



# WACOBU NEWS

Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural  
College Old Boys Union



John Mahon (Past President WACOBU), Stuart Kanaley (Current WACOBU President),  
Malcolm McKay (WAC 1956), Stewart Russell (2016 WACOBU Scholarship recipient)

## 2016

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GOULBURN POST: Goulburn Dirty Reds v Wagga Ag College trial match, Poidevin Oval Goulburn March 2016



**Got News?**

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

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# Mateship and Fellowship



In this edition two important aspects of life at Wagga Ag College are clearly shown.

One is mateship as typified by the story of the 50 year reunion of the 1964-66 WACers and partners, who obviously have a great bond as they continue to meet up regularly. And they paid a great tribute to a departed old boy from that era.

That people still want to get together at a reunion after 50 years since college life says something about WAC!!

The various life and career pathways of students since their days at WAC makes you realise how the College helped prepare young people for the challenges of the real world.

This is still happening and many Old Boys have been successful in all fields – but especially in agricultural science and the story on Drew Braithwaite’s Nuffield Scholarship tour highlights that.

Fellowship comes in many forms and there are many challenges in modern society.

The fantastic fundraising efforts of Ag College Rugby this year has been outstanding, helping both the Black Dog Institute and Angus Aims for Independence charity. Congratulations to the Wagga Ag College Rugby community.

Also the further donation of \$20,000 to Peter Worsley from the Ag Race Day deserves mention. Great on-going help for an Old Boy from the WAC community.

Ask Stewart Russell the 2016 WACOBUS Scholarship recipient who will be putting the \$2000 scholarship to good use.

None comes more so than with rural men’s mental health and young people with disabilities facing many barriers.

Old Boy John Harper and his “Mate helping Mate” program continue to highlight the seriousness of mental health in rural areas and the simple ways saying RUOK can help.

**Ensure the mateship and fellowship of WACOBUS continues well into the future.**

Do your bit to help others. Ask **RUOK**.

It will make a difference. *Graeme*

## WACOBU SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION



WACOBU Scholarship recipient Stewart Russell and WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley

**WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley, John Mahon (Past President WACOBU) and 1956 WAC graduate Malcolm McKay were on hand to present the 2016 WACOBU Scholarship, now valued at \$2000 to Stewart Russell.**

Justin Williams the Faculty Advancement Officer for the Charles Sturt Foundation Trust thanked WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley for the time he dedicates each year to assessing the applications.

“WACOBU and its legacy is very important to CSU as part of our history and community and we thank you for your ongoing involvement with the university,” said Mr Williams.

Stewart Russell was extremely proud to have been selected for the award and thanked the WACOBU committee and CSU for their continuing support of agricultural science students studying at CSU.

## Stewart Russell, "Tenalba" Canowindra

My story begins in the small country town of Canowindra in the central west of NSW. Here I was brought up on my family's 1600 acre property.

This has meant that I have been exposed to an agricultural way of life from a young age. In 2001 I started school at Canowindra Public school.

As with a lot of small town kids sport was a massive part of my life growing up with countless Saturdays spent on both the rugby field and the cricket pitch over the earlier years of my life.

I was never the most talented sportsman but this never stopped me from trying. These early years I spent on the sporting field taught me the importance of teamwork and hard work when trying to achieve your goals.

Unlike a lot of farm kids I began to lose interest in farm.

It wasn't until I started high school and began to study agriculture and the science based subjects that I began to re discover my interest in the more scientific side of agriculture.

All of my life experiences lead me to successfully apply for Ag science at CSU Wagga.

And why did I choose CSU in particular?

I was heavily influenced by my Ag teacher at school, **Owen McLaughlin, himself an Old Boy!!**

I deferred my degree and then spent the next 12 months working as a shed hand in shearing sheds around Canowindra.

I have been involved in the community in a number of ways in my life.

Like a lot of people who have grown up in small towns a lot of these revolve around sport. This has included a number of different sports over a number of years.

From a young age I have been attending various different sporting events including rugby, soccer, cricket, rugby league and swimming.

Most weekends where possible I would try to get there early and try to assist in setting up in any way possible. This included setting up fields, putting out seating and putting lane ropes in the pool on a Friday night before swimming club.

In 2009 I was elected as captain of my local swimming club. This role involved me having to help set up and help with the weekly running of things as well as being a positive role model for the younger swimmers.

Philanthropy is defined as the practice of helping other people, especially through by giving money to good causes.

Personally I think that there is more to philanthropy than just giving money to charitable causes. To me it's more about doing all you can do to improve yourself and to better the world around you in any way you can.

I believe that agriculture is one of the most important industries in the world because let's be honest everybody has to eat. With the world's population increasing at an alarming rate this will put increasing pressure on the world's food supply. With more land being needed to house the world's population leaving less land available for agricultural production.

