



# MOCOSA

## M A G A Z I N E

Marcus Oldham College Old Students Association

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### Goornig Farmlands in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia



# Principal's Perspective

Dr Simon Livingstone



**T**he Marcus Oldham Community is aware of the College's progress towards the construction of a state-of-the-art Learning Centre.

Several key issues emanating from strategic planning sessions held by the College Council over recent years led to the decision to build the Centre. These issues have included the desire and need to grow student enrolments; to value-add to the existing face-to-face learning students currently receive; to provide a richer educational experience to the off campus postgraduate students; to connect our students with rural leaders and educators nationally and internationally through advanced technologies; and to renew and revitalise the campus infrastructure.

Marcus Oldham's Learning Centre will comprise several key areas. The main component will be three flexible learning spaces that facilitate modern teaching concepts. A 200 seat learning facility will allow all students and lecturers to come together to participate in seminars and forums.

External teaching spaces will provide students with invaluable practical insight and hands on experiences and a state-of-the-art meeting room will connect global industry leaders with students and staff. An interactive technology hub will allow students 24 hour access to innovative learning spaces where they can work individually or in collaborative groups. The reading lounge will provide students with a quiet area to reflect and relax.

Internationally renowned Learning Environment Designer, Dr Peter Jamieson, has been engaged to provide advice on this project. Dr Jamieson's view is that the overwhelming bulk of present day classrooms at tertiary institutions have changed little, apart from the obvious inclusion of new presentation technologies in terms of the educational orientation towards teacher directed approaches.

Over the past four decades there has been a plethora of research into student learning in higher education which has substantially advanced the tertiary sector's knowledge of what constitutes effective teaching and learning. Jamieson believes that institutions, however, rarely draw down on this body of material to guide strategic improvements in their own teaching practice. Marcus Oldham has been reviewing this research in an effort to provide students and staff with a new facility which will enhance teaching and learning at the College, both now, and into the future.

New generation classrooms within the Centre will be designed on the basis of more generous occupant-space ratio which has several educational consequences apart from an increased comfort factor. Dr Jamieson explains that the relative spaciousness increases the emphasis on active, small

group learning as presentational approaches are not mandatory and activity takes place in the 'space' between the settings. Secondly, greater movement by the teacher and students within the room is possible with the likelihood that there will be more peer-to-peer learning as students interact widely in the setting to learn with, and from each other.

Research has shown that both informal and formal learning considerations are important in the design of an educational campus. There is, also, an increasing need for a wider mix of spatial types where students can take greater responsibility for their learning, collaborate with peers and work in more diverse ways according to their personal preference.

Construction of the new facility commences in June 2018 with a completion date set for the end of 2019. The Learning Centre project represents the heightened aspirations of the College and signifies, in the strongest possible way, its commitment to its future role as a leading educational institution. In essence, it presents the College, its staff and students with a rich array of possibilities for programs, activities and events well into the future.

In the lead up to this project and to provide our current students with a taste of what exciting developments are to come, the College recently redesigned and refurbished Classroom 4 with the lecturing team working alongside the architects and Learning Environment Designer.

The result of this investment has seen an old classroom transformed into a state-of-the-art learning space equipped with the latest technological capabilities. The new teaching space is being enjoyed by the students and lecturers. In addition, a Student Lounge, aptly named by the students as The Lodge, has been constructed and provides a comfortable venue for group interaction or individual enjoyment.

Finally, the staff and I wish the Marcus Oldham College community the very best over the Christmas - New Year period. If you are travelling through Geelong, feel free to call into the campus and see the changes that are being made. ■

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# From the President's Desk



I recently attended a Melbourne function held to thank a group of volunteers for the great work within an organisation they selflessly put time and effort into, to provide an enriched experience for children. The food was hot, beer cold and the speeches were short – a perfect combination!! On a serious note, although many of the people in the room were not known to each other, they all shared a common cause – to help, improve and assist another person for a better outcome.

The word “community” was mentioned during the night and it wasn’t difficult to get caught up in the great feeling and warmth in the room. A few examples of children who had gone on to do great things were mentioned, which gave us all a great sense of satisfaction in that we have, perhaps, been a part of the making of that person.

While driving home I started thinking about the “Marcus” community – the “Marcus” family and how the staff, friends and past students are a similar group of people with strong views about positive outcomes for others. I know many of you are doing fantastic work in your own communities, some at regional and state level and a few in national organisations.

Although we are not all known to each other, we all have a great passion – Marcus Oldham! I think back to some of the great initiatives the past students have supported over the years; the College horse float purchase and later, a refurbishment, display cabinets for archives, hardware for the computer room, social room upgrades, student drinking

fountains, student lounge furniture, graduation day prizes, supporting the 40th and 50th College anniversaries, commissioning and publishing the 50 year history “Daring to Differ”, and the bigger fund raising campaigns of “buy a bedroom”, the Ivo Dean Centre and more recently, the support from past students to build the new student Recreational Hub.

All of these projects have been good projects. Aesthetically, they have improved the campus and more importantly, collectively we have helped to improve the overall experience of the students who come to Marcus Oldham. I trust that your enthusiasm and passion for your College will continue to be strong into the future.

We welcomed new members to the MOCOSA Executive this year: past students **Tom Upton FM 15** and **Carl Rodger Agribus 12** who will be great contributors to the committee. We also welcome the support of Sophie Sutherland to the committee in her role at the College as Marketing Officer, and welcomed back Alannah Halloran in her role as Foundation Manager. Thank you, Ladies.

I would like to again thank the Executive for their ongoing contribution to the College and its students, past and present, in particular the fine work of **Sam Inglis FM 66** as Honorary Secretary. Without Sam, the Executive would not be what it is today – thanks Sam!

Also, my thanks to Janet Craigie-McConnell for the production of yet another magnificent edition of our Alumni magazine – a publication we can all be very proud to call “ours”.

It is always a pleasure on Graduation Day to set the graduating students with the Marcus Charge and send them on their way into their professional careers. I wish them every success for their future pathways.

I’m stepping down as the MOCOSA President and sincerely wish each and every past student of the MOCOSA and their families, all the very best for the future and...

Good luck with your projects!

**James P Bufton FM 94**  
*MOCOSA President*

## Field Days 2018

This year, many graduates and friends of the College have stopped at our site at various field days and equine events for a catch-up and it is always such a pleasure that you do.

The schedule is being prepared for the College to attend field days and equine events in 2018. For this MOCOSA edition we announce we will be at:

March 6 - 8	Wimmera Machinery Field Days	Horsham VIC
March 16 - 17	South East Field Days	Lucindale SA

Agriculture | Agribusiness | Equine Management

# Luke McKay

Farm Business Management 2007

## Nuffield Scholar 2018



*Chia harvest 2016*

**E**nding up in Kununurra was mostly by chance and partly due to curiosity.

Growing up on a cotton farm near Warren in New South Wales, water availability and efficiency were always front of mind. Occasionally, a mythical place was talked about with endless water and opportunities in the far north, always sounding too good to be true.

During my first year at Marcus Oldham in 2005 while trying to decide where to go for prac year, I kept coming back to a job listed in Kununurra, Western Australia. With a 'why not' attitude, I gave Pacific Seeds Kununurra a call which developed my passion for the Kimberley and Northern Australia.

Coming from an irrigated cotton operation, I have always had an interest in irrigated agriculture. After leaving school I worked for a mixed irrigation, cropping and livestock operation near Trangie in New South Wales, which exposed me to enterprises other than cotton and wheat. Working with

sheep didn't seem to inspire me as much as endless hours in a tractor, so the career path was starting to take shape.

Deciding to go to Kununurra was the easy part - planning and getting there were another thing. Most people around Marcus at this time were aware of "old car", the brown Statesman Deville that graced the roads of Geelong running errands and other important missions for just about everyone at College that year. Old car didn't seem an appropriate vehicle for the Kimberley so I struck a deal with **Adam Coffey FBM 05**, to buy his Landcruiser ute at the end of first year. With the ink still wet on this deal, the Ute and I came unstuck around a week after purchase when attempting a crossing of the Bogan River near Nyngan, and was swept off. The Ute spent the next four days underwater while I reflected upon whether heading to the north was a good idea given the Bogan River doesn't really rate against the Ord, Victoria and Fitzroy Rivers it was bound to run into.

The Ute was salvaged and luckily I had enough time to get it operational again. To this day it is the only vehicle I'm aware of, that has spent nearly a week underwater then been driven across the country and back!

The year was tough, especially the build up months of October and November, but I clearly remember driving out of Kununurra that year knowing I would be back. After finishing third year studies I started with Pacific Seeds in Griffith, New South Wales as a seed production agronomist, primarily working with contracted growers to help achieve quantity and quality targets.

*The Ord offers year in year out water security that allows confidence in planning years in advance but has always struggled with scale.*

Late in 2010, an opportunity came up to head back to Kununurra as the Ord Operations Manager, overseeing all of Pacific Seeds

production activities in the Ord. As I drove back over the Northern Territory/Western Australia border I headed down to check out Lake Argyle and the spillway creek. It turned out to be the highest flow day on record at over 9m above the spillway, equating to 1.25ML per second or over 100,000ML per day heading down the river. This is what defines Kununurra and the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA). The amount of water available is sometimes beyond comprehension. The irrigable area up until 2014 was only 14,500ha. To put this into context, the Macquarie valley in New South Wales will plant around 40,000ha of cotton on average. A near infinite amount of water and not enough land!

The Ord offers year in year out water security that allows confidence in planning years in advance but has always struggled with scale. The various crops that have been tried and tested have generally come up against logistics and processing pressures purely as a result of limited production capacity.



In 2008, the Western Australian National Party used its balance of power to push for a larger portion of mining royalties to be spent in regional areas - Royalties for Regions. One of the larger projects identified and implemented was the expansion of the Ord Irrigation Scheme. This provided the upgrading of the existing supply channel and extension out to "Stage 2". Stage 2 is the 7,500ha "Goomig" land parcel that has been in the pipeline since the Ord Dam construction in the late 1960s. The full scale of the ORIA is around

50,000ha in Western Australia and potentially a further 14,000ha in the Northern Territory.

In 2012, Kimberley Agricultural Investment (KAI) was named as the preferred proponent to develop and farm Stage 2. I joined them in 2014 as a laser bucket operator and then became Farm Manager to plant the first crop in 2015. KAI is an Australian subsidiary of Chinese parent company, Shanghai Zhongfu Group, whose main focus is major real estate development in Shanghai and has a wide range of business interests with multi-billion dollar assets.

The Ord expansion is the company's first investment in agriculture, but is by no means taking it steady. Since starting work in 2014, 7,500ha have been cleared and major earthworks completed, 4,000ha laser levelled and prepared for farming and the 2017 harvest was on 2,600ha comprising of chia, quinoa, maize, grain sorghum, chickpeas and mungbeans. 2018 will see cotton added to the cropping mix.

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*Goomig storage*

Luke McKay  
continued from page 5

***This will result in a fully  
integrated business  
providing jobs, scale and  
sustainability to the East  
Kimberley.***

With the purchase of Carlton Hill Station in 2016 and the 8,000ha of freehold land on its river flats, KAI has access to over 25,000ha of land to develop and irrigate through various land parcels. The development and operation of farms isn't the only focus. Construction is underway to build a grain grading facility capable of taking grains like chia and quinoa from bulk to retail packaging for export. A cotton gin is currently being assessed for feasibility along with the future prospect of creating a yard feed operation for up to 70,000 head of cattle. This will result in a fully integrated business providing jobs,

scale and sustainability to the East Kimberley.

With this rapid expansion and the progression to cotton, we have found ourselves outgrowing the layout, technology, machinery and best practice that has been the standard in the Ord. With a blank canvas to work with, I began to look into other methods and farm designs that could suit the Ord and tropical farming. This led me to applying for a Nuffield Scholarship, which I was fortunate enough to be awarded this year. I will travel during 2018 to explore the best options for cotton production in the tropics.

Supported by Cotton Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, most of my research will be focused around irrigation methods, rotation crops, double cropping, staff and machinery requirements and resource and environmental

management. The hope is, that through exposure to as many different ideas and theories possible, we can adopt some that will drive our expansion and provide a template for other projects across the North.

Northern Australia is a bit of a buzz word at the moment for people (politicians) to talk about expansion, opportunity and potential. The opportunities and potential are certainly real but it is a tough climate in which to operate. Isolation, infrastructure, research and land tenure are some of the challenges, to name a few. What is glaringly apparent though, is that private capital and enthusiasm exist to see it happen, and the opportunities for young agri professionals willing to have a go, are endless.

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## Nuffield Australia

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are open to Australian citizens who are engaged in farming or fishing as an owner, manager or an active member of a business in primary industries.

The objective is to increase practical farming knowledge and management skills and techniques generally. These Scholarships give Australian citizens the opportunity to study farming practices in New Zealand, Europe, Asia and the Americas and those countries best suited to the scholar. They will also promote a closer understanding between farmers in the countries visited.

