

WACOBU
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WACOBU newsletter

Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

DECEMBER 2005

the BIG edition

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Jeff Angel



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Stuart Osmotherley

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well it's been a busy 12 months and the size of this newsletter is a reflection of this, which once again has been compiled in an excellent fashion by Mardi Henley.

Recent times have been exciting for WACOBU with many great accomplishments under the club's belt;

- An improved membership program has been initiated with Alumni and current financial memberships stand at over 250, a considerable improvement on the few that we commenced with. WACOBU database has been overhauled with great time and effort resulting in a more accurate delivery of information to members by both mail and email
- A very successful 50 years of Ag Rugby reunion was hosted with over 200 spectators to the Rugby match and approximately 120 guests to the evening dinner which contributed some \$5000 to the Cottage fund.
- The weekend of the reunion culminated in the successful completion of the long running WACOBU cottage project on the back of another crop courtesy of David Lock and the very successful Dig Deep Campaign initiating a dollar for dollar donation that raised some \$30 000 in a period of approximately 6 months
- WACOBU office has been relocated into the Sutherland lab building and work is in progress to build memorabilia collection and upkeep existing displays

Future activities;

- We are in communication with Alumni to create a WACOBU website that will be linked to current CSU ALUMNI site. This web site will I hope be a forum for both communication and also a platform where businesses of past students or other industry bodies can post positions of employment or other information as required
- The continued focus on increasing financial member numbers is a continual aim of the committee, with constant attention to member benefits under review to reward our members and make it worth while to join
- It has been brought to our attention that the honour boards and memorial garden are in need of attention and this will be the destination of the clubs funds. In the meantime we will consider the next long term project that is to be determined in conjunction with CSU Alumni, CSU Staff and the members of WACOBU.

I would like to take this opportunity in this report to note the contributions of all of the WACOBU committee for there commitment and time that has realised such a successful 12 months for the club and the support that has rallied amongst the ranks of WACOBU members that ultimately has enabled the club to be so successful in recent times. Special thanks are forwarded to Deb Slinger who for many years has been involved with WACOBU and I suggest has helped keep the club intact. Deb has retired her position as Secretary and I welcome James Brady to the position and look forward to his contributions in the future.

I note also the tremendous efforts of Wagga Agricultural Club that has recently received much press locally for the donation of \$20000 to the WaggaBase Hospital Spinal unit. Congratulations to Termite and boys and girls of Ag Club.

Happy Christmas to all our members and their families, WACOBU looks forward to hearing from you in the coming year and may it bring you all happiness and success.

Warwick Nightingale – President WACOBU

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

Rob Willis - 1977

mthsystems@bigpond.com

Anne and I would like to say hi to everyone. We live in Warialda, been towny's now for 10 years after leaving sheep farming. We run an Industrial Laundry to NW and NEW England areas. Have four great kids Amy 21, Tom 19, Meg 17, Kate 14.

Tony Keech - 1977

arkeech@mgs.vic.edu.au

I am currently working in Melbourne, teaching at Melbourne Grammar School, and yes they dont have Ag. Spent from 1996 to 1999 at the Geelong Grammar Timbertop Campus teaching Ag and introducing a Sustainable and permaculture course there.

Allan Casey - 1974

caseyk@ix.net.au

Allan and Kerry living in Orange and sons David and Paul living/working in Sydney/Wollongong area. Allan is working at Orange Agricultural Institute (NSW DPI) and Kerry at Molong Central School.

David Macauley - "Drawbar" - 1993

hamiltonmacauley@bigpond.com

As for me I'm working on the family farm at Junee Reefs, which has just suffered another dry October. However November is proving to be a little wetter so we should salvage something of the season. I now live in Junee where it seems my spare time is taken up helping to run the Roundhouse Museum. Sadly, this takes priority over landscaping around the house and a shed full of 'projects'.

Bart Gannon - 1966

bartnpam@bargann.com.au

Celebrations

I became a grandfather for the first time in October. Pam & I welcome Steve & Kayo's daughter Miyaka to the clan.

Bruce Rennard (1966) recently tied the knot withwhom he met in South America while on missionary work.



An old boy in the making - Henry Sides

Bruce Ramsey "83" – 1982

bruce.ramsey@incitecpivot.com.au

Jenny and I with our three kids, Hayden, Gemma and Cameron have been in Wagga for 10 years now since leaving the Dept of Ag Victoria in 1995. We moved to Wagga with Pivot Fertilisers and I am currently Regional Agronomist with Incitec Pivot Ltd.

Cameron and I are members of the Wagga Wagga Field Archers and recently competed in the National Australian Bowhunters Association (ABA) Safari held at Charleville, Qld during the Easter break.

Cameron took out the ABA "cubs" freestyle limited F2 class, after coming 2nd last year, and backed this up with a win in the 3D category for the second year running.

I was lucky enough to take "gold" in the Bowhunter Unlimited F1 (A grade) category, after winning the F2 class in 2003, and "silver" in the 3D competition this year.

Archery is great family sport and hopefully we will be competing in the International Field Archery Association, world championships in 2005 being held at "Wide Bay Archers" at Harvey Bay Qld.

If anyone is interested in getting started in archery please contact me and I will help where I can – it's never to late, as I discovered when I joined the local club in order to give the kids a go.

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IN MEMORY of ERIC OWENS

24 March 1937 to 24 April 2005

Eric Owens, a well known Bathurst identity, lost his battle with cancer and passed away on the 24th April 2005.

Eric attended W.A.C. from 1953 to 1955 graduating in 1956. He was a long serving committee member of the WACOBU and a great supporter. It has been acknowledged that Eric attended more Wagga reunions than any other Old Boy.

He was a solid citizen and a great contributor to both the O.B.U. and the Bathurst community. Eric will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Eric's passing was acknowledged in the Western Advocate by the Trotting Fraternity on the 4th May 2005 and in the Rural Roundup on the 5th May 2005.

Sincere sympathies are extended to his wife Sue and their family from the Committee and Members of the WACOBU.

The following eulogy delivered at the service by his cousin, Belle Bendall, aptly describes Eric and his life.

If you were to ask me "Who was Eric Owens?" I would have to answer; "He was my cousin". But Eric was much more than that. He was a significant figure in my life for 68 years. He was my true friend, my confidant, a great favourite of my children as they were growing up and always a support when things went wrong.