This is why I am aiming to go into research after I have finished my degree. I think by going into research that I can help to improve the efficiency of agricultural enterprises in Australia and all over the world. This is how I would contribute to the greater good of world In the future.

Receiving this scholarship would help me to achieve my goals in a number of different ways.

The scholarship would remove the financial stresses associated with being a student.

This would mean that I would be able to focus more on my studies.

Being able to focus on my studies would allow me to achieve my goals of doing an honours degree in my 4th year of uni.

It would allow me to take a more active role in my other interests whilst at uni such as WAC rugby.



Stuart Kananley, Stewart Russell, David Falepau, Head of School of Agriculture and Wine Sciences

I want to become involved with the Ag Race Day committee, hope to do an internship at the Graham Centre over summer, with aspirations to complete a Masters and become involved in research.

*Stewart*



## WACOBU Scholarship Support

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

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

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

See the last page of the newsletter for banking details.

**Your support will be greatly appreciated !**



# CLASS REUNION

## THE MOTTS OF 1964



### REUNION AT DARWIN MARCH 2016

*Photo: 50<sup>th</sup> reunion attendees at the Charles Darwin National Park, with Darwin city in the background (Saturday March 19, 2016).*

**In March 2014, at the "Hillcrest" Gunning home of Ros and Barry Medway, we celebrated 50 years since we started at Wagga Agricultural College (WAC) as Motts.**

**At that get together, Philippa and Graeme Hockey were 'volunteered' to host the 13<sup>th</sup> reunion in Darwin in two years time...**

Over the weekend of March 18-20, 2016 nineteen of those who started at Wagga in 1964, plus seventeen womenfolk and 'Doc' Everett, our Vet lecturer, met in Darwin to celebrate 50 years since our last year together as students in 1966.

Thirteen people, comprising Mick Hazlett and Victoria Vasso, Cathy and Tony Meares, Maggie and Peter Polack, Ronnie and Col Rathbone, Pam and Neville Semmlar, Sue and Neil Warner and 'Doc' Everett, arrived on the Ghan on Tuesday March 15.

On March 17 the 'overlanders' in the form of Lyn and Gerry Bolla, Pam and Bart Gannon and Ros and Barry Medway winched their way into the Darwin Free Spirit Resort where we all stayed.

A positive was that they brought a good soaking to Western Queensland on the way, which forced them to wait a while for the creeks to go down in a couple of places.

The rest of the group, comprising Coral and Roger Clough, Geoff Cornell, Gail and Terry Ellis, Geoff Howe, Beth and Bruce Irvine, Lenja and Dick Kobelke, Christine and Ray Moir, Vilma and Bruce Rennard, and Jenni and Ross Stockings arrived on 8 different flights over two days.

While 'celebrations' did not officially commence until the evening of Friday March 18, those in town earlier got together at the Darwin Sailing Club for a sunset meal on Tuesday evening and at Seafood on Cullen restaurant for dinner on Wednesday evening. At a rural pub, the Virginia Tavern, on Thursday evening, where singlets and tatts are considered formal (and that's for the women!!!), St Patrick's Day was celebrated.

The official celebrations for the reunion began when everyone met up for drinks at the Resort's camp kitchen on the Friday evening. A 25 seater bus and a 12 seater bus were used for transport to activities over the weekend and to pick up and drop off those flying in and out at various times. The 25 seater was driven by Rob Wesley-Smith, a long time Darwin agriculturist and East Timor activist, amongst other things, who was a fount of knowledge for those travelling with him.

On Saturday places of interest visited included Charles Darwin National Park, Parap markets, East Point, the Wharf and the Museum.

A spectacular 'knock-em-down' storm with lots of thunder and lightning strikes finished the day of sightseeing.

At night there was a sit down dinner in the Resort dining room and a few dozen photos from college days and past reunions were shown - to remind those present of their youth. During the evening Graeme Hockey received a cash donation from the group for his Timor Leste projects in the enclave of Oecussie.

Philippa also received a very much appreciated gift.

Sunday was to Litchfield National Park for the day and a meal at the Resort that night.



*Photo: Philippa Hockey and Ross Stockings at Florence Falls Litchfield NP.*



Monday was a big day with ten flying to Timber Creek and the rest travelling to the Adelaide River for a "Spectacular Jumping Croc" cruise.

This was followed by a visit to Fog Dam, Windows on the Wetland, and another 'feral' hangout, the Humpty Doo Hotel, for a drink before returning to the Resort. Wes also included a visit to his rural block to show off his tropical garden. Thanks to Wes for giving up his time.

The ten to Timber Creek deserve a separate piece and you will find this further down as the purpose was to spread some of the ashes of Richard (Dick) Waring Gill who died suddenly at his home at "China Walls", Tooma in September last year.

His wish was to have some of his ashes spread at a place called "Bradshaw's Tomb" on the Victoria River.