There must be an intention to remain in Australian primary production. Preferred age range is 28 to 40 years, although applicants outside this age bracket can be successful. Academic qualifications are not a prerequisite.

Further information:

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02 9463 9229  
enquiries@nuffield.com.au  
www.nuffield.com.au

**Applications for the 2019 Round of Scholarships will  
open on 1st April 2018.**

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[www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au)

**Agriculture | Agribusiness | Equine Management**



# Stuart Tait

Bachelor of Business (Farm management) 2013

## Expanding his Knowledge as a Nuffield Scholar



**S**tuart was raised on the family cattle property near Mandurama, in the New South Wales Central Tablelands. His Sydney raised father, having decided to pursue a career in agriculture, purchased the property and moved to Mandurama in 1980.

After finishing school, Stuart hadn't decided on a career choice but agriculture was definitely on the cards so, to gain experience, he spent a season working as a jackaroo on a Pilbara cattle station in Western Australia.

Studies at Marcus the following year, a prac year at fellow Marcus classmate, **Rendall Groat's FBM 12** family farm at Rankins Springs, New South Wales, helped him decide that agriculture really was his passion and career path. Undertaking the fourth year of his degree, Stuart completed the final two subjects at Lincoln University near Christchurch, on the South Island of New Zealand. He then accepted a job on a High Country station running sheep, cattle, deer and a hunting park, which encouraged him to spend 11 months in New Zealand.

Still eager to expand his knowledge and skills, Stuart travelled around Australia for a year working on a number of cattle stations and generally enjoying himself having finished tertiary studies.

Responding to an opportunity in November 2014, he returned home to the family business which, at the time, was based on the main farm of 1400ha at

Mandurama. However, in early 2015 a 220ha cropping block was purchased at Canowindra, and the Tait's, still in the expansion phase, purchased another 40ha earlier this year. At Mandurama they run approximately 600 Angus breeding cows and finish all progeny, aside from replacements, and between 200 and 500 trade steers annually, from a grass based system. Their aim is to turn off steers to certified grassfed programs at +550kgs liveweight; second draft cattle between 450 and 520kgs liveweight are sold to feedlots.

The production at Canowindra includes wheat and canola in a 100% cropping program, and there is, also, an expansion of their dual purpose cropping program at Mandurama.

The family business is run between his parents, John and Jo, and himself. (He doesn't have any siblings.) At the beginning of 2017, John handed over management of the property to Stuart, however, most key decisions are jointly made. Stuart acknowledges he has been very lucky; his parents have encouraged him to travel, study

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and work on other farms. At no point did they demand he return home. It was always his choice and for that he is very appreciative, and he is grateful for being offered a great deal of responsibility in the business he enjoys.

Stuart received the Nuffield Scholarship in late 2016 after an extensive national selection process. He is currently undertaking his study tours and so far has enjoyed these learning experiences.



For three weeks in March this year, about 60-70 2017 scholars from all over the world met in Brazil. Following that, he was ten weeks abroad on the Global Focus Program; the first seven weeks being with nine other scholars - five Australians (including Stuart), one New Zealander, and one each from Ireland, England, Netherlands and Brazil. They covered six countries: Singapore, India, Qatar, Denmark, England and the USA, to get a grasp of big picture global agriculture throughout the supply chain. All scholars take part in a Global Focus tour, and Stuart chose the India focus tour (there are five tours to choose from: Africa, Brazil, Chile, Japan, and China.) He then spent a further three weeks travelling through the Mid-West of the USA and the Prairies of Western Canada visiting beef producers, universities and research organisations.

After a few months back home, it was time to pack his bag and head to Ireland and the UK to visit more beef and dairy producers, as well as a leading agriculture university in England. A three week call at the home property - then he departed for a two week tour to South America to attend the International Herbage Seeds Conference in Argentina, as well as visiting pasture breeding facilities and beef producers in Uruguay.

Stuart's topic revolves around two things: integrating a "pasture based" beef finishing enterprise with a cropping enterprise (generally excluding feedlots); and, in a broader sense, finding ways to fill seasonal feed gaps with little or no supplementary feeding. He's mainly visiting beef farmers, agronomists, consultants, benchmarking groups, pasture breeders, seed companies and experts. He will also visit others who are running a pasture based beef finishing (or breeding) enterprise, which incorporates any kind of intensive, high-production pastures, fodder crops, grazing crops, or dual purpose crops (i.e. a wheat crop that is grazed during the growing period then locked up for grain harvest).

Essentially, Stuart is aiming to design a system to avoid expensive supplementary feeding and his objectives are to investigate profitable means of filling the seasonal feed gap and eliminating the need for supplementary feeding in beef finishing systems. His method is:

- To investigate pasture fed beef finishing systems
- To investigate dual purpose cropping systems
- To investigate new and existing species and varieties of pastures, and fodder and grain crops
- To study the overall profitability and productivity of integrated beef finishing and cropping systems, including effective ways to measure, compare and manage enterprise and business performance
- To investigate methods of pasture/fodder management and measurement, including grazing management
- To study labour efficient, intensive pasture-based beef finishing systems.

Stuart's key areas of interest include:

- Filling the feed gap
- Minimal supplementary feed
- Medium rainfall temperate climate
- Dual purpose crops and cover crops
- Profitable beef finishing systems, including enterprise measurement and benchmarks/targets
- Pasture management and budgeting.

A trip to New Zealand in January 2018 will complete Stuart's study travels; he'll then focus on writing a report summarising his findings.

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Nuffield is an international program involving eight countries plus a Nuffield International arm. Essentially, farmers apply with a particular study topic in mind and are selected after an extensive national interview process. Nuffield Australia awards Scholarships each year to farmers in Australia. The objective is to increase practical farming knowledge and management skills and techniques generally. These scholarships give Australian citizens the opportunity to study farming practices in New Zealand, Europe, Asia and the Americas and those countries best suited to the scholar. They will also promote a closer understanding between farmers in the countries visited.

Upon returning to Australia it is expected that scholars will be able to actively spread the knowledge and understanding they have gained, among their fellow farmers and others. Nuffield Farming Scholarships give a unique opportunity to stand back from your day-to-day occupation, and to study a subject of interest to you. You do not need academic qualifications, but you will need to persuade the selectors that you have the qualities to make the best use of an opportunity that is only given to a few.

# Marcus Oldham Congratulates

## James Hawkins

**Graduate Diploma of Agribusiness 2016**

**Nuffield Scholar 2018**

Master of Agribusiness student, James Hawkins, is one of 24 recipients to be awarded a 2018 Nuffield Scholarship. Supported by Rural Bank, James is a young agribusiness entrepreneur who is owner and manager of a pig producing operation at Neuarpuur, Victoria and is passionate about soil health and promoting sustainable farming practices. It is with this Scholarship that James will have an opportunity to investigate how Sub-Soil Manuring (SSM) can increase biomass production of pastoral systems growing in sodic clay soils and the level of productivity gains for producers.

### What is your background James?

I was fortunate enough to be born in the sheep yards, almost literally. Both parents are from farming families and instilled in my sister, **Tara FBM 09**, and me, the importance of strong family connectedness, hard work and constant improvement and growth.

Despite having such a strong family farming connection, I have, by no means, only limited myself to agriculture in the past and won't into the future. I have worked in underground gold mines all over Australia and in the Middle East, and have a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Deakin University).

Our generation needs to be excited by change and have skills in many areas.

### What drew you to a career in Agriculture?

Agriculture is in my blood and I will always be involved in this industry. There are incredible opportunities and exciting challenges for Australian producers with growing potential to send high-value products into newly emerging markets around the world.

We are in a period of knowledge and technology access never seen before and members of the agricultural industry need to look to and work with other regions, countries and industries to improve productivity, increase efficiencies and access new markets to meet opportunities as well as challenges from globalised export markets.

The opportunities in agriculture for entrepreneurs and innovators are huge; it's just a matter of getting the current and future members of the industry excited by these opportunities and confident about the challenges.

### Why did you choose to study at Marcus Oldham College?

Marcus Oldham is one of the premier agricultural education institutions in Australia, and has been on my radar since my secondary school days.

At my family's farming business 'Brippick' in Neuarpuur Victoria, and in the wider Hawkins farming operations, we have had Marcus Oldham students on their second-year practical placement and post-graduation for many years and these students were always of high calibre and clearly well-educated and skilled from their time at the College.



We have many Hawkins family members who have been through Marcus Oldham with high praise for the College, including my sister, **Tara FBM 09**, and brother-in-law, **Rob Hindson FBM 09**, who met and graduated with the Bachelor of Business (Agriculture).

### Tell us about the research project you will be undertaking as part of the Nuffield Scholarship

I am aiming to help increase productivity of Australian farming businesses by overcoming issues such as water logging and short finishes by ameliorating soil structure issues caused by sodicity.

The technology being trialled - and showing great promise - is SSM. I will be looking at equipment in Europe and the USA, meeting scientists from all around the world regarding types of amelioration and meeting farmers in the USA regarding post SSM regenerative farming practices to extend the benefits of the practice.

Our 2017 SSM on-farm trials have seen an increase in biomass production and the seed and grain yield looks very promising. Once we harvest these trials, we will know a lot more.

### What is the driving passion behind your learning?

Personal growth is the driving passion behind my learning. Formal and informal education is a huge part of my life and it means I can live life with a huge amount of energy and excitement.

Studying my Master of Agribusiness at Marcus Oldham has given me a depth of knowledge and formality to business skills that I never had before, and it will help me move into the future with more confidence and skill.

Life is an education and learning never stops.

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# Scott Nicholson

Farm Business Management 2003

Nuffield Scholar 2018



Scott Nicholson from Stawell, Victoria, received a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

For his study topic, Scott will research ways technology can help modernise and improve profitability in the sheep and wool industry.

Scott said an increase in global demand for Australian food and fibre, and greater community scrutiny, will drive the need for new technology to help improve the management of livestock in breeding and handling.

Scott operates Bretton Estate, 2900ha of owned and leased land with a mixed farming system that includes 4500 merino ewes for wool and lamb, broadacre dryland cropping, hay production and a lamb finishing system. Scott is also a partner in Sohnic Merinos at Marnoo, Victoria, which is focused on breeding merinos to optimise overall profitability.

He believes technology such as the adoption of mandatory electronic identification (EID) tags in Victoria has great potential to boost the industry through its improved traceability of individual sheep.

Scott said the industry can expand on this and will focus on researching technology in DNA and genomics; EID for performance recording and feedback; farm management software; handling and drafting equipment; drones and robotics; virtual fencing and remote sensors.

"With the continuing need to expand operations to keep pace with the constant cost price squeeze, sheep enterprises will need to get larger and much more efficient. Technology is everywhere, it's just a matter of sorting out the developments that can be of real benefit to the industry," he said.

Scott will travel to sheep producing countries to see the technology used in New Zealand, and North and South America.

[scott\\_nicholson@icloud.com](mailto:scott_nicholson@icloud.com)

## Victorian Landcare Awards 2017

Congratulations to **Simon Falkiner FM 88** winner of the Australian Government Innovation in Agricultural Land Management and Highly Commended in the Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices Award.

Every two years, the State and Territory Landcare Awards are held to acknowledge the success and achievements of community landcarers, groups, networks and organisations who have been working to protect and restore our environment and improve agricultural productivity. In 2017, 85 nominations were received from across Victoria in the 14 award categories. The winners of the nine national award categories will go on to represent Victoria at the 2018 National Landcare Awards.

## The Australian Farmer of the Year Awards 2017

**Lachlan Seears FBM 01** at Awards hosted by ABC Rural and the Kondinin Group, received the award for 'Excellence in Technology'. His multifaceted adoption of technology across his farm business has earned him this accolade. The Awards are designed to celebrate and applaud the outstanding achievements of those individuals and families making a significant contribution to Australian agriculture.

Lachie, Director of Boonderoo Pastoral Company at Lucindale, South Australia, has taken a traditional grazing operation and turned it into a value-adding irrigation, fodder and food crop enterprise. Managing nearly 3000ha, he needed to look at what was available and what the latest advances in technology were so they could remain efficient and competitive in the business.

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## The Weekly Times Coles Farmer of the Year 2017

**James Mann FBM 1987** and the 2006 Marcus Oldham Graduate of Excellence has been nominated for The Weekly Times Coles Farmer of the Year award.

James, originally from England and his wife, Robyn, a New Zealander, own one of Australia's largest family-owned dairy farms, Donovans Dairy at Wye in South Australia's lower South East. Over the past twenty years they have grown the herd from 400 to 2300 Friesian milkers and the recent purchase of another property has taken their holding to 1700ha thus allowing for another 400 cows.

One of Australia's top ten dairy farms, Donovans Dairy currently produces 19-21 million litres of milk from 680ha of irrigation under 14 pivots and dryland pasture in a 700mm rainfall zone. They have a keen interest in genomics, and have two calving periods – 1250 cows calve August/September, and 750-900 in February/March. Each year the property produces 3000-5000 tonnes of pasture and lucerne pit silage, 3000-4000 silage rolls and 6000-7000 tonnes of corn silage.