Eric was born in Bathurst where he received his early education. He went on to Wagga Agricultural College, where he extended his knowledge and experience of the land as well as making lasting friendships with a number of his fellow students. He continued his association with the college and its ex students returning whenever it was possible to attend reunions and renew old friendships.

When he completed his studies he came back to Bathurst to help his father, Laurie who was recovering from spinal surgery and he took over the lion's share of the work on Laurie's properties at Evans Plains and Wallaroi.

In 1960 he married Sue Talberg and at first they lived in Bathurst, later moving to their first house on White Rock Road. Some of us thought he would never leave this road as he built and lived in three houses at different sites, always on White Rock Road and all named Wandana. If you were writing to Eric, you never had to look up the address. It never varied from Wandana, White Rock Road. I'm told he earned the title of "The White Rock Road Developer" and it was appropriate. It was in these houses he and Sue reared their three children, Karen, Peter and Vickie.

In the meantime Eric had purchased the property on the Macquarie River flats and was regularly driving loads of his produce, mainly cauliflowers, to the markets, first at Haymarket and then at Flemington in Sydney and this was the beginning of his love of truck driving and the trucks became bigger and better as the years progressed. On the trips to Sydney, he would amuse himself outwitting the transport inspectors. On one occasion, when the police were targeting the truckies for what Eric considered petty offences, e.g. a broken tail light, he organised his mates and a convoy of trucks about a mile long drove to Sydney, all impeccably turned out, within the speed limit and driving all the way at the correct distance apart. This caused havoc and held up traffic for miles back. When they reached the markets they were met by a police officer, wearing, to quote Eric, "more gold braid than a South American general", who admonished them never to do that again. They didn't need to as they were no longer hassled by officialdom.

Ever the activist, he joined the Water Users' Association and through this he managed to get a better allocation of water for himself and other irrigators along the Macquarie. His battles with Edgells were legend as he sought and often gained a better deal for the market gardeners.

IN MEMORY of ERIC OWENS

Eventually he sold the market garden and the third White Rock Road house and moved to properties, first on the Duramana Road and finally Mt Rankin Road and, of course, both were named Wandana. Here he developed his interest in stock dealing which he continued until his illness overtook him.

One of his great pleasures was harness racing and he took an active interest in the Bathurst Trotting Club, serving on the committee for a number of years and so he continued a tradition of the Owens family that went back for three generations. A stand at the Bathurst show ground was named the Owens stand in recognition of the family's service to the club. He started off as a strapper when his father was driving.

When he was old enough he graduated to driving and had success at his first outing which was at Katoomba. Before he went out on the track, Laurie gave him his instructions. "Go to the front and keep improving your position." Eric followed the advice and it paid off on the narrow Katoomba course. It must have appealed to him as he often passed it on to young family members, whether they were competing in athletic events, swimming carnivals or even a hockey match. Later on, he bought and bred several of his own horses, racing them in the family colours of black and white.

His interests were wide and diverse. He served on the committee of the Fruit and Vegetable Grower's Association and was its vice president for many years. He was prominent in the Bathurst Lion's Club and other local organisations, Land Care and the Showground Trust to name two of them.

Eric also liked to travel and he particularly enjoyed camping trips with Sue and their friends to the far reaches of outback Australia. Not only did he know every road and laneway in the local district but he was familiar with much of the continent as well. He seemed happiest behind the wheel of a vehicle.

He had a dry sense of humour and delighted in his own brand of Aussie expressions using them often to amuse and sometimes confuse the youngsters.

He loved a bit of fun and was always ready to put his hand up for a celebration. But best of all he will be remembered by family and friends for his generous hospitality and willingness to offer help wherever he saw a need. When his time of need came and he was so sick these qualities were acknowledged by the assistance offered him by so many. I would specially mention the patient and loving care with which Sue nursed him and we extend to her and Karen and Pete, Peter and Mary Lou and Vickie our deepest affection and sympathy.

Recently I was speaking to a family member who said of Eric "He was like a rock, strong and reliable and you just thought he would always be there." Sadly he is no longer there and it remains now for us to say goodbye and thanks for a store of treasured memories. May he rest in peace.

All Saints Cathedral
Bathurst - 28.4.05

Thank you to John Bowen for providing us with this tribute to Eric



WACOBU REUNION 11 June 2005 - REPORT

Bring out the driza bones and gumboots, we broke the drought with a tremendous gathering of over 200 spectators despite heavy rains that fell on the day marking the long awaited start to the 2005 winter cropping season also.

The weather did keep the numbers a little lower than had been expected however those in attendance were well catered for with plenty of dry marquee space along with a BBQ and bar organised and ran by the students.

It was great to see many familiar faces enjoying the rare opportunity to catch up with their friends, many travelled considerable distances to be there on the day.

It was equally pleasing to see some excellent Rugby played in good forwards weathers to see Ag Rugby come out with a win on the day.



The crowd enjoying the rugby



Kieran O'Keefe referees the Ag Vs West Wyalong game



**James Madden (Silo), Tim Minehan (Medsy),
Martin McGee (Fec) and Rowan Wood (Toothpick)**

REUNION REPORT



**Kym Sutherland (Beaker), his friend Anita
and Hamish Cullenward (Poop)**



Bob Conolly, Lachlan and Steve Sutherland



**Mick Millard, Luxton Walker, Jim Wright,
Ben Purcell and Tate Heggaton**

REUNION REPORT



Dominic Dillon (Slug), Steven Monkley (Agar), David Hilton (Wombat), Peter Wearne (Handpiece) and Lachlan Simpson



Neil Durning (Pid), Richard Neagle (Filth), Jeff Angel (Cuka)



Murray Hadrill, Warwick Nightingale, Ken Triffitt

REUNION DINNER REPORT



Tony Gelling presents Ken Triffitt with the 1st XV jumper worn by 1949 Captain of WAC Des Spurway

We finally managed to get everyone on the buses departing the Bridge Hotel for the University in the evening, piped in with great style by Jock Munroe. Close to 120 people gathered after the great day at the rugby to continue the celebrations and recognise some of the history and memories that has made the club what it is today. The well-attended dinner was pleasing to see after much effort by Mardi Henley and Deb Slinger particularly, in making the evening a success.

