

WACOBU
P.O. Box 1092
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

WACOBU News

Newsletter from the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

FEBRUARY 2012

Looking after our mate.....



Photo courtesy of Wagga Daily Advertiser (Oscar Colman)

Ros Prangnell (WACOBU Treasurer) and WAC Old Boy Tony Paton were pleased to be on hand to present a cheque for \$10,850 to Peter Worsley (Sac) at Wagga.

WACOBU newsletters:

http://news.csu.edu.au/alumni/director/publications/wacobu_newsletter.cfm

WAC Rugby - www.agrugby.rugbynet.com.



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WACOBU COMMITTEE

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

An inspirational Old Boy

Wagga Ag College Old Boys always stick by their mates.

Especially in the tough times.

But it is a two-way street and the inspiration shown by some special Old Boys makes it easy to be a mate.

The efforts of WACOBU and the Ag Race Day committee in supporting Peter Worsley after he was left paralysed in a rugby match in 1987 typifies the spirit that exists amongst the Aggies from Wagga.

Peter received tremendous support from his Ag College team mates following the rugby accident.

And now 25 years later, that support is continuing.

The efforts of the WACOBU and the Ag Race Day committee have seen financial support for Peter and since March 2011 a purpose built Chrysler vehicle has given him a tremendous boost and greater independence. The car has given more freedom to Peter and his family, making life easier for them all.

The money raised by WACOBU assists in the ongoing high cost of insurance and maintenance costs of running this modified vehicle.

And why wouldn't the Old Boys help out their mate?

The true Ag College spirit has shone through with Peter overcoming a serious setback to excel in his career, sporting and family life.

He is an inspiration to us all.

But he hasn't done it alone. One other person, who shuns any publicity, and prefers to be in the background is Peter's wife Michelle.

Michelle has provided steadfast love and support to Peter over the years and is a proud wife and mum of their two daughters.

Peter and Michelle Worsley – a great inspirational couple for everyone associated with WACOBU.

WACOBU Newsletter Editor

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

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

It is planned to have two issues each year.

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Helping our mate



WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley (left) with Peter Worsley and Tony “Spud” Paton (Right)

The presentation of a \$10,850 cheque to Peter Worsley (Sac) by WACOBU Treasurer Ros Prangnell and Tony Paton recently in Wagga underlines the level of mateship and support that still exists amongst Old Boys.

This cheque represented two years fundraising efforts by WACOBU and the Ag Race Day Committee.

Peter was left paralysed after a rugby accident in 1987 and now resides in Orange with his wife Michelle, who herself has been a tower of strength and their two daughters. Peter works for NSWDPPI.

For almost a year, Peter’s life has changed with the arrival of a custom-built Chrysler car which has brought with it some huge advantages to Sac and his family.

This car has not come cheaply and with the modifications to accommodate his wheelchair the bill has run into well over \$200,000.



The specially modified Chrysler vehicle that has been of tremendous help to Peter and his family

There is an annual bill for insurance and on-going costs for the Chrysler of over \$2000 and the money raised by WACOBU is giving Peter and Michelle great assistance in meeting these expenses.

WACOBU has been supporting Peter since the accident on August 19, 1987, ensuring his life is as comfortable as possible. The holding of the Ag Race Day has also been a wonderful opportunity to increase fundraising for Peter and this committee has done a fantastic job.

Stuart Kanaley, President of WACOBU and Old Boy Tony Paton were also on hand at the presentation of the cheque to Peter.

Stuart stated there is a strong bond between all Old Boys and especially amongst the rugby fraternity at the college.

“This cause in particular has been very close to our hearts

“Peter is one of our own,” said Stuart.

Long serving WACOBU Treasurer Ros Prangnell has seen the funds for Peter come into the Old Boys account.

“It’s pleasing to see the on-going support from Old Boys and the new generation of students for Peter and his family.

“It says a lot about WACOBU,” said Ros.

There is another fundraiser for Peter planned for March – see the information later on in the newsletter about a weekend of “Wheels and Walking” at Beechworth on March 24 & 25.

Donations needed for WACOBU Scholarship

Donations toward the WACOBU Scholarship are necessary to perpetuate the award.

To date, the largest contributions have come from a former Head of School, and spouse of a former lecturer.

Former Motts and Grotts are lagging behind the donation drive, so if any year is organising a get together, or any individual ex-student wishes to contribute please do so. Contact Stuart Kanaley or any committee member.

