



MOCOSA

M A G A Z I N E

Marcus Oldham College Old Students Association

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Graduate of Excellence 2017



Principal's Perspective



agriculture as an occupation into the future, will be jobs.

Marcus Oldham College recently conducted a closer than usual analysis of where graduates in agriculture and agribusiness have found employment. While a large number go into production agriculture, another significant group has gone into banking, finance and accounting and a further portion has found jobs in commodity trading. Other graduates are in management, marketing, consulting or their own business. The common thread among these employment destinations is that they are all focused on the support of Australia's agricultural industries, either at the production end or the business end. Another common thread is that jobs are plentiful and graduates are having no problem finding them.

The challenge for Marcus Oldham now, and into the future, will be to ensure our graduates not only obtain good jobs upon graduation, but to ensure they out perform in the workplace, graduates of other tertiary institutions. We often hear that Marcus graduates do well in the workplace because they have the practical skills and can apply the theory to real life situations. The pre-entry employment experience Marcus students are required to have and the practical year of work in the Farm Business Management program are so important in achieving successful employment outcomes.

Just as important, is for the College to keep at the forefront of teaching and learning methods and technologies and to provide students with the best educational facilities. As alumni, you would be aware of the College's progress toward the construction of our new Learning Centre. Commencement of this building project will be in June this year with a completion date set for the end of 2019. The Learning Centre represents the heightened aspirations of the College and signifies, in the strongest possible way, its commitment to its future as a leading educational institution.

If you are travelling through Geelong, feel free to call into the campus and see the changes that are being made.

Dr Simon Livingstone
Principal

The year has commenced with a solid student enrolment across all the College's educational programs. This is reflective due, in part, to farmers receiving solid prices for most commodity groups and a strong feeling of optimism in the sector.

There are a number of factors at play. First, it seems that agriculture is being viewed by the wider population as increasingly important. The issue of food supply and quality, is becoming more important to consumers. Second, investors are prepared to back the sector through financial markets. Agricultural investments on the Australian stock market such as a2 Milk, Costa Group and Treasury Wine Estate, as examples, are proving to be some of the best movers and wealth creators. Corporate investment in agriculture is also on the rise with significant interest in the purchase of farming operations.

Third, more young people are becoming interested in a career in agriculture. A few years ago, I wrote about the decline in agricultural enrolments at universities in Australia. The problem was that only a small number of school children saw agriculture as an attractive career choice. A review of agriculture education in 2013 found that students studying agriculture at many schools were viewed by their non-agriculture student peers as being second class.

In some cases, they were given derogatory nicknames which reflected the lack of respect from others for their choice of study. It was clear at that time, that agriculture had an image problem. The reality was, many young people didn't realise that modern farming and the broader agricultural sector could provide highly professional occupations.

Australian agriculture is a highly skilled sector with 70 percent of the industry working as managers, administrators or professionals

But things appear to be changing and an increasingly positive image of our sector is developing.

A federal government paper acknowledged the professionalism that is required, stating that Australian agriculture is a highly skilled sector with 70 percent of the industry working as managers, administrators or professionals - compared to 40 percent for the national average. Another consistent factor which will enhance the attractiveness of

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From the President's Desk



G'day. It is with a lot of pride and a certain amount of nervousness that I take on the role of President of MOCOSA. Pride, in that I have a part to play in the legacy of the Old Students Association created on 9 April 1964 when Max Holmes was elected as Chair, and nervousness in that I am walking in the footsteps of many great contributors to Marcus Oldham.

None of these have, arguably, done as much for MOCOSA and Marcus in general, than the Immediate Past President, James Bufton. 'Buff' as he is known, has served for nearly 18 years and during his tenure oversaw MOCOSA involvement in the following events/initiatives: 40th and 50th Anniversary Celebrations, publishing of the College 50 Year History *Daring to Differ*, Call a Marcus Mate, Buy a Bedroom scheme, Recreational Hub, Horse Float upgrade and Graduation awards, just to name a few. Just as importantly, James has been the Past Students' conduit to the College Council where he has vigorously championed views of the Alumni. So *"Good Luck with your projects"* Buff and I'm sure you will continue to contribute to all things Marcus Oldham.

A little bit about myself: I am a 1983 Farm Management graduate ("Flemcutters" for those years that had year names!!) after travelling to "The Mainland" from Tasmania 37 years ago. Since then, I have farmed on Kangaroo Island and Naracoorte in South Australia, then South Gippsland, and spent a long period in the wool industry. Most recently, I have managed the South East of Australia for a large animal pharmaceutical company.

During this entire time, it has been amazing how wide and varied the reach of Marcus has been. Almost every week I have met or spoken to a MOCOSA Member, be it socially or professionally. To say Marcus punches above its weight in terms of influence, is an understatement!

Without wishing to labour the point, this influence stems from Marcus' ability to produce graduates that are passionate and well-trained in all things agriculture and equine. Marcus has done that by being innovative and indeed, by 'Daring to Differ'. I understand Past Students don't want to be constantly prodded to assist with College fund-raising, but for Marcus' place to be secured as the pre-eminent agricultural and horse industry learning institute in Australia and not go the way of Glenormiston and several other colleges, we need facilities to keep us at the forefront. Make no mistake, after years of agriculture being a poor cousin at universities, they are now coming for us, as agriculture becomes the #1 exporter from these shores. Please assist the Foundation if you can.

MOCOSA is looking at ways to extend our reach with a view to organise other social gatherings of the Alumni and Friends of the College.

Past Students will have the opportunity to find out what's going on at Marcus (and to have a cleansing ale or two) at Agfest in Tassie from 3-5 May and Rockhampton for Beef Week from 6-12 May. Of course, the annual Sheepvention Drinks occasion in Hamilton on 6 August is always well attended.

MOCOSA is looking at ways to extend our reach with a view to organise other social gatherings of the Alumni and Friends of the College and would welcome any

feedback or ideas that graduates may have.

With recent flooding in the north and bushfires in the south of our country, it is timely to reflect that, despite reasonable seasons and great commodity prices across most sectors, Mother Nature always has a way to spoil the party. My eldest son has just returned from shooting sheep in the Western District and that brings considerable financial and mental pressure, so don't forget to ***Call a Marcus Mate*** and check how their lives are going. This initiative will be re-booted in the back half of the year, and along with the Foundation Cocktail Party on 24 May at Southbank in Melbourne with Guest Speaker, Jeff Kennett AC, you can be assured that mental health issues will remain at the forefront of MOCOSA's priorities.

In the meantime, look out for the re-launch of the College website, with an updated Alumni link, as well as a MOCOSA closed Facebook group. Both will be designed for Past Students to interact and communicate more easily with Year Groups and Marcus. My mobile and email address are below, so please contact me with any suggestions or questions. If I can't help, I will find the person who can.

All the best and here's looking forward to a great winter season wherever you may live.

Cheers!

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



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Graduate of Excellence 2017

Jim Riordan

Farm Management 1993

The many roads to his dream

For a man who for two years after graduating from Marcus Oldham, was involved in the establishment of Australia's largest free-range piggery near Geelong - to be watching a 40,000 tonne ship sail from the Geelong docks in February 2017, carrying 23,000t of feed barley loaded under the name of his own business, Riordan Grain Services, surely has a tale behind it.

Spurred on by the desire to work for himself and with an understanding of, and contacts in the feed grain industry, Jim Riordan bought a truck. He managed his embryonic business from home, transporting grain to and from destinations including Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide. Eighteen months later, he wrote a business plan and acquired sheds at Lara near Geelong in 1997.

From the Geelong base, and to maximise economies of truck usage, Jim added cartage of fertiliser to Wagga Wagga and other New South Wales locations from 5,000t stored on site. Sales of fertiliser were an additional service to the customer base he had built up.

Fortuitously, Lara Silos came up for sale in 1998 and was purchased by the family group and Riordan Grain Services leased the site until purchasing it outright in 2007.

In the late 90s, Jim was approached by International Malting Company Australia (IMCA - now called Malteurop) with a request to store 2,500t of malt barley at Lara. This provided an opportunity to supply and purchase more grain in a geographical spread for IMCA and by 2004, Riordan Grain Services was storing 50,000t of malt barley for IMCA in 18 locations. In time, other grains and other business were added. As the business progressed, and with a very able team working with him, more customers led to more



freight, more storage, and a more sustainable business base.

Main customers for grain sales comprising barley, wheat, canola, faba beans and cottonseed include:

- Malt Houses
- Domestic Market
- Export Container Market
- Export Bulk Vessels (FOB)
- In total, 750,000t annually of grain business.

The business now employs over 100 personnel, has a wide and diverse network of growers and customer connections. The Storage Division has a capacity of 250,000t and there are 50,000sq mts of floor space for imported products.

The Transport Division of the business, in addition to the 750,000t of grain, includes

fertiliser, lime, gypsum and ship-to-shore transport of a further 600,000t per annum.

From one (second-hand!) prime mover in 1996, the fleet now comprises 8 B-doubles, 8 Q-Dogs, and 8 single trailers. Additionally 70+ sub-contractors are contracted to Riordan Grain Services. The latest addition to the fleet of the red 'Riordan' trucks is the new design truck combination: the Kenworth Model 610 SAR which has tri-axes on the truck and a 5 axle dog trailer with a net payload of 47t. This latest acquisition gives Riordan Grain Services approximately 3t more than the current B-double fleet. In these, and other ways, Jim is always keen to add efficiencies of scale to the business.

A major development in 2017 was the design and management of a

bulk ship loading facility in Geelong, and now at Portland Victoria, where, as at April 2018, 15 ships with more than 350,000t of grain have been loaded (working 24/7) for export to overseas customers.

What is behind the success of Riordan Grain Services? Jim looks for trained and skilled staff who have a passion for agriculture; he employs the latest innovations, systems and invests in technology; and he knows his market. Riordan Grain Services has become a trusted name and is an employer of choice – a place where people want to work.

Jim enjoys having a skilled team around him and staff are encouraged to undertake training courses, e.g. supervisory training. He is mentor for the management group of four-five key personnel who have the authority to hire and fire.

The company has six key values which employees sign on to: Commitment, Safety and Wellbeing, Innovation and Drive, Respect, Communication, and Community. These values are continually reinforced with staff.

The business accounts are reported on weekly, rather than monthly, as cash flow and profit and loss accounts can be better monitored in real time. External specific professional advice is a valued tool which the business utilizes as and when required.

The main thrust in achieving all of this? Jim, as Managing Director, is not afraid of hard and dedicated work and in this regard he leads by example!

He is excited that Agriculture has again become THE exciting industry for young graduates to be stepping into.

Jim gives credit to his Marcus Oldham education, which included learning the ability to undertake research and collate information, to understand gross margins, profit and loss accounts and a balance sheet. He values his Marcus Oldham network, among them poultry and pig industry contacts who utilise his grain, and also notes there is a trend to on-farm storage.

He is excited that Agriculture has again become THE exciting

industry for young graduates to be stepping into.

Adding a diversification to his business has been the purchase of 300,000ac of Broken Hill country owned in a partnership which includes his brother, **Paul Riordan FM 95**. This comprises a goat operation for 15-20,000 breeding goats (20-25,000 goats – kids) per annum.

Certainly he thanks his co-owners and advisory board members, known to the College. His Father, Robert Riordan, **Bruce Wilson FM 71** and Michael Dowling AM for their advice and help in moulding the business over the past 18 years.

Jim and his wife, Kate, have a family of four daughters, and Jim warmly acknowledges that he could not have grown and consolidated his business arms without the steady and strong support of Kate, who keeps the domestic scene in good order during his long stints away from home as he continues to develop the business.

There is no doubt that Jim Riordan loves, lives and breathes grain trucks 24/7.

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Big Broken Hill country: Ian Field, Manager Big Ampy Pastoral, Jim Riordan, Michael Dowling AM, Investor and Council Member

Bryan Carlson

Horse Business Management 2004

Exciting achievements in the Thoroughbred Industry



Most members of the Thoroughbred bloodstock fraternity consider themselves lucky if they are ever associated with just one coveted Golden Slipper winner in their lifetime. However, Marcus Oldham graduate, Bryan Carlson can now proudly lay claim to being instrumental in the purchase of two in very recent time.

In just five short years, Bryan has provided valuable input into the purchase of Mossfun as a yearling before her Golden Slipper success in 2014, as well as being the integral character in the selection of Estijaab at the 2017 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale at the beginning of her path to Golden Slipper glory at Rosehill Gardens last month.

Bryan has, for the majority of the ensuing period, served in a senior management position at the internationally owned Emirates Park racing and breeding operation based in New South Wales.

Originally appointed as the Nominations Manager responsible for selling services to such prominent stallions as Danewin, Secret Savings (USA), Al Maher, Artie Schiller (USA) and Dream Ahead (USA), he was then subsequently promoted to the position of Emirates Park General Manager in early 2016.

Since such time, Bryan has been intrinsically involved in every major decision relating to the extensive Thoroughbred portfolio of His Excellency Nasser Loothah and his son, Hussain, including all bloodstock purchases made in Australia and overseas.

It was in this capacity, that Bryan found himself at the 2017 renewal of the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale where the inspections he made on behalf of Emirates Park saw him purchase the second most expensive filly in the auction for \$1.7 million. It's now history that the daughter of Snitzel and Response just happened to be 2018 Golden Slipper winner, Estijaab.

In her only four starts to date, Estijaab has proven to be an outstanding winner of not only the \$3.5 million Golden Slipper Stakes (G1) but also the \$300,000 Reisling Stakes (G2). The exceptional filly was also only just beaten into second place in the \$250,000 Silver Slipper Stakes (G2) after a titanic tussle with this year's Magic Millions 2YO Classic winner Sunlight.

Already, at this very early stage of her career, the \$1.7 million Easter Yearling Sale purchase has earned Emirates Park over \$2.3 million in prizemoney and is, of course, now a priceless winner of world racing's most valuable 2-year-old event.