The evening was well run with constant entertainment and direction provided by the very gifted orator, FOX who performed the function of MC for the evening. A highlight of the evening was to receive into WACOBU memorabilia a great gift of Des Spurway's personal Rugby Jumper that he wore in 1949 as Captain of WAC Rugby's very first Rugby team.



David Hilton (Wombat), Leonie Scarlett and Peter Madden (Smutt)

The jumper was presented by Ken Triffitt and Murray Hadrill on behalf of Des Spurway and the class of 1949 & 50. The jumper was accepted by Tony Gelling a past student and past representative Rugby player for Australia. The presentation was marked by words from both Ken Triffitt and Tony Gelling that were both sincere and appreciated by all present on the evening. The Jumper is now displayed in Sutherland Laboratory building amongst other memorabilia, if you are around drop in, it looks great.



Greg Condon (Skeg), Stuart McDonald (Spiffy), Steven Burke (Gears) and Kieran Hawker (Turps)

The evening was made all the more enjoyable with assistance from CSU ALUMNI and the generous contribution of fine wines consumed on the evening courtesy of past students now in the wine and viticulture industry. I would like to thank Jason Odea, Mark Sims, Peter Cregan, Richard Neagle, Rosie Dorney, Paul Geddes, Robert Bruno and Adrian Englefield for their generosity. With all the support the evening was not only a very enjoyable one but a success in that it was able to raise some \$5000 that went to the WACOBU cottage appeal.



Julie O'Keefe, Alex (Keen) and Joanne Calabria



Steven Monkley (Agar), Brett Smith (Kat), Robert Taylor (Cysty), John Duff and Col Medway (Goat)

REUNION DINNER



Martin McGee (Fec) and Bernie Rorke (Goliath)



**Chris Slinger, Mark Sims (Tref) and
Chris Callow (Nematode)**



Stuart Kanaley (Skin) and Col Plater (Simon)



Marg Kanaley



Peter McCann (Crusher), Michael Hunt and Rowan Wood (Toothpick)

REUNION DINNER



Jock Munro really topped off the evening by piping everyone out of the function through the University and down to catch the bus into town

-Thanks Jock - Great work !!



Ross Henley (Rooster)



Richard Said (Boobs)

**Thank you so much to everyone who attended the rugby and the dinner!
And thank you to Michael Meredith (Breezy) for some great pics.**

AG RACE DAY 2005

Wagga Ag Club held its 18th Annual Race Day on the 15th of October 2005. Despite weather forecasters predicting rain for the day all week, we were blessed with fantastic weather. Over 2000 people flocked to the MTC, and of that 1600 people purchased the Ag Club drink and meal ticket. This is another 50-100 people up on last year, so it is great to see that it is still growing, and is now the second largest race event on the MTC calendar. The only limitation for the expansion of the event now looks like the current facilities, mainly bar and toilets (although the toilets are optional). Over 70 kegs were consumed in a period of just under 5 hours (mainly by the more seasoned drinkers!).

One of the highlights for the day was the 'fashion of the field'. It was hotly contested and I think that some of the ladies thought there was a 'shortest mini skirt' field, however I didn't hear any complaints.

The Race Day is now recognised as one of the best on the country circuit and it is fantastic to see many people travel long distances to the event. What is even better is that they are coming back the next year with a few more of their friends. The future of the Ag Race Day is very bright.

We were lucky to again receive kind sponsorship from The Bridge, The Duck, Kennards Hire, Wagga Work Wear and Rivcoll student association and would like to sincerely thank them for their support. I would also like to thank the other committee members, Becci Robson and James Christie for their work.

All round it was a great day and we were able to raise over \$25,000 for Peter Worsley and Wagga charities, despite ever increasing costs.

Thankyou for your support and I hope to see you all at the races next year.

**Ego Yah
Bernie Byrnes
Ag Race Day President 2005**

WAGGA AG RACE DAY is quickly becoming a "family day" for many old boys and girls.



Tim Sides with son Henry



**Anna and Warwick Nightingale
with daughter Emily.**

AG RACE DAY 2005 - MONEY RAISED



Committee President Bernie Byrnes hands over the cheque to nursing unit manager Coral Wilson, and rehabilitation physicians Dr Louis Baggio and Dr Genevieve Brady.

Wagga Agricultural Club gives a generous helping hand to hospital

The Wagga Agricultural Club donated \$20 000 to Wagga Base Hospital's rehabilitation unit yesterday after a successful 2005 Ag Race Day.

Ag Race Day was established in 1988 to raise funds for student Peter Worsely who had his neck broken playing rugby union for Wagga Agricultural College. The annual event has raised well over \$100 000 for Peter, enabling him to compete in the last 3 Paralympic Games.

The Ag Race Day Committee recognised the need for spinal patients to have suitable facilities locally so proceeds from this year's event has been donated to the hospital's rehab unit, allowing them to purchase vital equipment such as a hoist, electric beds, wheel chairs and pressure area cushions.

Nursing manager of the rehab unit, Coral Wilson is thrilled to receive such a generous donation. "The equipment we are able to purchase now means that we can transfer our patients more safely for both them and our staff", she said.

Committee President Bernie Byrnes is extremely happy with the growing popularity of the event which is now the Murrumbidgee Turf Club's second biggest annual race meeting.

Source:- Wagga Daily Advertiser (12/11/05)

AG RACE DAY - REUNION OF 1995

On the eve of this years Ag Races the Motts and Grotts of 1993 had a reunion.

This reunion was to mark 10 years since they were supposed to graduate. In attendance was Foreskin, Fubar, Ester, Lingus, Snafu, Schnapp, Tar, CD, Minge and Mangrove and respective partners. Shoulda couldn't attend having just given birth to twins and Springer couldn't attend as his wife was about to have a baby.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and most were able to make it to the races the next day. Snafu went to Presso kegs and was in bed while the races were on. Lingus tried a beer at the races and couldn't attempt another.

The weekend of reminiscing, drinking and general good times was topped off when Fubar and Kate finally announced their engagement.