WACOBU need to keep this scholarship alive.

Peter and Michelle really appreciate the level of support they have received from the Wagga Ag College community and wanted to express their sincere gratitude to everyone.

Not a problem Sac.

Enjoy your Chrysler and the freedom and independence it has created for you and your family.



The number plate says it all – SAC – all the best to you and your family

A weekend of "Wheels and Walking"

Beechworth - 24th & 25th March 2012

Bang this date in your diary – there is a great deal of activity planned for WACOBU members and their families in 2012. This is the first one of those occasions. The plan is to get mobile to raise funds to help SAC – Peter Worsley get even more mobile. Many of you will remember the 2009 race day focus to raise and contribute funds to help offset the \$200 K cost of a self drive family vehicle for Peter and his family. Click the following Link for the full story. http://alumni.csu.edu.au/images/Publications/WACOBU/2009_WACOBU.pdf

That focus is ongoing and we are now also aiming to get an "All Terrain Vehicle Project" underway to get Peter mobile in the paddock.

The rough outline of the weekend at this stage is to get to Beechworth on Friday night / Saturday morning, do some sponsored riding, rolling or walking around the Beechworth area for the day. Then move onto a dinner event on Saturday night, followed by a recovery ride or walk on Sunday for those who wish, or head home as dictated by family / distance / work. Check out the Beechworth Link for accommodation and attraction details. <http://www.beechworthonline.com.au/>

The idea will be to get sponsored for the number of km that you will complete along your chosen path, be it a 3, 5 or 10 walk or run, a mountain bike ride at the Beechworth Mountain Bike Park, a road bike road or a ride along the Rail Trail that links Beechworth, Bright and Wangaratta.

So lock the date in for now and stay tuned for information and details as they are generated. In the meantime please complete and return the RSVP details (right).

**Please RSVP your intentions to Podzol (Michael Stout)
michael@stout.net.au By Friday the 24th of February**

First Name

Surname

Maiden Name Grotts only !!

WAC Name

Year Started

Graduation Year

Year on your Diploma / Degree

e-mail address

Mobile No.

Street Address

Suburb

Postcode

Beechworth Attendees

Names & Age Plus preferred Activity

Names & Age Plus preferred Activity



Peter at Front – with some of his 1989 Mott and Grott Mates – Ag Race Day 2009

1973 crew catch up in Darwin



Enjoying catching up in Darwin were this group of Old Boys (l-r) Ian Braithwaite, John Burbidge, Stu Thomson, John McClure, Graeme Worboys and Alan McGufficke

The wedding of John and Barbara Burbidge' eldest son David was an opportunity for a group of 1973 mates to catch up in Darwin.

Ian Braithwaite, John McClure, Stuart Thomson, Alan McGufficke and Graeme Worboys and their better halves all made the journey up north to enjoy a few days in the winter sunshine.

This group of Old Boys and their partners has remained close friends since their days at WAC.

Besides attending a spectacular wedding and reception at Pee Wees function centre in Darwin, the group also spent a few days looking around the city and Litchfield National Park.

After the wedding, John and Stuart went home via The Ghan (an interesting travel experience) and a group from the wedding spent a week in Bali to unwind.

Keeping in touch – some news from the 56'ers

Four of us who are now living in Sydney have started meeting for lunch every three months.

The deal is to take it in turns to organise where, so we've covered the City, Kingsford, Newtown and Wahroonga so far.

All enjoy catching up with each other's doings and monitoring the fertility of offspring from Ken Packham, Bruce Irvine, Ian Perrett and John Peterson.

We are all retired now and probably just as busy as when working. Bruce is the only one of us who was making an honest living farming. He sold the family irrigation block at Narromine before the real water crunch and needless to say is much more relaxed in his St. Peters unit.

The other three have been in the big smoke for a good while, keep busy at this stage with local doctors, trying to maintain our weathering bodies and making some effort to contribute to the community which has sustained us so well to date.

As all 56'ers are getting a bit long in the tooth these days we have stepped up our year reunions to every 2 years.

Our numbers have reduced now by seven souls who we certainly miss, but that's life.

We expect our next reunion to be in Canberra in 2012.

Lex Govaars has graciously offered to organise this for us.

Regards, John Peterson

50th Reunion of Graduating Class of 1961



1961 – back at Ag College again....