*...speaks volumes for
Bryan's ability to spot a
future racetrack champion*

All things considered, it's a level of achievement that speaks volumes for Bryan's ability to spot a future racetrack champion during the formative stages of its development, as well as the educational process that put him on his way to achieving such distinguished success.

He is the first to recognise the role Marcus Oldham College played in his own development and which led to stints with Coolmore in North America and Swettenham in Victoria, before his lengthy and successful association with Emirates Park.

"It was an important year in my professional life," he stated. "The Horse Business Management course at Marcus Oldham provided exposure to a facet of the Thoroughbred industry which I had not previously seen too much of in my early days around racing stables and studs. It most definitely provided an important platform on which to build."

As the chief bloodstock adviser to His Excellency Nasser Looah

and his son, Hussain, it is also very much to Bryan's credit that Emirates Park not only had an interest in the winner of this year's Golden Slipper, but also one of the premier colts that contested the event. Santos, a very well-related son of I Am Invincible, was bred, raised, reared and sold by Emirates Park, which subsequently retained a sizeable shareholding in the colt following Bryan's recommendation to his employers.

Santos subsequently went into this year's Golden Slipper as

a distinguished winner of the Group 2 Skyline Stakes (1200m), a victory which establishes him as one of the most valuable 2-year-olds of his generation. As a direct consequence, a commercial stud career already awaits the highly-prized colt on his retirement.

That long-term scenario regarding Santos further enhances a 2018 Golden Slipper outcome which Bryan is now set to value for the rest of his life.

bryan@emiratespark.com.au



L-R: Hussain Looah, Owner Emirates Park, John Hawkes, Bryan Carlson

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Simon Staughton

Farm Management 1968

An inspiring entrepreneur



I spent two years at Marcus under Ivo Dean's benign directorship, which was ably assisted by many outstanding lecturers, including the wily Don Lawson, the perspicuous Alby Carnegie and the driven Sandy Mckenzie, who taught me (and many other lads) a lot about the opportunities of farming in Australia to the extent, we left College full of rampant enthusiasm and ready to attack whatever was presented...still had a lot to learn!!

I attempted to assist my family farming operations in the NE of Victoria and also spent time on Ammaroo in the Northern Territory which was owned jointly by my father, and uncle, Gordon Ross. My time in the Territory was one of the best experiences any plucky youngster could have – learning to kill and dress a beast at high speed after quickly removing and burning the relevant identification pieces of hide and ear on a fire lit for roasting the milk gut and ribs was great sport, especially when the neighbour turned up for a taste of our prime “shorthorn” killer.

But also during my time there I experienced the traditional Territory life. Besides the manager and his wife, the governess and the roustabout, our staff was all aboriginal, living in a camp a fair way from the house. Mustering to bronco yards to mark and brand calves after drafting off steers was the style and our aboriginal stockmen, under the quiet command of Banjo, our head stockman, were typical of the quality of the blokes on all stations throughout the Centre at that time. In 1971 Ammaroo was sold to the Simpson family of Adelaide before the beef market collapsed in 1973.

...formed a partnership to develop a sapphire mine near Emerald.

Prior to selling, I came down on the Ghan with 600 heifers, 300 of which I later inseminated with Main Anjou semen, having previously gone to France to study the form guide of potential Aussie starters for this

breed. I was hosted by the MA Society in France and, besides inspecting many of the fine red and whites in the field, was also introduced to beaucoup rouges et blancs dans les établissements vinicole...all in all a fine trip to round out my Marcus Oldham education!



In the late 70s, my father and I formed a partnership with Jack Barry to develop a sapphire mine near Emerald in Queensland and around the same time **Peter Hoskins FM 68** and I bought a commercial block and business in the heart of Airlie Beach in Queensland. Jack was the prime operator of the mine which was moderately successful and which lasted for about five years until we exhausted our lease. The investment Pete and I had at Airlie proved to be fortuitous and a life saver when we sold it in 1989 – my share came in very handy to pay off the dogs I had tied up as a result of the 1987 share market crash.

In 1982, I had married Caroline Cox (Girl, as she was called by everyone), who was **Rob Cox's FM 70** sister. After a couple of very dry years where I was selling my Maine Anjou's for less than a slab of beer, I determined I did not have the ideal temperament to make a

particularly successful farmer, much as I enjoyed the activity. Girl and I moved from the NE of Victoria to a small farm at Jingellic in New South Wales, where we raised our three children, Edward, Zoe and Billy and where I was close to great fly fishing water.

At this time I also put money into an enterprise started by a small group of St. Arnaud locals in Victoria, including **Andy Gubbins FM 70**, who were keen to develop a business around supplying abattoir pet food offals to Mars (an American global manufacturer of confectionery, pet food, and other food products and a provider of animal care services), in Wodonga, Victoria.

At St. Arnaud, there were six staff employed in a converted hayshed and around six tonnes of chicken offal was processed and frozen daily. A couple of years later, Mike Piper joined the company and he became the manager of operations and the key person in the company's growth both, at St. Arnaud as we proceeded to expand the company's capacity, installing plate freezers and additional frozen storage, and later in 2000 when we shifted operations to Howlong in New South Wales.



New ovens under construction

I was also involved with **Andrew Urquhart FM 75** in investing in a South Australian pig enterprise which proved to be extremely successful, mainly due to the highly skilled supervision of the Board and Management team, especially Andy's brother-in-law, Ian Parish. However in contrast, my investment, along with a group of punter mates (now ex mates...ha!) in a turkey production enterprise, unfortunately, went the way all good gobblers go - Roast Turkey! This not so good result was entirely due to the quality of management - I was the Chairman.

This meant collecting and transporting offals from all over Eastern Australia

But back to the main game - during the 90s we further developed our offal chilling technology which meant we gradually became the prime supplier of raw material to Mars.

At the time of the move we also developed new Intellectual Property (IP) around advanced freezing and materials handling technology, which led to the company becoming the single supplier of red meat offals to Mars. This meant collecting and transporting offals from all over Eastern Australia including Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South



Automated plate freezers

Australia, to Howlong where, in 2008, we employed around 50 staff to sort and process around 13,000 tonnes pa of material for delivery to Wodonga.

In 2007, my eldest son, Edward (Crundy), joined what was now 'Cool Off Pty Ltd', after his five year stint with Credit Swiss, having spent time in both Milan and Zurich. Initially, he was looking for experience before joining a private equity operation, but his passion for offal overwhelmed his lust for cash so he stayed on. I reckon my Cool Off sing along ditty was the clincher for him... 'Warm up, Cool Off, Cold, - Ever be so Bold - We Warm up Aussie Hearts - and Cool Off all offal...Cold'.

As part of a diversification strategy, in 2009 we purchased a small company making dried dog treats, from the receivers of the Young abattoir in New South Wales. While he was at Bond University, Crundy had completed a project analyzing the synergy of dried pet treats with the 'Cool Off' operation. Therefore, we already had a basic plan to progress taking this on and the opportunity to buy a business for less than value of stock on hand and with various large customers, was too good to pass up!

Immediately, we began construction of a processing factory which included ten times the drying capacity of the Young operation and which also incorporated a large thermal solar cell to assist in reducing our energy usage. The solar cell was 1,200sq mt in size and heated a rock bed heat bank of 1,300 tonnes of bluestone aggregate to provide drying capacity for 1,600 cubic meters of oven space. After the initial mandatory learning curve, within two years the new facility was maxed out and we needed to add additional drying capacity.

Over the last four years our exports have grown from nil to over 25,000 tonnes this year.

In 2012, Crundy bought Mike Piper's share in the business and we immediately began to assess what options there were to further expand and diversify our frozen operations. At this stage our single market for frozen products was still entirely Mars, whose requirements had plateaued and our operations, while still profitable, had also levelled out. We identified several new products suited to export markets, particularly mechanically deboned lamb meat (MDM) and, after another steep learning curve (they never

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Simon Staughton
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stop!), proceeded to successfully manufacture and deliver into these markets.

Over the last four years our exports have grown from nil to over 25,000 tonnes this year (60% of our total frozen production) which we have been able to service by the construction of additional freezing capacity. Our new patented plate freezers are designed to automatically freeze and unload frozen blocks whereby three staff can operate the system that has the capacity to freeze, palletise and automatically store 50 tonnes of frozen blocks per eight hour shift. We see other opportunities for this system and currently are in discussion with a major meat exporting processor to assess the suitability of our system to replace frozen cartons used to export manufacturing beef for human consumption in the US market.

With the rapid expansion of our activities in the diverse fields of wholesale raw materials, retail pet foods and treats and our patented technology, along with a large increase in staff for these enterprises (we now have over 250 employees on the Howlong site and 35 at our new site in Walgett, New South Wales). The various operating companies have been amalgamated under a banner company - 'Staughton Group'.

Staughton Group has just completed the purchase of Southern Game Meats - a company with two processing sites for wild game with around 150 chiller boxes located throughout Queensland and New South Wales and a Sydney distribution centre. This purchase will secure guaranteed supply of raw material for supplying our growing pet food export markets in wild game products, including kangaroo, wild boar, wild deer, and even crocodile from Darwin. Additionally, we believe there are untapped human consumption export markets which we intend to progress as resources allow.

...a "state of the art" human consumption facility for processing wild game

Recently, Staughton Group and the Federation Shire received a Federal Government grant of \$5.5 million (under the Building Better Regions Fund) to create an expanded Howlong industrial estate and a major logistics centre. This is a three year project costing over \$16 million in total and will enable the Federation Shire to create an additional 12 industrial blocks in Howlong, and the Staughton Group to develop a logistics centre for dry and frozen material.

In the future, we intend to incorporate a "state of the art" human consumption facility for processing wild game for the export opportunities we have identified. Additionally, any significant local or international take-up of our IP would make for very interesting times, as we believe the potential market for this technology is huge.



Loading frozen export pallets

Crundy is now the Managing Director of Staughton Group and, with the great team he has put together, is overseeing growth and sorting the many and varied opportunities we have. He recently returned from the US where he is setting up an office to market our new 'Balanced Life' brand of high quality dried dog food that can be re-hydrated.

I still hang about, mainly to enjoy the action and sign guarantees! In this regard, our relationship with the ANZ Bank has been an integral part of our growth; ANZ is very much a key partner and has taken the time to understand the unique and fast moving aspects of our particular game.

The best possible move I have made in my life was to marry Caroline, who has been the key person in raising our children and keeping "the home fires burning". I have also been very lucky to have friends, associates and partners that have been a major part of the journey and now, to have Crundy take over the reins...it is as good as it gets!

I'm very much looking forward to the next lap and hey...a few bon mots from the first half mile:

- Stick to what you know. If you don't know - find out.
- Never listen to someone who tells you - "think outside the box."
- There are no failures - only learning curves!

sstaughton@staughtongroup.com.au
www.cooloff.com.au



Packing pet treats



Sam Chisholm

Agribusiness 2012

How far to Alaska?



Riding through the Atacama Desert - the driest desert in the world

I've been up a few dry gullies since leaving Marcus Oldham and learned a few important life lessons along the way.

I grew up on Napperby Station, 200km north-west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. I attended School of the Air for a time, went to boarding school in Sydney aged 10 where I had to, begrudgingly, wear shoes and eight years later, now a somewhat reformed Territory boy, did my helicopter license and headed to Kununurra in Western Australia to chase cows.

Over the next six years I logged about 5,000 hours doing just that. In 2011 I was promoted to Operations Manager of the helicopter company. I had a fair crack at running the business but quickly realized that aside from organizing the day to day flying, I was out of my depth. Trying to work out what a budget was, keep up with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) paperwork and deal with pilots was a nightmare so I decided to enrol in Agribusiness for 2012 at the suggestion of **Rupert Ballinger (Roo) Agribus 2012**.

Through work experience after the China study tour, I accepted a full-time job with Agricultural Management Company (AMC) based in Brisbane. They specialized in doing business case studies for investors looking

to buy agricultural assets (and I know what you're thinking, the answer is yes, people actually do case studies outside of Marcus Oldham). AMC also managed those assets on behalf of their clients, in particular, I had exposure managing a Lucerne farm near Gatton, a north Queensland cattle station, a sheep property near Longreach and numerous distressed assets on behalf of the banks. Working at AMC was a great experience with lots of travel and excellent networking opportunities. It really reinforced everything that I had learned at Marcus and I would strongly recommend that everyone try working in the corporate sector for a while, if only to see how things tick on Queen St. As they say, you don't work for money, you work to learn.

I walked away with 500 head and had some explaining to do

Approaching two years with AMC, the job became less challenging and I began to tire of the corporate life. When the highlight of my day became the bike ride to work along the Brisbane River I knew Corporate Sam was not long for this world. The straw that broke the camel's back was when I came outside one morning only to realize that my bike had been stolen. I navigated

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Brisbane's public transport system, arrived late to work, handed in my resignation and headed west.

The timing worked out well as my father was due to have a knee operation so I drove back to Napperby to help run the station while he was recovering. Now traditionally, we have never really got on when working together. I think it's a universal problem that a lot of people can relate to. There aren't many families that make succession work without a third party involved, we for one weren't on that list and it wasn't long before I was back in the helicopter and only working part time at Napperby. On a side note, my parents sold Napperby last year while I was overseas. Not that they sold it out from under my feet, I knew it was on the table but didn't do anything to stop it happening so I just want to reinforce how important family succession planning is.

Late 2014 my cousin, James, and I used to get together, have a few beers and scheme ways to supplement our income. The next-door neighbours offered us a paddock that could run about 300 cows. The infrastructure was very rundown but there was plenty of grass so we set about finding a mob of cattle.

I arrived at Tim Edmund's place to inspect a bony mob of cows with the intention of purchasing 250 head if our funds would stretch that far. I somehow walked away with 500 head and I had some explaining to do. We worked it out and Kadaitcha Pastoral Company was born.

Over the next couple of days, we ran on very little sleep trying to fix all the fences and repair the yards in preparation for the 24 decks of cattle which were already on the road. We had no plant or equipment to speak of, all the gear we used was begged, borrowed or stolen from the neighbours.