Bec Osmotherley



GROUP SHOT of 1995 enjoying the evening after Race Day

SPRING REUNION - CLASS OF '66



L-R Back Row:- Mick Duck, Dick Kobelke, Lenja Kobelke, Bart Gannon, Denise Duck, Jill Dutton, Neil Warner, Peter Polack, Cathy Meares, Tony Meares
Middle:- Coryl Clough, Bruce Rennard, David Hazlett, Annette Sirec, Pam Gannon, Richard Dutton, Kaye Aldous, Sue Warner, Margaret Polack, Ros Medway, Stu Whalan
Front:- David Aldous, Roger Clough, Nev Semmler, Pam Semmler, Gerry Bolla, Col Rathbone, Lynne Bolla, Geoff Bushby, Barry Medway

Over the NSW long weekend (October 4-7, 2002) the year of 1966 met at the home of Bart & Pam Gannon in Oakville near Windsor. They included Neville & Pam Semmler, Peter & Margaret Pollock, Dick & Lenja Kobelke, David & Kaye Aldous, Col Rathbone, Richard & Jill Dutton, Mick & Denise Duck, David Hazlett, Bruce Rennard, Bart & Pam Gannon, Gerry & Lynne Bolla, Barry & Ros Medway, Geoff Bushby, Ray Moir, Tony & Cathy Meares, Neil & Sue Warner, Stuart Whalan and Roger & Coryl Clough. Apologies were received from Ray & Deb Clarke, Charlie & Peta Smithwick, Geoff & Vida Howe, Teddy Cornell, Graeme & Phil Hockey, Chris Lord, Barry & Sandra Cunningham, Ronnie Rathbone, Chris Moir, Judy Whalan, Nick Knight and Ross & Marg Stockings.

Not a bad number for the year that finished Wagga Agricultural College at or around 36 years ago. All looked pretty healthy, acknowledging the fact that four colleagues have since passed on - Pete Ferris, John Heckendorff, Geoff Townsend, and Tony Pfall. The photograph shows all the guys and their partners at the reunion dinner at the Windsor Golf and Country Club. Many thanks to Bart and Pam Gannon for organising the meals, drinks, accommodation, and atmosphere and generally opening their home to this lot who had come from as far as Perth and Melbourne for the reunion.

Plans are well advanced for the next reunion probably at the Bollas on the NSW Central Coast. Both Bart Gannon (bartnpam@bargann.com.au) and Gerry Bolla (gerry.bolla@agric.nsw.gov.au) are the main contacts, so if there are other '66 (staff and students) out there get in touch. The group has a web-site as a work in progress www.waggaag66.info so we can all keep in contact between reunions.
Bart Gannon - 1966

NEWS FROM IAN PERRETT - 1956

- 1. The class of 56 has been having reunions every five years for some time now and these have been taking place in various family homes.** John Furner has coordinated the process throughout and the attendances have been excellent. Jim and Cynthia Piper have offered to host the fifty year reunion at their Wollongong home: their offer has been accepted unanimously, a date around October next year will be finalised shortly and circulated thereafter.
- 2. Ross Shepherd from the class of 56 has been the driving force behind the establishment of the Narromine Air Museum.** This was opened recently by Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon, and the opening ceremony featured a 'fly by' by a replica of the original Wright Brothers aircraft. The museum is a great concept and should be visited by anyone going through Narromine.

Ian Perrett - 1956

UPCOMING 1958 REUNION set for 2008

I think it is time that we consider planning a reunion of the group that finished Wagga in 1958.

We can go about this in 2 ways and I would like your initial feelings on which you favour.

1. There were a number of those who started in 1956 (the exceptions being if I recall "Barearse" Ellwood & Lloyd Beeby who joined us in 2nd year in 1957) and who fell away over the 3 years. Names of these who come to mind include Alf Fittler, Warren Tyson, Allan Massey, Phil Goldrick & Dave Luff. If we held a reunion next year to celebrate the start of our time at Wagga, then it would be good to see those whom we enjoyed their company even if it was not for all the 3 years.
2. Alternatively we could hold off till 2009 and have a reunion to coincide with the aggies graduation that year.

At this time the above questions are only going to those for whom the WACOBU Committee has an email or postal address. Therefore if you see anyone please pass on the question.

As for myself, I retired in December 2003 after leaving the Ag Chemical business in 2000, and when Denise and I sold our cruise / travel agency to Flight Centre. We have moved to Avoca Beach on the NSW Central Coast.

Feel free to contact me at:-

Tel (02) 43 811 566 or 0412 413404

Email rossden@bigpond.net.au

Regards - Ross Blackmore



Michael Meredith sent in this photo of 1978 - some of you might recognise some faces

ERITREAN PROJECT REPORT by TED WOLFE

Wagga scientists involved in Eritrean Project

Can you remember the Cormo Express incident in 2003, when 57,000 sheep for Saudi Arabia were refused permission to land? The country that resolved the fate of the sheep was Eritrea, a country of 4.2 million people located on the Red Sea opposite Saudi Arabia.

As part of an MOU signed by Agriculture Minister Warren Truss in May 2005, the Australian Government will assist Eritrea build capacity in agriculture. Like Australia, much of Eritrea is semi-arid and Australian agricultural technology may be useful.

Two Wagga scientists, Dr Alison Bowman of NSW DPI's Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute and Professor Ted Wolfe of CSU's School of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, recently completed a short visit to Eritrea to evaluate the current status of agriculture in Eritrea.

The objective of the visit, which was funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, was to pinpoint potentially useful contributions from Australian research, expertise and experience in dryland agriculture. These areas could be the focus of further technical capacity building to assist Eritrea increase its agricultural capacity and improve the management of land and water resources.

In a companion project, 2 scientists from South Australia assessed what assistance could be

provided from Australia to enhance degree-level programs in agricultural education.

Alison and Ted had an exciting visit, with a particular focus on activities at Halhale Farm, the headquarters of the National Agricultural Research Institute situated 40 km south of Asmara. At one point, they joined officials in a 500 km transect by helicopter over the main agro-ecological zones of Eritrea.

"We were impressed with both the progress made to develop decentralised agricultural research, extension and education facilities, and the positive attitude of the Eritrean scientists that we met", they said.

Current issues in Eritrean agriculture include the low productivity of the livestock and crop production systems; the importance of enhancing food security; a serious conflict between livestock grazing and crop production, particularly towards the end of autumn (before the opening rains); and land degradation due overgrazing and deforestation.

