

MOCOSA



Ben & Jayde: Two graduates share their tale

From cluster fencing to abstract art

Kangaroo Island ablaze

Graduate Tony Riggs shares
his heartbreaking story

The opening of the Douglas Boyd Centre at Marcus Oldham

State-of-the-art Learning Centre officially opens



Quinyambie Station SA, Mutooroo Pastoral Company

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Cover photo: Maddie Brown Photography

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dr Simon Livingstone

When the academic year commenced on February 3, the coronavirus was on the news, but few of us anticipated the impact it would have on the world and indeed Marcus Oldham.



The new students had only been at the campus six weeks before circumstances changed leading to online studies becoming the learning platform. Students studied remotely for close to eight weeks before returning to face-to-face delivery. The second wave of infections then hit Victoria in July and the College is now addressing student's learning needs remotely once again. I thank the lecturers for adjusting to this adversity and our students for the way they have positively approached this difficult situation.

The new Learning Centre continues to enable the College to deliver its programs. The innovative technology and communication systems provide students with seamless connection. Virtual interaction, recording and editing facilities are some of the features that have benefitted students during these difficult times.

Dr Peter Jamieson, who was instrumental in designing the teaching spaces within Marcus Oldham's new Learning Centre, worked with the lecturers to adjust to online teaching. The aim has been to promote increased sharing of effective remote teaching methods within the Marcus lecturer team.

To assist with the delivery of online teaching, the College continues to utilise the functions of the Learning Management System called D2L — Desire to Learn, which is cloud based software comprising a number of integrated platforms. The two main platforms being utilised are the learning environment and the learning repository.

The lecturing team are utilising the most applicable features of these tools through a combination of professional development sessions and first-hand experience.

In addition to email and phone contact, students are using services such as the LMS (for curriculum content and assessment); Custom timetable app (class scheduling);

Zoom (face to face video calls, instant messaging, casual support); Microsoft Teams (group-based activities, file sharing/collaboration) and Studiosity (student study support). The Learning Management System has been a critical component to servicing and educating our students from a distance.

Although remote learning was not what our students had planned, or the College had anticipated, I am confident the students are learning many skills that will assist them in later life. Similarly, our lecturers have had to adapt and be innovative in the new learning environment. Both our staff and students have met the challenge.

FROM THE MOCOSA PRESIDENT

Peter Stephens

Well I'm pretty certain Dorothea McKellar didn't see this one coming! Rural Australia and Indigenous Australians have dealt with drought, fire and flooding rains for a millennium, but a pandemic which has crippled the world comes along fortunately very rarely!



All of this on top of the devastating fires that ripped through huge parts of the country and yet have nearly been forgotten by many Australians. A good friend and Marcus mate from 1983 describes the horror that engulfed him on Kangaroo Island in February in this edition and I personally thank him for what was a distressing recount of the terrible event.

Whilst things are absolutely devastating for all Australians, either through loss of employment and business, separation from loved ones and of course the terrible loss of life, we are fortunate that we can still feed ourselves and indeed still continue to export agricultural produce.

Never has agriculture been as important to the nation and Marcus graduates are up to their necks in it, either producing food or fibre or involved in downstream processing and logistics.

There are challenges now thrown at you that you would have never foreseen. Examples such as trying to get lambs to market from Tasmania into Colac and redirecting cattle destined for JBS in Melbourne to Longford and Scone. These are just two issues that have been relayed to me in the last few days. In typical Marcus fashion a solution will be found and the Marcus network will be there to assist.

On a brighter note, the season across large parts of Australia has improved significantly and there will be opportunities to realise some large production gains to help Australia through this crisis.

Also, you may have noticed the launch of the Marcus Connect platform, developed by MOCOSA to enable us all to stay connected and network with each other. Jess and the Marcus team have done a great job in getting this product to market and it currently boasts 400 members.

This platform will run alongside the MOCOSA Facebook page (with 700+ members) and will make interaction between your peers, year groups and even mentors as easy as a click on your phone or laptop. Please go to marcusconnect.com and join up.

I wish all of you a great finish to the season in southern Australia and a great start in the north. A special shout out to the 2020 Marcus cohort and staff who are dealing with a very difficult situation in Victoria, but I know that they will all come out the other side as strong and committed as ever.

From cluster fencing to abstract art: Two graduates share their outback tale

Ben and Jayde Chandler know all too well the devastation wrought by Australia's endless drought. Both grew up just 30 minutes out of Barcaldine in Queensland and travelled to Victoria to study their Diploma of Agribusiness at Marcus Oldham College. They now run a cattle and sheep enterprise with their four children in the same town where they were raised.