Milking cows receive the bail ration of 7-12kg/day of grain, plus 2-7kg at the feed pad and 5-12kg of grazed pasture. They buy in dried distillers grain, barley, canola and lupins. Heifers, cows and calving cows are all fed separately, depending on the stage of lactation, and calving time. The dairy is a 116-stand rotary with cup removers.

The business does not compromise on two aspects of production – genetics, which have a compound effect, and fertiliser. Bloodlines are drawn mainly from the US and Canada, as well as Europe, with a focus on fitness traits, productive life, daughter fertility and mastitis resistance.

James sees the potential in using drone technology as a flyover measure for pasture nutrition attributes, which takes the guess work out. He does a pasture walk every three days and balances rations around what's available.

Donovans Dairy has 20 staff, including three long-term managers. James is a Director of Dairy Australia.

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# Isabelle Whatley

Horse Business Management 2013

## High Jumping Achiever



Since leaving Marcus Oldham in 2013, Isabelle has pursued a career in show jumping, initially working with coach, Vicki Roycroft, until she was ready to head to Europe to ride and learn.

Arriving in the UK she worked for New Zealander, Blyth Tait, an elite rider and her long-term coach. This presented opportunities to ride, receive lessons, and groom at major eventing shows. The next move occurred when she was invited to ride at one of Paul Schockemohle's yards for the next six months. Paul Schockemohle has several yards across Germany ranging from the breakers yard to his competition yard. Isabelle was placed at Schekenhof in Neustadt-Glewe between Hamburg and Berlin.

Schekenhof Yard trained the horses which had already passed two selection panels and were chosen to be show jumpers. This was not a competition yard - it was the yard for the education and schooling of the horses, which would lead to Muhlen, the main jumping yard. There were hundreds of horses with 250-350 on the yard at any one time. Twenty riders were each assigned a stable. Isabelle had 20 horses to ride a day and found the opportunity to work with Schockemohle invaluable as the experience and the coaching is second to none. Riders received coaching on every horse they rode

every day, from top trainers in Germany such as Dirk Hauser the Yard Manager, who rode with Vicki Roycroft in the 1980s, and renowned coach, Thomas Mohr.

Returning to the UK, Isabelle was employed by Kate Tarrant who events at 3\* level, as her rider. She produced and competed sales horses, schooled and taught clients, ran viewings and sales of horses and produced her own mare that she purchased to show jump. Highlights of working at Kates included competing at The Hickstead Royal International Show and show jumping and eventing competitions all over the UK.

Isabelle returned to New Zealand to work at one of New Zealand's boutique Thoroughbred stud farms "Little Avondale Stud" run by Sam and Catriona Williams. Even though she is in the performance industry, Isabelle strongly believes it is important to explore all aspects of the horse industry to improve her skills at handling and producing young horses. The yearling prep and weanling prep was a fantastic experience, as it has furthered her understanding of handling young horses which will come in very useful when starting her own breeding program for performance horses.

Because the New Zealand show jumping season only runs for six months of the year, she regularly travels between New Zealand and Australia where she spends

*continued on page 12*

Isabelle Whatley  
continued from page 11

time riding and competing for Vicki Roycroft. (This year, Isabelle was starting one of her youngsters that was just a foal when she left to go to Europe!) At Vicki's, she is fortunate to be given good rides for competing and receives lessons to brush up skills for her own horses and business. As a mentor, Vicki has helped Isabelle in every way, from riding and ring miles to business experience and advice.

Isabelle feels she now has the experience to produce horses to a high level and has decided to start her own business in New Zealand.

She brought out her mare that she acquired through Dr Nick Roe at Marcus Oldham, (bred by **Belinda Howard HBM 08** Marcus Oldham graduate), and rode through her year at Marcus. Chile aka "Villarrica" was always a handful as a younger mare and had a lot of attitude!

It was decided that no matter how talented she is, if Isabelle couldn't work with her and get her to focus without throwing tantrums, she would never be able to go to the top. So during her time in Europe, Isabelle decided to turn Chile out for those years hoping the horse would mature. Coming back into work, Chile has matured a lot but never lost her attitude, which makes her such a competitive mare. Isabelle has worked with her all year and is back competing at Grand Prix level - the level at which she had ridden a little mare called Pamelet.

The business will support Isabelle in her show jumping career and her return to Europe and, this time, taking Chile. Jumping at a high level requires access to more high level horses which is why Isabelle is starting to breed and import horses with similar breeding to Chile. Chile's sire, Vivant, is a world recognised show jumping stallion and he produces highly successful horses. Through producing correctly, Isabelle hopes to have a whole team at Grand Prix level.

Isabelle owns one horse in her small team of young horses and the rest are owned by other people. The business focuses, predominantly, on schooling clients' horses, competing and selling on behalf of clients. However, Isabelle is increasing the teaching load as more clients travel to her clinics held in the Wairarapa district of the North Island of New Zealand.

Isabelle has a goal - and that is to be chosen to compete at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. To achieve this,



the closer goals are to jump Grand Prix this season and World Cup next year. She hopes this plan will place her in a position to be ready to step it up when she returns to Australia. Vicki Roycroft has invited her to ride at another George Morris clinic in January, which is perfect, as it's ahead of New Zealand's biggest show of the year 'The Horse of the Year' where she hopes to qualify for Lady Rider of the Year and qualify for the Norwood Gold Cup Class.

She feels fortunate that she has the horse to train for the Olympics and the support to get there. Isabelle appreciates the business skills she learnt at Marcus and the connections made whilst a student, have been invaluable to her career.

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# Jock Nivison

Farm Business Management 2005

## With the Weight of Privilege Comes Self-expectation and Responsibility.

I have decided to focus on some of the decisions and emotions that graduates are likely to experience when they leave Marcus Oldham. More specifically, those of you who are taking over family businesses.

Twelve years roll past pretty quickly! By the end of 2005, our year was busting to get out into the workplace and the Principal was probably equally ready for us to get a move on. I was keen to put the pen down and take the next step.

In 2007, I returned to our family property 'Yalgoo' in New South Wales; a grazing property with both seed stock and commercial enterprises.

I quickly became aware of the privileged position I was in. I looked to be on the path to owning a diverse, interesting and profitable business in a good community. None of these things I had earned; I was just both lucky and privileged, that is all.

The idea of privilege and what it entails started to take root in me. The privilege of attending Marcus is not something that should be lost on any student. We are housed and fed and surrounded by likeminded people. We are given access to forward thinking agriculturalists and a path to economic success is lit up in front of us. For those who take on the running of the family business; if we are afforded a property with sufficient scale and equity, we are well equipped to grow that business.

With the weight of privilege comes self-expectation and responsibility.

The self-expectation is to take the business to the next level, and the responsibility to honour the past and respect the foundation laid before me. For any next generation farm owner these are the things that will both plague and drive you forward.



*I needed to know my stewardship of Yalgoo would honour the past.*

In terms of respecting what came before me, in my personal life I had probably over done it! I had gone to the same school, same university as my father and married a woman who grew up in the same street in Launceston as my mother. So whilst walking in Dad's footsteps, it was also obvious I needed to cast my own shadow.

I needed to know my stewardship of Yalgoo would honour the past. However, the enterprises that had worked so well previously, needed to be scrutinised to see how they would hold up against the declining terms of trade in the future.

Wool had paid the bills at Yalgoo since the 1830s, however in the past decade its overall economic contribution to our business had started to wane. In consultation with Dad and our consultant, Dr Phil Holmes, we needed to dig deep into the long term viability of wool, as well as our ability to increase both production and quality.

From a price point, we soon realised that wool had a bright

future and in light of a luxury goods boom, fine wool was a sustainable business. From a production point, we needed to identify the critical economic pressure points and work hard on them. This led us to creating the Yalgoo 7/15 Index. This index has the highest correlation to fleece value. It simultaneously increases both profit components of quantity and quality, allowing both ourselves and our clients to accurately identify the most profitable sheep in our flocks and breed from them.

Similarly, in the seed stock beef business we could see some challenges ahead. Australia's temperate beef herd had changed composition rapidly on the back of the 'black premium'. This placed pressure on our Hereford bull sales. Once again, we removed the emotion and re-evaluated what we were doing and whether it had long term viability. At a production level we knew Herefords had the key advantages of high gains and low costs, understanding that the breed we were in stood on firm economic ground was paramount. It gave us confidence that we

*continued on page 14*

# Dan Korff

Farm Business Management 12

## Hay Cutters Plan to Recruit Rugby Playing Jackeroos to the District

The Hay Cutters Rugby Union Club is embarking on a new scholarship style program to attract young rugby players to the Hay Plains, for a year or two of playing rugby while jackerooing on one of several stations in the district.

The Cutters has been synonymous with the many jackeroos that have worked and 'learned their trade' in sheep and wool production, from all over the country and across the seas. We are now lucky to have many other ag industries in the district, whose employees make the team what it is today.

The Club and its supporters want to offer the opportunity to come and learn from some of the best managers and have the chance to learn as much as they can about pastoral management. They will be given the opportunity to participate in the popular Hay founded rural training program, Hay Inc, and



while doing this, they will be able to play good bush rugby with the Cutters, in the Southern Inland Rugby Union Competition.

We have several properties who are currently willing to employ a jackeroo or two, but we are always happy to talk to anyone else who might be interested. We have strict criteria on selecting employers as we will be ensuring players are well looked after and will gain top

quality experience, so they and their parents can be assured they will be in good and safe company.

The Cutters are looking forward to the 2018 season!

For enquiries, if you are interested in either employing a young rugby player or applying for the Hay Cutters Rugby Program, please call Manning Doughty on 0436 338 951 or Dan Korff on 0447 418 485. Please pass on to interested people. We will have more information on Facebook as it becomes available.

Current Marcus Club committee members and players include: **James Graham Agribus 14, John Porter FBM 11, Charlie Wythes Agribus 15, Dan Korff FBM 12, Manning Doughty Agribus 16, Rowan Houston Agribus 96, Richard Cannon Agribus 02, Simon Booth.**

*Dan Korff is a Finance Analyst at Rabobank and Chair of the Future Farmers Network.*

*Jock Nivison  
continued from page 13*

could grow our bull business if we offered superior genetics along with a unique service.

To achieve this, we developed indexes that are tightly bound to profitability and robust depreciation models on both of our seed stock enterprises, to protect our clients from escalating costs.

An objective mindset that was seeded at Marcus and nurtured post

uni through my family and mentors, has allowed me to view our business with an objective rationale and, hence, a respect for Yalgoo's past through continuity of enterprises. A desire to repay my privileged start and give back, has driven me to find unique options to help and improve our client's businesses.

Good client service is not only good business, it provides a genuine feeling of fulfilment in being able to provide the right product for the right price to our customers. It is

this responsibility of producing a product that can affect the whole market chain that provides the stimulation to get out of bed in the morning. And on a Walcha winter morning, we need all the incentive to get out of bed that we can muster.

**jock@yalgoogenetics.com.au**

*Editor: Jock is a 2016 NSW Farmer of the Year Finalist, and son of Grant Nivison FM 69.*

Remember you can keep up to date with happenings at Marcus through

[www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au)



[www.facebook.com/MarcusOldhamCollege](https://www.facebook.com/MarcusOldhamCollege)



[@marcusoldham1](https://twitter.com/marcusoldham1)

# Warren Sutton

Horse Business Management 1990

# Will Comiskey

Agribusiness 2011

## Conquered the World's Toughest Endurance Race



**B**orn on the Murray River in Swan Hill, Warren's first introduction to horses was, like many kids, riding around the streets on borrowed ponies and roughing it in gymkhanas through to refining his skills in the showring and jumping arenas. At a very early age he was working in the local racing stables before pedaling his bike off to school.

Upon graduating from Marcus Oldham, Warren enjoyed a long stint working in South Africa; horse related travels took him through Europe and America; and on return to Australia he worked on and off for the next 20 years predominantly with Lindsay Park - The Hayes dynasty.

With mentors such as Colin, Peter, David and Tony McEvoy, he worked through the ranks undertaking stable duties, travelling foreman, race day representative and, in the latter part, a decade as Manager of Lindsay Park Euroa in Victoria's High Country.

Now, he rotates his time doing seminars and private clinics

through South East Asia including educating soldiers in the Thai Royal Cavalry units in all facets of young horse training through to eventing, parades for the Royal family and Palace security. When in Australia, he enjoys doing some film work and educates around 100 of Tony McEvoy's yearlings with a small team in the South Australian Riverland.

### In the steps of the Mongol Warriors

Warren responds to a challenge and in August this year he was a competitor in the Mongol Derby - the toughest and longest horse race in the world. A 1000km endurance race recreates the horse messenger system developed by Ghengis Khan

in 1224. Most of Mongolia is made up of broken ridges divided by rivers and creek flats. Horses were provided for the event riders and were changed every 40km. They were very tough and well suited to the incredible terrain.

Warren would have been happy with a top 10 finish but he and **Will Comiskey aka Dingo** achieved equal 4th (they'd like to say equal 3rd as first place was tied). Competing with Will was an absolute pleasure for Warren who warmly describes him as a gentleman.