A series of preliminary recommendations were made concerning possible Australian assistance to the country's National Agricultural Research Institute, to help planners and scientists deal with the main issues.



RIRDC Rural Women's Award goes to a WACOBU Member

Source: www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au

Jenny Bradley from Armatree was named the 2005 RIRDC Rural Women's Award Winner at a special Gala Dinner and Presentation held in February at Parliament House in Sydney.

Jenny, and husband Craig, run a mixed farming enterprise in the State's Central West. Jenny won the Award in recognition of her efforts in lamb marketing, and her role in supporting rural communities.

Jenny graduated from Wagga Ag College in 1982 and WACOBU congratulates her on this achievement - GREAT WORK!!

MEMORIES OF "MARILYN" by Bill Gornall



Ross Stockings and Bill Gornall hold the original "Marilyn" in 1966

Sometime in April 1966.....

Ross Stockings and I discussed "Marilyn" during a cross-country jog. "Marilyn" was a fairly large (3ft x 2ft) reproduction nude painting of the late Marilyn Munroe.

This particular copy had travelled far, including the US Army, Navy, Airforce and Marines and ? RAAF in South Australia. Hawkesbury NSW "stole" the picture from Duntroon in 1958. Longeranong (Vic), Dookie (Vic) and Wagga also saw her. To the dismay of students at Wagga she had just been taken from our college.

A number of "rules" applied to this prized possessions:

- the picture could only be folded in half once
- new possessor had to notify last holder of its new location (institution)
- it had to be displayed and not locked up.

Brief details of its new journey were documented on the back. Generally "Marilyn" resided in one place for many months, sometimes years.

We had received notice this day that she was back in Dookie Agricultural College - taken during the Easter break. A long weekend was 3 days away and we thought we would make a move then to retrieve her. So it was "Marilyn" or bust. If we were caught.....it was not worth dwelling on.

To simply drive in, hope to find her and get clear away we reckoned a hit-and-miss method. So we prepared plans, based on our hitch hiking experience of nearly 20,000 miles covered over long weekends and trips home during our stay at college so far.

As usual we would present well-groomed with college blazer and tie. This time however we would pretend to be ex-students from Inverolachy School (St Michael's north-east of Goulburn), working on farms and checking out Dookie for possible enrolment there. (Inverolachy also had a green blazer and I knew a little of the place because of cross-country competitions when my Canberra school had competed). We'd also require our haversacks, sleeping rolls and a little food.

Friday we attended our college's annual Diploma Day Ball, always a good do. The NOMADS from Sydney provided the latest in dance music which didn't stop until 2.30am. Before hitting the sack in the early hours we raided the kitchen for trip supplies.

Saturday dawned fine - a perfect star - nothing much worse when hitch-hiking than to stand in the rain waiting for a lift. Dookie lay 260km south between Benalla and Shepparton. We departed after breakfast and Ross's father drove us to the Narrandera turnoff south-east of Wagga, near Kapooka (Army Recruit Training).

We commenced hitch-hiking from there and at the halfway mark in Albury scored a free lunch in a cafe where Ross knew the owners.

Three short lifts took us along a back road from Benalla to Dookie's boundary. We had arrived in 6 1/2 hours. We explained to these last benefactors our (bogus) reason for being there. One driver said it was a pretty good idea to see a place (of intended learning) first hand, and as he had a blazer at home he'd try it one day too!

MEMORIES OF "MARILYN"

On Dookie's eastern boundary we stashed our blazers and gear in tall grass and then managed a lift right into the college complex. We encountered some first year students near the main entrance building. To these we also said we were just out of school and were checking Dookie for prospective enrolment. For the remaining two hours of good light, two of these helpful fellows showed us just about everything there was to see at Dookie within walking distance. In fifteen minutes we were shown to the doorway of one of three common rooms. It was on the third storey.

When we went to venture inside it, our hosts were a bit hesitant and said we'd better not, as it belonged to the third year students and first years weren't allowed in. A quick peek confirmed our raised suspicions. On the top of the piano stood "Marilyn", encased in a glass frame made by students at our college. We showed apparent amazement at the picture while checking for possible booby trap/burglar alarms. Our aides proudly told us how they had knocked it off from Wagga Agricultural College recently - we "schoolboys" had never dreamt of such escapades before!

We commented that the common room was a beauty and continued to appear interested as the students took us walking through the irrigation, pig and dairy sections. We held our tongues - it was difficult not to comment. The shearing shed was locked thank goodness. Late in the arvo we said goodbye to our hosts, thanked them profusely and said we would walk to the front gate where a friend was going to collect us. Instead, in the dusk we headed east through paddocks to our stashed gear about 4km distance.

We ate some grub, dozed from 7pm 'til midnight in the tall grass by the roadside and then packed up our gear and hid it once more. Everything was wet with dew and a light mist covered the fields.

In the moonlight we retraced our steps to the main complex at Dookie. All was quiet and dark as we entered the foyer. Quickly we reached the open doorway to the third year common room. The light was on inside.

I had just poked my head in when some young fit student began bounding up the winding staircase below us. There was no time to grab the picture. We flashed along the third level corridor, passing many open bedroom doors. Some of these showed students inside, but to them luckily we presented as a blur. More people entered the building. With hearts pounding and adrenaline pumping we earnestly sought escape.

The bloke behind on the stairs was coming to the top floor also and was almost to our level. Another open door presented itself to the right, the toilet/shower room. This was make or break. Phew - no one at the urinal! A solitary soul on a seat about halfway along, door closed thankfully. We picked the last and third last of about ten toilet cubicles. Not a really good idea, for close on our heels followed someone who took up the cubicle between us. A few seconds of his obviously happy mood and slurred speech branded him more than slightly inebriated. Time 1.30am. Others lined up along the urinal and we sat quietly, listening to their stories. So close yet so far! We were surrounded by football teams in the senior dormitory. Following their footy matches, these blokes had been to a 21st birthday party in Shepparton, a good one by the sounds of things. The fellow eventually vacated the cubicle between us, to be replaced by another.

The urinal was not occupied now, so the new arrival was probably asking us what we reckoned of the party! We bunged on a drunken slur and some dry retching and he took pity on us and shut up.

After he left we could hear people coming up and going along the corridor, and the sounds of laughter and shouting in various rooms along it. This continued for ages.