The first weeks owning our small herd should have been stressful but it rained three inches and in no time at all the cows started dropping calves and getting fat. Before long, our numbers rose to 800 head. We had negotiated a deal with Tim that gave us 12 month terms on half the herd and borrowed money to buy the other half, meaning that we started the whole venture on very little capital.

...then in 2015, I decided to do something completely irrational

By leveraging our contacts, continuing to beg, borrow and steal most of the day to day inputs and setting up a solar bore, we were able to run a very tight ship and keep overheads down. James continued working full time, using his day off to check the cattle and I was regularly flying past in the helicopter meaning our labour requirements were also very low. Over the next 12 months we sold weaners into Alice Springs, fat cows to the meatworks and any stray bulls got to stay on as herd improvers. Things were ticking along nicely for Kadaitcha Pastoral Company, then in 2015, I decided to do something completely irrational and with James' blessing, went overseas.

First off, I did the Mongol Rally with two mates, James Thomas and Pat O'Kenny from Kununurra, Western Australia. We bought a \$500 Peugeot in London from a Nigerian 'Businessman' and drove 16,000km to Mongolia where we subsequently blew our car up and had to hitchhike the remaining 1,000km to Russia before our visas expired. During that trip, we managed to raise \$20,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and I met an Israeli riding the world on a motorbike which left a lasting impression and fuelled travel plans.

In late 2015, I flew to South America and spent the next two years riding a motorbike from Argentina to Alaska, about 50,000km. Initially, I started out with



Eustie Hill, Sam Chisholm and Mick Corcoran

Mick Corcoran and **Eustie Hill Agribus 12**, on old Kawasaki 650s that we bought in Chile. We didn't know any Spanish; didn't know which way we were going or how long it would take. I estimated about four months but four months later, we were still in Argentina and had to reassess the situation. We decided then not to rush things, take each day as it comes and see where we ended up. This is much harder to do than you think; we live such busy lives and have routines and responsibilities hardwired into our society - and that makes it challenging to wake up in the morning without having any idea where you'll end up that night.

It probably took those four months just to decompress and break that habit; eventually you get used to running on South American time where, "maybe tomorrow" is the usual answer you get when asking the mechanic when your bike will be ready.

...after getting stopped by machete wielding coffee farmers

We had some interesting times on that trip. In Peru while camping on the beach, we were woken up by a lady telling us that there had been a big earthquake up the road in Ecuador and if we heard the Tsunami siren, to climb the hill. A few days later, doing 90km an hour, I hit a cow in Ecuador which wrecked my bike and almost ended the trip. I then had to spend the next three days dealing with the aftershocks, waiting for my bike to be fixed and hoping the hostel didn't fall down. In Colombia, after getting stopped by machete wielding coffee farmers who decided to block the Pan American highway for a week, we had to divert through the edge of the Amazon where you can do the "special tour" through a coca plantation, and see, first-hand, some of the best gross margins in the world.

After 10 months on the road, the boys had to go home and I spent the next year travelling from Mexico up to Alaska including six months working through Canada; first in the ski fields followed by two months on a ranch in British Columbia. During the trip, we'd kept a blog and raised awareness for mental suffering through the 'Tie Up the Black Dog' Committee based in Queensland. I think that if you can use your endeavors to give back to the community in some way, then it's a good thing.

Looking back, despite not being able to further my business or career, I learned a lot from those two years abroad, not just Spanish, but how to bribe customs



Arriving in Deadhorse, Alaska after 50,000km and two years on the road

officials, avoid being eaten by a bear, and how many days you can go without having a shower. But, more importantly, the things that I've learned I will carry with me for the rest of my life such as resilience, resourcefulness, patience and a better understanding of the world we live in. As Tony Robbins puts it "If you're not growing you're dying" which to me means that you need to keep learning throughout your life, don't settle for second best and work hard to achieve your goals big or small, whether they're to ride a motorbike to Alaska, build a business empire or win the best roses at the Alice Springs Show.

I returned home from the trip in September last year to find that, in my absence, Kadaitcha Pastoral Company was still ticking along nicely under James' management. Putting to good use all that learning gained at Marcus and at AMC paid off. Having a network of people to be able to ask for advice and guidance is worth more than anything I can think of, as is having good mentors and smart people to look up to.

This year, I'm back flying helicopters in the Kimberley and working on a couple of side projects which will hopefully bear fruit before long.

I'll leave you with a quote from a man I used to fly for, Stirling Buntine, that sticks with me and I repeat quite often. He used to say, "Sam, no-one ever hit a six without taking a swing."

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Crossing the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia - the biggest salt lake in the world

Wes LeFroy

Master of Agribusiness (Studying)

"As first published in Rural Business."

Blockchain – could it revolutionise the food and agri supply chain?

There is a lot of excitement and talk about 'blockchain', yet little is known about what it actually is, and how this digitised technology could be implemented in the agricultural sector.

While it is still very early days, what is clear is that this new digitised approach to managing supply chains has the potential to revolutionise food and agri supply as we know it. And with it, also bring significant benefits for businesses supplying to the farm sector, including increased transparency to verify quality and provenance of goods to customers and virtually removing payment risk.

In a recently-produced research paper, ***Blockchain: Changing Interaction in the F&A Supply Chain from Paddock to Plate***, Rabobank has looked at the shift towards a digitised supply chain and why it holds great promise for all involved in the agri sector – from rural suppliers through to farmers and consumers.

Conceptually, blockchain makes a lot of sense, but the potential of its use in the food and agri sector is not something that has been widely considered. Yet the shift towards this technology is progressing quickly and it might be here quicker than we think, with a number of companies already trialing the technology here in Australia and abroad.

Blockwhat?

As a digital platform, 'blockchain' facilitates the transfer of physical commodities right along the supply chain, with all transactions recorded on a digital ledger, shared by all parties – from suppliers to producers, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers through to consumers.

This shared ledger, essentially a digital record book, records all



the financial transactions, as well as any data or information that is associated with transferring the physical commodity along the supply chain – from farmer to consumer. This includes farm input providers and other suppliers to the farm sector.

All those involved in the transaction would have their own copy of the ledger, and each time a transaction is made, a new record (or block) is created and added to the blockchain.

For blockchain to work – input suppliers, farmers, port authorities, banks, logistical providers, and processors all need to participate in a common interface and enter their digital information in the same blockchain.

What does it mean for farmers?

Blockchain offers huge possibilities for the farm sector, given consumers are increasingly demanding high-quality and safe products – as well as visibility of the supply chain.

The two major benefits blockchain delivers are transparency and provenance, although the secure nature of blockchain also has the benefit of removing counterparty risk. "Will I get paid?" is always an element of every transaction – but blockchain has the ability to ensure buyers have the available funds prior to a transaction, removing the counterparty risk.

With blockchain facilitating traceability, it is set to drastically simplify the process of verifying product origin, quality attributes, and production practices.

A key feature of blockchain is that the information and data is transferred both up and down the supply chain. Therefore, farmers will have much greater understanding of changing consumer preferences, giving them direct feedback into the demand for the different products they are producing.

And in turn, consumers will have greater verification of how the product was grown, with input data and production location verifiable.

Implications for suppliers to the farm sector?

Much of the focus of blockchain has been on the transparency of food production, and the benefits this creates for both farmers and consumers.

Farm input providers also stand to benefit. Blockchain has the potential to be a tool for suppliers to bring transparency and prove origin of chemical and fertiliser products, adding value at the farm gate.

Commercialisation yet to take off

For blockchain to "take off", it requires involvement from all the stakeholders along the supply chain.

This is particularly pertinent for farmers, as the provenance story is diluted without high-quality information about production inputs and origin.

At home and abroad, the shift towards a digitised supply chain is progressing quickly.

In Australia, the world's first settlement of a transaction involving a physical commodity on the blockchain was completed in 2016 by Australian agtech

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Ben Bjarnesen

Agribusiness 2005

Overseas tour explores response to LGBTI domestic violence

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, and anyone can be a perpetrator of domestic violence.

Brisbane based, Churchill Fellowship recipient, Senior Constable Ben Bjarnesen, visited four countries, seven police departments and 15 community support organisations last year, conducting research with the aim of enhancing the Service's response to domestic violence within the LGBTI community.

The Fortitude Valley general duties officer is the Coordinator of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) LGBTI Support Network and the District Coordinator for the LGBTI Liaison Officer Program. He was one of the successful applicants of the 2016 Churchill Fellowship, which provides an opportunity for Australians to travel overseas to conduct research in their chosen field that is not readily available in this country.

His travel to the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands between September and November 2017 gave him valuable insight into issues surrounding domestic violence in LGBTI communities and best practice in the policing response.

He found that while the impact on victims and families was significant, under-reporting of domestic violence was a common problem in LGBTI relationships the world over.

"Internationally, it appears the most common factor stopping LGBTI people from reporting domestic violence and hate crimes is historical events involving negative interactions with police. They fear they will not be taken seriously or treated appropriately or respectfully," Senior Constable Bjarnesen said.

"As well, domestic violence is often perceived in the public



*Visiting the Scottish Police College
based at Tulliallan Castle in Kincardine-on-Forth*

eye as being a problem of heterosexual relationships, with the classic portrayal of men being the perpetrators and women and children being the victims. LGBTI people are less likely to identify with this scenario and may not believe that support is available to them.

"Another common concern is that they will be 'outed' to their family, friends or workplace if they make a report."

With research indicating that LGBTI relationships suffer significantly higher rates of domestic violence compared with heterosexual couples, some studies estimate some degree of abuse is as high as 50% of same-sex relationships. The need to overcome these barriers and gain the trust of LGBTI people is critical and urgent.

Senior Constable Bjarnesen said he found some impressive examples of best practice in his overseas travels.

"Washington DC's Metropolitan Police Department is home to the Special Liaison Branch which is a full-time branch comprising not just an LGBT Liaison Unit (LGBTLU), but also an Asian Liaison Unit, Deaf

and Hard of Hearing Liaison Unit, and Latino Liaison Unit.

"It is mandatory for first responders to contact the LGBTLU in any incident where a victim identifies as LGBTI. Unit members respond to these incidents when on duty, or within 24 hours if not. They also conduct public education campaigns and provide a 24hr on-call officer to answer inquiries from the LGBTI community and fellow officers alike."

He said Police Scotland was also a stand-out with its proactive approach to preventing domestic violence.

"Officers from the local Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit proactively attend the addresses of the partners of high risk domestic violence perpetrators to see if they want to report domestic violence or would like referrals to other agencies. This assures potential victims that police are looking out for them and lets perpetrators know police are watching them. They also notify victims when a perpetrator is released from custody."

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Ben Bjarnesen
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"Police Scotland also introduced online reporting for domestic violence in 2008. The ability for LGBTI community members to report violence online, without having to face the fear of telling their story in person, allows police to appropriately respond earlier before it escalates further."

Senior Constable Bjarnesen said being given the chance to travel and conduct research overseas was an amazing opportunity.

"I thought I had a fair idea about the issues and strategies surrounding domestic violence, but I've been able to learn things and make connections that I would never have been able to without the support of the Queensland Police Service and the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. It's been a lot of work, but incredibly worthwhile," Senior Constable Bjarnesen said.

(By Paula Hedemann, Media and Public Affairs Group QPS)



Ben with the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, Peter Hewsham Washington DC

Wes Lefroy
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company AgriDigital in partnership with grains bulk handler CBH. Since then, we have seen some major grain handlers testing the application of this technology, with

blockchain pilots also taking place for other commodities such as pork and mangoes.

While there are still barriers to wide-scale adoption, such as calculating a proper distribution of costs and benefits, there is no

doubt that it holds promise and is the way of the future.

Wes Lefroy is an agricultural analyst with leading food and agribusiness banking specialist, Rabobank.

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Stuart Rees

Farm Management 1992

Our Man in Thailand

I have experienced almost two years of a posting as Trade Commissioner at the Australian Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand.

A great international city to live in, my responsibilities are to manage the support we, at the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) provide to Australian exporters. It's an incredibly diverse and interesting role. We focus on sectors as broad as Agriculture and Food, Infrastructure, Aerospace, Fintech, to name just a few. With that broad range of focus there's a huge weight of responsibility falling on me to ensure exporters have their interests well represented and that they receive the best service possible and, ultimately, are successful in exporting their products or services to Thailand.

To give a recent example over a few days of just how broad the role is, I've given interviews about Australian food; handed out awards to restaurants; spoken with the Thai Defence Forces about specialist aviation services and training; talked with the Government about demand for rendered animal products in Thailand, and more mundane but hugely important tasks such as certifying documents to allow products from Australia through Thai customs and onto the shelves of Thailand. Prior to my role here, I'd undertaken similar roles in Delhi, India and for a short period, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Both cities are a world away from the vibe and feel of Bangkok.



Thailand itself, is a major food producer; in fact the only country with which Australia has a deficit in the trade of agri/aquaculture and food. It's also highly protective of its agricultural sector, but one where premium food from Australia is widely recognised and highly sought.

...with the elimination of all Thailand's tariffs and quotas

Bangkok is the most visited city in the world, with a tourist spend in this city around one billion more than Singapore. When the Thailand Australia Free Trade Agreement expires on 1 January 2020, we will see proper 'free trade' between our countries with the elimination

of all Thailand's tariffs and quotas on products such as beef, lamb and most dairy products. I expect this should lead to a significant increase in the export of these types of Australian produce.

This journey began after graduating from Marcus Oldham. I was lucky enough to have work offers, including the choice of joining the Rural Finance Corporation or the National Australia Bank (NAB) through their graduate program. I chose NAB, and through their accelerated management program, was able to build on, what I'm sure some lecturers thought were dubious financial skills, and undertake a number of roles including Rural Financial Analyst in Shepparton and then Marketing Manager in the Bank's Head Office in Melbourne, incidentally working under agricultural champions such as Stephen Morgan (former lecturer) and David Cornish (current lecturer).