Unknown to each other prior to the race, Warren had made no plans

*continued on page 16*

to form any partnership of any sort at the beginning of the race and thought he'd let the horses do the talking. There were a few competitors from many different countries that he'd traversed with over the Steppe within the first couple of days, before the field started to string out. The competitors were skilled horsemen and horsewomen with a great desire to win, giving the race the challenging aspect that Warren needed to keep his wits about him. He was in awe of the culture, the scenery and, in particular, the tough and resilient - ever reliable Mongolian horses.



Soon enough he broke away from the main field through Day 3 into Day 4, with only four or five riders in front.

There were some extraordinary scenes of nature - eagles hovering high on a mountain pass that he could nearly hold out an arm and hold them; herds and herds of wild horses, yaks, camels and, of course, the Mongolian Steppe, scattered with nomadic herdsmen's goats, sheep, cattle and more of their prized horses.

Will and Warren were playing cat and mouse trying to catch the leaders. At each new horse station they refuelled, picked their next horse off the line and galloped off, hopefully with some kind of control. The aim was to reset the GPS, mount swiftly in the direction of the next station and think about nothing but sticking on and gaining control within the following 10kms at least! Thankfully, when a rider is near the front of the field the pick of good horses are still available

(how and what to pick out of 40 horses on the lines is a whole other story)...

Warren thinks it was halfway through Day 4 when the two graduates finally met up, and leaving that designated horse station together, decided to join forces. The Marcus boys were then hungry to chase and win! Warren thought he was onto a good thing when pairing up with last year's winner, and had only heard, what a great competitor Will was.

From then on the trials and tribulations began. They continued to stay in traditional Gers (a traditional Yurt or Ger is a portable, round tent covered with skins or felt and used by local nomads), ate their food, soaked up their culture and stoked the inside heater (a potbelly type cooking stove) with cow dung and rested their weary bodies from riding the gruelling 160kms each day.

One morning, very carefully and with sheepish smiles they passed a sniper, then straight into an old bomb site more than likely remnants from Soviet Union war time, as they were not too far south of the Russian border. Then it only dawned on them once they'd passed a bomb in the ground, that it had not detonated...an eerie silence followed.

Days 5 and 6 required them to navigate through more spiritual Steppe plains, river crossings, mountain passes and valleys along with Doh areas which are swamplands that the riders thought, if on any wrong foot were going to swallow them up. Those large underground squirrels known as marmots were also a treacherous obstacle to dodge, as the holes caved in under the horse. Warren became a victim of these rodents' habitat.

Warren learnt a lot from Will, travelling in their 'energy bubble' to get the best out of the horses, and enduring a great deal of Australian bush poetry from the man as well!

It was evident around the morning of Day 7 that they were not going to catch the three remaining leaders and no one was going to catch them. They were two tiny red dots (which people followed on the Internet via the race organisers' website) on the landscape, not seeing anyone

except the vets, interpreters, medics and race organisers at each 40 kilometre station interval for a couple of days.

Twenty-eight magnificent race-horses later, 1000+kms, experiences you cannot describe, and mental and physical exhaustion, on the morning of Day 8 a drone appeared above Warren and Will a few kilometres before they could see the finishing line ahead. Victory!

The warm Mongolian beer that hour of the morning never tasted so good!

**warrenjohnsutton@gmail.com**

**Will Comiskey** competed in the Mongol Derby in 2016 and shared first place with a Canadian and a New Mexican. Last year, Will's ride raised \$15,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service Queensland Branch. This year he raised a fantastic \$50,300 dollars for the RFDS Queensland Branch.

*And Will added:*

Warren is a great bloke and I really enjoyed the days we had riding together. We saw a whole range of what Mongolia offers; had some very fast horses and some very slow horses; enjoyed the Mongolian culture along the way, and did the whole thing with a smile! It was really good to be able to use the Marcus Oldham connections to form a great partnership with Warren - you never know when or where a great partnership will form!



Will sincerely thanks everyone very much for their generosity. All the money raised is going into new medical equipment for a plane that is currently being set up to be based in rural Queensland. The RFDS provides an excellent service responding to emergency call outs - and those call outs are all done using raised funds, so they are very appreciative of the support.

**comiskeyw@gmail.com**

# Reunions

## 1967 Farm Management Graduates Celebrate 50 Years

This intrepid group of 13 graduates with wives and/or partners gathered in Hobart from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 October. They chose the historic Lenna Hotel next to Salamanca Place overlooking Sullivans Cove, as their base. Starting the festivities was the Welcome Dinner at the convict built Ball & Chain Restaurant on Salamanca Terrace and, as someone mentioned, thankfully it was only a short stroll back to the hotel later in the evening.

Wakeup calls heralded an early start the next morning to board Pennicott's bus for a full day gourmet tour of Bruny Island, with many delicacies tried over morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea - local oysters, cheese, honey, meats, sausages, wines, fudges, berries and whiskies.

The lovely home of Ian and Tammy McMichael in South Hobart was the venue for 'Nibbles & Drinks' and it is reported 'the Nibbles' were canapes, meat casseroles

and salads, all deliciously accompanied by local beers and wines.

On free day Saturday, the attractions included the Salamanca Market; the "Mona Roma" catamaran from Brooke Street Pier to visit MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) which is 25 minutes up river; and the peak of Mt Wellington was reached in various ways - Beth Hoskins ran to the top, whilst Jim and others drove, and a three-wheeler motorbike was the carriage for Geoff and Priscilla Rowlands.

Ian McMichael is a Member of the Tasmanian Club in Macquarie Street, Hobart and he kindly arranged for the Saturday night dinner to be held there. It was a terrific evening and they had the opportunity to see Geoff Bailey's College farm visit movies - originally taken on 8mm Kodak film in 1966 and 1997 and now digitally saved for posterity.

With good weather enhancing the reunion, some people stayed on in Hobart to take advantage of the local tourist opportunities while others travelled up the east coast to the Freycinet Peninsula, or headed home.



*L-R Ian McMichael, Jim Hoskins, Jack Hassell, David Hughes, Michael Hogarth Scott*



*L-R John Bullock, Phil Reid, David Hughes (doorway), Michael Hogarth Scott, Roger Salkeld*



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## Farm Management 1997

Darwin was the drawcard for the 1997 Farm Management 20 Year Reunion held over a long weekend in August. The entertainment included catch-up drinks and dinner at Darwin Motor Yacht Club; a formal dinner, a full day at the Darwin Water Ski Club for some, while others undertook a strenuous Australia A v Australia cricket match. (Result not available.)

The majority of students were there, as well as **Lachlan Polkinghorne FM 80** and Dave Goodfellow, both former lecturers. Those who attended the reunion were so glad they made an effort; it's a lot of fun and everyone really recommends graduates endeavour to attend reunions.



*Tina Raines, Scott Dunlop, Tom Skipper, Dave Goodfellow, Scott Jenkin, Heather Nicol, Scott Nicol, Sam Lawrence, Alice Polkinghorne, Julian White, Michael MacTaggart, Virginia Norman, John Norman, Lance Fellner, Taryn Bristow, Jeremy Bristow, Iain Bucknell, Tim Wallace, Tina Skipper, Rob Raines, and missing from photo was Ed Molesworth.*



## Reunions in the Planning for 2018

### Reunion of the 1998 Agribusiness Graduates

Lucy Hall is starting the ball rolling for the 1998 Agribusiness graduates 20 Year Reunion. She would appreciate hearing from you with your latest contact details. There is some planning involved!

lucyhall10@hotmail.com 0428 833 369

### 20 Year Reunion of 1998 Farm Management Graduates

Richard Johnston and Sam Bell are co-ordinating a 20 Year Reunion of 1998 Farm Management Graduates. It is anticipated this will be held in Darwin in July 2018.

Please contact Richard 0418 145 463 or Sam 0408 314 780

Visit us on our Open Day and find out more about our courses and how you can plan your study and career paths.

## MARCUS OLDHAM OPEN DAY

**Sunday 12 August 2018**

**10am - 2.30pm**

## The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program

Will give you the tools to excel as an innovative, well-educated and passionate industry and community leader.

**The Leadership Program 2018 will be held from**

**Sunday 17 June - Friday 22 June**

## Marcus Assist

Scholarships, bursaries and deferred payment plans through our Marcus Assist initiative provides students with fee support during their study at Marcus Oldham.

# The Centre for the Study of Agribusiness

## Health and Nutritional Drivers for Agriculture

There is a drive for health and nutrition in our diets that is changing the way we produce and market our agricultural products. On 19 July 2017, the CSA hosted a forum that presented a range of scientific facts and marketing insights into some of the opportunities and challenges emerging for agriculture to supply innovative and nutritional food products. An audience of about 120 staff, students and industry guests was engaged by the array of information presented from the meat, dairy and grains industries, both from an Australian and USA perspective. Presenters included:

- Dr Stephen Smith, Regents Professor, Meat Science, Texas A&M University who has extensively studied the metabolic pathways involved in fatty acid metabolism, most notably in intramuscular adipose tissue in wagyu beef.
- Prof. David Pethick, Professor of Biochemistry & Nutrition, Murdoch University, Perth WA is currently involved in meat science of sheep and cattle across the value chain and has an active research participation with China Agricultural University.
- Mr Bruce Symons, Managing Director, Symons Organic Dairy in Bendigo, is a third generation milkman with the family business dating back to 1919, and who has recently launched a range of organic cheeses under the family name.
- Dr Sara Grafenauer, General Manager, Grains & Legumes Nutritional Council is an Advanced Accredited Practicing Dietician and author with experience in health, the food industry (consulting and brand management) and tertiary education.

Further detail on the presentations can be viewed at the following link <http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/events/forum-health-and-nutritional-drivers-for-agriculture>



*Molly Mackay Agribus 1, Hannah Bird, Doone Mitchell and Grace Ives Agribus 2*



*Tegan Bathgate Agribus 2, Michael Dowling AM Council Member, Lynne Dowling, Dylan Hassett FBM 1*



*Dr Simon Livingstone Principal, Prof David Pethick, Dr Sara Grafenauer, Dr Yasmin Chalmers, Director CSA, Bruce Symons, Dr Stephen Smith*



*Tim Finger and Braden Davey FBM 3, Jeremy Lush FBM 1*



*Emily Crowe and Camille Holmfield FBM 3*



*Lachlan Gregory and Matt Farley Agribus 1*



*James Ridge and Nathan Denny Agribus 1,  
Damon Humphris FBM 1*

## International Guest Program

***Dr Stephen Smith, Regents Professor and Faculty Fellow, Department of Animal Science***

***Texas A&M University and Texas AgriLife Research***



Through the generous financial support of the Guthrie Foundation, the CSA was able to host leading USA meat biochemist, Dr Stephen Smith from Texas A&M University from 17-21 July 2017.

Understanding how the metabolic pathways in beef can influence healthy fatty acid metabolism is the research area that Dr Stephen Smith has been exploring. During his visit, Dr Smith presented on the health and quality benefits of high grade beef at a business luncheon at the RACV City Club Melbourne, as well as facilitating various workshops with the Farm and Agribusiness students.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Dr. Smith obtained a Bachelor of Science (Biology) from California State College, Bakersfield, and a PhD (Metabolic Physiology) from the University of California, Davis. Dr Smith was a postdoctoral research associate and subsequently a Research Chemist at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center. In 1983 he joined the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University where he received the Regents Professor Award and was awarded Texas A&M Faculty Fellow in 2014.

Stephen has collaborated with scientists in Japan, Australia, South Korea and China, documenting the dietary and genetic regulation of fatty acid composition of bovine adipose tissue and muscle. He has worked extensively to establish metabolic pathways involved in fatty acid metabolism, most notably in intramuscular adipose tissue. Furthermore, he has conducted studies to test the effects of ground beef naturally enriched with oleic acid on indices of cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome.

Further detail on the presentations can be viewed at the following link <http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/events/smith>



***John Carson FM 77**, Tegan Bathgate Agribus 2, Dr Stephen Smith, Jim Rutherford, Harwood Andrews Lawyers,  
Richard Anderson Council Member, Chair CSA, Harwood Andrews Lawyers*



*Dr Simon Livingstone, Dr Stephen Smith,  
Dr Yasmin Chalmers,  
**Bruce Wilson FM 71** Council Chairman*



*Jess Brogden Agric 4,  
Luke Hooke The Nationals Victoria,  
Simon Gabb and Nicky Gilder Agribus 2*



*Brendan Murray and Alice Mort Agribus 2,  
Charlotte Zheng and Rowan Clark, Hassad Australia*



*Rod McClure Suncorp Bank,  
**Hugh Cox Agribus 14, Richard Longbottom FM 94***

## WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

2018 Fellowship applications open 1st February 2018.

# Our 2017 Scholarship Recipients are Enthusiastic About Marcus

The agricultural and equine industries have long recognised the excellence of a Marcus Oldham education by supporting valuable scholarships. In awarding scholarships, a number of factors are taken into consideration at the interview:

- **Commitment to their chosen industry**
- **Personal presentation**
- **Ability to communicate**
- **Academic performance**



**Damon Humphris**

**Jamestown SA**

Agriculture

*Warakirri Agricultural Trusts Scholarship*

In life you should never stop learning and tertiary education is the best way to accelerate this, not only at the time, but it sets you up for greater learning in the future. I chose Marcus Oldham because it is a most highly recognised agriculture/business education provider in Australia. The College offers a good blend of business, marketing, production, science and engineering. The high contact hours work particularly well for me as it keeps me engaged in subjects and allows me to soak up the information that the lecturers are giving. The small class sizes allow us to engage with lecturers and build good relationships. I enjoy the applied style of learning as everything we learn can be related to running a farm business.