Sometimes we stood up to restore circulation to our sore posteriors. Ross moved in next door to my cubicle and we'd whisper to each other across the top of our partition, or underneath until the arrival of another visitor dictated that we cease.

Silence.....quietly we moved towards the corridor. Great, all asleep at last! Stealthily onwards towards the stairs, at the opposite end to the one's we'd entered via. They were closer. Whoa there! More voices coming up the stairs behind us. Back to the ablutions block and relative safety. More laughter and tales from the occupants of the urinals and neighboring cubicles. Some blokes really brag, don't they? We held our laughter. Perhaps that's overstating the situation. Let's face it - we weren't really enjoying the party anyway! Once again all quiet. Another quick peep beneath the partition walls to verify empty cubicles. Out into the corridor, and a repeat performance!

Cars just kept arriving, unloading their drunken passengers who seemed to be all accommodated on this floor! More bladders relieved and some technical yawns. Not doing much for our anxiety. 4am and all is well. Left our loos once more, crept past sleeping students, some doors open, down to the bottom floor and at last outside the building. Cold and dark.....should we? We ran to the other end of the block, raced up the (original) stairs and while Ross kept lookout I lifted "Marilyn" off her stand. All clear. We bolted, down the stairs and about 300 metres to a hayshed. Here we quickly removed the glass frame, deposited it under some bales, folded the picture in half, and took off for the eastern boundary, hoping that no alarm had been raised!

We reached the boundary safely and located our haversacks. It was still some-what dark so we killed time by breakfasting on vegemite balls: prepared beforehand and made by spreading butter and vegemite onto a fresh slice of bread and kneading this into a small bolus. Very filling and a spacesaver in a haversack.. A glow on the eastern horizon heralded the sun rising and we hit the road. Whenever we heard a vehicle approaching, from either direction, we'd hide "Marilyn" in case students were looking for us. A farmer in a valiant going to Albury picked us up. At Benalla I left Ross and headed for a couple of days in Melbourne. Ross continued to Wagga, hid the picture under his mattress at college, and spent some days at his home near Gilgandra.

We asked permission of our supervisor of practical training to change our fieldwork roster on Wednesday afternoon. We were rostered on livestock duties and wanted workshop. However, Alec Nicoll had to have a good reason for change. When he heard what we had done, he applauded and gave us the whole afternoon off. He told us that he had been in the Hawkesbury team to lift "Marilyn" from Duntroon. (In later years Alec hosted the ABC's Sunday programme "Australia All Over"). We made a frame in the workshop.

Wednesday night in the college dining roomRoss and I were urged to go and bring "Marilyn" inside. So we carried her in wraps up the aisle to the top stage for display. The 130 or so students went wild with their applause: the noise was deafening!! Banging cutlery on tables was the order of the day - no food fights tonight. A notation of our feat was duly written on the back of the picture and Dookie was advised of her whereabouts.

CSU DINNER FOR WACOBU COTTAGE

The evening marked the official completion of the WACOBU cottage project that had commenced almost 10 years ago. It was well attended with close to 40 people in attendance, including the Vice Chancellor Ian Goulter and a number of other special guests.

It was pleasing to note that some 8 past students and wives attended the dinner from the class of 1949 and 1950.

The formalities were brief with an introduction by myself as president of WACOBU, John Mahon then summarized the history of the cottage project from conception to the final completion of the project spanning a period of almost 10 years.

A formal announcement of completion with a toast was made to CSU by myself and a reply from Vice Chancellor Ian Goulter and Professor Jim Prately concluded the formalities.

The evening highlighted the contribution of all those that had made the project a success, in particular the activities over the past 12 months.

The long running WACOBU crop program that has been responsible for significant contributions over the years, thanks primarily to John Francis and David Lock who were in attendance

The Dig Deep Campaign, where a past student initiated the donation of a dollar for every dollar raised towards the cottage. This campaign saw a sum close to \$30 000 raised in the months leading up to the reunion dinner which in itself raised some \$5000. Corporate donations were received by Ron Finemore of Riverina Bandag and Incitec Pivot organised by past students in their employment. The bulk of the funds came in conjunction with the anonymous donor from the combined generosity of all the members of WACOBU that came together and delivered.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all those that contributed sums big and small, both over the years to the brick fund and recently in the Dig Deep campaign. It was ultimately a ground swell of support from all members of WACOBU that made the campaign successful, it is sure to hold the club in good stead for the future.

The WACOBU cottage project saw the raising of some \$100 000 in total and it serves as a permanent reminder of WACOBU on the campus in the presence of brick and mortar. The cottage is available for post graduate accommodation, please enquire to the university if you require further information regarding its use and function.

Finally special thanks to Ben Granger our treasurer that has spent lots of time transferring monies to the university and liaising with CSU ALUMNI to ensure all funds were accounted for. Special thanks also to Mardi Henley responsible for all the communication to and from its members in various ways and Deb Slinger and John Mahon who have liaised with the University and have been involved, working hard for WACOBU over many years. Thank you to all the committee members for their time and effort.

WACOBU COTTAGE

WACOBU Cottage is a joint project between the Wagga Agricultural Old Boys Union (WACOBU) and Charles Sturt University. It has been initiated as a fitting commemoration of a centenary of agricultural education on the present site of the campus. It provides a permanent link between past, present and future students and their education in agricultural science on the Wagga Wagga campus.

The building project evolved from consultations between WACOBU, students and staff of the School of Agriculture on the need for an on campus residence for senior undergraduate and postgraduate students. WACOBU cottage is designed to meet this need and provides a self-contained unit for visiting fellows and their families during short tenures at the University.

WACOBU was established in 1951 by the first students graduating from Wagga Agricultural College to maintain contact between themselves as they left for destinations right across Australia. These days, WACOBU continues the role of keeping ex-students in touch with each other through a newsletter distributed several times a year and staging various year and occasional reunions. An annual "Careers Day" for students in their final year features mainly WACOBU members giving advice on career prospects and experiences of a wide range of occupations.

WACOBU Cottage represents WACOBU's ongoing involvement in and commitment to the development of Charles Sturt University and its role in agricultural education.

CROP UPDATE

The crop of 2004 produced a crop of Baudin barley in one of the toughest growing seasons Wagga has ever experienced.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of David Lock it was successfully completed and raised over \$5000 to the cottage fund.