I did have a stint back on the farm for around eight years and, rather unluckily, that time coincided with the so-called 'millennium drought'. However, the 'tedious' lessons of Alan Blackburn and others (apologies to all former lecturers) were somewhat remembered, and while I'm no longer directly involved in farming, the experience in overhauling and growing a farming business while negotiating it through those very tough times, were incredibly formative, and led me to the career in which I now find myself.

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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 are available on www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au.

Kirsty Swinton

Horse Business Management 2003

Patting horses for a living - Equine Musculoskeletal Therapy

If you had told me 20 or even 15 years ago where I would be in my life, and just what I would have seen, done and achieved, I would have told you “ya dreamin”.

I attended Marcus Oldham because I wanted a piece of paper that was respected, and that would educate me. It was also a family thing; my graduate uncle, **Andrew Kilpatrick FBM 73**, my father **Richard Swinton Dux FBM 75**, and my brother **Robert Swinton BBus FM 10**, followed tradition. Agriculture and Equine was always my future but I never guessed how.

At graduation, I had no real idea where I wanted to go. I did a season working as an assistant vet nurse at Scone Equine Veterinary Clinic, working at Clovelly ICU. I loved it, but the pay was terrible and for me, there was no real career path.

I came home to Deniliquin in New South Wales and while I was making plans, a job was advertised and having no better ideas, I applied. I was employed by Murray



Irrigation Ltd (the largest private irrigation scheme in the southern hemisphere) as a Land and Water Management Plan (LWMP) Implementation Officer in late 2004. For five years I worked with over 350 landholders in my area, providing rebates for developing sustainable irrigation properties, offsetting remnant vegetation, planting new wildlife corridors, running educational seminars and field days on a range of topics from saltbush integration, irrigation recycle systems to wildlife information nights complete with tame carpet pythons.

During this time, horses were still front and centre in my life, playing polocrosse. My good mare hurt herself quite badly in a freak accident and during her rehabilitation I took her to a veterinary chiropractor. He mentioned she would benefit from regular massage to help the rehabilitation. I asked who to get in my area and the answer was, no one! I went away and researched equine massage training courses, and in 2008 attended my first course, Equine Bodyworker Certification with Equinology.

My mind was blown, and I was hooked. I originally did the course just for myself and my horses but started working on friends' horses for beers, on occasion.

“Why don’t you do that horse patting thing you do, as a job?”

In late 2009, the LWMP plans were wound down and I found myself unemployed. The crippling drought at the time meant work in my area in the natural resource management fields was scarce and I didn’t really want to move away. A non-horsey close friend said, “Why don’t you do that horse patting thing you do, as a job?” I distinctly remembering laughing and saying, “Who on earth would pay me to do that?”

However, with no other ideas in sight I took his suggestion to heart, applied for the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) program for small business, and that was the start of something special. I officially opened my doors as an equine massage therapist in March 2010.

In my first year, I think I worked on an average of three horses a week if I was lucky...and ate lots of 2 minute noodles. Fast forward eight years and I’m averaging six a day and booked out a month in advance, and have vets who refer to me, and people from all over Australia and even internationally,



sending me emails and videos asking my opinion and advice. I have attended many different training courses in many different modalities, and worked on horses of all levels, breeds and disciplines.

This business has opened so many doors and connected me to so many different amazing people and opportunities. About five years ago I was invited to work on a horse for Oso Endurance and Murray Grey Stud in Table Top, New South Wales, managed by Amanda and **Andrew Kettlewell FBM 02**.

Despite the session being, in my mind, a disaster, I was asked back and have been working for them ever since, travelling to Table Top about once a month. Through Oso I was invited to attend the 2014 World Equestrian Games in France as the bodyworker for the Australian Endurance team. This was incredible, and very challenging as I had limited experience with working at endurance rides, but baptism by fire is often the best way to learn.

In 2016, I received an invitation to attend in Slovakia, the Longines World Endurance Championship as the bodyworker for the two Oso horses that were on the Australian team. I was much more experienced with strapping at endurance rides and endurance in general, and was a valuable part of the team, both strapping on the day and working on horses between legs and in the week leading up to the competition. I have also travelled Australia with the Oso endurance team, and have worked at many state and national championships, and Tom Quilties. My favourite was the Tom Quilty in 2015 in New South Wales when Oso Cap Braveheart proved many wrong, and won the event as a stallion. It's a wonderful challenging sport I would never have ventured near if not for my job.

In late 2014, frustrated with my level of education and training and having done most massage type courses available in Australia, I went looking for more knowledge. I discovered the Vluggen Institute of Equine Osteopathy and was accepted to study. The four year course consisted of eighteen four day modules held in Texas every three-four months, with at home study in between. I thought I was a good therapist but realised



quickly that I had barely touched the surface, and over the course, discovered layers of complexity that others can't even imagine.

I paid for the first two years myself, begging short term loans from family and working myself into the ground. I was overwhelmed and thankful when Linda Mars, the owner of Oso Endurance, agreed to my request for sponsorship to finish my studies. It was incredibly hard to ask, but if I hadn't I would not have been able to finish the course. Linda, Amanda and Andrew have been very supportive of my goals and I wouldn't have come this far without them. I'm currently only the second Australian to complete this unique training.

We saw a need for an independent association to provide support to members

As my level of knowledge increased, so did my quality of work and my reputation in the industry. I used this to the industry's advantage, and in mid-2013, together with **Jessica Blackwell HBM 05** (Equestricare), we founded the Equine Therapies Association of Australia. We saw a need for an independent association to provide support to members, networking opportunities and educational opportunities for therapists in the industry, as well as improve the recognition of qualifications in the industry. I have been the Chair since it started, and am very proud of what it has done, bringing international educators over for clinics, assisting therapists with

legal issues, and generally helping the industry as a whole, to become more professional. Now that I'm not studying and travelling full time, more energies will be devoted to this area of my life.

With all this knowledge, I have started down the lecturing and educational pathway. I was the Australian instructor for kinesiology, taping for horses for nearly two years and have presented twice at the renowned Bowker Lectures in 2017 and 2018. I am looking to teach for Equestricare in the near future. Jess Blackwell has been hounding me for years, so I had better say yes!

As initially mentioned, if you had said 15 years ago I was going to run my own business, travel the world for work and education, teach, and become a recognised industry leader to whom people look up to and respect...I would have laughed. Yet here I am, and I wouldn't change it for the world. One philosophy I have tried to live by is to just say yes and work the rest out later. This has certainly shaped my life, as while I still plan and goal set, if something is offered that is interesting and aligns with me, I grab it with both hands. I am very excited by the future; more international study, more educational opportunities to be brought to Australia, more lecturing and teaching.

I love that Marcus taught me to think, to ask, to question, and to innovate.

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Travers Pickmere

Bachelor of Business (Agricultural Management) 2006

From Denmark to Humpty Doo



Toni and Travers in Brussels Belgium.

After graduating, I was not like most of my peers at Marcus who would go home to the family business. Coming from a family which worked in corporate agriculture, I needed to think what the future held, and FAST! I had gained experience in livestock husbandry with sheep in Tasmania and pigs in Europe (won't mention Denmark as too many ears have bled with my stories of the place when I was at Marcus) and grew up on irrigated summer and winter cropping properties spending many hours driving machinery and starting syphons. Surely I could land a job in the corporate field managing a place.

Well, my journey after Marcus started in WA working for Milne Agrigroup in Kojunup. **Adam Coffey FBM 05** was working there and helped get me the job. The property ran sheep and dry area cropping. Things did not work out and I moved to Landmark in Katanning, working closely with an agronomist and in merchandise, as I thought agronomy was going to be my passion. But no, and after some soul searching, I headed to my comfort zone, being home in the Riverina of New South Wales.

My dad was managing the farming operation at a property owned by JBS, "Prime City Feedlot" at Tabbita. We had lived there since 1994 and I knew the place like the back of my hand. The overseer had just resigned and Dad put me on as the Farm Overseer.

After doing a season on the place, Dad had decided to move on and I was put on as Manager until I decided what I wanted to do. I had worked with Dad for such a long time that it was quite daunting to take on such a huge responsibility. After some months alone on the property and clearly not settled, I went back to Denmark.

Denmark is such a great place to work as the people share the same work ethic and humour as Aussies! I worked on a 700ha farm (large for Denmark) growing wheat, barley and canola and in the winter when it was freezing, I worked indoors in a state of the art piggery. Sixteen months later, I was travelling homeward with my sisters through Africa and Cyprus. I was ready for whatever lay ahead. I knew that my passion was the agricultural industry but I could not see myself driving machinery for the rest of my life!

Marcus had taught me to think outside the square when it came to sourcing information, whether that be through a library or as simple as asking the right people who were in the know. I decided to contact Nigel Crawley of Rimfire Resources with whom I had contact whilst at Marcus.

This is where a lot of the genetics for greenhouse crops are sourced

Back on Australian soil and slightly jet-lagged, I explained to Nigel what I had been doing since graduating. Nigel was great, he understood my predicament and found

me a job with South Pacific Seeds (a privately owned vegetable seed distribution company) which I have been with since 2010. My position was a technical sales rep working in the greenhouse market and with field growers.

I moved to Adelaide and spent the next seven and a half years learning about the vegetable industry and liaising with growers' trialling and promoting new vegetable varieties, which we had earmarked to commercialise. It is very rewarding when you are standing in rockmelon trials in California speaking with the breeders on what your market requirements are, then receiving the sample packs in Australia, sowing them and assessing each variety to see which one best suits our climate.

Almeria in Spain was also a huge eye opener as here in Australia we have approximately 1,500ha under cover (plastic and glass houses) and in the Almeria growing region they have a lazy 50,000ha which has to be seen to be believed. This is where a lot of the genetics for greenhouse crops are sourced (as well as Holland and Belgium). I visited the breeder trials of new varieties of capsicum, tomato, cucumbers and eggplant.

I was working in Virginia, 34km from Adelaide, with growers who are mainly Vietnamese and Cambodian. Virginia is Australia's largest greenhouse growing area after Sydney, and Geraldton in WA. Carnarvon in WA's north also has covered cropping under shade cloth and is a major player at certain times of the year.

Outside of the Adelaide growing region, I was servicing Victorian field growers within the Mildura and Swan Hill horticultural areas, who grow a list of produce including zucchini, field tomatoes, capsicums rockmelons and watermelons. Twice a year I would head up to the Northern Territory to service the Vietnamese growers near Humpty Doo just out of Darwin, who grow Lebanese cucumbers, okra and snake beans. The conditions in the greenhouses throughout the summer months can get up to 60 degrees and I have huge respect for these growers who work tirelessly to get quality products onto supermarket shelves.

In May 2015, I was given the National Product Manager for High Tech Glasshouse position. The role meant

more travel, both domestically and internationally as well as dealing closely with our breeders and suppliers.

I married Toni in February 2014 in the Adelaide Hills. **David Radeski FBM 06** and **Tim Dean FBM 05** were groomsmen. Daughter, Jemima, was born in November 2016 and on 9 March this year we welcomed Harriet Lane.

We decided to leave Adelaide in May 2017 to move back to Griffith in New South Wales to be closer to family. I stayed with South Pacific Seeds working with field growers in the Griffith, Mildura and Swan Hill areas. Due to the move, I had to relinquish my role as Product Manager.

I love working in the horticulture side of intensive agriculture and have been fortunate to be involved with a mix of growers; from corporate vegetable growers who supply Woolworths, Coles and Costco, all the way to the small grower who supplies their local green grocer or the Sunday markets.

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Cherry tomato crop Virginia, South Australia



Vegetable packing facility in Almeria, Spain



Capsicum trials in Almeria, Spain

Graduation 2017



Zoe Miller, Dux of Equine Management, with Director, Emma Morel



Tom Sheahan, Recipient of the Marcus Oldham Lanwades International Stud Management Award UK, with Director, Emma Morel



Laura Wishart, Dux of the Associate Degree of Farm Business Management, with Director, Andrew Baker



Dayna Grey, Dux of Diploma of Agribusiness, with Director, Andrew Baker

Diploma of Equine Management

Pass

Logan Helen Brown	Kangaroo Ground	VIC
Jessie-Lee Herman	Burnie	TAS

Credit

Gemma Ellen Dunne	Ocean Grove	VIC
Tara Maree Edwards	Shelbourne	VIC
Angela Jean Harrison	Howard Springs	NT
Emily Jane Hughes	Nhulunbuy	NT
Alexandra Kennedy-McDonald	Bentleigh	VIC
Maretha Potgieter	Roxby Downs	SA
Georgina Kate Symons	Balhannah	SA

Distinction

Jaime Jean Cliff	Kimba	SA
Anthony David O'Brien	Baulkham Hills	NSW
Julia Joy Soldatos	Campbells Creek	VIC
Hollie Elizabeth Spalding	Buderim	QLD

High Distinction

Zoe Alison Miller	Katherine	NT
Tom Robert Ryan Sheahan	Jerry's Plains	NSW

Diploma of Agribusiness

Pass

Thomas William McKenzie	Willow Tree	NSW
Adelaide Elizabeth Vivers	Armidale	NSW

Credit

Samuel John Barton	Wellington	NSW
Kyle William Bull	Boree Creek	NSW
Nathan Howard Michael Denny	Deniliquin	NSW
Matthew Peter Farley	Derrinal	VIC
Lucinda Nickola Gausson Fenton	Vasey	VIC
Thomas Hilton Hickman	Woodstock	NSW
Molly Holcombe Mackay	Coonamble	NSW
Hamish Samuel McGuinness	Boorowa	NSW
Matt Richard Newsome	Deepwater	NSW
Alexander Richard Pye	Coonamble	NSW
James Hamilton Ridge	Bourke	QLD
Jenny Therese Schwager	Narrabri	NSW
Daniel Paul Skinner	Ozenkadnook	VIC
Claudia Scarlett Turnbull	Hermani	NSW