Departures from Darwin occurred over three days with six couples driving out and the rest flying. Those driving were travelling at the best of times with the country lush and green. The possibility of a late monsoonal downpour may have added an adrenalin burst to their travels.

Since then, a few more people responded with apologies for not attending the reunion, including Catherine Sawkins – Greg Harris' widow, Geoff Bushby (Calga Station, Coonamble), Bill Gornall (lives in Samoa), David Thorold (lives in Kokopo PNG) and Pete Meier.

**Thanks to all our WAC friends who made it to Darwin. It was great to catch up.**



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

## The TRIP TO TIMBER CREEK to spread the ashes of Richard 'Dick' Waring Gill

**Back in September at the Tumbarumba Bowls Club and then again at China Walls we said our farewells to Dick.**

Dick wrote to me on September 9, the night before he died.

*Sorry I can't be with you all next March to have made that trip down to Bradshaw and the Vic would have been great. Take the trip anyway, I'll be standing on the river end of the Tomb, give the wings a bit of a waggle.*

Daughters, Emily, Catie and Cathy said Dick had asked if some of his ashes be spread at China Walls, some in Norway and the balance at Bradshaw.

We agreed in regard to Bradshaw and Barry Medway volunteered to follow up with all the authorities and put together the trip using Territory Air Services in Darwin and then down the river with Neville Fogarty of Timber Creek who offered to do that part as he knew Dick pretty well.

As Bradshaw is now owned by the Army there were lots of people to go through. Barry had to get additional approval to do a bit of low flying in parts.

'Blue' Ellis put together a plaque, with a Wagga badge passed on by Kay Aldous, for presentation to the Timber Creek Museum.

Ten of us, Gerry Bolla, Graeme Hockey, Bruce Irvine, Dick Kobelke, Tony Meares, Ray Moir, Col Rathbone, Neville Semmlar and Neil Warner made the trip.



*Bradshaw's Tomb with the Victoria River and the hills of Bulloo*

Ten of us, Gerry Bolla, Graeme Hockey, Bruce Irvine, Dick Kobelke, Tony Meares, Ray Moir, Col Rathbone, Neville Semmlar and Neil Warner made the trip.

At Timber Creek Neville and Meredith Fogarty met us and we were bussed to the Big Horse boat ramp in a Leyland bus of ancient vintage.

Lots of logs in the river from the flooding but we went like a rocket in a flat bottomed 'tour' boat that fitted the ten of us with Neville at the controls.

The Bradshaw side vegetation is dense for the entire journey since the place has been destocked and the army in control.

Shame it is wall to wall Noogoora Burr!!

The Tomb, about another 15kms downstream, was the horse paddock during Dick's time at Bradshaw.

We were able to make landfall in a nice spot with the Tomb as a backdrop. Had to make sure no salt water geckoes in residence and we trampled down a heap of 'burr' so we could see each other.

Barry said a few words and we spread Dick's ashes. I read a poem that Dick had on his office wall which Ray Stephenson, Dick's Tumbarumba mate, had sent to me which sums the man up to a 'T'.



We completed the job with a glass or three of "Bundy" rum and wedged the empty in the fork with a sip left just in case.



We were then off to the Timber Creek museum where the plaque was presented.

Neville Semmlar was very interested as his mother's uncle was John Gordon of the NT Police who was based there from 1950. The old police station is now the museum and John Gordon's house is still standing adjacent.

A special thanks to Meredith and Neville Fogarty of Timber Creek for making the water based part of the trip possible.

We flew over Bradshaw homestead then onto the Tomb where we did a lap.



We then flew over a saddle into the Koolondong Valley where we turned north to Gregory's Bar, on the Fitzmaurice River where Rod Ansell (on whom Crocodile Dundee is based) was marooned.

This is another story in Dick's notes and includes a film being made there with Dick flying everyone in.

The Koolondong also features in another story about croc shooters escaping north and Dick's involvement in that.

We came home over Tipperary Station and the town of Adelaide River.

The scenery of Bradshaw with the escarpments, waterfalls, creeks full of water and the Victoria River off to the west and the raw colours at 500' makes you realise why Dick was in love with this part of the world.

*Graeme Hockey*



At the 2016 Reunion dinner in Darwin  
**Graeme Hockey** received an envelope  
 with a sizeable donation towards work for  
 remote communities in Timor.



The money was forwarded to Timor in April with Mick Burke the Catholic Priest from Yass and four others and is being used for the first stage of a water supply system on a spring in Oecussie, the Timor Leste enclave in West Timor.

A managed community farming group called FUNLECO has 23 members and grow red and white onions and peanuts in a community garden on the river flats and wanted to extend their growing season with irrigation.

The community source most of their water from a spring 500m down the hill from the middle of the community and this water is to be channeled into a pipe and run up to an 1100litre plastic water tank.