The industry placement year allows us to gain practical knowledge and skills and we can relate the lecture room teaching back to real farm business. Frequent tours to farms and industry businesses provides an insight into how they are run and gives unique perspectives into Australia's agriculture.

Marcus is positioned very well in Geelong, with shops only a couple of minutes away, Melbourne one way and beaches the other. Ultimately, Marcus is one of the best places to study prior to running a farm business.



**Bec Kelly**

**Mingenew WA**

Agribusiness

*Sunshine Foundation (Agribusiness) Scholarship*

I had always thought of going to Marcus but took a different direction and studied marketing, before travelling and working in tourism in South America and Europe. However, still being passionate about agriculture I decided that if I was ever going to end up in the agriculture industry, I needed to study the business end, so unpacked my backpack and moved to Geelong. It's been a brilliant decision.

A business degree will always be useful. I love the networks I've made, the international and domestic tours are excellent, the people, and social opportunities are fantastic. I plan to work in corporate agriculture for a few years to learn more about agriculture and work out my career path.



**Lucy Fenton**

**Vasey VIC**

Agribusiness

*Yiddinga Farm Management Scholarship*

My favourite subjects? Pretty much all of them: Accounting, Business Communications, Human Resources, Economics, Marketing, Finance and Planning. I love the way the course is structured and the compulsory year gaining industry experience is key to the lecture room being such a motivating atmosphere. Also, the one year diploma option is great for students who just want the business fundamentals or need more time out before returning to complete the degree.

This is the most suitable educational facility in Australia to study Farm Business Management and Agribusiness. It's more than just the content of the courses; it's the fact that you are surrounded by lecturers and students who are passionate about agriculture. It's a privilege to be a student here but make sure you have had plenty of experience in the industry first - I recommend a minimum of 2-3 years to get the most from your course. Form some well-defined goals of what you want to do and what you believe you will gain from studying at Marcus - and you will give yourself the chance to extract every opportunity out of the experience.



**Rudelle Anderson**

**Warrnambool VIC**

Agriculture

*Warrawidgee (Agriculture) Scholarship*

I always had a passion for agriculture and before coming to Marcus I worked at a buffalo station near Darwin, then a station in central Queensland for three years, 18 months on Australia's second largest cattle station, Alexandria, followed by 10 months at Wellard Livestock Export.

Marcus offers an attractive learning environment with smaller classes, and lecturers being available to help. The course content provides all-round knowledge of farming systems and greater depth than other universities. It is well structured and as the year goes on you can see the connections between the different subjects and how they all interlock in a farming business. At Marcus Oldham you get a wide range of experiences no other ag related course will give you. This course has been designed to prepare you to manage the financial, environmental and social aspects of a farm operation.

**Jack Littler****Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, UK**

Agribusiness

*Lowes Petroleum (Agribusiness) Bursary*

Coming from a cropping and aviation property, I worked in construction and agriculture in England prior to coming to Australia where I worked for two years in the Northern Territory. It was by speaking to graduates that I heard about Marcus Oldham.

I chose this course because it offered higher business level skills, practical work experience, and the intensiveness of the course allowed it to be completed in a shorter time than most universities. Tertiary education gives a competitive edge when applying for jobs and increases personal skill levels that add value to the business you work in.

**Laura Wishart****Bremer Bay WA**

Agriculture

*JBS Australia Scholarship*

After a gap year, I began a university course, quickly realised the system didn't suit me and looked for an alternative. Marcus Oldham's website came up in my search for 'best ag degrees in the southern hemisphere'. The requirement to have ag-related experience prior to study, in conjunction with the hands-on nature of the courses showed me that Marcus Oldham was serious about taking students and producing exceptional graduates.

I like the structure of the course, the lecturers are amazing! They are really helpful and genuine, with a good grounding in industry. My industry placement year was one of the best opportunities I've been fortunate to have - I learnt so much about the industry, about the reality of working in a team and acquired some great skills. The national and international tours are a really good way to see the diversity of the agricultural industry and learn new ways of thinking and doing things.

If you're unsure if agriculture is the industry for you, gain some work experience to be sure. If you already know - then just make the leap. You will get a great education.

**Tom Sheahan****Kurrajong / Hawkesbury NSW**

Equine Management

*Plasvacc Equiplas Scholarship*

I found out about Marcus from a graduate, **Mark Lindsay HBM 03**, who gave the course a big push and I thank him for that. I have a love and passion for the racing/breeding industry. I spent six months at Coolmore Australia and learnt a great deal which put me in good stead for this course. I had some practical application, and the studies have improved these. It is also a great way to meet industry participants and contacts.

I have learned to ride. I enjoy the study in general, especially anatomy, nutrition and breaking in. The one-year course is excellent. It opens many doors, it's a fun year and you won't regret it. I'm planning on gaining international experience and contacts, and in the long-term, I am interested in breeding and would love to do some pedigree analysis for studs around the world.

**Darcey Sheil****Brisbane QLD**

Agriculture

*Nick Petersen Memorial Scholarship*

The time I have already spent at Marcus has been more valuable than I expected. The requirement for prior work experience means that other students are likeminded and all bring something different to the table. The lecturers have spent time in their respective industries relative to agriculture, so can relate real life experiences. The study tours help to put into perspective what we learn in the lecture room and how this relates to the 'real world'. I feel confident of gaining employment because of my time at Marcus.

**Georgia Buchholtz****Lismore VIC**

Agriculture

*Dr Alastair Mackenzie Scholarship*

I knew as soon as I arrived at the Open Day in 2015, that Marcus was the place for me. Farm Management covers everything I want to learn about production and running a business. The financial management lectures are most beneficial for me - anyone can learn to shear a sheep, but not everyone can run a successful and profitable business.

The lectures are structured well, suiting my style of learning. The overall course is jam packed but certainly worth the time and effort it takes. I much prefer this structure over other universities. The staff are always very considerate and almost always available to help. There is never a 'stupid question'. The academic buildings and residential buildings are close to each other which is great for seeking help from staff (and being on time for class!).

Marcus will surpass any other university's agricultural courses - this could be viewed as a biased opinion - however, I looked into every tiny detail of other courses before choosing Marcus Oldham. A tertiary education really pushes the boundaries of what we think agriculture is. Learning from experts in their field allows for not just learning, but questioning and developing on what is already known - giving a fresh future for agriculture.

**Margo Sullivan****Mataranka NT**

Agriculture

*The RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust (Agriculture) Scholarship*

I am from a beef cattle property producing Braham cross cattle for live export to Indonesia. It's important to back yourself and diversify your knowledge through education and keep your mind open to new ideas, so that's why I chose a tertiary education. I would like to start my own cattle stud in the Northern Territory and this course will give me the knowledge I need to set out on the right foot. I find the animal production side of the course very engaging and relevant to my plan - genetics, physiology etc.

I like the structure of the Agriculture course as it provides different ways of learning. Marcus has a great social community; everyone is from similar backgrounds and it's easy to get to know everyone; the lecturers and staff are really friendly and helpful. I love it and feel I'm getting my money's worth.



### Luke Chaplain

#### Cloncurry QLD

Agribusiness

*RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust  
(Agribusiness) Scholarship*

I heard about Marcus through friends who are graduates. I plan to start my own business and the well-structured course is broad with Animal Production and Economics being my favourite subjects. Life at Marcus is relaxed, friendly and to study here is a great investment in yourself.



### Jaime Cliff

#### Kimba, Eyre Peninsula SA

Equine Management

*Australian Equestrian Scholarship*

A tertiary qualification is important as it makes you more employable and expands your knowledge in a more tailored way. Marcus Oldham suited what I was looking for being an industry based business course. I like the small class numbers at Marcus; the business side of studies is most beneficial and if you're thinking of a career in the equine industry, then Marcus is a really good choice.



### Thomas Griggs

#### Franklin TAS

Agriculture

*Bill Ruse Memorial Scholarship*

My background is horticulture – apple, cherry and blueberry orchards. My employer, **Howard Hansen FM 94**, recommended Marcus to me. I plan to stay in the apple and cherry industry and a tertiary qualification is important, as you learn from experienced and qualified people, and potential employers know you have been taught to a certain standard.

I chose this course because it is known to be one of the best courses of its kind in the world. The structure of the course allows good one-on-one time with the well-qualified lecturers, many of whom are working in their industries. We also learn a lot from our peers and the networking and social life is great.



### Ali Kennedy-McDonald

#### Melbourne VIC

Equine Management

*Australian Thoroughbred Scholarship*

While searching online for equine related courses, Marcus provided the most hands-on course available. Also, a specific focus on racing and breeding made it even more appealing over the other courses which seemed too general and broad. I think it is important to have a tertiary qualification so that future employers can recognise you care enough about your industry to feel the need to learn and experience all that you can.

I like the way the course is structured and find the prac work and the national and international study tours very beneficial. After graduating I hope to travel and work for studs or racing stables around the world. Coming to Marcus has been one of the best things I decided to do. I've learnt so much and if you come with an open mind, you will definitely benefit from the experience.



### Kody Hall

#### Kimberley WA/NT/TAS

Agriculture

*Commonwealth Bank of Australia*

The Manager, where I worked, had employed Marcus Oldham industry placement students and that was how I heard about the College. I was accepted into law school but chose Marcus Oldham because agriculture is where I see my career developing. It's easy to learn here, due to the structure of the course. At first I was apprehensive about coming to Marcus as I hadn't spent my whole life in and around agriculture, and I didn't know anybody – however, it's such a friendly place and I quickly made many friends.



### Andrew McLeod

#### Spring Ridge NSW

Agriculture

*Agvance UNCGA Scholarship*

I believe a tertiary qualification is extremely important these days to be able to further your career. I chose this course as I have a strong passion for agriculture, especially production agriculture and I am also finding the financial subjects beneficial. There are so many positives about studying at Marcus; the courses are very relevant, the social side and contacts made with students from all over Australia, as well as the support that's available.



### Tim Houston

#### Mungindi NSW

Agriculture

*Te Mania Angus Scholarship*

Friends who are Marcus graduates recommended the College. Prior to coming to Marcus some of my work experience was gained on a canola farm in Canada. The fact that the Farm Business Management course included a whole year of practical placement appealed to me as it would allow me to gain production and theoretical knowledge. I enjoy the production systems, accounting and marketing lectures. The contact hours are great as it keeps us busy and makes it a lot easier to learn. Life here is good in that we are a small group of students with similar interests, all living together.



### Jack Bartels

#### Huon Valley TAS

Agribusiness

*Apple and Pear Australia Horizons  
(APAL) Scholarship*

The apple and cherry industry is my passion and when working for **Howard Hansen FM 94**, he recommended I study at Marcus Oldham. This course teaches me how to understand the business behind the production side. I am enjoying the economic analysis and all finance based classes. I love the opportunity to undertake work experience and the study tours are excellent.

The introduction of modern technologies in horticulture is the biggest issue at the moment. With such an intensive system, labour costs are high and new tech should negate this. Pest and quality control is also vital in maintaining a stronghold in the export markets. One thing I do know, is that my career will be in horticulture.



### Georgia White

#### Coolah NSW

Agriculture

*Ingleby Farm Management Scholarship*

Life at Marcus is almost like a family; the social life is fantastic and the students have such a lot in common. My father, **Henry White FM 88**, is a graduate and I grew up on a merino and crossbred sheep and Angus cross wagyu cattle property. In preparation for Marcus, I worked on cattle stations across the north of Australia for two years. Further education is important and a tertiary qualification is generally required for a management role, therefore, business management and accounting are essential skills.

Visiting different businesses on tours is very beneficial. The course structure is really good in that we are in lectures every day building on what learnt the day before.



### Forbes Boydell

#### Attunga NSW

Agriculture

*Hazeldean Livestock Production Scholarship*

The culture at Marcus Oldham is very warm and welcoming and I chose this course as it is well structured. I like the industry placement year. A tertiary education is important as you learn all the tools and methods of running a business before going out into the business world. Coming to Marcus is one of the best decisions I have made so far.



### Jake Taylor

#### Hamilton VIC

Agribusiness

*RMA Network Scholarship*

Many friends and some family members came through Marcus. I find the network is second to none and I've made some really good life-long friends, along with the access to leading industry professionals. Other benefits include the focus on business management as well as integrated businesses, developing analytical skills and understanding accounting methods. Several months out from graduating I had already secured a job to go to.