Distinction

William Alexander Boyd	Warrnambool	VIC
Teeah Eileen Bungey	Borden	WA
Isabelle Fiona Cameron	Ross	TAS
Luke Patrick Chaplain	Cloncurry	QLD
Angus Robert Clift	Spring Ridge	NSW
Benjamin Charles Daley	Carindale	QLD
Isobel Grace Fay	Carranballac	VIC
Isabelle Ann Fenton	Mt Samson	QLD
Lachlan Anthony Robert Gregory	Gladesville	NSW
Michael Alexander McManus	Mudgee	NSW
Mitchell Lewis Smith	Pingrup	WA
Justin John Wishart	Deniliquin	NSW

High Distinction

Jack William Bartels	Mountain River	TAS
Dayna Jane Grey	Sheffield	TAS

In Absentia

Credit

William Edward David Ricardo	Collarenebri	NSW
William Joseph Wallis	Jugiong	NSW

Associate Degree of Agribusiness

Pass

Samuel McGregor Ronald Gunn Epping Forest TAS

Credit

Ryan Richard Konzag Mallala SA
William John Oldacre Yamba NSW
James Scott Richmond Torquay VIC
Michael Robert Williams Noorat VIC

Distinction

Tegan Louise Bathgate Clarence Town NSW
Mackinlay Oliver Cookson Borambola NSW
Simon Gabb Beaufort VIC
Nicola Ann Gilder Merriwa NSW
James Andrew McLean Hay NSW
Shingirai Nyabonda Harare ZIMBABWE
Samantha Michelle Parish Whittington VIC
James William Rollason Geelong VIC
Jake Wilson Taylor Hamilton VIC
George Lucian Thompson The Lagoon NSW

High Distinction

Katherine Lucinda Bain Stockyard Hill VIC
Grace Elizabeth Ives Hay NSW
Jack David Littler Warwickshire UK

In Absentia

Credit

Hannah Renee Bird Bushfield VIC
Thomas Adair Fulton-Kennedy Moree NSW
Darcie Nola Yeend Esperance WA

Distinction

Sophie Georgia Bingham Mingay VIC
Benjamin Andrew Goldsworthy Beechworth VIC
James Vaudan Heggaton Kojonup WA
Rebecca Leigh Kelly Mingenew WA
Doone Mitchell Bollon QLD
Alice Mary Mort Toowoomba QLD
Brendan Paul Murray Moree NSW

Associate Degree of Farm Business Management

Pass

Herbert Jeffrey Watson Conondale QLD

Credit

Amelia Georgine Cameron Ross TAS
Braden Bruce Davey Launceston TAS
Timothy Donald Finger Mansfield VIC
Thomas Michael Grant Deniliquin NSW
Thomas Bruce Griggs Franklin TAS
William Robert Hicks Deniliquin NSW
Camille Grace Holmfield Deniliquin NSW
Daniel Wayne Johnstone Terang VIC
Natalie Louise Virginia Lyons Dubbo NSW
Matthew Francis Mulcahy Streatham VIC
William Maxwell Sandford Deniliquin NSW
Charles Hugh Sutherland Armidale NSW

Distinction

James Maitland Gray Anderson Ocean Grove VIC
Samuel Lynton Murray Bruce Kadina SA
Emily Kate Crowe Port Fairy VIC
Jamie Douglas Deshon Dirrinbandi QLD
Louis Van Niekerk Goosen Zaf SOUTH AFRICA
Fergus William Hassall Holbrook NSW
James Stewart Kirkpatrick Beaufort VIC
Harry Andrew Locke Walcha NSW
Luke Pieter Colburn Mayne Bonshaw NSW
Andrew John Mcleod Gunnedah NSW

Graduation 2017



Grace Ives, Dux of the Associate Degree of Agribusiness, with Director, Andrew Baker



Kate Bates, Dux of the Master of Agribusiness, with Dr Yasmin Chalmers, Director Postgraduate Program



Oliver Vidor, Dux of the Bachelor of Business (Agriculture), with Director, Andrew Baker



Angela Harrison, Recipient of the Marcus Oldham Foxcote Manor Polo Award UK, with Director, Emma Morel

Graduation 2017



James Bufton FM 94, MOCOSA President, with Jim Riordan FM 93, Graduate of Excellence 2017

High Distinction

Laura Kathleen Wishart Bremer Bay WA

In Absentia

Credit

Lachlan Thomas O'Shannessy Donald VIC

Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness)

Ian James Archer	Spring Ridge	NSW
Alice Linda Fitzpatrick	Rowsley	VIC
Ellie Claire Hays	Roma	QLD
Oliver Andrew Le Lievre	Wahroonga	NSW
Howard Phipps McDonald	Toowoomba East	QLD
Emily Jane Porter	Griffith	NSW
Brett William Stockings	Dubbo	NSW
Hugh William Teate	Naracoorte	SA

In Absentia

Daniel Leo Coulthurst	Wagga Wagga	NSW
Ranald Thomas Gunn McMaster	Bungunyan	QLD
Angus David Remond	Walgett	NSW

Bachelor of Business (Agriculture)

Chad Raymond Baker	Jan Juc	VIC
Hannah Melissa Bodey	Camperdown	VIC
William John Bowden	Bothwell	TAS
Jessica Lee Brogden	Warrick	QLD
Jennifer Lee Cotter	Henty	NSW
Grace Shannon Evans	Camperdown	VIC
Bronte Rose Gorringe	Brucknell	VIC
Clare Hannah Grainger	New Norcia	WA
Patrick James Hanrahan	Stony Creek	VIC
Amelia Sophie Mackinnon	Tintaldra	VIC
Jacklyn Rose McGrath	Tocumwal	NSW
Keeden Bryce Mickelborough	Woodend	VIC

Kari-Melise Moffat	North Melbourne	VIC
James Edward Morrison	Wurdiboluc	VIC
Natalie Anne Poole	Stockton	NSW
William James Penzer Ridge	Bourke	NSW
Harrison Stonnill	Jerilderie	NSW
Oliver George Vidor	Bellerive	TAS
Josephine Anne Webb	Urana	NSW

In Absentia

Patrick John Armstrong	Hobbys Yards	NSW
Edward Pemberton Harris	Uranquinty	NSW

Graduate Certificate of Agribusiness

Cleo Julia Gower	Highton	VIC
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In Absentia

Adam Keith Ballantine	Julia Creek	QLD
William John Banks	Melbourne	VIC
Emma Susan Black	Longreach	QLD
Richard Thomas Braund	Rosebery	NT
Anthony David Cox	Mt Isa	QLD
Kelly Marie Ennis	Adelaide River	NT
Janeta Falknau	Capella	QLD
Brett William Findlay	Griffith	NSW
Sara Gruber	Comet	QLD
Nicholas Handley	Tennant Creek	NT
Peter Frederic Jaeger	Hamilton	NSW
Grant Michael Keane	Mt Isa	QLD
Benjamin Peter Kiss	Mt Isa	QLD
James Vernon Liston	Carranballac	VIC
Darian John McKenzie	Gracemere	QLD
Richard James Morrison	Tennant Creek	NT
Nicole Orchard	Dalby	QLD
Kevin Peter Orrell	Urunga	NSW
Kirsty Marie Skinner	Royalla	NSW
Andrew Thomas Splatt	Clayfield	QLD
Lachlan Sutton	Wentworth	NSW
Shane Taylor-Butts	Bowen Hills	QLD
Sam Mark Turner	Flinders	VIC

Graduate Diploma of Agribusiness

In Absentia

Shaun Christopher McKinnon	Brisbane	QLD
Peter John Meichelboeck	Naremburn	NSW
Gary Linton Wehr	Balaklava	SA

Master of Agribusiness

Kate Louise Bates	Wallumbilla	QLD
James Macrae Hawkins	Neuarpurr	VIC
Patrick John Lash	Sydney	NSW
Jake Alexander Musson	Parkville	VIC

In Absentia

Alistair Garry Sutton	Evandale	SA
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Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program

Excel as an innovative, engaged and passionate industry and community leader

When: Sunday 17 June – Friday 22 June 2018

Where: Marcus Oldham College

Applications due: Friday 18 May 2018

Visit: marcusoldham.vic.edu.au to download an application form



Graduation Address

Graduation Address given by Alexandra Gartmann, CEO and Managing Director Rural Bank

“Congratulations to graduates on beginning your career in the equine, agribusiness and agricultural industries. You are joining the most dynamic and exciting sector in the Australian economy as leaders of the future.

You will be leaving this institution armed with the relevant foundations in critical thinking and communication that studying at Marcus Oldham College is renowned for. As graduates, you are now kicking off a bright career in different roles in various industries including horse breeding, performance horse management, commodities trading, banking, or farm management in a corporate or family farm.

From Australian agricultural institutions, 52 percent of the graduates get employed across regional Australia, and 37 percent go to our cities. Two percent go overseas, and nine percent leave the sector realising their passion is elsewhere. Agri-finance and retail sales are the most common employment categories, but from Marcus Oldham a whopping 28 percent go to farm production (compared to 10 percent nationally), and 26 percent head towards rural finance (compared to 15 percent nationally).

Our industry has a bright future – the best days of which truly lie ahead – but what this future will look like is still being written. Each of you has a vital role in helping to write that future. In fact, only you can write it.

The world needs to grow more food in the next 40 years than we have in the past 10,000. There will be two billion additional people to feed and clothe by 2050. There will also be 2.7 billion in the ‘middle class’, right here on our doorstep in Asia. Society and consumers demand more of contributors, and maintaining our ‘social license’ to operate means constantly listening, responding and innovating, so that we hold ourselves to the standards that our customers and society demand.



If we do things right, Australia will play a key role to help feed and clothe the world. But what role will you play?

A Foundation for Young Australians’ (FYA) report from July 2017 told us that 85 per cent of the jobs in 2030 have yet to be invented. The role that you are about to go to may not exist in the future.

So chances are, you may not be in the same job in five years’ time. The report also revealed that today’s 15-year-olds are likely to make 17 changes in employers across five different careers. And for those heading home to the farm – this applies equally to you. The farm enterprise you will run this year will be vastly different to the farm enterprise you run in five, 10, or 20 years’ time.

So it is now less about the career ladder, and more about the career lattice. But this isn’t scary. Far from it. I think it’s exciting.

Let me share a few of my reflections across the lattice of my career: from policy work in Canberra, to Landcare work in WA, to farmer driven R&D in Birchip, to rural philanthropy and now to leading Rural Bank.

I’ve shaped my career in agriculture and rural issues, changed careers five times and experienced this diverse, challenging, and rewarding sector in many different guises.

Opportunities are available to you. But you’ll need to leverage all of the critical and strategic thinking and communication skills you have honed whilst studying here to extract the best outcome for yourself, your business or career, and our industry.

What you studied may not always be relevant, but the ways you studied and how you learnt will always be important and hold you in good stead.

I attended University in Canberra and all my subjects were as far away as possible from anything that was fluffy, or that moved or spoke. I thought that spending my life working on rocks and soil and landscape processes would get my rocks off for the rest of my career. Not quite the case.

So here are my reflections:

Reflection number one

Communication with people makes the word go round

My first turning point was writing a thesis about the ‘legitimacy’ of the NSW catchment management structure and the people purporting to be leaders. I realised that people made things happen, and people could hinder – but they are the key to everything.

For those who have just graduated from equine studies – the horse rider or owner is the one you will need to communicate with and influence to achieve your aims. For others, it will be the company CEO or the farm owner, or perhaps your own family, who you will need to influence to achieve your aims. That is where your communication skills will be tested.

Reflection number two

Make sure you acquire a few backers, champions and mentors

When exploring a ‘real’ job for the first time after university, I decided it would be Western Australia – because I had never been there. Calingiri (a town of 130 people) taught me so much. My mentors were key community leaders

continued on page 26

Graduation Address *continued from page 25*

(or future leaders). Some were 'starters', others were 'finishers'. Some were behind the scenes, others just ploughed on through and some backed me.

While the future is exciting, there will be times that you feel at your lowest. You might feel like you are backed in a corner and someone also turned out the lights. You will need champions, supporters, sounding boards and people who just give you a good old wake up call.

Find the people who inspire you, who motivate you. They may be someone you see speaking at a field day or a conference, who says something which resonates with both your heart and your head. They may be the person sitting at the desk next to you when you start in an organisation at work, or they may be on the property next door.

The old adage 'you don't ask, you don't receive' rings true – a backer and a mentor cannot read your mind, so you need to ask them. People love to talk about things that they are passionate about and are good at, and they can help to chart a course with you.

Reflection number three

The backers could be beside you

The people you have studied with will be critical for you as you navigate your way through the future. Don't forget the network you have already invested in. They know where you've come from, and they will experience some of the same ups and downs as you chart your career lattice.

Reflection number four

Understand the context of others

What excites you will not always excite other people. So you need to find what motivates and excites others because you will be using that in each and every negotiation that you have.

Three and a half years as Landcare Coordinator in the northern Wheatbelt of WA grounded me in the fundamentals of community-led success, the importance of people, and of finding the right 'thing' that got them excited.

One of the things I got excited about was having a direct impact on someone's life as an Ambulance Officer whilst I was there. Those emergency skills can be particularly useful in reviving people after particularly boring bank meetings.

But in all seriousness, this knowledge has been critical in negotiations. Finding a mutually agreed outcome, a win-win, or at least having parties equally unhappy – you need to know what excites the other party and think about the strategy to deliver that to them as part of the negotiation process.

Every interaction in life and in business is about negotiation.

Reflection number five

Opportunity does knock, but be careful of industrial deafness

Be open to opportunities for lattice movement, or trying something different – in your career, on your farm, in your business. Don't be deaf to hearing the knock when it comes.

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."
– Winston Churchill

In 2001, I thought I needed some balance in my professional career as I knew I lacked production and marketing knowledge, so the phone call from Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) and Ian McClelland, was timely. Opportunity knocked.

And in 2015, opportunity knocked again. I was quaking in my boots when I was asked to consider heading up a bank when I'd never even worked in one. I had to draw on all of my confidence that I knew how to lead a business and get the best from others, in order to squeak out a 'yes'.

