us to include in this toast to absent friends those of our cohort who for one reason or another could not make it this time.

Mike Buswell - who recently came out of hospital after nearly losing a leg.

Bill and Lynne Watts who couldn't make it as they are dealing with health issues, and Per and Mary Gunn, Spider and Dawn Walden, Bruce and Jenny Ferguson, Dick and Jan Perowski, Don and Beth Phillips,

Roger and Liz Wilkinson and Abdul and Pat, who are busy planning a wedding -theirs.

They have all sent their apologies and have wished us well.

Now let me ask you all to charge your glasses and be upstanding to reflect for a few moments on those who are not here with us tonight.

## **“Toast to Friendship and Good Old Mates”- Graham Hook**

Firstly and most importantly I would like to express our immense gratitude to Peter and Beryl for all their efforts in organising this time together. Some little time ago I spoke to Peter by phone and suggested that his task was a big one, to which he replied something along the lines of:

“It's actually no trouble, in fact it's a piece of cake”.

One must ask why we are here together, who collectively have travelled many thousands of kilometres to be here. The facile response could be that it's a pretty good part of Australia to spend a few days, so why not. In fact there is a much deeper reason behind this.

We are here to refresh and revisit very special friendships that were forged more than half a century ago at Wagga.

# WACOBU REUNIONS

I remember catching the train to Wagga, (as I recall you had to change trains at Cootamundra) and I remember being somewhat apprehensive, not really knowing what to expect.

We were a diverse bunch from all different geographies and scholastic backgrounds.

For my own part I had been at boarding schools in England and Australia since the age of 8, and in those days that was a fairly harsh environment. After a short period of time I can still remember the amazing sense of freedom which I experienced.

It truly was a wonderful environment with great food, adequate accommodation, a pretty non-taxing scholastic curriculum, and a wonderful bunch of blokes who were to become firm and lasting friends.

I can honestly say that looking back I can't remember any fighting or friction amongst us.

We really did make some very special friends, and on my part I think it was the happiest three years of my life.

*William Shakespeare said of friendships:*

*What friends thou hast and their affection tried,*

*Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel.*

The hoops of our friendships over the years, and with the tyranny of distance may have become a bit rusty or tarnished, but they have held firm and will forever hold.

I would once again, on behalf of us all, thank Peter and Beryl for all their efforts in creating the opportunity for each of us to refresh those very special bonds of friendship that we enjoy.

## **“Toast to The Wives of the Waddies”- Delma Hilder**

It is great to be here and to see everyone again, and I want to thank Peter and Beryl for making this possible.

They have done a fantastic job providing us with delicious meals, an excellent choice of accommodation and plenty of opportunities to get together and enjoy each other's company in this wonderful environment.

I may have been given the job of speaking tonight because I date back well before 1959, having attended many Ag College dances and then finally meeting Dick at the Third Year farewell.

He changed his plans to return to Sydney next day and we spent a few weeks together before he headed off to the Northern Territory.

We were married a year later and we will celebrate our 52nd wedding anniversary on the 7th January, 2013.

Always, the ladies have been included in these reunions, unlike many reunions that are specific only to the group.

Always, we have got along beautifully and have become good friends, probably quite a rare and wonderful occurrence in a group so large.

Many of these friendships date back to College days - Lynne Watts was my best friend during High School and Teachers' College.

We were pleased to be able to call on Bill and Lynne while in Brisbane – both were sorry not to be able to attend this reunion but hope to make it to the next one.

Years ago I read Betty Ford's book, "Behind Every Successful Man There is a Woman" and I thought there were quite a few good ideas in it that could be applied without becoming a complete doormat.

Then came Germaine Greer's "Female Eunuch" and women's liberation became a very popular theme.

All OK in some respects, but not giving any emphasis to the benefits of co-operation and support.

A few ladies I know took Germaine's theories too literally, with disastrous results.

When I look around at the fit, happy, successful Waddies it is clear to me that the Wives deserve recognition for their support, encouragement and the loving care of their men over the years.



### **In Summary:**

It was a successful and joyful reunion and it has been a pleasure and an honour to be allowed to convene it. Thank you to all who helped and thank you for all who attended and contributed either through your presence, your presents, your photos, your good humour and your positivity.

Thank you too for your subsequent positive feed-back and encouragement to do it again before too long. Your enthusiasm has worked: ...Beryl and I would be delighted to play a part again in making another gathering happen – say in October 2015 - if we're lucky enough to still be vertical and capable.

For those of you who couldn't make it this time I hope this booklet has helped you to imagine the shenanigans. Let's hope your circumstances will allow you to join the fun next time.