Back row: Geoff Scott, Lindsay Evans, Maurice Tyson, Barry Swann, John Snelling, Ian Low

Middle row: Dennis Muller, Trevor Hubbert, Norm McCure, John O'Brien, Bob Craze, Barry Wild, Rex Brown, Geoff Crawford

Front Row: Keith Helyer, John Stewart, Ken Harris, Richard McCausland

The planning committee decided to invite all boys who enrolled in 1959/1960, even if they did not graduate in 1961.

The reunion was only the second one held since that time and planned for the weekend of the Ag Race day.

The weekend got off to a great start with a get-together at Romanos Hotel for drinks and finger food.

It was a night of remembering and reminiscing with those Aggies, with some Old Boys not seen since 1961.

After breakfast, either at their motel or Mick's Bakehouse, everyone gathered at the Information Centre. We boarded the College bus for a guided tour of the old Ag College area led by Prof Ted Wolfe. He also showed us the many new facilities undertaken at the Uni, finished and unfinished. We were impressed with the type of accommodation available to the students.

A look at Joyes Hall brought back a lot of memories, particularly of Don himself. He was a great mentor to all of us in many ways and a real "legend".

The hall is a fitting memorial to Don and his wife Fay.

We were addressed by WACOBU president, Stuart Kanaley, who spoke about the WACOBU scholarship and the need to raise money for it.

Bayer sponsors WAC Old Boys 2011

As advised via a separate flyer last newsletter, WACOBU received some generous sponsorship from Bayer Animal Health, which greatly assisted in fundraising for the OBU.

Those Old Boys on the land (or had family or friends running animal enterprises), were able to become involved in this sponsorship arrangement with Bayer.

There were listed Bayer products and Bayer rewarded WACOBU for each product purchase.

This Australia-wide agreement from Bayer was a great opportunity for WACOBU members to support their OBU.

WACOBU appreciates this sponsorship from Bayer Animal Health.

REUNIONS

We bought him out of the book on the history of the College written by June Sutherland.

A big thank you was afforded to Ted for giving us such a terrific tour.

In the afternoon some went to the races and sampled some MTC hospitality, not to mention the fine show of horses and "fillies" on parade!

That night we gathered back at Romanos with special guests Professor Ted and Steve and Sue Sutherland sitting down to a three course dinner. A great night was had by all and I'm sure the wives and partners made new friends.

Each Aggie was asked to get up and say a few words during the evening and was subsequently "fined" for doing so. Mike Shepherd gave an impromptu rendition of Aussie poetry which brought the house down.

This fining raised over \$400 for the Scholarship Fund.

Next morning it was out to the CSU winery for wine and cheese tasting before a farewell BBQ near the winery. This was the end of a good weekend where friendships were renewed and stories told.

It was decided to hold the next reunion in a couple of years in the Central West to be organised by Rex Brown and Bob Craze.

The following old boys with wives and partners attending were:

Bob Craze, Rex Brown, Geoff Crawford, Lindsay Evans, Ken Harris, Keith Helyar, Trevor Hubbert, Alan Keeling, Frank Lincoln, Len Lloyd, Ian Low, Richard McCausland, Norm McCure, Dennis Muller, John O'Brien, Geoff Scott, Mike Shepherd, John Snelling, John Stewart, Barry Swan, Maurice Tyson, Jim Walmsley, Barry Wild.

Apologies were received from Bob Berguis, Roger Hosking, David Howard, Stuart Lowe, Bill Poulton, Ron Sim, Garry Smythe, Alan Thearle.

We also remembered those who are no longer with us: Kit Adams, Kerry Armstrong, John Clancy, Roy Hurst, Colin Munro, Allan Nicholson, Rob Pierce and Peter Waller.