A concrete wash bay is to be built just below the tank. This will allow the Buki people to wash their clothes and themselves and will replace the existing trickle of water.

To value add, water that is currently running to waste including washing water will be channeled into a catchment pipe and in turn added to the supply going to the garden.

*Another example of a generous and worthwhile donation from Old Boys.*

## Drew Braithwaite

Drew attended CSU, finishing his tertiary studies in 2001. Drew's father Ian also attended Wagga Ag College, graduating in 1973 and returning to his family farm at Griffith and remaining passionate about efficient and productive farming systems.



### Nuffield Scholarship Awardee Japan Global Focus Program (JFP)

In 2015, I was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the rice industry.

As a part of this I travelled on my Global Focus Program (GFP), which entailed travelling through Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Israel, The Netherlands and the United States of America.

The program is designed to give a global perspective on agriculture. It is however so much more than that.

It took me to places that provided real insight into the diversity of agriculture internationally – from small, intensive practices to large scale, commercial/corporate enterprises to farm lobby groups and policy makers.

The GFP gives scholars the opportunity to experience different cultures and their history. These cultural beliefs and the history behind these countries ultimately determine their views and thoughts.

This flows onto their values and policies on the agriculture and food sectors.

So many factors play a role in these views including religion, war, population, environment, resources (land and water) and infrastructure.

Whilst standing on the Golan Heights, a strategic military high point in Israel, looking over the Syrian border into the war zone, which was extremely confronting, the effects of this war on agriculture began to become more apparent.

The war has led to agricultural land in Syria being deserted, resulting in huge dust storms which have impacted the weather patterns in Israel resulting in a five year drought.

A reduction of flow in the Jordan River is a repercussion of this.

Subsequently, the level of the Sea of Galilee, which is a source of fresh water in Israel, has been declining.

These climatic changes have prompted forced innovation by Israel around water efficiency and productivity.

Now, 80% of Israel's agricultural water usage is sourced from recycled water.

It must be noted that water in Israel is viewed as a public good and is controlled and managed by the government, not the free market.

This means the true cost of water is hard to obtain. Delivered water to farms by the government ranged from \$350 AUD to \$750 AUD per mega litre.

The water is then delivered through Israeli drip technology to ensure the water is used in the most efficient manner.

This war has also had a great influence on the Brexit, which will have an effect on the EU common agricultural policy. The Brexit vote was as much about immigration policy as it was about economics, as thousands of Syrian refugees spill into Europe. Closing borders seems to be a theme that is flowing around the world not only with the Brexit but also in the US with the Trump movement. The EU policy was born after two world wars as food security was important. This is much the same as the US farm bill which has grown into their crop insurance policy for American grain farmers.

While travelling through the Netherlands, the realisation struck that nearly 80% of profit for some farming systems came from subsidies. The impact of any change in EU Common Agricultural Policy on farming business would be huge.

In Summary, the GFP was a wonderful cultural experience and a valuable investment for the industry's future.

I must also take the opportunity to note, that in all my travels I did not come across an industry that is as fully integrated from production to processing to markets, as our rice industry is.

Our marketers talking to our breeders and having influence over the direction of our R&D program is rare and has huge benefits for growers and the Sunrice company.

This is our greatest strength.

We must not lose sight of this when making important decision on issues such as the review on vesting powers and decisions around the capital restructure.

A united industry at all levels with a common goal will be as successful in the future as it has been in the past.

*Drew Braithwaite*



**RURAL INDUSTRIES**  
Research & Development Corporation

## Luke Mancini

### ... A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

**Sam Mancini** was a student at Wagga Ag College in the early 1970's and was well known for his outgoing personality and sense of humour - amongst other things!

Since then Sam has become well known as a great contributor to the agriculture industry with a lot of hard work and enterprise on their family farming area at Whitton in the heart of the MIA. Sam's son **Luke** has obviously learnt a lot from Dad as he received a **Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship in 2016**.

**Nuffield Australia Farming  
Scholarship 2016**



Supported by Australian Grape and Wine Authority, Luke will be studying vineyard management practices and grape marketing techniques for alternative wine grape varieties in warm climates and irrigated areas in parts of Australia, Europe, China, South East Asia and the United States.

Luke believes one of the challenges faced by the wine and grape industry was their inability to establish a reputation for consistent quantity, quality and supply - given there is limited information as to how to grow and manage alternative varieties.

His study will include looking at alternative varieties that are old and/or rare and have potential to become more popular with wine consumers as well as those developed for disease resistance to reduce reliance on chemicals.

One of the great opportunities we have in this area is to increase collaboration between growers, winemakers and winery owners on alternative varieties and, in the longer term, to work with bodies like CSIRO to promote the environmental and agro-



**Australian Government**

**Australian Grape and Wine Authority**



His study will include looking at alternative varieties that are old and/or rare and have potential to become more popular with wine consumers as well as those developed for disease resistance to reduce reliance on chemicals.