But despite their serendipitous love story, the arid landscape they call home is a formidable place to make a living. So it's even more remarkable that not only has the pair used their farming nous to drive away wild dogs and diversify their livestock, but Jayde's artistic flair blossomed in a land where such things rarely grow.



ART DRAWN FROM THE OUTBACK

Against a backdrop of barren paddocks, vicious wild dogs attacking their livestock, and an unending sense of dread about Barcaldine's dearth of rain, Jayde held a dream close to her heart: a desire to spark joy.

This desire manifested itself in the world of abstract art — something Jayde only fell into two years ago. But what started as a way to get some much needed 'me-time' quickly developed into a far more serious hobby.

"Having four kids took me out of the farming game a little bit," she says. "I wasn't able to get out into the paddock as much as I would have liked and with the ongoing drought I wanted a creative outlet — something that was mine and mine only."

GIVING BACK THROUGH THE DROUGHT APPEAL

Jayde used the harsh reality of Australia's drought as inspiration for her first piece, and Ben suggested she do something with it.

"I was disgusted with the concept at first," Jayde says. "I wasn't trying to promote myself or sell anything, but then Ben said we could donate any money to the Drought Appeal."

With the drought's ongoing devastation also affecting the Chandler farm — not to mention all the other farmers, small business owners and everyday Australians across Outback Queensland — the ability to give something back to the community was very appealing to Jayde. So, despite her initial trepidation, she put her artwork up for auction.

The result? A \$2,000 sale, with all proceeds going directly to the appeal.

"Now it's become an obsession. I can drop off the boys at school or send them out mustering and just paint at home while my youngest is with me. It fits into our lives so easily. My inspiration obviously comes from the Western Queensland landscape, but there's a big part of me that likes to be completely abstract.

“I just want to create things that are uplifting and spark joy.”

WILD DOGS, CLUSTER FENCING AND A CHEROKEE PIPER

Home for the Chandlers is a family-run mixed grazing operation. Set on about 100,000 acres of land, Ben and Jayde live on one property 'Gregory Park', Ben's parents (John and Joss Chandler) live on another 'Kyneton', and his brother Tom and wife Holly live on a third 'Clover Hills'.

The three properties are all adjoining country, where they farm cattle as well as sheep — although the latter has only been possible recently.



Photo: Edwina Robinson Photography

"Wild dogs have always been an issue, so much so that we were forced out of sheep several years ago," Jayde says. "It's only now with the cluster fencing that we've started back. We have about 3,000 head on the ground, and once the fencing is all finished we'll get cracking with more sheep to get some diversity."

Cluster fencing is a state-government incentive to relieve some of the financial strain of having to set up hundreds of kilometres of fencing around adjacent properties. With the long-term impact of drought as well as the threat of wild dogs to their livestock, it's helped Ben and Jayde build up their farming operation.

"Every member of the cluster has equal responsibility to maintain the fences, to keep in touch with everyone, and to act as a unit. It means we can tackle the problem head-on rather than be a bunch of random properties all over the place."

It's been a long slog so far — three years and still 30 kilometres of fencing to go. But with over 100 kilometres in the cluster, 66 of which is turned to pastoral, the finish line is firmly in sight.

"We've really been needing the diversity that the fencing brings, because a lot of this country is best suited to sheep, rather than cattle. It gives us another dimension."

One of the great joys for Ben is the opportunity to fly his grandfather's 1964 Piper Cherokee 180, which he uses for everything from mustering cattle and sheep, to flying down to bull sales.

In spite of wild dogs and the drought, Jayde's positive outlook remains a constant.

"We are pretty optimistic," she says. "There's still a lot of people that are managing properties out here, and everyone is pretty bullish. We feel there's still a good reason to be out here."

You can find Jayde's artwork at jaydechandler.com



Ben and Jayde have an idyllic life of contrasting roles. Photo top/left: Edwina Robinson Photography. Other photos this page: Maddie Brown Photography.



Warren Sutton has forged a career as an expert in equine education.
Photo: Richard Dunwoody

Working in the mind of horses

Marcus Oldham alumni Warren Sutton was hooked on horses,
and horse racing, from a very young age.

Sutton, now 48, and an award-winning horse educator, was born and raised in Swan Hill, where riding the local unfriendly and unbroken ponies after school was as natural for him as kicking a football.

Little did the youngster, who was still at primary school, know that mastering those cantankerous, unforgiving hairy bundles of energy was his first foray into the workings of the equine mind. It's an ability that has given him an international reputation and a rewarding lifetime career with horses — a career that has taken a new direction.

Not much happens in Swan Hill before the sun comes up, except the squeak of the bike chain of the local paper boy doing his morning rounds and, if you lived near the Swan Hill racecourse, the pounding of hoofs and snorting of the thoroughbreds working through the pre-dawn gloom.