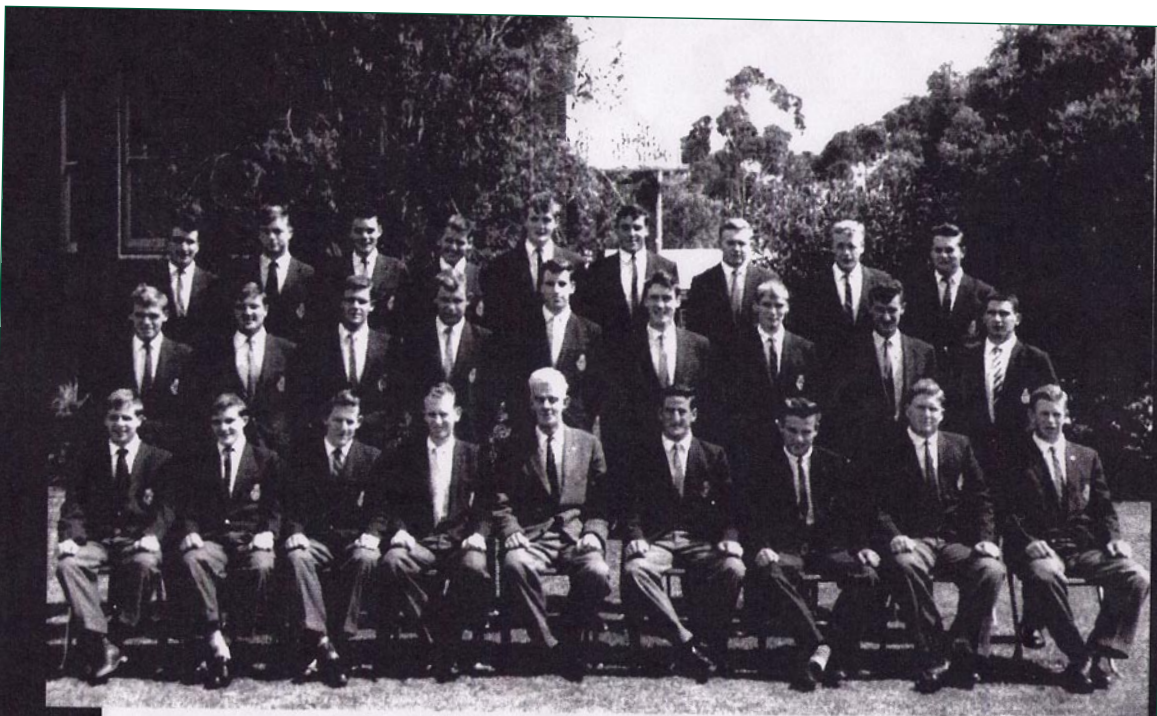
Vital Statistics of the 1961ers:

41 fine young lads started college over 2 years and 26 graduated. 23 attended this reunion, with nine apologies, eight had passed away and one could not be located.

40% of the old boys left to go farming, 28% in Government jobs and 32% in other occupations.

Old boys came from as far north as Alice Springs and as far south as French Island (Vic) to the reunion.

JOHN STEWART



THIRD YEAR, 1961

(Back Row): J. F. Clancy, M. A. Shepherd, B. O. Swann, L. C. Lloyd, J. C. O'Brien, I. W. Low, R. D. Brown, R. J. Craze, M. K. Adams.

(Middle Row): G. A. Crawford, J. C. Stewart, B. G. Wild, D. G. Howard, L. H. Evans, R. J. Hearst, J. F. Snelling, R. H. Hosking, A. J. Keeling.

(Front Row): N. F. McCure, K. R. Helyar, K. T. Armstrong, R. J. Sim, Mr. R. Doman (Principal, A. J. McCarthy, P. J. Waller, C. A. P. Munro, K. H. Harris

1979 Motts & Groatts Reunion



Students who started at WAC in 1979 and a few blow-ins got together at The Duck for a few yarns over a quiet ale. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Rooster for his organization.

A get together was held in August to celebrate 30 years since starting our studies at WAC (then Riverina College).

A few other blow-ins from years either side of this year group plus several Chalkies joined in the fun.

Several ex-WAC students travelled long distances to be at the reunion with people travelling from places like Moree, Sydney, Albury and Griffith.

Around 50 people gathered at The Duck (where else? and yes no-one got lost!) for lunch, telling tales of years past over a quiet ale or two.

Then it was off to the rugby at Beres Ellwood Oval where the old arch rivals Aggies & Reddies did battle.

The current crop of Ag College students did the job and won the day in a good quality game of rugby. This win made the day more enjoyable for the Old Boys.

It was then back to the pub for a BBQ dinner and more tall tales.

The Black Swan proved to be an excellent and relaxed venue and a good time was had by all.

ROOSTER (Ross Henley)



VALE

Thomas (Tam) Robert Donald Kennaway ('56)



Tam passed away on April 14, 2011 aged 75 years after a brutal six-month battle with prostate cancer.

He was brought up in Hamilton, Newcastle, attended Newcastle High School and spent his last two years schooling as a boarder at The Scots College in Sydney. After school he attended Wagga Wagga Agricultural College qualifying with his Diploma of Agriculture in 1956 and representing the College in rugby union and cricket during his time there.