## Looking Back

# Wagga Ag College – the first 25 years

(A historical review by P. R. Jackson that was published in the 1973 Kulpana magazine)

The ministerial founder of the Wagga Agricultural College (the late Hon. Eddie Graham, M.L.A.) would have been proud indeed, should he have lived to see the structure and stature of this College as it is today, nearly twenty-five years after its official opening on September 16, 1949.

From the modest beginnings which were the pattern for most academic establishments in the early post-war years of World War II, WAC has grown into a vigorous and constantly up-dated complex.

It was on 3rd March, 1949, that the first intake of 32 students "faced the barrier" with a new Principal (Mr. B. Doman B.Sc. Agr., H.D.A.), one permanent lecturer (Mr. J. R. Sutherland, B. Sc. Agr.) and a handful of relatively and for the most part not very experienced, seconded professional officers in charge of various sections of the College farm.

Thirteen of these original students were ex-servicemen who completed their course at Hawkesbury after their first year at Wagga.

On the first Diploma Day in April 1952 the first seventeen graduates for the Wagga Diploma of Agriculture were congratulated by the Principal in the following terms:

"On this occasion one should single out for special mention the graduates.

"Theirs was the ever difficult task of making the best of, at times, limited facilities, and of facing for the first time the prospect of going into competition on equal terms with students of an older established College.

"For the Wagga Diploma is on exactly equal terms with the Hawkesbury Diploma, and is at least as hard to get.

"Although there was no shining genius, the fact was that all 17 candidates passed with a comfortable margin of safety.

"Their battle has only just begun as the Wagga Diploma of Agriculture is only a first hurdle.

At this same ceremony, Mr. Doman went on to say:

"Never before has there been a greater need for more trained men in agriculture and this is the main reason why the College needs to expand.

"The first graduates have been left under no illusions about the 'get-rich-quick' possibilities of farming.

"Over and above whatever technical training they may have absorbed, there has been instilled into them a creed of service to themselves, to the community, and to the land which must be conserved for posterity.

"We have every confidence that they will bring lustre to this infant Diploma.

"Just as we have confidence that they will not forget their Alma Mater.

These were prophetic words.

This was a wise philosophy: here was realism mixed skilfully with altruism.

The Wagga Agricultural College had started off with high principles and even higher hopes.

As the College entered its second and third year of operation more permanent staff was obviously needed.

A Veterinary Officer was appointed, as also were lecturers in Agriculture and Chemistry.

At this stage a Farm Manager was also appointed; and from a staff of approximately 40 in 1949 (including all hands and the cook), the establishment had grown to over 90 personnel in 1962.

In a report which he prepared at the end of the first 13 years of the College's life, when he was about to take up his new duties as Principal of Hawkesbury College, Mr. Doman said:

"An extensive programme of farm improvements had to be undertaken-fencing, clearing, water supply.

"New and wider rotations had to be developed, incorporating the latest methods of pasture improvement and skeleton weed control.

"During the early 50's details of the best practices for skeleton weed control were worked out at the Wagga College, and it is of interest to note that one of the officers who had most to do with this project was one of the original ex-servicemen who attended the first year at Wagga before taking his Diploma at Hawkesbury.

"For the first few years we had to make do with second hand army huts for laboratories and lecture rooms.

Every year progress was made, to the limit of funds available, with fencing, water for stock and domestic use, electricity, and equipment.

New buildings were erected and old ones demolished.

The Agricultural Research Institute was built on College property and officially opened in 1954.

In spite of the difficulties of obtaining and retaining staff, this institution is now a going concern with some considerable achievements in applied research under its belt.

Taking what might be called the "bird's-eye-view" of the life and development of WAC, one can only be struck by the dynamics of the place.

Every year since its inception something progressive, active and energetic has happened.

Its potential has been and is still being realised.

Equipment, services, accommodation are-all being developed in close relationship to the curricula and academic needs.

In the first ten years, staff numbers, both professional and ancillary, nearly doubled.

Building projects included the completion and opening of the new Graham Administrative Block and the Agricultural Research Institute.

Kerbing and guttering of the main building area and gravelling and sealing of the College drives were completed.

A high tension, three-phase electricity supply was installed.

Some \$800,000 was spent on these projects.

On the farm a new dairy building and yards were completed.

The nucleus of an Arab stud was acquired, and a Beef Cattle section was completed and opened.

Extension activities included a Junior Farmers' Winter School which had segments on turkeys, tractors, farm mechanics and Pasture and Animal Husbandry.

In this period also, students established the Students' Representative Council (SRC) and a sports Club.