One of the great opportunities we have in this area is to increase collaboration between growers, winemakers and winery owners on alternative varieties and, in the longer term, to work with bodies like CSIRO to promote the environmental and agronomic virtues of disease resistant varieties.

“One of my future goals is to develop our own alternative varieties under a family wine label and I’m looking forward to gaining a better perspective of my own farming operation and to develop ideas and initiatives that will benefit the entire industry,” said Luke.

Nuffield Australia chief executive officer Jim Gelch said Nuffield has more than 350 scholars in Australia who, through their scholarship global study tours, had significant insight into global agricultural production systems.

“We are building capacity for the nation’s food and fibre industries to be world leaders in the adoption of technology, best practice and innovation,” he said.

“Nuffield Scholars are influencing industry and community changes, resulting in agricultural productivity increases and economic development for rural communities.

“The Nuffield experience adds new dimensions to the way scholars think about the economic, environmental and social aspects of global food production,” said Mr Gelch.

There is an opportunity for agricultural graduates to become part of the Nuffield program.

Give it some thought!!

*Luke Mancini*



Nuffield Australia on Twitter: "Congrats '16 Scholar Luke Mancini, NSW, here with Andrew Johnson



## NOT GETTING A WACOBU NEWSLETTER?

*"I was wondering about the newsletter I use to receive, and if it is still published? I would appreciate whatever assistance you could provide".*

President Stuart Kanaley received a message from **Marty O'Rourke** (1974-76) in March this year chasing up WACOBU newsletters.

As we found out we didn't lose Marty – he lost us!!

Marty lost us when he changed his email address from the original bigpond address listed with WACOBU.

Many of the earlier newsletters are up on the CSU alumni web pages - just type in WACOBU and CSU. The most recent edition there is 2012 and shall get the more recent ones up over the coming months.

**Make sure your email address is current with WACOBU.**

**If you change your email address let Stu Kanaley or Graeme Worboys know so the annual newsletter gets to you!!**





# Ah... the memories!!!

## NEWS OF OLD BOYS



### **Chris Callow (1983-85)**

Chris Callow used his WACOBU contacts when searching for an employee for his business Callow Livestock. Chris was looking to appoint a Southern Manager. Chris' company provide a service aimed at delivering relevant information, accurate market signals and up to date technology to assist cattle producers maximize profit in their business. Chris Callow (0429 497 166)

### **Peter (Marty) McCann**

President Stu spoke to Peter (Marty) McCann earlier this year and found out he is making a rural change to Gloucester after 15 or so years in the big smoke, following an earlier session near Narromine.

### **Ian (Smiley) Johnson (1973-76)**

Smiley also made contact to ensure he gets the newsletter and noted:

- That the Sydney Morning Herald 8/10/16 edition had an excellent feature on Mental Health Focus "Secret men's business" which included a story about John "China" Harper and his experience with depression and the organisation he set up "Mate Helping Mate".
- John also appeared in the ABC 3 part series program "Man Up", which was run in October on TV. Worth looking up if you have not seen it.

Smiley's address is 21 Drysdale Road Elderslie (Camden) NSW 2570. His company is IJ Ag Services and he is an Agribusiness Consultant, Trainer & Food Safety QA Auditor, Agsafe & ChemCert, Risk Management Trainer & Consultant, Health, Safety & Environment Risk Management Trainer, Food Safety QA Auditor - Freshcare, SQI HACCP QA and Business Consultant. Contact Smiley on (02) 4658 0206 or [i.l.johnson@bigpond.com](mailto:i.l.johnson@bigpond.com)