He formed strong relationships at Scots and the Agricultural College that continued on in later life, regularly attending and enjoying class reunions, where great rugby union victories were reviewed and, of course, enhanced.

On graduating he worked for some time as a jackeroo and station hand in North Western NSW before joining the NSW Valuer General's Department in Sydney.

He was transferred to Deniliquin, where he met and married Heather in 1963 and together had two sons, Tim and Robert and a daughter, Leah.

The family moved to Goulburn in 1972 where Tam was District Valuer and continued his involvement in athletics, rugby union, community groups and the Public Service Association.

In 1985 the family moved to Wagga where Tam took charge of the Wagga office and the South Western Region of the Department, also contributing as a member of Wagga College Old Boys' Union executive, and continuing in his departmental role until his retirement in 1997.

He and Heather then moved back to Belmont in the Newcastle area where his children and grandchildren now live and where for some years he worked as a consultant valuer.

Tam then decided to quit work and concentrate on baby-sitting, helping Heather in her garden and watching with son and grandson the Newcastle Knights suffer humiliation at the hands of crooked referees, blind linesmen and incompetent video officials.

Lately his mobility suffered with the onset of neuropathy but he still managed to spend time in the garden, walk his dogs every day, and continue his involvement in the local Probus Club.

His last few months were pretty tough on him and his family, but like everything he did, he fought to the end.

Tam is survived and sadly missed by Heather, their two sons, daughter, daughter-in law and three grandchildren.

As for his Ag College mates, we will be poorer for the loss of his fair dinkum self and especially his unique way of storytelling. Rest peacefully old friend.

VALE

Laurie Tozer

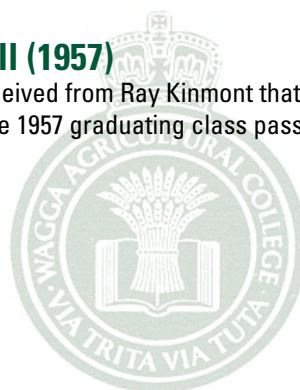
John Mahon (1962) advised the WACOBU committee that WAC farm hand Laurie Tozer (from the 1950-60's) had passed away during 2011. John remembered him as a very decent fellow who was very helpful to and tolerant of students at WAC. WACOBU was represented at his funeral.

John also stated that one of Laurie's workmates George Skeers is still active in the Wagga community.

VALE

Ben Purcell (1957)

A note was received from Ray Kinmont that sadly Ben Purcell from the 1957 graduating class passed away during 2011.



Jim Kemp – the link with WAC continues



Katherine's recent graduation, mother Rita Bowler is on the left and grandmother Janet Kemp (Jim's wife) is on the right

A deep commitment to agriculture and Wagga Ag College from the late Jim Kemp has carried on to a third generation, with Jim's granddaughter Katherine Bowler graduating recently from CSU.

Katherine's mother Rita Bowler (nee Kemp) also graduated from the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education in 1986.

To see a third generation student study at the same educational facility deserves recognition and is a tremendous achievement.

Jim Kemp, a graduate from WAC and past WACOBU President passed away 12 months ago at his property "Kanimbla", Holbrook.

Jim grew up in the Peats Ridge and Sydney Basin region before attending WAC and graduating with Honours in 1952.

Following his graduation he worked on the land at several different areas of NSW before settling in Holbrook.

He was always very interested in all activities associated with WAC - right up until his passing last February.

Jim had made a significant contribution to both Wagga Ag College and WACOBU and to agriculture in general in his lifetime.

He kept in touch with other Old Boys from his year group, where many deep and long lasting friendships were formed.

He was great mates with Wagga Ag College legend Don Joyes (known as "Uncle Don" to Jim's children).

One of Jim's proudest moments was when, along with daughter Rita, he attended the ceremony where Katherine received a CSU scholarships in 2010.

For Katherine Bowler, the most recent family graduate the strong affinity with agriculture continues in Central Queensland.

Three generations of the Kemp/Bowler family graduating from CSU – a wonderful achievement.

CSU Archives reliving the past...

WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley spent an interesting five hours at CSU archives in early August along with John Stewart (1961), John Mahon (1962), Bruce Ferguson (1959), Peter Davis from Pulletop (1952), Murray Haddrill (1951), WACOBU Treasurer Ros Prangnell and Steve Sutherland.

The group were researching information for Des Spurway's history of the early years at Wagga Agricultural College and John Stewart was able to get some enlightening images for the year's 50 year reunion, which was held in October.