The crop was helped along to success by contributions by supply and Agribusiness companies that covered cropping cost. These companies include Sumitomo crop protection, Dow agro science, Agrichem fertilizers, Landmark and Cropcare.

David Lock has since moved to Brisbane and I wish David and his wife Ann all the best as they enjoy the company of family members in Queensland.

DONATIONS to BRICK CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the following people for their Brick Donations

Bob Alexander	Warwick Date	Neil Heriot	Peter Neilson	J Slatter
David Alexander	T De Salis	Kathy Hertel	Warwick Nightingale	Deb & Chris Slinger
Alan Anderson	Harley Delves	Brian Higgins		David Sloane
Kerry Anderson	Ian Donald	Allen Holmes	Fergal O'Gara	Rex Small
D Appleyard	Lionel Doran	Phil Howsler	Mike O'Hare	Des Spurway
Chris Armstrong		Tim Hutcheon	Robyn O'Leary	June Sutherland
John Armstrong	Alan Douglas	Tim Hutchinson	Michael Oakes	
Tom Armstrong	Andrew Dowd	R Iddon	M & M Oldfield	R Thomas
Phillip Asimus	Peter Draper	Derek Ingold	Michael Oldfield	S Tomson
B Atkins	Rob Dunkley	Bruce Irvine	H Orchiston	
	Jeannie Dunkley			Ron Umbers
Jeff Bailey	Stephen Dunn	Ian Johnson	Ken Packham	
R Ballantyne			Graeme Parr	Scott Vaessen
Tom Barker (dec)	Terry Edis	G Kegan	David Paton	G Veness
David Barrow	K Edyvean	Tom Kennaway	Geoffrey Paton	Andrew Vile
Alan Barton	M Eisenhauer	Andrew Kerry	Tony Paton	Tony Voller
Wayne Barry	David Elder	George Kinniburgh	David Peasley	
C Beckingham	T Ellwood	R Kobecke	Ian Perrett	John Walker
Michael Beer	David Elworthy	E Kulmer	John Peterson	Michael Watt
Peter Beinssen		C Lehmann		W D & H O Wills
Caroline & John Betts	Bruce Ferguson	D Lock	Jim Piper	Maurice Woodman
R Blackmore	Daryl Finch	Bill Love (dec)	Col Plater	Ted Wolfe
Gerald Bolla (x1)	T Fletcher	J Lymbery	R Prangnell	Colin Woods
Stephen Bourke	Ian Fuller		Simon Proust	Graeme Worboys
John Bowen	John Furner	David Macauley	A Pursehouse	
Craig & Jenny Bradley		James Madden		
Colin Brett	R Gault	J Mahon	Graham Quade	
Neil Bruce	Rodney Gestier	Steve Manion		
D Bruckner	R Gill	Harry Matthews (dec)	Peter Regan	Alex Smith
G Bruckner	Andrew Glasson	Don McCaffery	Brian Ricketts	in the memory
F Butler	Lex Govaars	Jason McClintock	John Roberson	of Paddy McCook
	Bruce Grady	Jillian McCormack	P Robinson	and Ivan (Sam) Moses
Alex Calabria	Jeff Granger	Simon McFarlance	A Robson	
David Clarke	Jane Granger	Margaret McGuire	Allan Ross	
Paul Cocking	Ben & Samantha Granger	J McRae		
G Condon	A & T Grant	Tony Meares	Garry Seamer	
Tim Condon	James Grellman	Barry Medway	Norm Sewell	Class of '49
Pat Coughlan	John Grellman	J Mellor	Rod Shearer	Class of '49 & '50
Craig Cowell		John Miller	Ross Shepherd	
Bill Cowell	T Hanmer	E Miller	John Sheriff	
Raymond Cox	Jim Harris	E Moloney	Allan Silvester	
Terry Cracknell	Keith Harris	Nick Moody	I Simpson	
John Crawford	Richard Hayes	Lawrence Moss	Ken Slade	
Ron Cullen	R & M Henley	Jock Munro	J Slater	

THE DIG DEEP CAMPAIGN 2005

As you would all be aware by now we have reached our target and are currently finalising payment on WACOBU cottage. This project has been ongoing for a number of years and due to the hard work by committee members over the years and the generous donations received we can hand the cottage over to Charles Sturt University. The finalisation of this project reminds us all of the camaraderie that Wagga Agricultural College has installed in us which allows us to come together from all walks of life to achieve a milestone such as this.



WACOBU HOUSE

On behalf of the WACOBU committee I would like to thank you all for your generous donations. The dig deep campaign alone raised a total of \$29 525.00 and with money from memberships, the crop fundraiser and the reunion dinner along with brick donations we have reached our goal. Again I thank you for your generous donations to this worthwhile project and I look forward to your continuing support in years to come. Without the support of our Old Boy network we would not be able to achieve goals such as this.

Ben Granger
Treasurer - WACOBU

NB. I am aware that there are still a number of receipts outstanding for donations. I do apologise for this and we are endeavouring to get everything finalised as soon as possible. Thankyou

Thank you to the following people for their DIG DEEP Donations

David Alexander	Warwick Ford	(The Late) Harry Mathews	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Wayne Barry	Greg Fulljamas	Kevin Melmeth	Barbara Thornton
Michael Beer	David Franks	Neil Menzies	Ken Triffitt
Charles Bell	John Furner	John Millard	Michael Vaughan
Kevin Bolitho	Will Goldfinch	Jock Munro	Birgitte Verbeek
William Booth	David & Heidi Gooden	Warwick Nightingale	Tony Voller
R J Bowen	Bruce Grady	David Noad	Peter Von Drehnen
James Brady	Rob & Alison Hart	Dominic Nowlan	Craig Warren
Ian Braithwaite	Kieran Hawker	(The Late) Eric Owens	Graham Watt
Duff Brothers	Richard Hayes	Andrew Perkins	William Wesslink
David Bryant	Ross & Mardi Henley	Ian Perrett	Robert James Wickson
John Burbidge	Ian Herbert	Colin Plater	John Winn
Donald Caldwell	Terry & Fiona Horan	Allan Ross	Colin Wood
Andrew Carmichael	Justin Hughes	Alison Rowlands	Lex Graham Woods
Cheryl Cartwright	Michael Hunt	Neil Schirmer	Rowan Woods
Allan Casey	James Hunter	Jerrold Shields	Alexander Wright
Greg Condon	Stuart & Margaret Kanaley	Tim Sides	
Timothy Condon	Don Kirkpatrick	Michael Sinclair	CORPORATE DONATIONS
Patrick Coughlan	Jenni Lamond	Deb & Chris Slinger	Ron Finemore
Terry Cracknell	Neil Lane	Colin Sparke	(Riverina Bandag)
Alice Crawford	Raymond Learmont	Des Spurway	
Brett Dalliston	David Macauley	Anthony Stannard	Brett Smith
Phillip Doyle	Donald McCaffery	Michael Stout	(Incitec Pivot LTD)
Peter Drummond	Peter McCann	Andrew Strahley	
Robert Edgerley	Ian McGufficke	Maurice Street	
Terry Edis	Tom McKeon		
Rob Edgerley	Ian McLeod		
Tony Ellwood	David Marsden		