Reflection number six

If it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger

Regularly reflect on that as you navigate your career. Just three months in at BCG, in Birchip, north west Victoria, population 700 people – I was ready to quit. I remember that moment well, lying on the couch and crying. But I realise now that the harder the task is, the more I dig in my heels. I followed the advice of my mentor, Lachlan Polkinghorne* who was also at Marcus Oldham College, to

"take a bite and start chewing" and I'm so glad I did, as it proved to be a decade of personal development and growth.

That mantra has sustained many a questioning moment, particularly when I said yes to the role leading Rural Bank. The recent reality of a Royal Commission gives me a unique opportunity to learn how to handle a different kind of situation. Remember, change is good and continuously learning and challenging yourself is even better.

Reflection number seven

Feedback is a gift

We have two ears and one mouth for a reason.

"We all need people who will give us feedback. That's how we improve." – Bill Gates

If people give you feedback, it's because they are invested in you and want you to improve. That is extra effort for them to provide that feedback.

For those of you who will be servicing customers, when they give feedback they show that they care about the organisation, and want the organisation to lift to the standards they expect. The same with a call for a Royal Commission which is aiming to lift the standard of an entire industry. And in agriculture, consumers want food and fibre to be produced, and animals to be treated, as they expect.

Feedback is a gift for us, and we need to be humble and respond to it.

Reflection number eight

You are never too old to learn

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." – Henry Ford

You should never stop asking 'why'. Critical to the future of any industry, but undeniably for Australian agriculture and associated industries, is innovation and change. Rural and farming communities are ripe with tradition but embracing change in the form of new technologies or approaches to farming smarter will enable us to build a sustainable sector into the future, one that has its social

license. Many of you will work in or work with businesses focused on exactly this.

I want us to challenge, debate, aspire, inspire, encourage, pull-apart, criticise and reflect so that we can mold and shape new ideas, new attitudes and new visions to affect incremental, disruptive or transformative change. You are advocates, and it's your role to respectfully challenge the norm in order to see us into the future.

By 2030, automation, globalisation and flexibility will change what we do in every job. It doesn't matter if you're going back to work on the family farm or hoping to become the CEO of an agribusiness organisation. Our jobs are going to change.

To prepare, we must urgently shift our understanding of what it will mean to be smart in the new work order.

Researchers predict that future workers will on average spend 30 percent more time per week learning, 100 percent more time at work solving problems, and more than 77 percent more time using science, technology, maths and engineering skills that the same jobs demand now.

Rather than responding to automation by choosing the 'right' job, people need to acquire the right 'skills' to succeed in an automated and globalised workplace.

Your parents' generation may have used a simple recipe to succeed in their jobs: choose a profession, acquire foundational knowledge, and then slowly become an expert. However, as career paths become less predictable, you will need to be much more flexible.

To be successful in the future world of work, you will need to continue to build your portfolio of skills, capabilities and networks. Graduating is not the end of your learning, it's really only the beginning.

Make your own mark and don't just conform to the label you are given. I've been a banker, philanthropist, R&D person, extension officer... but at heart I'm a rural and agri-specialist, no matter which sector.

The qualification you've received is the start of a long, prosperous, dynamic and exciting career, but it's up to you to choose the path you take. You can take small steps, you can take leaps. You can leverage off others that you met during your time studying at Marcus Oldham, and will meet around the world.

A degree from Marcus Oldham is a great first step. You're in exquisite company, the alumni you join today includes many people with hugely impressive achievements across our industry.

Use the skills you've learned here to take yourself to the next level. I know my higher education was

critically important in kicking off my career as it opened doors and allowed me to embark on a hugely varied and dynamic agricultural opportunity.

Your certificate is a ticket to the career you've always dreamed of – but you never know, it might just turn out to be completely different to what you have in mind right now. I never imagined when I graduated that I would be heading up a national bank.

As you leave today, I challenge you to think about how you will contribute to our industry during the decades ahead. What you will do to keep our rural communities strong? How will you embrace change and ultimately make a difference and leave a legacy?

Finally, I'll leave you with this from Pele – "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all the love of what you are doing or learning to do."

Life is not a race, it is a journey. The journey will always throw things up at you that you never expected. But you can always choose how you'll react, and which direction you'll turn. So go and enjoy, and I look forward to seeing the future that you create."

Editor:

***Lachlan Polkinghorne FM 80, and former lecturer.
Ian McClelland OAM**

Field Days and Equine Events 2018

Field Days and equine events play a major part in the promotion of the College, and it is always good to see graduates, parents, and prospective students visit our stands across the country.

May 3-5	Agfest	Launceston TAS
May 6-12	Beef Australia	Rockhampton QLD
May 11 -13	Ballarat International Horse Trials	Ballarat VIC
June 7-11	Melbourne International 3DE	Werribee VIC
August 6-7	Sheepvention	Hamilton VIC
August 14-16	Eyre Peninsula	Cleve SA
August 21-23	Agquip	Gunnadah NSW
August 29-30	Dowerin	Dowerin WA
September 18-20	Henty	Henty NSW
November 15-18	Australian International 3DE	Adelaide SA
November 23-26	Equitana	Melbourne VIC

Agriculture | Agribusiness | Equine Management

The Centre for the Study of Agribusiness

Discovering Success in Agriculture

Stories have a powerful way of capturing our imagination and a unique ability to teach and motivate us to explore opportunities – big or small. On 14 March 2018 the CSA hosted a forum that revealed the career journeys of several successful graduates. An audience of staff, students, alumni and industry guests were captivated by the array of successful business stories from the following graduates who have discovered their niche in agriculture and the equine industry.

Jim Riordan FBM 93

Managing Director Riordan Grain Pty Ltd
Graduate of Excellence 2017



Jim is a local to Western Victoria and for over 20 years has been involved with the cropping industry and growing his transport business, Riordan Grain Services to be one of the largest privately owned and operated grain networks in the country. Jim is heavily connected throughout the grain and transport industries being involved in many organisations. Through Jim's connection between the grain trade and transport industries, he has played an integral role in establishing the GTA/NSW L&BCA Bulk Freight of Goods Code of Practice. In his spare time, Jim is involved in one of Australia's largest commercial goat breeding businesses spread across three properties in Western New South Wales covering more than 300,000 acres and 15-20,000 commercial goats.

Sam Chisholm Agribus 12

Director, Kadaitcha Pastoral Company



Sam Chisholm grew up on a cattle station in the Northern Territory, 200 km NW of Alice Springs. After boarding school in Sydney, Sam gained his commercial helicopter license and headed to the Kimberley, cattle mustering for the next six years. Since graduating from Marcus in 2012, Sam has worked for the Agricultural Management Company in Brisbane who specialise in

farm management and agricultural investment, before branching out on his own and co-founding Kadaitcha Pastoral Company (KPC) based in Alice Springs. Kadaitcha Pastoral Company purchased their first mob of cattle in December 2014 with a mixture of luck, cunning and vendor finance. In 2016, Sam took leave of KPC and spent two years riding a motorbike 50,000km from Argentina to Alaska helping to raise awareness for mental health issues in rural Australia.

Andrew Froggatt HBM 94

Director, Lead The Way



Since a young boy, Andrew has always been interested in horses. After completing the Certificate in Horse Business Management, he worked in New Zealand and Australia before establishing his own business. For the past 23 years, Andrew has built a reputation as the last resort for the worst of New Zealand's problem horses, specializing in ones that don't like the starting gates. He also works extensively with troubled youth, using horses and obtaining fantastic results. He runs personal development and leadership courses to a highly impressive client list. He is into his ninth year working with High Performance Sport NZ with their Coach Accelerator Program which is aimed at National and International coaches. All Black coach, Steve Hanson, the Super 18 Rugby coaches, Hurricanes, the NZ Rugby Players Association, the Silver Ferns netball team and the NZ cricket coach have all passed through, to name a few. Corporate clients include the NZ Army, Crown Law, ASB Bank, Transpower, NZ Post and Downer Construction.

**The Centre for the Study of Agribusiness
is presenting a forum:**

'Developing New Agribusiness Ventures'

Wednesday 16 May 2018

Ivo Dean Centre at Marcus Oldham

RSVP Friday 11 May to

reception@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

03 5243 3533

Details on: marcusoldham.vic.edu.au



***Sam Chisholm Agribus 12, Dr Yasmin Chalmers, Director CSA,
Andrew Froggatt HBM 94, Jim Riordan FM 93,
Dr Simon Livingstone, Principal, FM 87***



*FBM 3 students
Sam Jackson, Jack Courts, Henry Dight*



*Equine students: Olympia Santamaria, Alyssa Rodgers,
Courtney Summons, Chelsea Hardy, Lucy Sanders*



*Sam Sedgwick FBM 3, Dayna Grey Agribus 2,
Samuel Bunge & Tyler Lewis FBM 3*



Andrew Froggatt conducts a workshop with Equine Management students

Foundation News

The Foundation office is an ongoing smorgasbord of activity. From our special events and luncheons, through to meeting and working with an eclectic mix of people and organisations. Every day is different and a constant reminder of the many layers that contribute to making Marcus Oldham so special.

I am delighted to report that the “We need great minds” campaign, launched in July 2017 for the purpose of raising funds for the Learning Centre project, is very close to securing the first million dollars of its \$5million challenge.

Special thanks to the Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Trust which has proudly put its name to the external lecturing space of the new building. This learning area will be known as ‘The Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Ampitheatre’. We have also, secured significant financial contributions from two other philanthropic groups, one of which will remain anonymous and the other yet to confirm the space to which they would like to put their name.

Invaluable support has also been provided by a range of individuals and organisations, including graduates and their families, and on behalf of the Foundation Executive, I thank each and every one for their loyalty to Marcus Oldham College and their true belief in this project.

Our graduate groups have been invited to purchase chairs within the Auditorium. With 200 seats on offer, the success of this challenge would ensure the second million dollars is secured for this campaign.

In March, the annual Golf Day was once again held at the magnificent Eynesbury Golf Course. The day was

shared with over one hundred friends of the College. Wonderful weather, typical competitive banter, a dynamic speaker, terrific auction meshed with fabulous food and wine made for a very successful day. Thank you to all who came and supported this event which is now in its 12th year!

On Thursday 24 May, the annual Foundation Cocktail Party will be held at the Metropolis on Southbank in Melbourne. Proudly supported by Suncorp, with special guest speaker, the Honourable Jeff Kennett AC, this evening will provide another reveal of the Learning Centre project. Should you be interested in attending, please contact me directly to ensure your invitation.

In an effort to reach out to many of our supporters, the Foundation aims to hold a number of interstate functions this year. Field day ‘get-togethers’ and a number of special luncheons will be held around the country and I urge you to come along and hear, first-hand, what the future holds for Marcus Oldham and our students and alumni.

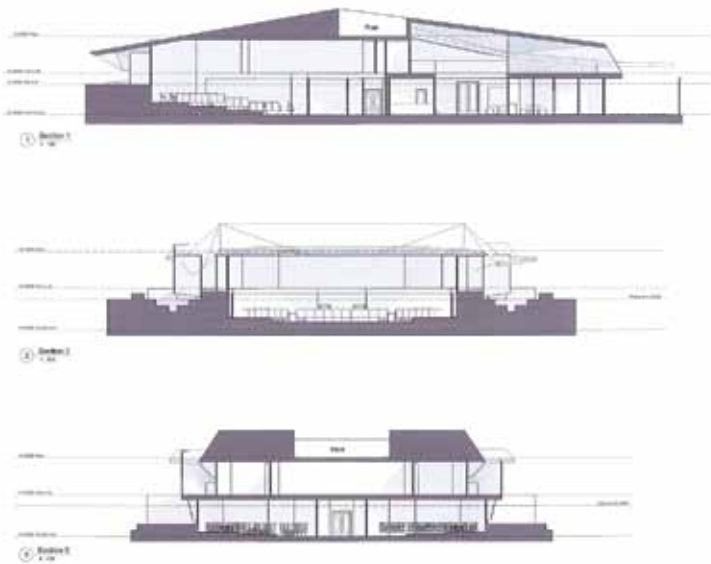
On a personal note, I thank the College Council and Foundation Executive for their endless guidance, professional support and energy with regard to this campaign. It is an important project and one which will ensure that Marcus Oldham continues to do what it does best for many years to come.

Should you be interested in supporting our Learning Centre project in any way, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Alannah Halloran
Foundation Manager



Elevations



First Floor



Second Floor



MARCUS
OLDHAM
FOUNDATION

Seeding great minds

Wonderful opportunities
exist to partner us
in this important
project.

For more information
please contact our
Foundation Manager,
Alannah Halloran

Another perfect day...

Now in its 12th year, the Marcus Oldham annual Golf Day held at Eynesbury was a resounding success.

With 23 teams playing amongst corporate, social and student partners, there were plenty of culinary delights and friendly rivalries throughout the day.

Guest speaker, Mark Wales, former SAS Troop Commander (and a past-participant in the reality TV show, 'Survivor Australia'), gave an in-depth and honest account of his time in combat, including the war in Afghanistan.

This year's Gin Making Masterclass was a very popular activity with fifteen enthusiasts treated to everything gin, including tastings and cocktail making thanks to Chris Pratt from Kilderkin Distillery in Ballarat.

Fellow graduates of the College were very generous in contributing produce for the golf carts and pre-luncheon nibbles. Special thanks to **Jim Maitland FM 06** and Pangkarra in South Australia for supplying delightful garlic chickpeas, Nick Russo (MORLP) and Summer Snow for the divine boutique juices and mineral waters and **David Durham FM 00** Naturipe Fruits for the most wonderful crisp apples.

Former Foundation Officer, now florist, Megan Cole skilfully arranged the beautiful table flowers. Once

again, **Tim Durham FM 77** from Eynesbury Nursery provided native tube stock as table gifts, with one hiding the lucky door prize kindly donated by the Melbourne Racing Club Foundation.