CSU archives contain an informative collection of Wagga Ag memorabilia which details the long and proud history of the College.

2011 Ag Race day – a huge success

October 15, 2011 saw the Ag Race Day held at Wagga's Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC) with a large attendance of past and present students soaking up the atmosphere and celebrating the 24th staging of this day.

There was a tremendous response to the race day after the 2010 event was washed out following drought breaking rain which saw the Murrumbidgee River well and truly in flood.

In fact two Ag Race Days were held in 2011, one at Easter and the traditional Caulfield Cup Day meeting in October!

The main day was once again held on Caulfield Cup Day at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC) and another excellent promotion saw thousand's flock to the course.

Close to 5000 people were in attendance at the October meeting – making it one of the Riverina's biggest annual social events.

There were two major year reunions held to coincide with the Ag Race Day.

The 1959-61 year group celebrated 50 years since their graduation and the 1969-71 year celebrated their 40th.

The Ag Race Day was initially established in 1989 as a fund raiser for Peter Worsley who suffered spinal injuries in a rugby match in 1987 when a student at WAC.

The money raised over the years has been utilized by Peter to assist him with such things as vehicle modifications, essential equipment and vital homecare services.

Peter has also demonstrated his true WAC spirit by competing



Photo courtesy "The Land" Newspaper

The Old with the new!! WACOBU President Stuart Kanaley –yes that's him second from left with Nicholas Mason (Sydney), Damien Beattie (Central Coast) and Henry Booth (Cootamundra)

in shooting events at three Paralympic games.

The hard working Race Day committee headed by Don Benn and Ally Dingjan were extremely pleased with the support shown by Old Boys, current students and the general community.

The continued support of CSU and the MTC helps ensure the event's success.

CSU Events Manager Roger Ansell believes the event is an important part of the University's annual calendar and provides a great boost to Wagga's tourism and economy.

The Ag Race Day committee deserves congratulations for organising another successful event.

Everyone is looking forward to the 25th staging of the event in 2012.



Photo courtesy "The Land" Newspaper

Joel Hourigan (Milawa), James Alexander (Cootamundra), Lachie Harwood (Bourke) and Robert Arnold (Jerilderie) having a quiet ale on Ag Race Day.



Photo courtesy "The Land" Newspaper

Tumbarumba's Joe McCormick and Ellen O'Sullivan enjoyed their day at the races.

AG RACE DAY

Celebrate 25 years of Ag Race Day

Plan your Ag Race Day get together for this year- its on Caulfield Cup day on Saturday October 20, 2012 at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC) at Wagga.

Join your mates, celebrate a special occasion, be there!!



Photo courtesy "The Land" Newspaper

Steph Smith (Wagga) with Fashions on the Field winner Julieanne Horsman (Wagga)

Seeing the world as a shearer

A recent article, courtesy of the December 2011 edition of *Beyond the Bale* (an A.W.I. Ltd. publication) highlighted the opportunities for young people in agriculture – providing they want to work and have a go.

Dan Lewis and Mitch Small are students at CSU and travelled to Ireland to shear during the short summer season.

Mitch Small was doing 3rd year in 2011 and deferred a semester whilst he was in Ireland.

Mitch was also Ag Club President, and came along to the last WACOBU meeting after returning from overseas.

For anyone interested in getting more details, Mitch's contact details are: msmall14@postoffice.csu.edu.au

There have been a few other blokes trying this out, including Peter Armstrong (of rugby fame).

- ▶ **Shearing can provide the opportunity to travel, compete and work overseas as well as around Australia**
- ▶ **Australian shearers have a good reputation internationally for their skills and work ethic.**
- ▶ **Dan Lewis and Mitch Small from Goulburn used their shearing skills to help fund a working holiday around Europe.**

"How would you like to go to Ireland?" were the words of trainer Pete Artridge to students Dan Lewis and Mitch Small at smoko during the shearing school at Wagga Wagga TAFE. The pair jumped at the chance and started making plans to defer university for six months and take off around the world.

Originally from Goulburn, Dan and Mitch are Agricultural Science students at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW. They travelled to Ireland to shear the short summer season along the eastern and central part of Ireland with shearing contractor Roy Collier or County Wexford. They also travelled to Scotland to take part in shearing competitions.

Mitch says the competitions were definitely some of the highlights of the trip.