They entered, and gained some success in the Australian Agricultural Colleges Inter-collegiate contests.

In 1955 the College won its first Rugby Union Premiership and the newly made sports oval was 'christened' in 1958.

Ten years after the commencement of the College there was a record enrolment of 94 students.

At this stage 222 students had passed through the Diploma Course, with 159 graduates.

If the first decade showed signs of progress, the second showed even more dramatic trends, especially in the field of staff, laboratory facilities and curricula re-organisation.

In 1959 plans were drawn up for a new 64 bedroom dormitory block.

The Poultry section was expanded.

Water reticulation to Livestock sections was expanded and plans were also laid for new Horse Stalls and drafting yards.

Some 160 acres were surveyed for irrigation extensions.

The early 60's saw the completion and opening of the new student accommodation (named the Doman Block in honour of the first Principal), the Mechanics and Farm Engineering buildings, a poultry killing unit and a 6 million gallon ring tank to augment the irrigation section.

The Swimming Pool was completed in 1965.

Towards this total cost of \$50,000 the students and auxiliary bodies raised \$35,000 - a fine example of self-help for a much needed amenity.

In 1965 Mr Brian Atkins, B.ScAgr., was appointed Principal in succession to Dr F. C. Butler, who had in turn succeeded Mr Doman in 1962.

In 1966-67 the School of Farm Engineering was completed, the Biology section modified, and extensions were carried out to the Graham Administration Block to provide a new library and improved office space.

The new Lecture and Conference Hall was completed and used for Diploma Day in 1968.

These, together with extensions to the welding workshop, new glass houses, and a wool-classing building, represented a capital expenditure of \$460,000.

Coinciding with these dynamic years in the life of Agricultural Colleges was the implementation of the Wyndham Scheme with N.S.W. Secondary Education.

This was taken into account in the revision of entrance standards and methods of selecting for enrolment in 1965.

For the first time all first year students had passed the N.S.W. Leaving Certificate, and it was then possible to implement more fully proposed changes in the curriculum.

From May 1970 a further Programme of development at an estimated cost of \$820,000 was undertaken.

More accommodation blocks were built to house men and women students. A larger dining room with associated services was built.

Demonstration sheds were provided at the sheep section and in the orchard.

A new science laboratory complex provided facilities for soil sciences, botany, nutrition, microscopy, anatomy and animal post mortems.

The College Union was formed and a well-appointed Union Building, appropriately named "The Homestead", has been built adjacent to the Dining Room.

The facilities which this building now provides do much to make the students' social and recreational life a happy one.

1970 was a difficult year involving re-structuring of the academic and administrative staff, in preparation to the assumption of WAC as a College of Advanced Education which took effect from January 1, 1972.

Staff morale was sorely tested and the Principal Brian Atkins commended his staff "for their devotion to duty and loyalty to the college during this very critical and difficult period in the institution's history".

**An interesting reflection on the first 25 years of WAC.....**

# John's great work continues



Photo: Courtesy of Cootamundra Herald

**Pictured with his 650cc BMW motorbike is WAC Old Boy and Stockinbingal farmer John Harper, who travelled from Canberra to Alice Springs and back again with hundreds of others from across the country to raise awareness of mental illness, depression and suicide prevention. The ride raised a massive \$360,000 for Lifeline and Mental Health First Aid.**

It is what motorcycling dreams are made of - the chance to sit in the saddle for 700 kilometres a day over 10 days, seeing some of the most picturesque country in Australia, and at the same time raising awareness and money for a great cause - mental health and depression.

WAC Old Boy and Mate Helping Mate founder Stockinbingal's John Harper did just that, riding a 7600 kilometre round trip from Canberra to Alice Springs and back.

The ride was founded by one man, Steve Armstrong, in 2009 as his personal pledge to spread the word about depression.

Since then, thousands of Black Dog riders have joined Steve on the road.

This year more than 300 riders left from all capital cities in August to make their way to Alice Springs.

The various routes travelled through regional, and sometimes remote communities which helped raise awareness for these isolated communities.

John rode with seven other motorcyclists from Canberra to Boorowa and onto Narromine where they met up with 170 riders from Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

After camping overnight at Coober Pedy the convoy joined with another 60 riders from Queensland and the Northern Territory in the final destination of Alice Springs, creating a lively group of 240 riders.

A keen motorcyclist, John said he has always wanted to complete an "epic ride".

"The other benefit is that my mates in the ride will be peers, who in regards to mental health have been where I have been and are doing something positive," John said.

As someone who has been diagnosed with depression and dug himself out of the hole it creates, the Black Dog Ride was tailor made for John.