Special thanks to Charlie and Samantha Baillieu for, yet again, supplying the delicious wines for our luncheon, including trio prize packs for our winning golfers.

This year's Auction was another popular part of the day with holidays to Bali and Hong Kong exciting inclusions. Thank you to College travel agents, Freedman, Langhorne & James for supplying the flights to Hong Kong. As always, the AFL package is very well contested. Special thanks to the AFL CEO, Gillon McLachlan for this prize and congratulations to our regular sponsors, Earth and Water, for being successful in their bid.

Eynesbury Golf, Crown, Suncorp and Rendine also provided invaluable support on the day.

This event would not be possible without the unending drive from our Foundation Chairman, **Antony Baillieu FM 71**. Whilst we try to raise important funds for the College through these kinds of events, important relationships and friendships should never be underestimated and the College is very rich indeed when it comes to our loyal supporters.

Not to be forgotten, thank you **Rob McGavin Agri 93**, for your MC services on the day!



*Mark Wales, Guest Speaker,
Mary Morton, Foundation Executive Member,
Rob McGavin Agribus 93, Council Member
and Foundation Executive Member*



*L-R: Dougall Morrison, Hamish Jannings, Sam Jackson
from FBM 3, Jess Chandler, Issy Fenton, Will Boyd,
Ben Daley, Will Ricardo from Agrib 2,
with Lecturers Scott Vanderkley and Ben Hole*

We warmly acknowledge our Golf Day sponsors:



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

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www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/donate

Scholarship Program



Our Scholarship Program provides scholarships valued between \$5,000 and \$30,000 for students enrolled or intending to enrol in either the Agriculture, Agribusiness or Equine Management course. A scholarship provides financial assistance towards the tuition or residential fee, is generally available for the first year of study and, in some cases, subsequent years.

Generously sponsored by corporate and philanthropic organisations, friends, and families within the agricultural, agribusiness and horse industries, the scholarships are attractive to aspiring students.

Selection criteria includes: an applicant's passion and commitment to their chosen industry; is likely to make a valuable contribution to the rural or equine industries; personal presentation, good communication skills, and academic achievement. Applicants must complete an essay on the scholarship question and if shortlisted, attend the College for the interview process.

Scholarships remain an extremely important part of the Marcus Oldham Foundation focus and the Marcus Oldham Council and Management are extremely appreciative of the support received for the College through the Scholarship Program. It is heartening to receive such valuable acknowledgement of the strength of the education programs delivered by Marcus Oldham. Programs which ensure bright young entrepreneurial students are well educated to enter the industries in which they will play a vital role.

It is a great pleasure to announce two new scholarships in our Program:



Darren Weir Racing

Darren Weir Racing is very generously providing a \$10,000 scholarship for a student entering the Equine Management course and planning a career in the

Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding industry. Darren Weir Racing is also supporting a bursary to be awarded to an Equine Management student during their year of study, who is achieving in all aspects of the course.

Darren Weir took out his own trainer's licence in 1995 aged 25, when based at Stawell in Victoria. Since training his first winner shortly after, Darren quickly earned himself a reputation for being an astute horseman with the ability to get the best out of his horses and place them to advantage. As his success and horse numbers grew, Darren moved to Ballarat in 2001 and later acquired stables at Warrnambool to compliment his Ballarat base.

At the conclusion of the 2013/14 season Darren had claimed the Victorian Metro Trainer Premiership, becoming the first country-based trainer to do so. Not only has he maintained his mantle each year since, but Darren also now holds the Commonwealth training record for most number of wins in a season, firstly breaking it in season 2015/16 with 348 wins, and eclipsing it again in 2016/17.



For a student enrolled or intending to enrol in the 2019 Agriculture Program, the newly received Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Scholarship will provide \$20,000 towards the fees. This valuable scholarship is funded by Cotton Australia and Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association.

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia's cotton producers supporting more than 1,200 cotton farming families in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

Janet Craigie-McConnell
Scholarship Co-ordinator

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

Limited Edition



Standard Edition



Ties



Marcus Assist

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

Reunions

M.O.F.A.C. 1967-1968

50 Year Reunion held on Thursday 1 March to Friday 2 March 2018 in Hobart, Tasmania.

Early Thursday afternoon, 21 ex (old!) students, their wives/partners and one former lecturer, Ray Phillips and his wife, Catherine, arrived at Government House, as guests of **Dick Warner FM 70**, husband of the Tasmanian Governor Her Excellency Professor The Hon Kate Warner AC.

During afternoon tea and a tour of the grounds, Dick and the G.H. administrator talked about the history of the building and the relevance of the vice-regal position in a modern society. Dick also elaborated on his known commitment, interest and

involvement in the promotion of Tasmanian agriculture; not to mention the giant pumpkins he was growing in the G.H. vegie patch!

The reunion dinner the same evening was held at the Tasmanian Club, thanks to Sandy Gray's membership there. A magnificent three course dinner was enjoyed by all. The guest speaker was farmer, ex politician and wine producer, Peter McKay, who reminisced about politics and Tasmanian life. He was followed later by an impromptu interview with an unsuccessfully disguised former student masquerading as a renowned professor, discussing the merits of a Bass Strait tunnel - which kept everyone amused.

Friday, saw the group at the Incat ship building facility, where the M.D. gave a talk on the exciting future of this renowned company and where the group witnessed, first-

hand, the intricacies of building huge aluminium sea-going vessels. Appropriately, this was followed by a visit to Lifteraft Systems Australia, another Hobart based company with a highly regarded international reputation.

After a picnic packed lunch in the Hobart Botanical Gardens, it was time to visit Ben Houston's "Southern Fields" at Forcett, a horticultural enterprise producing salad vegetables for the packaged market. Then on to Sandy and Penny Gray's property "Fulham" at Dunalley for afternoon tea and a table laden with goodies.

The world-class Craig Mostyn land-based abalone breeding and growing facility gave the group an insight into the extraordinary advances in aquacultural production. Equally, Tom Gray introduced the group to advanced



L-R: Pete Hoskins, Sandy Gray, Albi Peardon, Jack Sadler, John Murphy, Pete Richardson, Deane Motteram, Bill Bailey, John Ross, Rick Statham, Tony Bowman, Rob Hooke, Bob Doyle, Bob Gardner, Bob McDonald, Dave Crawford, Dick Warner (Host - MOFAC 70), Barney Hutton, Ray Phillips, Malcolm Cleland, Hugh MacTier, Rick Wright. Inset Tony Mugg.

productivity in the oyster growing business that his family runs in the waters off Dunalley. Again, another entrepreneurial and successful enterprise.

The two days had to end but not before returning to "Fulham" for a B-B-Q. B-B-Q?? This turned out to be a full-blown, sit-down, sumptuous dinner produced by Alice and Tom Gray; with wines from the Tamar Valley and Canowindra, New South Wales.

For some, Saturday was time to head home; for others this was an opportunity to experience more of Tasmania.

Contributed by Hugh MacTier



Reunions Arranged

Early Notice for a 1965 Graduate Get Together

1965 Graduates: we are planning to meet for lunch in Geelong on Monday 26 November. It's a great opportunity to catch up. Partners are welcome. If you have not visited the College over recent years or ever, we could arrange a tour later in the afternoon of the day.

1964 and 1966 Graduates would be welcome to join us.

Enquiries to Graham (Harry) Hooper on 0408 501 960

76/78 Marcus Farm Management 40 Year Reunion

Wives and partners included. Organised and locked in.

Date: Friday 12 October to Sunday 14 October.

Venue: Geelong Novotel.

Of the thirty six possible starters, we have twenty four already committed.

There are four that cannot be found, six cannot make it, and two are wavering.

Dinner function for Saturday evening and a Marcus visit and lunch on Sunday.

Contact:

John Eastoe 0409 015 142 sally@eastoes.com

Jim Salter 0408 405 148 jjsalter@bigpond.com

1993 25 Year Reunion

To be held in Geelong Saturday 28 July 2018.

Graduates of 1993 Farm Business Management, Horse Business Management and Agribusiness Administration and their partners are invited to attend.

Agenda includes:

Friday 27 July 2018

Arrive Geelong. Dinner own arrangements.

Saturday 28 July 2018

9.30am - 10.30am

Marcus Oldham College Visit and Tour.

10.30am - 1.00pm

Optional tour to Cobram Estate Factory and Ridley/Riordan Grains at Lara.

7.00pm - 11.30pm

Evening Function at City Quarter Bar on the Pier, Cunningham, Pier, Geelong Waterfront.

Sunday 29 July 2018

Depart

Confirmed so far are 23 students of 1993 attending together with 15 partners - as well as a number of lecturers from 1993.

For further details, contact:

Rolf Mitchell 0414 590 843

Stephen Holding 0400 517 326

Or apply to join the Facebook Group

[MarcusOldhamGraduatesof1993](#)

1998 Farm Management 20 Year Reunion

To be held in Darwin on Friday 27 to Sunday 29 of July 2018.

For more information contact:

Sam Bell 0408 314 780

Richard Johnston 0418 145 463

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

A Churchill Fellowship offers an opportunity to travel overseas to investigate a topic or an issue you are passionate about.

Visit the website for 2019 application information.
www.churchilltrust.com.au info@churchilltrust.com.au

Campus Columns

VALE Andrew Fergus McArthur

A family of long standing within the Marcus Oldham community suffered a tragic loss on 27 March 2018. Mr Andrew McArthur, twin son of Mr F Stewart McArthur AM and Mrs Beverley McArthur, was fatally struck by a car at Centennial Park in Sydney when cycling to work. In his 30th year, Andrew was twin brother to James, and to older sister, Sarah. He was employed as an Asset Analyst at UBS Investment Services.

Mr Stewart McArthur AM, is a current and committed Member of the Marcus Oldham College Council and held the position of Chairman from 1976 to 1996. He was first elected to parliament at the 1984 federal election and represented Corangamite until 2007. Mrs Beverley McArthur plays an active role in the community working as a representative for ratepayers on the Corangamite Shire Council.



Well done, Harry Kemp FBM 1 2018

On Wednesday 28 March, Farm Business Management First Year student, Harry Kemp from Binnaway NSW, was fortunate to compete in the 2018 National Graduate Wool Classing Competition, at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. He had the honour of proudly representing TAFE Western in Dubbo.

The competition involved classing Crossbreds, Medium Merinos, Super Fine Merinos, a Wool Valuing exercise, an AWEX identification exercise and an oral presentation. The competition was an excellent opportunity to further his skills and to apply his

knowledge and understanding of wool in a closely fought competition. Harry met many great people from across Australia and made new contacts and friends within the wool industry. This competition has also allowed Harry to gain valuable industry experience and has really opened his eyes to possible career options in the future.

Harry is the 2018 recipient of the Marcus Oldham College \$15,000 Dr Alastair Mackenzie Scholarship.



Ground Works

And so it has begun!

This month, the Early Works program commenced in preparation for our exciting major project – the Learning Centre. Water, electrical, drainage and such have been extended or upgraded. The campus will be a carefully managed work-site as our beautiful new building takes shape over the months ahead. Well thought out contingency plans are in place to cover the disruption and allow lectures and administrative services to be delivered with minimal disturbance.

Those wheels just keep on a'turnin'



Well done, Andrew Baker, Director of Agriculture and Agribusiness, and winner of the 50-54yo category in the Australian Veterans Cycling Championships Time Trial held in April 2018 at Maryborough, Victoria. Andrew also achieved fourth place overall.

Postgraduate Program

Master of Agribusiness

Demand for the Marcus Oldham Postgraduate Program is growing annually, with students enrolled from across Australia and representing a wide range of professions and industries.

Kate Bates

Master of Agribusiness Dux 2017

What is your background?

I grew up on a beef and grain property in south-west Queensland. After completing high school in Brisbane I studied physiotherapy, which I pursued as a career, before taking the opportunity to complete a Master of Agribusiness at Marcus Oldham College. While I enjoyed being in the healthcare industry, I am very much looking forward to the challenges and possibilities that the agricultural industry presents.

What drew you to a career in agriculture?

Completing my Masters was the first step in establishing a career in agriculture. I have always wanted to be part of the agricultural industry (four out of six of my undergraduate university preferences on leaving school were agriculturally focussed). This had become even more apparent in recent years, particularly after returning home and combining physiotherapy and helping on the family property. The farm was my hobby during that time, so it seemed logical to pursue this passion and turn it into a career. There are many and diverse opportunities in agriculture and, to my mind, there is a lot of value in being able to apply business, management, leadership and entrepreneurial knowledge



to my practical understanding of production.

Why did you choose to study at Marcus Oldham?

The decision to study at Marcus Oldham was simple for me. The College has an outstanding reputation in the agricultural industry. The graduates are highly regarded for their ability to apply knowledge, think innovatively and are passionate and optimistic about agriculture and agribusiness. It also means you become part of a wider network of Marcus Oldham

alumni which has the potential to support many future possibilities.

Tell us what has been your driving passion behind your learning?

It is a very exciting way to culminate my postgraduate studies. My driving passion behind my learning stems from my belief in the potential of the agricultural industry and the challenges and opportunities that will be faced to build a successful and sustainable industry into the future.

kate.bates@bigpond.com

Nuffield Australia

Open for Applications for 2019

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:

Jodie Dean, CEO Nuffield Australia
02 9463 9229
enquiries@nuffield.com.au
www.nuffield.com.au

Applications for the 2019 Scholarships close on Friday 15th June 2018

The Network

Births



Pamela Minogue Hartin BBusAM 07 and Ben, welcomed Thomas Joseph Minogue on 26 September 2017 at 8.37am weighing 3550 grams and 51cm.
pmm@dairybusinesscentre.com.au



Rob BBusFM 09 and **Tara Hindson BBusFM 09** were delighted when Edwina (Winnie) Lee Henty Hindson was born in Naracoorte on 16 February 2018. A sister for Isabelle.
tarahawkins3@hotmail.com robjhhindson@gmail.com

Engagements

Pat Lash MAgrib 17 announced his engagement to Leah Reynolds. They will wed on 29 June 2018.