"There was a show on every weekend for most of the season in Ireland. One of the biggest was the two day Click All Ireland and International Shearing and Wool Handling Championships at



Kilkenny. The Royal Highland Show near Edinburgh in Scotland was another highlight. We got to see and meet some of the best shearers in the world at these shows."

Roy Collier, who the lads worked with, is himself a top shearer. In August, Roy set a new Irish and British Isles shearing record for lamb shearing when he shored 521 lambs in a nine hour shear.

Dan warns that shearing can be just as hard work in Ireland as it is in Australia.

"Generally the average shearing day this season included leaving home around 6.30am, and driving up to two hours to a job. Between tea stops and showers of rain, we managed to shear the sheep using a portable three stand shearing trailer. Depending on travel times and sheep numbers on any day we could managed to shear at three farms, sometimes more."

An Irish day's shear has not set work hours; it simply continues until the job is finished, in some cases as late as 11 o'clock at night.

"The set up in Ireland is different to Australia. There are no shearing sheds to turn up to filled with nice dry sheep. Instead we shored in stock holding sheds or outside in the 'field' - not stopping for showers of rain!" Dan says.

“Another difference is the wool handling. There was no respect for the wool as there is here in Australia. There are no roustabouts or classers over there. The wool was thrown to the side and eventually picked up and thrown into a pack, unskirted.”

It is the first time in a few years that the wool is paying for the costs of shearing. Farmers are receiving € 1.30/kg (about \$1.70/kg).

“Of course the biggest differences between shearing in Ireland and Australia are the types of sheep we shorn. The Irish sheep are all British breeds such as Scottish Black Face, Suffolk, Belclare and Cheviot,” Mitch says.

The shearing itself was faster on average than in Australia. However, the sheep were much harder to handle and were sometimes wild. The leads were both able to shear over 40 grown ewes per hour.

As the shearing season in Ireland started to slow down with only a few days shearing a week, Dan and Mitch returned to Australia to recommence studying in July.

“The opportunity to shear internationally is a privilege and gave us valuable experience and a chance to learn from the best in the world, as well as getting a firsthand look at farming techniques on the other side of the world.”

After getting a taste for travelling and working, Mitch and Dan are already planning their next trip, which will be shearing in New Zealand in January/February, possibly trying to make it to the World Championships to be held over there in late February and early March.

Phil calls it a day.....

Phil Morrison, a familiar face at the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute from the early 1970's right through to 2011 has retired from his role as Technical Milling Officer with NSW DPI.

In his 40 year career, Phil had a great involvement in the wheat breeding programme undertaken by NSW DPI and is credited with contributing to the release of over 30 wheat lines.

Phil was often seen around WAC and was a keen sports follower and enjoyed watching the rugby teams do battle throughout the season.

He also took the time to have a chat to students and took an interest in their life at college.

Phil also loved his cricket and was an umpire in the Wagga association for many seasons.

Jock Munro ('74)

The Rankins Springs farmer and spokesman on all things important to rural Australia is in regular communication with Stuart Kanaley and other Old Boys.

Jock and better half Ros have been to Darwin to see young Jock and were trying to catch up with Fergal O'Gara at some stage.

Jock stated he was going to email Ron Smithard after seeing the articles in the last newsletter.

No doubt there will be some interesting communications between the two!!

New Head for SAWS

The School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences (SAWS) at Charles Sturt University has a new leader.

Professor John Mawson is the person now leading SAWS in 2012 and beyond.

He hails from the UK (we won't hold that against him!) where he held the senior position of Head of Applied Sciences at London South Bank University.

Professor Mawson is approaching his new challenge with enthusiasm and has some definite ideas on where agricultural education at tertiary level should fit. He believes graduates should have an understanding of how agriculture fits into all segments of the food and fibre industries.

He also wants to attract more students to study in the primary industries field.

In days gone by, the agricultural courses at WAC were diverse and had a practical approach, giving students an understanding of the broader issues in agriculture as well as the key components of individual enterprises.

The success of many Old Boys in all fields of agriculture and other industries gives evidence that this approach was the right one.

WACOBU has also done its bit in promoting agriculture to a wider audience, with participation in events like Career Days is vital to see study in agriculture flourish in the future.

Let's hope Professor Mawson's approach is carried out at the student level and the education provided by SAWS is relevant and attractive to the newer generation of students.

Agriculture needs to keep attracting the next generation to all facets of the industry.

WACOBU welcomes Professor John Mawson to Wagga Wagga and looks forward to working with you in the years to come.