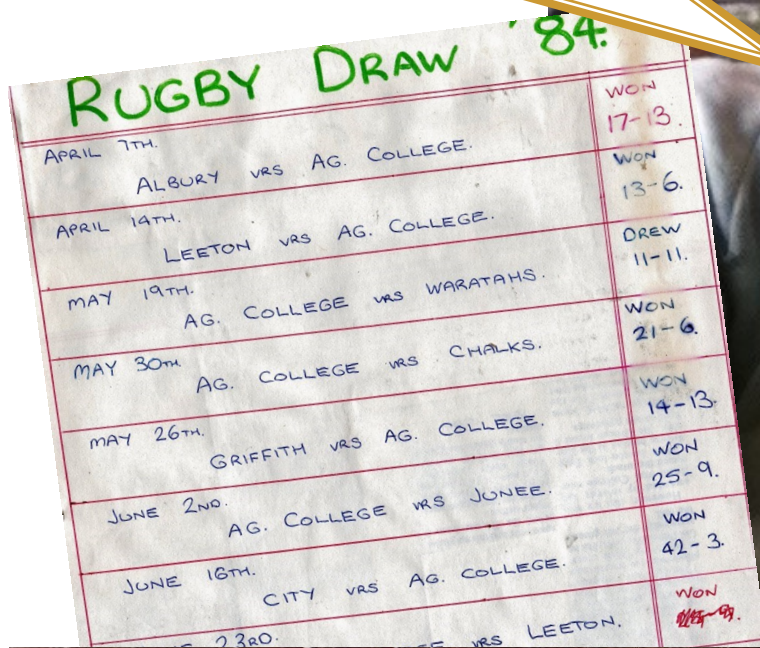
**The photo says it all!!**

**Steve MacDonald (1973)** shows his Ag College "spirit" by resurrecting his WAC sloppy joe...

*My 46 year old Ag College sweater is a bit "worse for wear" but still alive!*

*Dragged it out the other day, gave it a wash and dry.*

*Good as new!!!!*



RUGBY DRAW '84.		
APRIL 7TH.	ALBURY VRS AG. COLLEGE.	WON 17-13.
APRIL 14TH.	LEETON VRS AG. COLLEGE.	WON 13-6.
MAY 19TH.	AG. COLLEGE VRS WARATAHS.	DREW 11-11.
MAY 30TH.	AG. COLLEGE VRS CHALKS.	WON 21-6.
MAY 26TH.	GRIFFITH VRS AG. COLLEGE.	WON 14-13.
JUNE 2ND.	AG. COLLEGE VRS JUNE.	WON 25-9.
JUNE 16TH.	CITY VRS AG. COLLEGE.	WON 42-3.
JUNE 23RD.	AG. COLLEGE VRS LEETON.	WON 17-9.



**Wagga Ag College Photos Through the Years Facebook Page**



# AG COLLEGE NEWS

## AG COLLEGE DONATION



The Black Dog Institute has welcomed a donation of \$16,041 courtesy of the Ag College Rugby Club, following their annual charity fundraiser.

The Ag College Rugby Club goes to great efforts to arrange this charity day and when officials handed over the cheque to the BLACK Dog institute the hard work came to fruition.

The Aggies made special guernseys for the day and auctioned them off afterwards to raise funds. Ag College official Nicholas Hogan said the club was thrilled to be able to donate \$16,041 to such a good cause.

***“Every year we select a charity to donate these raised funds too and this year was Black Dog. We chose this charity because of the good work it is doing within the mental health field, especially in rural communities.***

“Most of our rugby club is made up of people from rural areas and most have seen what mental can do to a person.

“It is a close thing to many of our player’s heart and thought it was the least we could do,” said Hogan.

Mathew Johnstone from the Black Dog Institute received the cheque and was full of praise for the Aggies and the effort they put in to ensure the day was a success.



***PHOTO: Macky Lawrence, Nicholas Hogan and Hugh Willoughby present a cheque for \$16,000 to Black Dog Institute's Mathew Johnstone (second from left).***

# Aggies Race Day



## Plenty of action off the track – but no horses!!

Mother Nature was working against the Ag Races on September 17 this year, but organisers were pleased that they were able to hold a phantom meeting at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC).

Continual wet weather across southern NSW over winter and spring saw many race meetings, local shows and other outdoor activities cancelled or postponed.

Unfortunately Ag Race Day joined the list with no racing held but over 4600 people still turned up for this annual social fixture.

The racing was cancelled at the last minute after Racing NSW Stewards deemed the track unfit for use but patrons were able to watch racing and have a bet on the metropolitan race meetings across Australia.

That shows what a great event it is and it also says something about Wagga Ag College!!

MTC Chief Executive Officer Scott Sanbrook said it was a hard decision to cancel the races but was pleased the phantom meeting was able to go ahead.

“It was amazing the crowd roll-out for the day.

“It emphasises the great reputation of the Ag Race Day and that it’s branded itself as a social highlight in Wagga, the Riverina and beyond”, said Mr Sanbrook.

This is the third time in 10 years that horses have been absent from the Ag Races, but people keep turning up.

As they say “the show must go on” and Ag Race Day 2016 was a great social success and supported Peter Worsley, with a donation of \$20,000 which was raised during the day.

*Aggies race day raises money for Peter Worsley, who became a quadriplegic during his time at Ag College in 1987.*

*Peter was the victim of a tragic accident during a rugby game between Ag College and arch-rivals the Chalkies.*

*The on-going support for Peter and his family from the WAC community has been tremendous and is much appreciated by “Sac”.*

# AG COLLEGE NEWS

## WAC RUGBY – A COMMUNITY CLUB

**'Angus Aims for Independence' charity raises over \$27,000**



**Susie Pennington**, from Cootamundra, is concerned about the future of her son **Angus**, who has cerebral palsy, and other young adults with disabilities cared for by ageing parents.