NEW WACOBU MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

Following the letter that was sent earlier regarding updating WACOBU database and on going cooperation with CSU Alumni we have received good responses. An item that has been in the back of our minds and has now been brought to the forefront is how to handle existing life memberships that have been taken out in the past.

Firstly I thank all those that have contacted us to make enquiries regarding this issue and we feel that it is important and that we need to address it.

The situation is that we have negotiated with Alumni to give those past students of Wagga Ag College an option to become a financial member of WACOBU and receive the benefits that we have negotiated with Alumni. There are **3** levels being White, Gold and Life Gold membership, each having associated benefits that we have listed in past newsletters and the recent letter that was distributed.

Existing **Life memberships purchased from WACOBU in the past** gave the members limited benefits, including Newsletter and notification of reunions. Life memberships have been sold in the past for various fees over the years ranging from \$30 to \$50 and even dating back to pre decimal currency. The funds from these memberships have no doubt gone to good use with the club in the past and I thank you for contributing.

As of one year ago we discovered that WACOBU had very few current financial members, totalling approximately 10 out of approximately 1600 people. There was also the situation that some past students had actually purchased life memberships of Alumni to gain benefits for such items as priority allocation to University residences for children and grand children and discounts of post-graduate fees amongst other benefits.

The reality is if WACOBU is to remain a viable club we need financial members and in recognition of this we have negotiated attractive member benefits with Alumni. Through this process we hope to encourage an increase of memberships through WACOBU and gain benefits for past students and benefits through cash flow for your club WACOBU.

WACOBU will continue to recognize life memberships and it will be noted in future newsletters on the membership page that there are **4 levels of membership with different benefits associated to each level.** These levels are **(1) Life, (2) White annual, (3) Gold Annual and (4) Gold Life membership**, for details please see membership page of this newsletter.

In 2006 we will be expanding our Financial membership base and correcting our newsletter database which is an ongoing concern. WACOBU needs financial members to cover simple costs like sending a newsletter out that may total as much as \$2000. Any surplus funds in the meantime will go towards future projects that will be determined in conjunction with members of WACOBU and CSU Alumni. We look forward to receiving your financial membership in 2006 and look forward to a strong and viable future for WACOBU.

Yours faithfully

Warwick Nightingale – President WACOBU

EXPLANATION of WACOBU MEMBERSHIPS

WACOBU MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

The executive of WACOBU and Alumni office met recently to discuss our WACOBU memberships. It was proposed and unanimously accepted that a white, gold and life WACOBU membership be provided for our members.

Life membership (old system)

- WACOBU newsletter
- notification of all reunions for your year or course

White WACOBU membership \$10 annually

- WACOBU newsletter
- 20% discount on all CSU wines
- one complimentary copy of the University Alumni magazine
- notification of all reunions for your year or course

Gold WACOBU membership \$100 annually

- WACOBU newsletter
- donation to WACOBU
- one complimentary copy of the University Alumni magazine
- notification of all reunions for your year or course
- 10% discount on post graduate fees CSU
- 25% discount on all award winning CSU wines
- priority for your children and grandchildren to be allocated places in University residences for their first year of study
- use of University facilities (excluding the library) at preferential rates
- the option to apply for Alumni membership to the CSU libraries
- access to the Bathurst Campus' Centre for Professional Development at preferential rates
- 10% discount on fees/charges associated with attending a reunion
- special christmas wine offer
- any other special benefits or offers that are negotiated on behalf of members

Life GOLD WACOBU Membership \$400

- this includes all benefits of a Gold Membership **but only paid once.**

As can be seen, there are now "additional" levels of membership offered through the CSU Alumni office.

The "WHITE WACOBU", "GOLD WACOBU" and "LIFE GOLD WACOBU" memberships are a level of membership that have an extended range of benefits.

The offer made by the CSU Alumni Association now is for a new level of membership to the ORIGINAL WACOBU "LIFE" MEMBERSHIP.

Those of you who already have existing "LIFE" membership of WACOBU will still receive the original benefits which was, and still is, only receiving WACOBU newsletters and assistance in organising reunions.

Membership forms can be found at the back of this newsletter.



WACOBU MEMORABILIA

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of birth.....Years at College (From).....(to).....

Please find enclosed cheque/money order for:

- WACOBU stickers (\$1.00) \$.....
- WACOBU tie (\$30.00) \$.....
- WACOBU lapel badges (\$2.00) \$.....
- WACOBU Centenary hat (\$12.00) \$.....
- WACOBU pewter (\$50.00) \$.....
- WACOBU plain hat (\$10.00) \$.....
- "Farm Boys to PHD" (\$30.00) \$.....
- Ladies WACOBU shield pendant (\$65.00) \$.....
- Video (\$30.00) \$.....
- WACOBU plaques (\$30.00) \$.....
- WACOBU keyring (\$15.00) \$.....
- Total** \$.....

Make cheques/money orders payable to:

WACOBU Po Box 1078, WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT for WACOBU MEMORABILIA

Name (IN FULL).....Address.....

.....Postcode.....Telephone.....

MEMORABILIA PAYMENT

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

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Name on card.....

Expiry date.....Signature.....

FAX TO - 02 63 384 766



Return address:
Charles Sturt University
c/o Alumni Office/WACOB
Charles Sturt University
Panorama Avenue
BATHURST NSW 2795

place sticker here