John pioneered the Mate Helping Mate concept following his battle with depression, based on the simple concept of mates looking after those around them.

"I gained energy and motivation from the riders and the communities we interacted with gave me extra motivation to continue with the Mate Helping Mate programme," John said.

It was a great experience for John.

Tackling thousands of kilometres on the bike over a week and a half was a tough call physically.

While the main aim of the ride was in the area of promoting awareness, the Black Dog Ride also serves as a fundraiser.

The ride raised \$360,000 for Mental Health First Aid and Lifeline.

With a vision for an Australia free of suicide, Lifeline works hand in hand with the end goals John works towards with his Mate Helping Mate program.

John is a strong advocate of Lifeline.

He has had some interaction with Lifeline over several years of being involved in presenting workshops for training the volunteers in manning the phones.

John said all Lifeline people are motivated in not letting isolation and lack of support determine the worst outcome from a crisis in mental health.

The other beneficiary of the ride was Mental Health First Aid, which aims to empower community members to provide support to one another in times of mental health problems.

A national non-profit health promotion charity focussed on mental health training and research, John has assisted Mental Health First Aid for many years by presenting rural and remote communities with the aim of motivating members to attend Mental Health First Aid Training.

John is a leader and ambassador for fighting depression amongst the rural community.

During his years at Wagga Ag College John saw mateship at its best and realised from his own experiences as a farmer in tough times that mates are vital and can help each other through the toughest of times.

Congratulations John Harper on your tremendous work in the area of mental health and depression in the bush and beyond.

If any Old Boys want to find out more about the Mate Helping Mate programme use the internet to find out about the great work John has done.

A CD on the Mate Helping Mate programme is also available upon request.

If you or a mate is suffering from depression, this programme would be of great benefit.

Seek that help, the outcome will be positive and rewarding.

## John Mahon

### *A great servant of WACOBU*

John Mahon has played a leading role with WACOBU over three decades and is a major force in ensuring the organisation remains a viable and relevant part of Charles Sturt University in the modern era.

John's contribution to the agricultural sector and CSU was rewarded when he was made a Companion of the University in 2007.

John is a 1962 graduate and he immediately began a hands on role with the NSW Department of Agriculture as an Extension Agronomist and then a District Agronomist.

He then started up his own agronomic consultancy and spraying contractor business in 1979, based at Wagga Wagga.

In the mid-1980's his expertise in agriculture saw him take on the role of Manager of Agronomy Services for a large agricultural wholesale and retail organisation (IAMA) that employed 65 agronomists and this role continued until 2002.

He currently works as an agronomist and director of his family company that is involved in the manufacture of biological seed inoculants and associated equipment.

John has always maintained a strong link with WACOBU and sees great merit in the organisation.

He became a part of the WACOBU executive in the mid-1980's, being a Past-President and Past-Secretary and still currently serves on the committee.

One of his biggest achievements was helping steer WACOBU through turbulent times at WAC when massive changes were taking place in the early 1970's.

Without his hard work, optimism and guidance during WAC's merger with Wagga Teachers College to form the Riverina College of Advanced Education, WACOBU may have disappeared from the landscape.

John was the instigator of the fundraising efforts for WACOBU cottage, the postgraduate accommodation complex opened in 1996 that has proved to be a wonderful asset.

He has also been involved in many CSU committees including the CSU Farm Committee, Personnel Committee and the Compliance and Commercial Activities Committee.

His contribution to the University in many areas is immense and at all times he has worked to improve many aspects of the university community whilst ensuring WACOBU remains an integral part of the CSU landscape.

John Mahon is another quiet achiever who has made a significant contribution to WACOBU and the agricultural industry in general for half a century.

This involvement in agriculture started at Wagga Ag College and continues today.

John still promotes the virtues of his old stamping ground and is enthusiastic and optimistic about the future of agriculture and a place in it for the agriculture graduates of CSU.

(Photos courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser staff Les Smith, Alistair Brook and Addison Hamilton)

# Ag Race Day



**Peter Tudor, Elliot O'Farrell, Tim Sullivan Peter Gaffney enjoying their time at Ag Race Day**

The 26th annual Ag Race Day was held at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club, Wagga Wagga on Saturday September 21.

With ideal weather conditions, 3700 people attended this popular social occasion.

The day would not have been a success without the efforts of the hard working and committed Ag Race Day committee, part of the Wagga Ag Club at CSU.

Led by Eliza Starr, the committee worked tirelessly in conjunction with MTC CEO Scott Sanbrook to ensure a wonderful day for everyone.