Mrs Pennington started '**Angus Aims for Independence**', a non-profit charity aimed at helping Angus and other young adults achieve their dreams of living in a place they can proudly call home and increase awareness about young adults with disabilities still living in a family or relative's homes.

She wants to see more supported disability accommodation for young people a degree of independence and is working on fundraising for a deposit for the purchase of a community house or supported units in Cootamundra.

The charity was supported by the Wagga Ag College rugby union community, a team Angus Pennington loves to barrack for.

Pennington, the younger brother of Aggies playmaker **Hamish Pennington**, is one of Aggies biggest fans.

Aggies played a game of AFL against cross-code rivals the CSU Bushpigs at Peter Hastie Oval on October 8.

Many fundraising events were held on the day including a jersey auction following the game at the William Farrer Hotel.

More than \$27,000 was raised for the charity in a fantastic effort.

Angus led the two teams onto the ground for the charity game.

Ag College was far from disgraced as the rugby union club turned to play Australian Football to raise money for Angus.

The rugby union converts started well, and even led going to three-quarter time, but couldn't sustain the effort as the Bushpigs ran out 82-70 winners.

Ag College captain Thomas Macleay was thrilled by how the team with very little experience with the sport performed.

More important than the on-field performance, was the support the event garnered off it.

Macleay was blown away by the show support from both clubs and the wider community.

"It was an absolutely massive crowd," he said.

"Then afterwards at the William Farrer Hotel the amount of support for the charity was unbelievable and words can't describe how generous and supportive everybody was.

"I can't believe the support from the Wagga Ag College community and CSU Bushpigs to get this result in the first year."

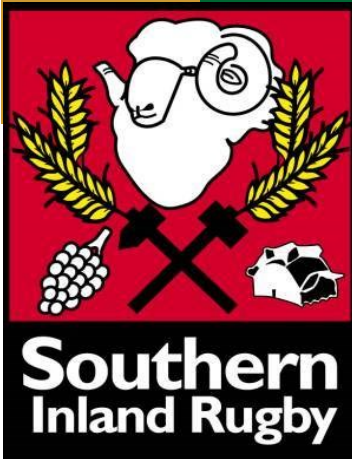
The fixture may become an annual event.



ANGUS AIMS FOR INDEPENDENCE



FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME



# Ag College Rugby 2016



There was a complete change to the Southern Inland Rugby Union competition in 2016...

Three teams, Cootamundra, Temora and Young left the SIRU competition.

Cootamundra and Temora played in the Central West Southern Division competition that also involved Condobolin, West Wyalong and Grenfell and also played games against Central West Central teams that included Canowindra, Blayney, CSU Orange and Molong.

Young joined the ACT Rugby competition.

This left 8 teams in SIRU, with 3 grades and a women's 7's competition.

It was a high standard of rugby from the First XV teams – Ag College, Rivcoll, Waratahs, City, Tumut, Albury, Griffith and Leeton.

The Aggies had a solid year on the paddock, playing some excellent rugby but they could not find that consistency when needed at the business end of the season.

They are looking forward to a better 2017.

Their off field work in 2016 was outstanding and shows the real spirit within Ag College Rugby.

A fantastic effort from everyone involved with the club especially the Club executive and major sponsors.

## **SOUTHERN INLAND RUGBY UNION GRAND FINALS**

**CONOLLY RUGBY COMPLEX, WAGGA  
AUGUST 20, 2016**

### **1st Grade**

Wagga Waratahs 28 d Wagga City 25

Best on Ground- "Rivcoll Old Boys Medal" - Sean Kearns (Waratahs)

Best & Fairest for the Season – "Bill Castle Medal" Winner - Angus Le Lievre (Waratahs), Runner Up- Menzies Seumanatafu (Tumut)

### **2nd Grade**

Wagga Waratahs 34 d Griffith 19

Best on Ground- "Warwick Tout Memorial Medal"- Tom Hobbs (Waratahs)

### **3rd Grade**

Wagga Waratahs 21 d CSU 0

Best on Ground- "Ken McMullen Memorial Medal"- Tom Finucane (Waratahs)

### **Women's 7-A-Side:**

Leeton 21 d Wagga City 12

Best on Ground- "Adamson's Medal"- Aimee Spowart- ( Leeton)

Best & Fairest for the Season – "Alicia Quirk Medal"- Winner - Tara Arnall (Tumut), Runner Up- Monique Higgins (Leeton)

# 2016 News from SAWS

## School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences

### 40 years of Wine Science education at CSU

The milestone was marked in late November 2015 with an afternoon of recollections, campus tours and a celebratory dinner.

The first wine science degree was offered by the Riverina College of Advanced Education (RCAE), in 1975 to provide greater training opportunities for viticulture.

Amongst the early student intakes were well established winemakers and brewers who already had tertiary qualifications and were keen to extend their training to a viticulture degree.