### Jeremy Lush

#### Keith SA

Agriculture

*Warrawidgee (Farm Management) Scholarship*

I found out about Marcus mainly by word of mouth, and also at the SE Field Days at Lucindale SA. My passion is to effectively manage my own business as efficiently and sustainably as possible. The Farm Business Management course offers teaching which will allow me to do exactly that. Tertiary education helps to fast track your knowledge in a given area, and in our case we learn, specifically, what is required to manage a farming business. We are, also exposed to businesses because of this course. I find that every lecture is highly relevant to managing a farm business and I love all of the tours. The business/numbers based lectures are the most beneficial to me, as that is the hardest to self-teach.



### William Hicks

#### Deniliquin NSW

Agriculture

*The RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust (Agriculture) Scholarship*

I believe tertiary qualifications are a must in this day and age due to the highly sophisticated management strategies used in running a business. I chose this course because of the broad spectrum of abilities I will gain from it. Ag Engineering is one of my stronger subjects as it will help in the long term, specifically with irrigation. Other aspects I consider beneficial are the financial subjects, such as tax planning and farm financial management. I like Marcus as we have six hours of lectures most days and when not on campus, we are on study tours.



### Katherine Bain

#### Stockyard Hill, VIC

Agribusiness

*Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Scholarship for Emerging Leaders*

While I enjoy working on the farm and production agriculture, I also wanted to learn about financial and marketing information and theory. The networking and applied teaching styles makes the content seem much more relevant to future jobs and careers. Marcus is a very supportive place, conducive to active learning. The intense learning structure means we get to know our classmates very well and, hopefully, the friendships will continue. After attaining my degree I plan to find a role within the Australian wool industry. For anyone not quite decided about coming to Marcus, I'd recommend working for another year until you're sure, as it's a commitment and one that is much more beneficial if you are 100% committed to it. You won't regret it.



### Grace Ives

#### Hay NSW

Agribusiness

*Warrawidgee (Agriculture) Scholarship*

I believe that in the near future entry level agricultural jobs will require a degree or qualification of some sort. Therefore, gaining a tertiary education will open the door to jobs that could, otherwise, be inaccessible.

In my first year out of school I worked in a stock camp at Legune Station in the Northern Territory, and the following year, on properties around Hay and in the UK. I heard about Marcus through the Head Stockman at Legune Station, then more from friends and graduates. I like the intensive structure of the course, and the opportunities to get work placement in industries of choice using Marcus networks as an entry point. The units I enjoy the most are Agribusiness Finance and Planning, Investment Planning and Agribusiness Economics.

When choosing a course, have a chat to previous and current students, then contact the College and get an understanding exactly of what the course will cover and the learning outcomes. This helped me really compare different Agribusiness institutions and understand what gives Marcus the upper hand.

**Nick Thomas****Wheelers Hill, Melbourne VIC**

Agriculture

*Australian Farm Management Scholarship*

I grew up in the suburbs but have always had an interest in farming and as soon as I was old enough, I began working on a friend's farm which ran crossbred and merino sheep as well as growing wheat, barley and canola in a pasture improvement rotation. It was by word of mouth that I found out about Marcus Oldham.

I hope to pursue a career in the sheep industry and chose this course because the structure was very appealing and offers the knowledge that I need for the career I want. Beneficial subjects for me are the production and financial units. Living with a likeminded group of people and the community feel of the College makes it an enjoyable place to be. I strongly recommend the course as, so far, I have learnt so much, broadened my contacts and gained knowledge of multiple agricultural industries.

**Logan Brown****Kangaroo Ground VIC**

Equine Management

*Virbac Animal Health Scholarship*

I have a passion for horses and wanted to expand my knowledge of the equine industry, and gaining that through a tertiary education will help me with my career development. I like the way the course is structured. The guest lecturers are great and having my horses on campus is wonderful. The close friendships with my group and industry contacts will assist with work and future placements. Studying Equine Management at Marcus provides a positive outcome as you learn a great deal in a small amount of time and the connections you make are unlike anywhere else. I plan to enter the Agribusiness course at Marcus after completion of the Diploma of Equine Management.

**Braden Davey****Cressy TAS**

Agriculture

*Ingleby Farm Management Scholarship*

I spent three years working on farms in New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia before entering Marcus Oldham. Because farm business management is such a complicated industry/job/lifestyle, a tertiary qualification prepares you well for making the hard decisions. I enjoy the farm financial management content of the course and the decision making tools. Strong points of the College are the lecturers being available and easy to get along with, students from all over the country and with different experiences, and the social aspect. Marcus suits me well.

**Luke Mayne****Dumaresq Valley, Bonshaw NSW**

Agriculture

*Warrawidgee (Farm Management) Scholarship*

Because I am interested in farm management and learning and developing my business knowledge/skills to use in my future endeavours, I chose the Marcus course. It is well structured and for me, the most beneficial aspect is the diversity and relevance of everything we study, and to narrow it down, definitely the Agricultural Engineering and Animal Production units.

Everyone is here for the same reason and it isn't a big and busy place. For someone thinking about coming to Marcus I suggest you come down for a look, meet some students and see what life is like here - you definitely won't regret it.

**Simon Gabb****Skipton VIC**

Agribusiness

*MPH Agriculture Scholarship*

Prior to attending Marcus Oldham I was in the agricultural sector from the West Coast to the East Coast. I then chose a tertiary education as it's a necessary requirement to gain employment and career progression within the industry, and this course improves my understanding of the agribusiness sector. I find the units all complement each other and I like the ability to learn intensively and network with the lecturers. I advise someone thinking about studying at Marcus to do it when you're completely ready, and then you will get your money's worth out of the course.

**George Murray****Spring Ridge NSW**

Agriculture

*Sunshine Foundation (Agriculture) Scholarship*

If you intend to succeed in agriculture, Marcus is the best place to start. It was by word of mouth that I learned about Marcus. I enjoy the national and international study tours and this course suited my needs and offered what I want from a tertiary education. It is well structured and we have the ability to network and work together within the class.

## Marcus Minds Weekend

**From 6pm Friday 15th to 1pm Sunday 17th June 2018.**

The Marcus Minds Weekend attracts strong interest across Australia from people who are keen to study at Marcus Oldham but not quite sure what it's all about. The free Weekend offers the opportunity to experience Marcus first-hand, by attending mini-lectures, learning from keynote speakers, interacting with graduates and current students and visiting a farm business.

Accommodation is in the Student Residences on campus. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. More details will become available on [www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au).

# Foundation News

## Investing in Our Future

It goes without saying that the new Learning Centre will be one of the most important projects the College ever undertakes. The 18 month build itself, is anticipated to be completed and in operation for the commencement of the 2020 year. The ultimate fundraising aim of the Foundation will be to raise \$5 million over the next two years. By December of this year, we hope to be very close to achieving the first million!

The College Council, together with the Foundation Executive, has been very mindful of what the campus will look like during the building phase and, more importantly, how we ensure that the 2018 and 2019 students' learning program and overall Marcus experience is not compromised.

The short answer is, very little will change. This year, students were issued with their own computer device, allowing them a more flexible, technological and transportable addition to their learning, effectively making the removal of the computer room a non-issue. Lecture Room 4, which is located in the Buckland Wing, has had a significant transformation to serve a number of needs; firstly, to provide additional technological experiences not before offered at the College, secondly, presenting students with the opportunity to test and provide invaluable input into what elements should be incorporated in the new Learning Centre spaces, and thirdly, to provide an opportunity for new students, graduates and College supporters, a working insight into what can be expected from the new Centre.

In addition, a new Student Lounge has been incorporated in the lecture rooms area of the College, providing an important base for non-residential students, whilst offering an alternate study space for all students in general.

It is such an exciting time for Marcus Oldham. This project will ensure the College has the ability to

grow and compete on an equal platform with other institutions. The Centre is a commitment to our future students, that the educational programs offered at Marcus Oldham are of a world class standard. To our graduates, this facility will allow for ongoing life learning opportunities, onsite and through digital means, from an institution that is not only credible but enhances your already existing academic credentials.

In an effort to celebrate the Centre and our 55 year graduate history, the Foundation is inviting graduate year groups the opportunity to rally together and commemorate their year on a lecture chair within the auditorium. Unlike many other educational institutions, we are mindful of not asking our alumni for financial support too often but this project is so worthy and in real need of your support. To those graduates who have already supported the "fund a chair" project, I send out a massive THANK YOU. 200 chairs at \$5,000 would secure 20% of the entire funds needed and be a wonderful way to ensure your year group is firmly stamped in both the College's history and future.

In an effort to keep you informed of the progress of The Learning Centre and indeed the "fund a chair" graduate project, a monthly E Newsletter has been formulated. We welcome any feedback you may have on the additional stories you may like to see in this space.

On a final note, I thank Megan Cole for her assistance as Foundation Officer during 2017 and welcome Gail Smaniotto to the team.

On behalf of our Foundation Chairman, **Antony Baillieu FM 71** and our dedicated Executive, I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas, and sincerely thank you for the ongoing belief you have in the College through your support of the Foundation.

**Alannah Halloran**  
*Foundation Manager*



For all Foundation enquiries please contact:  
Alannah Halloran on 03 5247 2919  
[halloran@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](mailto:halloran@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au)

To make a secure on-line donation please visit:  
[www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/donate](http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/donate)

## Stamp your history into our future

For many, your time at Marcus has been life changing.

Extraordinary memories, forever friendships, important professional networks and an education second to none!

You leave but are never strangers! That is the Marcus difference.

To celebrate our history, we are inviting our graduate network to be a part of our exciting future.

Through the "buy a chair" project, graduates and graduate year groups have the opportunity to commemorate their time at the College by placing their name on a lecture chair within the new Learning Centre.



**To be part of this project, simply complete the Giving Form included with this edition of MOCOSA.**



We need  
great minds



We need  
your support



MARCUS  
OLDHAM  
FOUNDATION



# Campus Columns



Introducing the newly appointed Foundation Officer, Gail Smaniotto. Gail will be working with the Alumni in several ways, including, if requested, assisting with information for graduate reunions.

Gail has spent most of her working life as an Events professional working on numerous events across Australia. She has managed and operated large consumer and trade exhibitions throughout Australia such as the Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide Home Shows, FoodPro, Mind Body and Spirit Festivals, Good Food Show, Fine Foods, Retail Expo and Working with Wood Exhibitions across Australia.

She has also worked in the public sector, managing major events for the City of Ballarat such as The Ballarat Begonia Festival, The Ballarat Heritage Weekend, The National Cycling Championships and several annual community events.

Gail's passion lies in specialized small boutique events where she gets to utilise her creative flair and express her love of beautiful things. She is an expert in all areas of event management from event concept through to event delivery and prides herself on her attention to detail.

Marcus Oldham has welcomed a new arrival to the Stables. 'Poppy' was born on 31 October; the Dam is 'Carine' and Sire is 'Higgins', owned by Show Jumper, Rod Brown. Our Equine Management students visit his property in the Hunter Valley NSW when on study tour. Poppy has presented the students with an opportunity to enhance their foal handling skills.



A Name the Foal competition on our Facebook page returned some inspiring suggestions. 'Poppy' was chosen to honour the Australian Light Horsemen who gallantly fought at the Battle of Beersheba 100 years earlier on 31 October 1917.

## Blyth Tait Clinic

A most anticipated annual event at Marcus Oldham is the 'Blyth Tait Clinic'. In November, Blyth, a renowned New Zealand elite horseman with international successes, conducted the Clinic for our Equine Management students and external riders. The students benefit greatly from the expert tuition delivered to them in small groups, and treasure the brilliant opportunity to learn from one of the best.



*Tara Edwards on College horse, Reuben*



*Georgina Symons*



*Jessie Herman*

## Student Parent Dinner

Last year, the inaugural Student Parent Charity Dinner was such a resounding success that the Student Body of 2017 chose to organise one for this year.

The event was held in July at Mt Duneed Winery near Geelong and the charity of the night was the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It was an extraordinarily successful event with \$15,000 raised.

Guest Speaker, Sam Bailey, is a farmer, pilot, husband and best-selling author. He has achieved all of those from a wheelchair and has an incredible ability to take an audience on the journey of his life.

Sam's talk chronicled his life, from a childhood sporting hero growing up wanting to be a farmer just like his dad, through to the day his life changed forever at the fork in a road in the Northern Territory, and its aftermath.

His story is not of sadness but rather, triumph. He talked of turning tragedy into hope and how he beat the odds to fulfil his life-long dream of being a farmer. It is an amazing story of resilience.



Despite being paralysed with only limited use of his hands and arms, and intolerance to heat and cold, he went home to the family farm against the advice of medical experts. Here he learnt to ride a four wheel motor bike which became his 'legs' around the property. He devised a hoist to lift himself into the farm machinery, and converted tractors, the harvester, front-end loader and dozer so he could drive

them. He also learnt to drive a car again, travelled overseas and even tried snow skiing.