This attendance ranks the Ag Race Day in the top three race meetings for the MTC each year, just behind the Wagga Gold Cup and Town Plate carnival held in May each year.

The decision to move the race day forward to earlier in the year has also been a success.

Previously held in mid-October, which saw a clash with end of year exams, the race day is now firmly set in the Wagga social calendar.

Scott Sanbrook was delighted with the success of the day.

"This is a great day out for everyone and the hard working committee is a fantastic group of people to work with.

"Eliza Starr led the way and she needs to be congratulated for her work in ensuring the day was a success," said Scott.

Eliza was very grateful in having a hard working committee behind her.

With Stuart Garrett and Emily Madge as her right hand helpers, Eliza had a 17 person committee to assist in organising and running the day.

Eliza said the event was now firmly set in the yearly calendar of events.

"Now we have moved the date forward by four weeks and kept the same format of the day for a number of years, everyone seems comfortable with that and people come along in large numbers to Ag Race Day and have a great day out.

"Everyone was well behaved and people just really enjoyed a day at the races, catching up and enjoying the great facilities at the MTC," said Eliza.

There were two reunions held on the day.

The graduating Ag year of 1993 held their 20 year reunion as did a group of staff from 2003.

Motts helped with fundraising on the day and the Wagga Ag Club raised a considerable amount of money, which will benefit all students.

Eliza Starr is in her second year of studies at CSU, coming from a farm at Carrathool and has a strong interest in cropping with her family involved in growing rice and cotton.

"I would like to pursue a career in grain marketing after college," said Eliza.

Congratulations to Eliza and her committee from the Wagga Ag Club.

This day helps keep the name of Wagga Ag College in the spotlight for all the right reasons.

Next year the Ag Race Day committee will be headed by Charlie Milthorpe, with Eliza maintaining a strong influence by holding the position of Vice-President of the Wagga Ag Club.

Keep the annual Ag Race Day in mind for 2014 – it is a great day for Wagga Ag.

# AG RACE DAY

(Photos courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser staff Les Smith, Alistair Brook and Addison Hamilton)



Judges choice - Best Dressed Woman Bonnie Skinner



Fashions on the Field- Best Millinery winner - congratulations to Elise Kelly who really looked the part



Fashions on the Field contestants line-up for the judges, who had a difficult job in selecting a winner

# AG RACE DAY



**Georgia Blake, Georgia Hackney, Holly Morrison, Mel Broadbent brightened up proceedings**



**Bridget Wilschefski, Peta Middlemiss, Jeremy Reid soaking up the atmosphere at the races**



**2013 Ag race Day at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club – another great turn out for the rural community**

# Wagga Agricultural College Rugby Union Club

*Established in 1949*

There have been plenty of golden years at WAC Rugby – including the 1990’s were four consecutive premierships came to the men in green and gold.

Along with five grand final appearances since 2007, three premierships and two club championships shows that the great Aggies spirit still lives within the Club - after 64 years of rugby.

The club is highly respected within the community and carries with it a professional approach both on and off the field.

2012 was a highly successful year for the club with all grades in the premier division grand finals, 1st and 2nd grade major and minor premierships and the club champions.

2012 saw WAC rugby grow to the biggest it has ever been with 90 registered players playing in the green and gold jerseys.

There is a great supporter backing from within Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the wider community with many sponsors and supporters following the Aggies.

The majority of the club consists of CSU students from a range of degrees as well as past students and some members from the wider community.

## 2013 Performances

In the 2013 season WAC Rugby fielded 3 men’s teams and a women’s 7’s team in the Southern Inland Rugby Union (SIRU) Competition.

The Club could not carry on the fantastic effort of 2012 and with a large turnover of players for 2013, especially in key positions and the team mixed their form and subsequently they didn’t have the consistency in their game to earn a spot in the top grade come semi-finals time.

The First XV still played on grand final day, being beaten 33-30 by Temora in the Romano’s Cup in an exciting clash that could have easily gone in the Aggies favour.

Former 2012 Aggies star five-eighth Dan Moloney led new club Junee to the Third Grade Premiership, picking up the Ken McMullen Memorial Award for best on ground in the decider as well.