Even in the early days the ability to study by correspondence, or online as it is today, meant the program was ideally suited to those working in the industry.

The start of wine science education at Charles Sturt University was dynamic and led to a lift in the standard of wine and viticulture education in Australia.

Today CSU offers a Bachelor of Viticulture, a Bachelor of Wine Science, a Bachelor of Wine Business and a Master of Viticulture and Oenology through its School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences.

This complements the world-class research carried out through the National Wine and Grape industry Centre in plant pathology, vine physiology, fruit development, fruit and wine composition, sensory characteristics and consumer preference of wine.



### Helping students in remote areas

CSU won the Equity and Opportunity category at the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards presented in Melbourne.

According to the judges, the Outreach team at CSU leads the sector when it comes to improving educational access, opportunities and outcomes for students from regional and remote areas.

The Outreach team regularly travels to more than 60 locations in rural Australia and major metropolitan cities, delivering innovative face-to-face workshops and individual appointments designed to help students in their studies. Over the past last five years, the team has conducted more than 600 visits, meeting with over 3,000 students.

The AFR Higher Education awards were presented in Melbourne in November.



## School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences

### Overseas study trip

Equipping the next generation of agricultural scientists and business managers with an international perspective on new technologies and farming practices was behind an overseas study trip by 27 CSU students.

The agricultural science students enjoyed a 16-day agribusiness tour of four European countries.

They looked at various industries and explored sections of the agribusiness chain from crop production to input controls and regulations as well as complex land ownership and product identification loops.

The trip spanned four countries: France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium

It included 34 agribusiness visits such as a robotic dairy, French agribusiness university AgroParis, shedded sheep, alpine herdsmen, cheese-making, abattoir, Marche de Rungis, vegetable production, winery, Bayer Bee centre, greenhouses and research laboratories, CLASS manufacturing plant, retail outlets, cropping and pasture production, chicken and turkey production, salt production, alternative energy production, animal health research and development

Themes for the tour included animal ethics and welfare, subsidies, sustainability, land ownership and use, technology and labour, energy and water, bio and organics.

*(A bit different to the 1970's – our year went to Boree Creek!!)*

### Surveillance for emergency animal diseases

CSU researchers are set to play a key role in developing a new approach for surveillance for emergency animal diseases.

The research, through the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, aims to develop a producer-led approach to improve early detection and control of outbreaks.

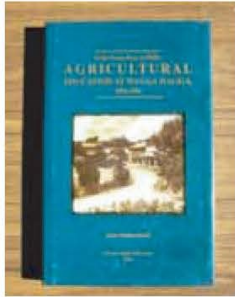
It's part of a wider \$11 million project managed by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) through the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme.

The project will involve a nationwide data collection exercise to gain a better understanding of current practices and producers' attitudes and behaviours in relation to the management of emergency animal diseases.

The aim is to provide governments with guidelines on how to circumvent problems that impact negatively on the areas that are essential for early disease detection, control and eradication.



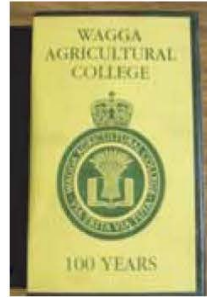
# WACOBU Merchandise



From Farm Boys to PhDs  
Book - \$30.00



WAC 49er's Book  
POA



WAC 100 Years  
Video - \$30.00



WACOBU Centenary  
Cap - \$12.00



WACOBU Pewter  
Mug - \$50.00



WACOBU Lapel  
Badge - \$2.00



WACOBU Wall  
Plaque - \$30.00



WACOBU Sloppy-joe  
Price - TBA



WACOBU Tie  
\$30.00



Ladies WACOBU  
Pendant  
\$6.50



Ladies WACOBU  
Shield Pendant  
\$65.00



WACOBU  
Keyring  
\$15.00



WACOBU  
Car sticker  
\$1.00



# WACOBU Merchandise Order Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of birth.....

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

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

TOTAL =

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

Make cheques/money orders payable to: WACOBU

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

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

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Name on card: .....

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

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- WACOBU (Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union) Membership



Please print this form then post to:

WACOBU  
PO Box 1092  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

**Your details:**

Student number or year of study \_\_\_\_\_

Given (first) names \_\_\_\_\_ Surname / family name \_\_\_\_\_

Former name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

Number and street \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/city \_\_\_\_\_

State/province \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Details:**

Position Title \_\_\_\_\_

Employers Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership details:**

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

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

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

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

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

1. Transfer your money by electronic transfer to:

**Name of Financial Institution:** ANZ

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

**BSB:** 012-823

**Account No:** 2070-98615

**Reference:** "your name",

**Message:** eg, Membership

2. Please email Ros Prangnell [ros.prangnell@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ros.prangnell@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and put in subject line...

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

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

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