The occasion was a perfect opportunity for parents of students to meet each other and their offspring's student friends. It was a very happy and successful evening in an interesting venue and was well supported by parents. Many had travelled big distances to take part in the weekend's festivities which continued with Sunday brunch on the College campus.



Laura Wishart FBM 3  
Student President



## It's So Easy to Shop at the Marcus Oldham Online Store

Have you purchased your copy of our 50 year history "Daring to Differ"? Available in leather bound and standard hard cover, this is a well-written account of the concept, establishment, development and milestones of Marcus Oldham College to 2012. Order via: [www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au)

Limited  
Edition



Standard  
Edition



Ties



*Editor's apology and correction:*

*In the July edition an incorrect photograph was placed with Jack Littler, 2016 Dux of the Diploma of Agribusiness.*



# The Network

## Engagements

**James Crossle Agribus 07** lives in Port Macquarie NSW and in August 2017 became engaged to Lorien Jackson. Their Wedding Day is planned for 20 January 2018, with the occasion to be held at The Old Butter Factory, Telegraph Point on the North Coast of NSW.

jamescrossle@hotmail.com

## Marriages

**Brett Stockings Agribus 17** married Rachel Heywood, on 25 March 2017 in Narromine NSW. They currently reside in Dubbo NSW. Brett is employed by Fletchers and is responsible for the sales and marketing for the Middle East and North Africa regions and spends three months of the year over there.

brettS@fletchint.com.au



**Ryan Johnston Agribus 14** on 11 March this year married Anna Deery at Lazy River Estate in Dubbo, NSW. Numerous Marcus Oldham friends were guests. Anna, from Bell QLD, is a senior tax accountant with Crowe Horwath in Dubbo. Ryan is currently living and working on the family farm at Geurie NSW after recently finishing up a career as a Stock and Station agent with Landmark. His father, **Kent Johnston**, is a **FM 77** graduate.

komoora124@hotmail.com



**Cherie Johnson FBM 13** and **George Pagan FBM 12** were married on 25 February 2017. The Armatree Hotel, Armatree NSW was the venue for the Ceremony and Reception. Marcus student, **Stuart Tait FBM 13** was Best Man and **Rendall Groat FBM 12** a Groomsman. Guests included **Alex FBM 12** and **Alex Norman Purcell Agribus 15**, **Rob Sizer FBM 13**, **Archie Fletcher FBM 14**, **Henry FBM 16** and **Rosie Moxham McClymont FBM 13**.  
[georgedpagan@gmail.com](mailto:georgedpagan@gmail.com) [cheriejohnson@live.com.au](mailto:cheriejohnson@live.com.au)

## Births



**Jessica Bauer Green Agribus 13** and husband, Nathan Bauer, happily welcomed their daughter, Zoe Sarah Bauer, to their family on the 22 June 2017



**Jim Maitland FBM 06** and Katherine, were delighted at the arrival of their son on 6 August 2017 at 7.58am. William David Maitland weighed in at 3.48kg and measured 50cm.  
[jim.maitland@pangkarrafoods.com.au](mailto:jim.maitland@pangkarrafoods.com.au)



**Travers Pickmere FMB 06** and his wife, Toni, welcomed a little girl, Jemima, born nearly six weeks premature in November 2016, so they spent a considerable amount of time in hospital in Adelaide.

Earlier in his career and upon returning from a 1.5 year stint in Europe working on a farm, Travers came back to Australia looking for a change and in January 2010 accepted a role in sales with South Pacific Seeds in Adelaide (a vegetable seed distribution company). Working closely with Vietnamese and Cambodian greenhouse growers, he was in charge of trialling and promoting new varieties of vegetable seed, bred for greenhouse and field production.

Travelling to the USA, Spain and Holland numerous times, Travers selected new material to bring back to the Australian market. The scale there is huge compared to the Australian market and a big eye opener to how hybrid seed production is conducted.

In May this year, Travers and Toni decided to move closer to family and made the move to Griffith NSW. Still with South Pacific Seeds, Travers covers the Riverina/Swan Hill and Mildura areas. Main crops he works in include: rockmelon, zucchini, spinach, broccoli, pumpkin and lettuce.

[travers.pickmere@spseed.com.au](mailto:travers.pickmere@spseed.com.au)

## Deaths

Major Ian Barnes, known to all as 'The Major' in his role as Catering and Accommodation Manager at Marcus Oldham, died on the 25 August 2017 aged 90. The Major retired in 1992. In 2009, Major Ian Barnes was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for Service to Veterans.

## Marcus All Over

**Stephen Holding FBM 93 & 06** advises there is a closed Facebook page for **Marcus Oldham Graduates of 1993**. Membership is open to graduates (and their partners) of Farm Business Management, Agribusiness Administration and Horse Management. The page is administered by Stephen, Rolf Mitchell and Scott Davidson.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MarcusOldhamGraduatesof1993/>

Stephen is Business Manager at Field Air Group of Companies in Ballarat VIC. [admin@fieldair.com.au](mailto:admin@fieldair.com.au)

**Dean Harvey HBM 99** manages his own equine business 'Baystone Farm' on his property at Gnarwarre, near Geelong, where he is breeding approximately 25 mares. [dean@baystonefarm.com.au](mailto:dean@baystonefarm.com.au)

**Julian White FM 97** completed a Graduate Certificate in Ag Consulting at UNE in Armidale NSW. He owns and manages a fertiliser supply business - Fertile Farm, based in Gunnedah NSW. Julian also is an accredited advisor with Ferticare. [info@fertilefarm.com.au](mailto:info@fertilefarm.com.au)  
[www.fertilefarm.com.au](http://www.fertilefarm.com.au)

**Peter Roffey FM 74** has worked with poultry for 33 years and is currently a Supervisor at Inghams Group Ltd. Prior to this job, Peter has worked at Mutooroo Station near Broken Hill and on his own farm property at Merton NE VIC. Peter and Kay live at Mt Martha VIC and have three children, Katelyn, Nicholas and Timothy.



**Jim Blain Agribus 14** has finished a fencing contract in the Northern Territory and he and fencing partner, Wally Nielsen, are currently doing big kilometres of fencing in the western districts of Northern NSW. He is always happy to provide a quote.

[jimbo\\_blain@hotmail.com](mailto:jimbo_blain@hotmail.com)

Frontline Contracting 0410 264 160

**Rodney Caldwell HBM 84** is a livestock agent with his own business in conjunction with Elders Ltd. He's not entirely out of the Standardbred racing scene as he has three or four pacers in work at any given time. Rodney, Michaela and their twins, Sebastian and India 11, live near Kyabram VIC.

**Andrew Urquhart FM 75** with his wife, Tinks, lives at the beautiful seaside village of Barwon Heads near Geelong.  
[aurquhart2@bigpond.com](mailto:aurquhart2@bigpond.com)

**Don Deelen FM 64** is a farmer-grazier near Alexandra VIC. He increased the farm size from 700 acres to 3000 acres and ran cattle and sheep, however, currently focusses on cows and calves. Don and Elizabeth have four children, Lisa, Nicole, Michelle and David.  
[elizabeth.deelen@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.deelen@gmail.com)

**Don Fearon FM 72**, since leaving Marcus, spent 39 years farming at Molong NSW. He recently retired and he and Suzie are enjoying life at Palm Beach NSW.  
[copperhill@bigpond.com](mailto:copperhill@bigpond.com)

**Andy Nicholls FM 69** and Colleen have moved and are happily settled in their new retirement home in Murray Bridge SA.  
[a.ursc@bigpond.com](mailto:a.ursc@bigpond.com) 0411 632 931

**Guy Robertson FBM 07** married Katrina Amor and their children are Jock, George and Lucy. Guy is a Livestock and Real Estate agent for TDC (Thomas DeGaris and Clarkson), based near Hamilton VIC.  
[g.robertson@tdcpenola.com.au](mailto:g.robertson@tdcpenola.com.au)

**Andrew Mein FM 70** has had an interesting career which includes six years as a grazier at Hay NSW, farming in Benalla VIC for eight years; then changed direction to become a farm merchandise retailer in Benalla for ten years. He took up a new opportunity as Representative and National Sales Manager at C.O. White Pty Ltd (baby products) in Melbourne for 12 years and this led to becoming an agent for ADM Agencies (baby products) in Brisbane for 17 years. Andrew and Deirdre live in Woody Point Qld.  
[ADMAgencies@bigpond.com](mailto:ADMAgencies@bigpond.com)



**Hayden Maher FBM 01** lives in the Clare Valley SA. His wife, Kelly, is a Vet Surgeon and they have three children. Hayden is Waratah Fencing Area Manager for Northern South Australia and Broken Hill. He travelled to Cambodia in early 2017 to volunteer for the charity, "Cows for Cambodia" to install fences on their farm, and headed back in November to help out again!  
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#### **Malcolm Cleland FM 68** *Old Dog New Tricks*

*Old Dog:* After 35 years in Tasmania, Jo and I sold our farm in 2004 and moved to Melbourne, with a bolt hole of 500 acres 100kms north of the city. Our already established consultancy has kept us busy and I have specialised in providing advice to corporate agriculture, with special skills in the MIS sector. This has involved a lot of work on behalf of investors as this sector has rationalised. I note that 'finance' does not understand agriculture well and visa versa. There is a lot of work to do to bridge this gap and it is the farming sector that must learn to speak the language of investment. After all - he who pays the piper calls the tune.

*New Tricks:* Being accredited by ASIC as having the requisite skills in forestry, in 2007 I was appointed to supervise an African Mahogany plantation investment with plantings in Cape York and the Douglas Daley in the NT. The 1,000ha, planted between 2004 and 2009 spearheaded the commercialisation of this species. There are now about 14,000ha planted, mostly in the Douglas Daley.

The species *Khaya Senegalensis* is now seldom seen in its native dry tropical Africa, and Australian growers hold breeding lines of more than 50 provinces, many probably extinct in their native land.

These plantations are believed to be the first significant commercial plantings of African Mahogany, and the culture of the species and its processing are breaking entirely new ground. The species is proving to be robust and well suited to Australian conditions in the 1700 to 1900mm rainfall dry tropical areas of north Australia. Like eucalypts, it is quite fire tolerant and an excellent scavenger of available soil moisture. It is probable that the species will find a place in the northern forestry industry and I believe it has a great deal to offer as an

agri-forestry enterprise where cattle can be run under an established tree crop.

Soil erosion in the dry tropics is an issue, and as stocking rates rise with the addition of new waters and fencing, it will become a significant issue. African Mahogany appears to be especially well suited to soil stabilisation and I anticipate the species being planted to counter this problem. [m.cleland@bigpond.com](mailto:m.cleland@bigpond.com)

**David Palmer FM 72** stood down in 2011 after 17 years with Meat and Livestock Australia. He has embarked on a career as a company director, with the odd consultancy. David currently sits on the Boards of Animal Health Australia, the Centre for Invasive Species and Solutions, the Greater Sydney Local Land Services and the NSW Rural Assistance Authority. Board work is very rewarding as he witnesses company growth and renewed purpose matched by a culture critical to the success of any entity. [soapyflatroad@bigpond.com](mailto:soapyflatroad@bigpond.com)



**Graham Brown FM 65** after graduating, returned to the family wool and beef grazing property south of Orange NSW. Development ramped up and land acquisition assisted in keeping the young “Turk” occupied when not chasing flies and weeds. Fertilizer history (super and sub) had been significant in the Tablelands during 1950/60s hence nitrophilous weed incursions led to phalaris establishment to control broad leaf weeds.

In 1976 the Browns embarked on a major re-sow using aerial spray techniques to establish phalaris on hill country – this program continued as and when funds became available.

Management changes due to his father’s death in 1977 brought the work force to two permanents, and casuals as needed, often engaging agricultural college students to provide experience for their assessment certificates.

The 1979-83 major drought necessitated a contraction in stock numbers. All cattle were sold and the sheep flock was one-third of normal numbers. Post drought,

there was a rebuild of the herd and flock and the introduction of an additional commodity “prime lamb” operation for urgent cash flow.

A rebuild project was needed after the 1985 bush fire and the focus was on stock loss, mostly prime lambs, fences and tree lanes.

Exploration for gold and copper had, for many decades, been a “burr under the saddle”. Eventually, in 1996 the property was sold to Newcrest Mining for their Cadia Hill/Ridgeway project and Graham and Annette downsized to a lifestyle block closer to Orange where they run a small herd of the neighbour’s cattle and travel internationally. With family dispersed around the country, there are regular catch-ups with grandchildren and intermittent advocating for farmers’ organisations.

Graham was instrumental in compiling an oral history book of the Cadia district (sponsored by Newcrest Mining) as much of the oral history was being lost by attrition. A project well worth the effort.

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**Sarah Halleen FBM 2015.** Since graduating, moving forward has been full of adventures, mishaps and many achievements. With graduation done it was time to commence the emotional event of destocking and moving out of their cattle property in WA. With numerous laughs, a slight Royal Flying Doctor run (wire and motorbikes don’t mix apparently), the time was getting closer for her to look for work.