## War Cry

Ego Yah, Ego Yah  
 Oompa Oompa Yaki Yaki Yah  
 Anthroppaguy  
 Taranaki Woppaguy  
 Wagga Ag Wagga Ag  
 Yah Yah Yah



## WAGGA AG COLLEGE RUGBY 2013 CLUB AWARDS

### FIRST GRADE

Best & Fairest	Ben Leaper
Best Forward	Stuart Garrett
Best Back	Tom Hobbs
Most Improved	Trent Martin
Coach’s Award	James Whiteley

### SECOND GRADE

Best & Fairest	Tim Tarlington
Best Forward	Tom Hillam
Best Back	Christian Hoolihan
Most Improved	Charlie Milthorpe
Coach’s Award	Hugh Nott

### THIRD GRADE

Best & Fairest	Mitchell White
Best Forward	Jake Melvin
Best Back	Phil Koch
Most Improved	Hamish Doherty
Coach’s Award	Max Ridley

### WOMENS RUGBY

Best & Fairest	Harriet Elleman
Most Improved	Grace Butler
Coach’s Award	Georgia Adamson

### CLUB AWARDS

Club Person of 2013	Phil Koch
Best Mott (First Year)	Tom Hillam
Spirit of WAC Rugby	Thomas Macleay
Most Outstanding Player	Ben Leaper



## 2013 SIRU GRAND FINALS

### Results and Award Winners

#### WALSH & BLAIR CUP

##### Premier Division 1st Grade;

Albury Steamers 41 d Wagga Waratahs 7

##### 2nd Grade;

Wagga Waratahs 27 d Wagga City 24

#### ROMANO'S CUP - 1st Division

##### 1st Grade;

Temora Tuskers 33 d Wagga Ag College 30

##### 2nd Grade;

Albury 37 d Deniliquin 7

##### 3rd Grade; (McMullen Cup)

Junee 18 d Hay 10

##### Under 17s;

Leeton Phantoms 19 d Wagga Waratahs 15

##### Womens' 7- A- Side

Leeton Dianas 27 d Griffith 10

#### THE 2013 BILL CASTLE MEDAL WINNERS – SIRU AWARDS

##### WALSH & BLAIR CUP - PREMIER DIVISION;

Richard Manion - (ALBURY )

##### ROMANO'S CUP - 1ST DIVISION;

Bill McCrone - (TEMORA )



## VALUED SPONSORS

### AG COLLEGE RUGBY 2013

#### DIAMOND SPONSOR:

WILLIAM FARRER HOTEL

#### PLATINUM SPONSOR:

DELTA AGRIBUSINESS

#### GOLD PLUS SPONSOR:

FLYNN SPRAKE FINANCIAL PLANNING

#### GOLD SPONSOR:

ANGEL'S LIVESTOCK SERVICES

#### SILVER PLUS SPONSOR:

WOODYS ELECTRICAL

BIG BITE KEBABS & SANDWICHES

#### SILVER SPONSOR:

MCPHERSON PLUNGE DIP

#### BRONZE PLUS SPONSOR:

DAVE'S DOZERS

ALL THINGS OFF-ROAD

#### BRONZE SPONSOR:

NORTHSIDE PHARMACY

#### MINOR SPONSOR:

SOUTH WAGGA BUTCHERY



## Gold for two CSU wines

The Charles Sturt University (CSU) Winery is celebrating two more accolades – this time from the NSW Wine Awards in Sydney.

During the 2013 Citi NSW Wine Awards, Gold Medals were awarded to both the Charles Sturt 2009 Reserve Sparkling and the 2012 Charles Sturt Shiraz.

CSU Winemaker Mr Andrew Drumm said, “We’re always pleased with a result from the NSW Wine Awards, as the quality of competition and judging is high, and it is great to showcase how good NSW wines are.

“The 2012 Shiraz was from a pretty difficult vintage, but we always had faith in it, while the 2009 Reserve Sparkling has gone from strength to strength, showcasing a speciality of ours.”

It’s been a strong few months for the Charles Sturt 2009 Reserve Sparkling.

In September, it was awarded a Gold Medal in its class at the 2013 Australian Boutique Wine Awards. Read more in CSU News here.

Earlier at the 2013 Cowra Wine Show, the Charles Sturt 2009 Reserve Sparkling won the Best Sparkling Trophy. Read more in CSU News here.

Produced in the University’s commercial winery at Wagga Wagga, the Charles Sturt 2009 Reserve Sparkling is 70 per cent Pinot Noir and 30 per cent Chardonnay from grapes grown in the cool climate of Tumbarumba.

The 2012 Charles Sturt Shiraz is produced from fruit grown at CSU in Orange as well as in Gundagai.

The CSU Winery announced last month a new series of labels depicting the journeys of Captain Charles Sturt and the rivers of the region.

## Work commences on CSU facility at Wangaratta

Work has commenced on the construction of the \$7.2 million facility in Wangaratta for Charles Sturt University (CSU).

CSU will share the facility with Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE) and the building has been designed to complement existing GOTAFE facilities in Wangaratta.