Emily Porter BBusAgrib 17 is engaged to be married next April to Hamish Armstrong.

Marriages



James Harvey BBusAgric 14 married Samantha Turnbull at "Blairgowrie" Holbrook NSW on Saturday 4 March 2017. L-R: Jess Barr Smith, **William Archer FBM 13**, Sophie West, James and Samantha, **Lawrence Simpson BBusAgric 16**, Bip Smith, **Luke Minogue BBusAgric 16**.

Marriages



John Stump FBM 12 and Heidi McLay were married on 29 December 2017 in Toowoomba QLD. L-R: **Tamara Uebergang Agrib 14**, **Harry Webster FBM 12**, Katie Watson, Bob Scott, Heidi and John, Sarah Ramsay, Hugh Stump, Stacey Johnston and **Alistair Marshall FBM 10**. They are settled at "Windella", Rowena, NSW.

Marcus graduates at the wedding included: **Ed Harris BBusAgric 17**, **Eloise Harris Haire BBusAgrib 14**, **Charlie Cordingley FBM 12**, **Charles Buchanan FBM 06**, **Charlie Harris Agrib 13**, **Ben Watson Agrib 07**, **Anna McLay Hancock Agrib 05**, **Ben Skerman BBusAgrib 15**, **Joe Read BBusAgrib 16**, **Sam Chisholm Agrib 12**, **Andrew Hughes Agrib 08** and **Philip Marshall FM 66**.

Deaths



was an esteemed member of the Student Body and is remembered with great respect.

Wallace (Wally) Dunsdon FBM 08 on 22 October 2017. Wal lost his life in a farm accident involving a grader at Hortonvale near Cunnamulla QLD. In his time at Marcus Oldham, Wal distinguished himself extremely well: Student President, CAS Hawker Scholar and Dux of the course. Wal was an esteemed member of the Student Body and is remembered with great respect.



Dylan Hassett FBM1 17 on 24 December 2017. Attending Marcus Oldham was a dream come true for Dylan. He took every opportunity to equip himself with skills and knowledge, including being a member of the 2017 Marcus Oldham Inter-Collegiate Meat Judging Team at Wagga Wagga NSW. Warmly remembered.

David Matuschka FM 77, peacefully on Sunday 15 April 2018 after a long illness. David is remembered by his Marcus mates as one of the great characters of the class of 77. David, who is survived by his wife, Judi and son, Marcus, farmed at Tarrone, near Koroit VIC.

William (Bill) John Tucker FM 68 (1946 – 2018)

'Tuck' as he was known, passed away on 20 February 2018, just days prior to the MOFAC 1968 Reunion in Hobart TAS.

Born, raised and working in the Ararat VIC area all his life, apart from short stints at 'Callendale Station' near Lucindale SA on MOFAC work experience, and then, after Marcus, at Kinglake, northwest of Melbourne and at Timber Creek, on a large corporate station, between Kununurra and Tenant Creek. In between, was a trip around Australia with fellow Marcus students, **John Murphy FM 68** and **Peter Richardson FM 68**.

Tuck returned to the home farm 'Isurava' in 1975 with brother, Joe, and soon they bought a farm nearby at Buangor in partnership. The family farm was sold in 1996, and with his wife, Marg, Bill moved to Ararat, where he continued his wool classing and general farm duties. Bill and Marg have two sons, Richard and Patrick, and grandchildren. A keen sportsman, very good footballer and a Cats supporter, Bill was on the Ararat Football Club Committee for many years, and this was where his memorial service was held.

Contributed by Bill Bailey FM 68

Marcus All Over

Ken Edwards - Lecturer 1967 -1972

I visited the College in 2011 and was given a fascinating tour by John Miles, who was about to finish his many years of service to Marcus. That visit was a real highlight of my trip back to Victoria because it showed that what had started so well in the early 1960s as a highly relevant innovative College, was still going with gusto in the same vein.

I enjoy reading the MOCOSA Magazine because it shows, very well, that what Ivo Dean and the College Council started, is going from strength to strength.

There are two parts that I like especially. The first is to read articles about the doings of recent graduates, because they give me an insight into what is happening in agricultural industries and farm business management these days. What is interesting, is that surnames of some of the current and recent graduates sound remarkably similar to those of students of long ago.

The second thing that I like, is to read bits and pieces about students I taught between the start of 1968 and the middle of 1972. For some strange reason most of them in the photos look like old men (sorry boys) but occasionally a name and a face match up, despite some wrinkles or hair deficiency. Even after almost 50 years so many student names still mean something to me and bring back memories.

For any past student who may be interested, I really enjoyed my time at the College because the place was on the go, demand for entry was so strong that we were able to select the best in the field, and the other staff and the students were great. I replaced Jim Richardson to become the second Vice Principal, and was able to act as a steady backstop for Ivo, who was starting to lose a bit of his edge because the most exciting bits of starting a new venture were finishing. Ivo was a great innovator, so he got rather bored when things steadied.

Great as the job was, I was in a privileged position and dealing with students who were also privileged (as was pointed out in a recent article by Jock Nivison). I volunteered with the (then) Methodist Church and went to Fiji as the Principal of Navuso Agricultural School, which was a rather interesting outfit with three quite separate training systems. After the three-year term was up I came back to Australia to start an Associate Diploma in Farm Management at Roseworthy Agricultural College in SA.

The course framework had already been prepared, so my job was to work within a discipline-based teaching system and put in as much as I could of the Marcus Oldham philosophy and curriculum. It was quite a good little course and we had a strong management department within the College. It was interesting to be teaching within Associate Diploma, Degree, and Graduate Diploma courses as diverse as wine making, wine marketing, various agricultural courses, horse husbandry, and natural resources management.

It is unfortunate that a Federal Government merger policy led to us joining up with a university (no names, no pack drill) with a Dean who was intent on getting rid of such unscientific irrelevancies as management

subjects. After a frustrating year in charge of all undergraduate courses I went back to straight teaching and enjoyed doing that for my last few years there. After 23 years of retirement, life is still good and I, and the rest of the family, still look back with fond memories to our times at Marcus Oldham.

kjandpj@internode.on.net



Graeme Harvey FM 71 from Murgheboluc VIC and **James Davidson FM 71** from Lake Bolac, VIC, caught up at a recent wool sale. Both were jackeroos at "Chatsworth House" Merino stud in 1969.
poplarsh@bigpond.net.au



L-R: Isabelle, Felicity, Jon, Georgina and Sophie.

Jon Beasley FM 85 since leaving Marcus Oldham, spent a number of years working in the eastern states. Firstly, in Tasmania working with Rod Ashby for the McKinnon's, then continued with Rod and a group of investors, at Ganmain NSW before commencing with the McLaughlin family at Liewah near Moulamein NSW.

In 2001, he headed West with a young family to accept the farm management position at Frankland River Grazing in south-west WA. The 7,400ha property produces 2,500ha of cropping: wheat, canola and barley, and approximately 15,000 sheep. He runs a self-replacing Merino flock and also produces fat lambs and 300 shorthorn breeders.

John married his lovely wife, Felicity, in 1993 and had three gorgeous daughters while at Moulamein. Georgina has graduated with a Media and Communications degree and Marketing major, and works as Marketing Coordinator at Australian Primary Hemp in Geelong. Sophie has a passion for agriculture, has spent two

years on the family farm, and has headed north to work for Jumbuck Pastoral at Meda Station near Derby WA. She hopes to attend Marcus next year. Youngest daughter, Isabelle, is working as a florist in Perth and plans to travel overseas this year.
westfiel@westnet.com.au



Sam Kirkby Agrib 02 operates Greenstar Earthmoving, a family business based in Alstonville NSW. They offer a professional, reliable and flexible earthmoving service and their work varies from civil works for commercial premises, to rock retaining walls and landscaping. Large and small machinery suits large scale jobs and home landscaping.
samuel.kirkby@hotmail.com
www.greenstargroup.net.au



Molly Bertram EM 15 has been busy since graduating: a cruise to the Pacific Islands in 2016; a role in the movie 'Walker Stalker' filmed in Melbourne; and a trip to the United States during December 2017 to January 2018, visiting Las Vegas, Washington D.C., New York (very, very cold), and Orlando in Florida. (Check out www.busybertrams.wordpress.com).

In 2016, Molly started studying for her Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing and is close to graduating. She must complete 480 hours of placement and is currently at Greencross Ballarat. After graduating, Molly hopes for work at either a veterinary clinic that includes horses, or a specialty equine clinic.
molly@thebertrams.com.au



Colin (right) was loaned an old welsh cob for an autumn ride when visiting Wales.

Colin Bulbrook HBM 95 has retired from full time work and has started a new chapter in his life - writing a novel about horses! He still rides out occasionally to remind himself how wonderful it is to be in the saddle and to be with horses and horse people! He thanks Marcus Oldham for enriching his life a thousand fold.
cbulbrook@emailaccount.com



Katherine Byrne Agrib 13 was awarded a 2018 Gardiner-funded United Dairyfarmers of Victoria - UDV scholarship to tour the South Island of New Zealand last February where she explored farming systems, industry structures and discussed issues with local dairy producers.
K_L_Byrne@hotmail.com

Robert Herzer FM 86 with his wife, Angela, is enjoying life in the Avon Valley/Central Wheatbelt Region in WA. Working for the state water utility, as Team Leader Operations Services for the Goldfields and Agricultural Region, he looks after a small team of specialists providing technical and compliance support to field operators. His younger daughter, Annie, was riding for Australia in the Mounted Games Under 17 Worlds Competition at 'Equitana' in Auckland during November 2017.
Robert.Herzer@watercorporation.com.au

Emily Porter BBusAgrib 17 apart from planning her wedding day, has completed a 200 hour yoga teacher training program - and is taking yoga to the bush, teaching in Hay and Carrathool in NSW. She is

working on offering a Friday 'Farmers Flow', which is challenging her!!
emily.corynniastation@gmail.com

Justin Sterley HBM 05 after Marcus, moved to New Zealand to air freight horses for New Zealand Bloodstock. He started his own business in 2007 after returning to Australia at the end of 2006. Justin's wife, Lizzy, also works in the business. He has collected extensive horse handling experience over numerous years through endeavours such as track work and playing polo in various countries. Justin looks to constantly further his horsemanship knowledge, always placing the welfare of the horses first.

'Sterley Horsemanship Solutions' seek to take a horse to the next level whether it is racing, show jumping, dressage, polo, campdrafting, or simply riding for

pleasure. A training schedule is discussed with the client to establish the owner's requirements. Each horse is individually assessed and broken-in to suit each owner's discipline and capabilities.
sterleyhorsemanship@gmail.com
www.sterleyhorsemanship.com

Ronald McMaster BBusAgrib 17 is founder and director at 'Outback Creative', a company that specialises in exposure, brokerage and publication of premium Australian rural and indigenous art. One of the principle aims of the company, is to provide great marketing and promotion for the artists both nationally and internationally.
ranald@outbackcreative.com.au
www.outbackcreative.net
www.facebook.com/outbackcreative/

Editor's Memo



WORK – More than a Necessary Evil

Several decades ago, my Head Mistress at secondary school in Gore, New Zealand, Miss Margaret Logan, gave an address on the subject of work, a copy of which, I have kept in my dictionary. Following, is a precise:

"We all need to work. How do you look on your work – a curse or a blessing? First, our work is what we are and where we are. There is nothing commoner than for a person to wish that their work was other than it is.

Carlyle was one of Scotland's great thinkers and writers, his father was a stone mason and bridge builder; Thomas Carlyle used to say that he would rather have built one of his father's bridges than written all his own books.

Our work is, first and foremost, what we are and where we are. The best way to a greater job is to do the one we have supremely well.

Biblical opinion is that there is no better test of a person than the 'way' in which they work. It is said that people do not so much need to do extraordinary things but to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

The test of a person is work and to put that in another way – the test of a working person is: do they earn their pay?, or do they try to earn their pay? We are getting perilously near the situation in which a person is thinking not of earning their pay, but of getting more and more pay for less and less work. If this were an ideal world, we would all be more interested in the quality of the work we produced than the pay we got for it. We are at a stage when the right to be paid is demanded, when the right to bargain for more is demanded and the OBLIGATION to earn the pay is seldom admitted.

There is one thing which would go far to make work what it ought to be, and to cause it to be done in the

spirit in which it ought to be done, and that is to look on our work as a 'contribution' OWED to the community.

We have different skills to offer. If each person does their part, the whole makes up an efficient society. This is good economics. Too often, in our modern society, this community feeling is lacking and we are out to further our own interests, regardless of the interests of the other parts of the community. However, there is the right of a person to work to make a living wage in reasonable working conditions. Just as a person has obligations which they must satisfy and responsibilities to fulfil, there are certain things which are due to them, and if these things are not given there is bound to be trouble.

Ask yourself – what is work to me? Carlyle said, 'It can be that my work is everything and that for it, I live.' Content is the person who has found their work, although this is not true for everyone. We have, therefore, to look afresh at our philosophy of work.

A doctor, a teacher, a farmer, an artist, a craftsman, a motor mechanic may find satisfaction in their work. We have to think of those whose jobs are repetitive and monotonous. The more automation takes over, the more jobs there are in which a person is a machine-minder, a presser of buttons, a manipulator of switches.

The plain fact is – we cannot find 'life' in this kind of existence. It may well be a process to earn a living and nothing more and, therefore, a person must find real life and satisfaction out of work. A person needs education for leisure as much as education for work. The dream of education is that education should be a gold key to unlock the doors, not simply to the skills which are necessary to make a living but to the things of the human spirit, of art, of music, of drama, by which men and women will find life.

The one thing that could give meaning to life is service to the community. If the mature would remember what they could do for the young; if the young would remember what young hands can do for the lonely, the aged and the helpless; if the strong would remember the weak; if those who have too much would remember those who have too little; and if there was an inbuilt obligation to service there would be no problems at all, for it is living for others that a person finds themselves."

Janet Craigie-McConnell
Editor

Need to contact someone?

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