After coming back to Marcus in 2016 for 4th Year intensives, she came across one of her lecturers from the previous year at, and she quotes, “his watering hole”. He offered to help her with finding work which included a possible opportunity with the company he works with.

The annual, and can’t be missed, event of the year the ‘Marcus Races’ came around. This also brought the opportunity to discuss work options with her lecturer which turned out not to be the path she wanted. However, it did point Sarah in the direction of David Goodfellow a former lecturer, who graciously caught up with her for coffee the Saturday morning of the Races.

Returning home to the mustering, Sarah received a phone call a couple of months later - Rifa Salutory Pastoral Company had offered her the Livestock Administration Officer’s position starting October 2016.

This brought her to live on Middlebrook Park, 40kms east of Tamworth NSW. Rifa Salutory Pastoral Company owns three cattle producing properties in various areas in NSW as well as two properties in Victoria.

Fast becoming one of the largest Black Angus producers, they have plenty to handle to keep the ball rolling. With two breeding properties out of the three, Sarah’s main role is to ensure stock are scanned, recorded, marked and all property NLIS databases are up to scratch. With pregnancy, weaning and calf marking occurring at different times between the two, she’s kept busy travelling and making sure all numbers are in order. The best part is the opportunity to work both in and out of the office on all three properties that are completely different from each other. Sarah’s second home, Cooplacurripa Station, is locally known as “proper goat country” just to put some thought into the reader’s imagination.

Having been with the Company for just over a year, her role has expanded along with some of the properties. With each opportunity to try a new challenge and role, her experience, knowledge and previous studies get put to the test. Having more involvement with the studs' genetic improvements a growing interest and passion continues to thrive with the latest drop, making her a proud mum (almost).

Sarah has more opportunity to work with the managers on each property to ensure all monthly stock reconciliations are on par for head office. With the Company maintaining its strong attitude towards Occupational Health and Safety, her role also includes secretary for monthly toolbox meetings.

With technology, the industry and future advantages are advancing rapidly and so is the Company, with the possibility of moving forward innovation-wise, looking very promising. Sarah is looking forward to having more input in the Company which, in the future, could offer a chance to have a positive input to the cattle industry itself. [sarah.h@rifa.com.au](mailto:sarah.h@rifa.com.au)



*John with partner, Mary, and friend, Catherine Marriot, near the Mongolian/Russian border during a horse riding trip.*

**John Rymill FBM 00** after nearly a decade running the family Rymill Coonawarra winery in South Australia, retired at the end of last year when the family decided to sell the business. The retirement is temporary. He is still living in Penola and has enjoyed quite a bit of travel this year, including a month in Mongolia where he celebrated his 40th Birthday.

John's more recent achievements include winning the inaugural Bloke's Chocolate Cake Challenge at the Penola Show, and planning another trip to Tassie. [john.rymill@outlook.com](mailto:john.rymill@outlook.com)

**Mike FM 86** and **Libby Pickard Webber HM 84** are living in Goondiwindi QLD. Mike worked for a large Ag Machinery Sales and Service Dealership for nine years after having open heart surgery at 43yo. He is now a Sales Rep for "Farm Tender" an online buying and selling platform for Farmers and Ag related businesses to "buy and sell farm stuff". They have a national database of 24,000 members.

Their children have both played Representative Rugby at State level. Matilda is playing Girls Rugby 7s and Declan's sport is Rugby Union.

[Tildec1963@outlook.com](mailto:Tildec1963@outlook.com)

[www.farmtender.com.au](http://www.farmtender.com.au)



**Tim McGavin Agribus 94**

lives on the Sunshine Coast QLD with his wife, Suzy, and 9 year old son, Monty. Tim is co-founder and CEO of Laguna Bay, an agricultural fund with around \$700M under management. Laguna Bay is predominantly a farmland investor but can invest both up and down stream, into equities or debt

and across any agricultural sector in Australia and New Zealand. Laguna Bay has discretionary capital to deploy in a unique structure specifically designed to accommodate the vagaries of agriculture and can operate a variety of strategies from own and operate, joint venture with top operators and buy and lease back. Laguna Bay employs six Marcus alumni and is always looking for good operators and good deals.

Tim retains ownership of a variety of agricultural investments and is also Chairman and a major shareholder in a renewable energy business, LGI which is due to list on the ASX by mid-2018. LGI's core business is the extraction of landfill gas and its conversion into base load, dispatchable renewable energy. The Company has also committed to a strategy of building, owning and operating off-grid solar solutions to complement existing generation facilities and for third party power users.

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**Laurie HM 80** and **Ailsa Paltridge Macaulay HM 80.**

Laurie is a farrier living at Tower Hill near Warrnambool VIC, mainly shoeing racehorses as Warrnambool has become quite a big training centre.

Laurie is a cyclist - racing his bike in the Masters category. He has recently returned from competing at the World Championships in Albi in France and was 'pretty chuffed' to have worn the Aussie colours in two different sporting fields: horse racing (Jumps Jockey) and now cycling.

Ailsa surfs most mornings before work and has had a change in jobs - from being a Paramedic (she went back to Uni when their boys finished school), to Patient Transport with NPT. Their last horse went to horse heaven at the start of the year which was quite sad as Laurie rode him in all his races, and their sons did all their Pony Club activities on him. Their twin sons are now adults. That special horse was a part of the family and, for the first time in their their lives, they don't have a horse.

[paltridge44@bigpond.com](mailto:paltridge44@bigpond.com)

**Jesse Moody Agribus 15** earlier this year, was invited to sit on the State Advisory Panel of an organisation called 'Leading Sheep'. This collaborative group includes the Queensland Government, Australian Wool Innovation and Agforce (a member of the National Farmers Federation). Fellow panellists include: two other producers, two Agforce representatives, a youth

representative, two government representatives and two industry (AWI) representatives. Jesse was humbled to be asked and accepted the position.

The pro-active group works closely with all sheep and wool businesses in the State, promoting new technologies, skills and general knowledge with the aim of improving the industry in Queensland.

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www.leadingsheep.com.au



**Doug Stewart FM 65** retired to Warrnambool VIC in February 2016. His son, **Lachie Stewart FM 96**, is managing the family farm at Kingston SE SA. A happy photo of a recent clan gathering.

dougcherrita@hotmail.com

lachiestewart@hotmail.com

#### **Warwick Fisher FM 73**

After 40 years living in the Tamworth district in NSW and having established ourselves on the property "Springdale" at Guyra, it was time to take a step back from the intensity and stress of agriculture and hand over the reins of the operation to **Jamie Wright FM 93** with the greatest of confidence in his integrity, skills and abilities. Megan and I decided a lifestyle change was due and so we moved to live in Port Macquarie in 2013. The decision turned out to be the right one for us and has opened the door to a new world of opportunities and lifestyle.

I still have investment in agriculture but have turned my attention to my life sporting passion of rowing. After 43 years out of the boat I began rowing again at Port Macquarie Rowing Club in 2013. I went on to gain my Level 1 coaching accreditation, joined Tattersalls Rowing Club in Brisbane to race with that Club at the World Masters Games at Karapiro, New Zealand in April this year. I have recently moved to join and race with the Mosman Rowing Club in Sydney, while still maintaining associate memberships with Port Macquarie and Tattersalls Rowing Clubs.

A chance meeting with a fellow rowing enthusiast at a coaching conference on the Gold Coast has led to a new business opportunity developing innovative sports technologies based primarily around rowing. We expect to launch the first of our all Australian rowing solutions onto the global market in early 2018, for those who are interested, and I know there are many Marcus graduates who row or rowed, even at College. [www.oarinspired.com](http://www.oarinspired.com) [warwick@oarinspired.com](mailto:warwick@oarinspired.com)



*David, and Sasha who caught the fish!*

**David Humble FM 87** lives in Adelaide SA, has been married to his beautiful wife, Vanessa, for 16 years and they have two terrific children, Sam 7 and Sasha 10. For the past 15 years David has been a Private Client Adviser at the stockbroking firm, Bell Potter Securities. This has been an incredibly rewarding experience in helping Australian investors protect and grow their wealth, and he has created some wonderful friendships along the way.

David has developed a strong interest in Agribusiness, working alongside primary producers to become more engaged with their end users. This is an incredibly exciting space, given the influence of globalisation, digitisation and disruption.

For the past few years, he has been fishing at Victor Harbor SA for world-class tuna, and has been known to take along the odd Marcus Oldham alumnus!

[dhumble@bellpotter.com.au](mailto:dhumble@bellpotter.com.au)



*Jenny and 'Smurf' at 2016 NSW CDE Championships*

**Jenny Begg HM 80** had a big move after 27 years, when she left the lovely High Country to take up 10 acres in the very flat area of Murray Valley. Loving her new passion for harness driving ponies, being on this side of Victoria will make it a lot easier to attend competitions and have somewhere flat to work her ponies.

At the 2016 NSW CDE Championships, Jenny and Smurf won the Perpetual Trophy for Best Conditioned Horse or Pony. Jenny was thrilled as it was her first CDE, and 18yo Smurf was the oldest equine competing.

[jenbegg@bigpond.com](mailto:jenbegg@bigpond.com)

**Will Holmes FBM 98** lives on the family property in the Barossa Valley SA, where they grow wine grapes and run a vineyard management and contracting business. Will is married to Lisa and their three children are Tom 9 and twins Alice and Claire 6. Will is currently the Barossa and Light Team Coordinator for the "Fat Farmers", which is a rural health initiative in South Australia to keep anyone in a rural related industry fit and aware of mental fatigue.  
will@woodbridgefarm.com

**Eliza Hart EM 14** worked with Thoroughbreds at Chatswood Stud, Arrowfield Stud, and Blue Gum Farm (with **Chris Kent, HBM 10**). This involved yearling preps for Magic Millions, Classics, Easter, Premier, Vobis and Great Southern sales across the Gold Coast, New South Wales and Victoria. It also gave her the opportunity to gain knowledge in the foaling aspects of large scale studs, as well as administering first aid equine treatments to young stock.

More recently, Eliza decided to take a semi career change. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Exercise & Sport Science at Deakin University Waurn Ponds campus and majoring in Psychology. She is studying with aspirations of aiding apprentice jockeys with their strength and conditioning program.

Eliza is still working in yearling prep/sales. During the Christmas holidays, she'll be preparing entries for the 2018 Melbourne Premier and Adelaide Vobis Sales, working with Sinead Hughes at Sunhill Bloodstock in Lancefield VIC.  
elizaah94@hotmail.com

## Editor's Memo



It is unusual for the MOCOSA Magazine to be published so close to the end of the year and next year it will revert to its usual schedule – April and October. The mid-year edition announcing the excitement of the new Learning Centre would have given you a superb insight into the imminent change to the campus.

Graduates are responding to the campaign to secure funding for this beautifully designed structure which will be modern, enhanced with tasteful décor and offering the technology to connect students and staff with experts, industry leaders, producers, alumni, and the skilled and elite from the equine world, around the nation and internationally.

I encourage you to consider being a part of this milestone in the College's future.

Because you'll receive this Magazine just prior to Christmas, it gives me the opportunity to wish you all the blessings and joys of the season, coupled with my very best wishes for a rewarding 2018.

**Janet Craigie-McConnell**  
Editor

## Scholarship Program

Marcus Oldham thanks, most warmly, all supporters of our Scholarship and Bursary Program. This valuable Program is attractive to many aspiring students and it is attractive to individuals, corporations and philanthropic organisations who wish to support eager and passionate young people seeking an excellent education for a sound start to their career.

With scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 the recipients benefit enormously from these scholarships for tuition or residential fees. To date, 21 students have received scholarships towards their 2018 studies.



We are delighted to announce a new scholarship to our Program: the Mutooroo Pastoral Company Scholarship valued at \$15,000. This worthy scholarship is offered to students planning to study the Marcus Oldham Agriculture Program.

Mutooroo Pastoral Company consists of five stations located in the North East Pastoral Zone of South Australia: Mutooroo Station, Mulyungarie Station, Lilydale Station, Manunda Station and Quinyambie Station. The approximate total property size is 24,281km<sup>2</sup>. It is a sheep and cattle enterprise which also manages its own stud sheep operation.

Mutooroo Pastoral Company is operated by the Morgan/Wells families, all direct descendants of Peter Waite, who opened up the north-east pastoral runs in South Australia.

### External Scholarships

Marcus Oldham students also apply for scholarships not managed by the Marcus Oldham Program, and this year we congratulate six students who were successful in achieving such scholarships:

#### CAS Hawker Scholarship

MacKinlay Cookson, Borambola NSW Agribusiness

#### Rural Bank

James Kirkpatrick, Beaufort VIC Agriculture

#### Rural Bank

Alexandra Mulcahy, Kyvalley VIC Agriculture

#### RIRDC – Horizon

Katherine Bain, Stockyard Hill VIC Agribusiness

#### Rob Ashman Memorial

Darcie Yeend, Gibson WA Agribusiness

#### BBM Youth Support

Dayna Grey, Sheffield TAS Agribusiness

**Janet Craigie-McConnell**  
Scholarship Co-ordinator

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