The University’s Wangaratta centre manager Ms Robyn Farley said, “The construction of the facility will enable us to continue building on the courses we already offer, and enhance the educational experience for regional students from Charles Sturt University and GOTAFE”.

The new building will include two 40 person seminar rooms with videoconferencing capabilities, a 40 person laboratory and preparation area, office space, and a student learning commons.

Construction of the CSU Wangaratta facility, which is funded through the Federal government’s Structural Adjustment Fund, is expected to be complete by April 2014.

Albury building company Joss Constructions has been appointed to erect the facility.

While the new facility is constructed, CSU will use existing GOTAFE facilities to teach five degree courses on offer in 2014: agricultural business management, agriculture, wine business, horticulture and nursing.

## CSU - an equestrian hub

A vision for the city of Wagga Wagga as the home of Australia’s leading regional equestrian centre for competition, education and training is on track at Charles Sturt University (CSU).

Funded by Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC), the first stage of the multi-million-dollar development at the Equine Centre at CSU in Wagga Wagga is well underway.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the University and WWCC in 2012 for the development and expansion of the existing equine precinct at the University.

The new 10 hectare site for multi-discipline equestrian competition, education and training will be known as the Riverina Regional Equestrian Centre.

Stage One includes: a 60-metre by 25-metre warm-up arena with dust suppression to the north of the existing large indoor arena; relocation of storage shed; stormwater management; access roads, parking; fencing; three wash bays; covered day yards for 20 horses; large 90-metre by 70-metre competition arena with dust suppression; 20-metre by 60-metre dressage arena with dust suppression; and office, meeting room, toilet and showers facilities.

CSU equine science lecturer Mr Hunter Doughty said, “The new equestrian precinct will set new standards for efficient and functional design and environmentally sustainable operation.”

“The completion of all phases of the project at Charles Sturt University and the further development of the equestrian facilities at Euberta and the pony clubs of Wagga Wagga will accommodate the city and broader Riverina’s equestrian needs into the future,” he said.

Also involved in the planning of the new facilities is the user group, the Riverina Equestrian Association.

Association President Mrs Dianne Watts said, “The city is going to end up with facilities that support a range of equestrian groups involved in Olympic disciplines and individual equestrian sports like dressage, show jumping, horse trials and reining from grass roots to elite level. Competitors from all over the state have been expressing their enthusiasm to come back to Wagga to compete at these great facilities in the near future”.

## Ag jobs went on show

The push to recruit agricultural workers targeted a younger audience at a careers fair at Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Wagga Wagga in late July.

For the first time, high school students attended the annual Agriculture and Animal Industry Careers Fair which brought together prospective employers and more than 100 students from CSU’s School of Agricultural and Wines Sciences and School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

Students had an opportunity to meet with representatives from agribusiness, animal science companies, research organisations, recruitment companies and farming groups.

Member of the student organising committee and Bachelor of Animal Science student Ms Lucy Watt said it was a chance to network and get a taste of the diverse career paths in the sector.

“The animal and agricultural industries are continuously growing and developing, providing people with a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills,” she said.

“This event gave students a greater insight into what’s required to pursue various career paths, which helps when it comes to choosing electives in the senior years of study.”

A career development workshop and interactive panel discussion featuring CSU graduates and industry members was also held.

Bachelor of Agricultural Science student, Ms Madisan Hodgson, a member of the organising committee had a simple message for school leavers.

“If agriculture is what you are interested in, then don’t let anyone talk you out of it,” she said. “There are endless opportunities”.

## New Dean of Science at CSU

To say the new Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science at Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Australia hit the ground running may be an understatement.

On his second day in his new position, Professor Tim Wess, from the United Kingdom, represented CSU during a visit to the University by Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC, CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

During his initial days in Australia, Professor Wess also got a thorough taste of the geographical expanse of CSU by travelling 2 000 kilometres in a fortnight, visiting Albury, Bathurst, Dubbo, Canberra and Orange from his base in Wagga Wagga.

Professor Wess has spent the past decade at Cardiff University in Wales where he was Head of the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences and a former University Pro Vice-Chancellor of Estates.

Professor Wess now leads one of largest University faculties in Australia.

There is a staff of over 500 and more than 9000 students in the Faculty of Science.

It covers seven Schools in diverse disciplines ranging from veterinary science to dentistry and oral health; nursing to environmental science; allied health and medical sciences to forensic biotechnology; and agricultural, animal and wine sciences.

“I’m delighted to join Charles Sturt University.

“It has the regional focus on industry, healthcare, education and above all the people of the region. But so much of what we do can be applied elsewhere.