Rugby Wrap

The 2011 season was an exciting one for the Aggies, with the team once again reaching the Grand Final in First Grade.

Unfortunately, after a tough, uncompromising first half arch rivals Waratahs scored early in the second half and went on with the job to record victory.

What a tremendous effort from the Ag College teams in 2011.

A strong Ag College Rugby Club is essential in many ways and provides an excellent link with many WACOBU members.

2011 was the last year at the club for several faces.

Timmy Quast has finished his vet degree and now resides in Tasmania.

1st XV Coach Andrew "Cheese" Corcoran is leaving at the end of the year along with Rob Harris. Thank you for everything you have put into the club in the past few years, our club is in a strong position due to your hard work.



2011 Presentation Night

The 2011 season was officially wrapped up in October when the William Farrer Hotel hosted the Aggies presentation night.

A good night was had by all and the Club would like to thank the William Farrer Hotel who put on a great feed and looked after the Club on the night.

Award winners are as follows.

1st XV

Best and Fairest: Peter Armstrong

Best Forward: Dave Armstrong

Best Back: Tim Corcoran

Most Improved: Ben Woodhouse

2nd XV

Best and Fairest: Chris Stott

Best Forward: Ben Leaper

Best Back: Charlie "Cap-Gun" Buckmaster

Most Improved: Ben Ashton

3rd XV

Best and Fairest: James "Suc" McDonald

Best Forward: Thomas Rodolfo De Mattia

Best Back: Rob Baker

Most Improved: Sam "Radar" Hand

Club Awards

Best Mott (First Year): Benny Tett

Best Club Person: Pornstar & Cameron Rosser

WAC Spirit of Rugby: Tom "Chook" Rookyard & Bart Whiteley

Looking ahead to 2012

The AGM has been run and won with all positions filled on the night.

It took a couple of goes but all has been completed and the 2012 committee is:

President: Campbell "Fibre" Wilson

Vice President: Cameron Rosser

Treasurer: William George

Secretary: Bart Whiteley

Patrons: Ramone Wacelberry, Trevor Fosdyke and John Johnny Johnson

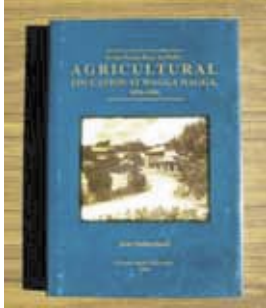
The season proper kicks off after Easter, with the first round to be played on April 14, with Wagga City the opponents in the opening match.





WACOBU Merchandise

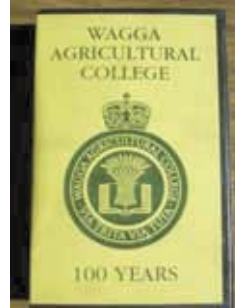
Post order form to PO Box 1092 Wagga Wagga 2650



From Farm Boys to PhDs
Book - \$30.00



WAC 49er's Book
POA



WAC 100 Years
Video - \$30.00



WACOBU Centenary
Cap - \$12.00



WACOBU Pewter
Mug - \$50.00



WACOBU Lapel
Badge - \$2.00



WACOBU Wall
Plaque - \$30.00



WACOBU Sloppy-joe
Price - TBA



WACOBU Tie
\$30.00



Ladies WACOBU
Pendant
\$6.50



Ladies WACOBU
Shield Pendant
\$65.00



WACOBU
Keyring
\$15.00



WACOBU
Car sticker
\$1.00



WACOBU Merchandise Order Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of birth.....

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

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

TOTAL =

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

Make cheques/money orders payable to: WACOBU

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

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

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Name on card:

Expiry date: Signature:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- WACOBU (Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union) Membership



Please print this form then post to:

WACOBU
PO Box 1092
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Your details:

Student number or year of study _____

Given (first) names _____ Surname / family name _____

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

Address:

Number and street _____

Suburb/city _____

State/province _____ Postcode _____ Country _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Work Details:

Position Title _____

Employers Name _____

Membership details:

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

WACOBU Membership White \$10.00 per year

Donation* (optional: can specify purpose) \$

Membership period - 1 Sept to 31 Aug # \$ Total

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

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

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

1. Transfer your money by electronic transfer to:

Name of Financial Institution: ANZ

Name of Account: Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys Union

BSB: 012-823

Account No: 2070-98615

Reference: "your name",

Message: eg, Membership!

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

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

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

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