“The proposed medical school based in regional Victoria and NSW is a case in point; it will serve the region and our model for high retention of trained staff will apply in other regional, remote and rural areas,” said Professor Wess.

## Old Boys Snippets

### *Sam Mancini (1974)*

Griffith district farmer Sam Mancini has always been an innovator in agriculture, growing quality agricultural products and his “The Little General” Extra Virgin Olive Oil is a winner. Support an Old Boy and give this product a go – the better half will be impressed.

### *Ross Henley (1982)*

Rooster is keeping busy, representing Bayer CropScience in southern NSW and doing a good job from all reports.

### *Craig Whiting (1994)*

Craig also works for Bayer – but in the animal health field, based at Wagga and still runs into plenty of people who have contacts with WAC and Southern Inland Rugby.

### *Col Plater (1981)*

Col still is Dow AgroSciences’ technical expert on their herbicides in southern and central NSW. Col was working hard at the 2013 NSW Weeds Conference at Corowa in September, where he caught up with Chris Slinger (Weeds Officer for Junee and Coolamon Shires) and Graeme Worboys (Weeds Officer at Cootamundra) over a few quiet ales and a chat about WAC and rugby.

### *Jock Munro (1974)*

Jock was seen in Wagga supporting his son Jock at the Wagga Waratahs presentation night. Presuming the bagpipes made the trip from Rankins Springs for the occasion, Jock!!! Jock Jnr goes alright on the rugby field too - just like his old man.

### *Tim Condon (1986)*

Tim is one of Delta Agribusiness’ leading consultant agronomists in the Harden and Southwest Slopes area, along with Warwick Nightingale, who is based at Delta’s Lockhart branch.

This business continues to expand and now has branches in the main agricultural areas in northern, central and southern NSW.

Along with Tim and Warwick, other Wagga Ag graduates working with Delta include Heidi Gooden at Lockhart and David Bushell and Chris Bell at Temora.

There may be an employment opportunity for agriculture graduates with Delta Agribusiness- so keep an eye on their website.

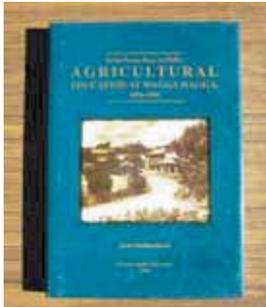
Delta Agribusiness is also a major sponsor of WAC Rugby and remembering Tim and his brother Greg’s ability on the rugby field for the Aggies this sponsorship is most appropriate and welcomed by the Aggies.

Thanks Delta!



# WACOBU Merchandise

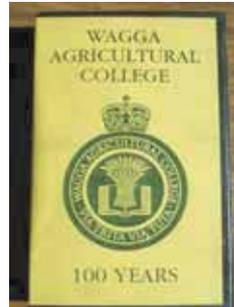
Post order form to PO Box 1092 Wagga Wagga 2650



From Farm Boys to PhDs  
Book - \$30.00



WAC 49er's Book  
POA



WAC 100 Years  
Video - \$30.00



WACOBU Centenary  
Cap - \$12.00



WACOBU Pewter  
Mug - \$50.00



WACOBU Lapel  
Badge - \$2.00



WACOBU Wall  
Plaque - \$30.00



WACOBU Sloppy-joe  
Price - TBA



WACOBU Tie  
\$30.00



Ladies WACOBU  
Pendant  
\$6.50



Ladies WACOBU  
Shield Pendant  
\$65.00



WACOBU  
Keyring  
\$15.00



WACOBU  
Car sticker  
\$1.00



# WACOBU Merchandise Order Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of birth.....

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

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

TOTAL =

Please find enclosed cheque/money order for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques/money orders payable to: WACOBU

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

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

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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 WACOBYU for \$\_\_\_\_\_ OR EFT by internet banking:

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

1. Transfer your money by electronic transfer to:

**Name of Financial Institution:** ANZ

**Name of Account:** Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

**BSB:** 012-823

**Account No:** 2070-98615

**Reference:** "your name",

**Message:** eg, Membership

2. Please email Ros Prangnell -ros.prangnell@industry.nsw.gov.au and put in subject line...

I have transferred \$X by EFT to WACOBU for eg, Membership. A receipt can then be issued.

# The Membership period is from 1 September to 31 August. If however, you join during the period 1 May to 31 August; your Membership will run until 31 August the next year.

\*Scholarship donations are treated thus: the donation amounts are put into a WACOBU donation account and are TAX Deductible. Receipts are issued for these amounts. Once per year the money in this account is transferred to the Charles Sturt Foundation.