Between hurling papers into the front-yard bushes of the sleepy Swan Hill residents, 11 year old Sutton, would often stop to watch and listen as the horses and riders whizzed by. For a kid with a growing passion for horses and riding them, it was a natural progression to step through the racecourse gates.

By the time he was a teenager, Sutton was doing general strapping duties and riding trackwork for legendary local stalwarts such as Ducky Smith and Roy McCormick. There was no turning back.

It was during the time after he finished high school in 1989 that he started working for a man who most influenced him in developing his love of educating horses, Vincent "Tal" Nolen,

the father of leading jockey Luke (of Black Caviar fame) and former jockey Shaun.

"I did what could be called a gap year before going to Marcus Oldham College. He was a fabulous horseman. I probably learnt a lot more from him than anyone else."

Sutton was accepted into Marcus Oldham's Equine Business Management course in 1990. At 18, he was the youngest in his year and arrived at the college "very wet behind the ears".

"It was eye-opening for me coming out of Swan Hill to live in Geelong. The formation of friends was instant, and they all looked after me because I was the youngest. In saying that, it quickly moved on to horses and studies, which I found tough, because I wasn't scholastic," he said.

At the end of 1990, Sutton accepted what he regarded as the job of a lifetime, at the famous Lindsay Park Stud and training farm in Angaston in South Australia. It was just after legendary trainer Colin Hayes had retired and handed over Lindsay Park to his son David, who created world headlines in late 1990 when he trained the champion Better Loosen Up to win the Cox Plate at Moonee Valley and Japan Cup at Fuchu in Tokyo.

"Colin Hayes was my idol and I thought I had to work for him"



Photo: Richard Dunwoody

Since the late 1990s, Sutton has spent most winters working outside of Australia, including setting up his own businesses educating horses in South Africa and various parts of Asia, but more recently in Thailand where he has worked with the Thai Cavalry (with Australian showjumping legend Andrew Hoy) and the Thai Police force.

Last year, working with noted equine behavioral scientist, Dr Andrew McLean, he worked with elephants in Thailand, helping the mahouts in the art of ethical training of their elephants.

Sutton said he refined his horse education skills through meeting and learning off a lot of people along the way.

“You mix in your own methods, and then you start learning the anatomy of the horse and how the (equine) brain works — what chemical reaction happens during different training methods.”

In the past 10 years, Sutton has divided his time between working for leading trainer Tony McEvoy (now in partnership with his son Calvin) and working in Asia. For McEvoy, a close friend from his Lindsay Park days, Sutton educates up to 100 horses each season at Kildalton Farm, a spelling and training complex at Murbko in South Australia, picturesquely positioned on the Murray River.

In September, Sutton is about to swap his leather chaps for a comfy leather chair after accepting a position as McEvoy Racing’s New Business Development Manager. His first job will be helping with the staffing and relocation of horses into McEvoy’s newly built training complex at Ballarat.

“There is a succession plan for a new young team that I will develop to educate the horses in the new year. My bum will

be out of the saddle more, which will be hard to get used to, but I am excited by the new position which has a lot of room for development,” he said.

McEvoy has banned his mate from following his adventurist spirit by competing in any more gruelling epic rides such as the Mongol Derby (Sutton was equal fourth in 2017) in Mongolia and the newly formed Gaucho Derby in Argentina, in which Sutton competed in the inaugural event in March.

Last year, Sutton won the Horsemanship Award in the prestigious Godolphin Stud and Stable Awards, which is he said was a great thrill and a humbling experience.

Sutton has some great advice for those looking to get into racing.

“Be true to yourself and know your worth.”

“Never be afraid to ask questions as the most valuable information can come from the most invaluable source. Keep yourself a little black book of things you learn along the way and continue to educate yourself.”

He also said there is a tremendous opportunity for young people thinking about starting a career in horse education.

“There is a massive market out there and educating horses is not going to be taken over by a machine. It’s a dying art that has so much potential for young people to get into, and it’s a really good career that pays well.”



James Cummings and Warren Sutton at the prestigious Godolphin Stud and Stable Awards



Photo: Richard Dunwoody



Photo: Bianca De Marchi



Kangaroo Island ablaze: Graduate Tony Riggs shares his heartbreaking story

So much has changed for Tony Riggs since December. A Marcus Oldham graduate from 1984 — where he completed his Associate Diploma of Farm Business Management (AssocDipFBM) alongside MOCOSA President Peter Stephens — Tony jumped around from farm life on Kangaroo Island (KI) to real estate management in Adelaide and back again over the decades.

And while bushfires and drought are nothing new to Tony and his family, nothing could have prepared him for what began on 20 December 2019.

**“It was pitch black. We couldn’t hear anything.
We could barely stand up.”**



Tony Riggs with grandchildren Scarlett, Hugo and Georgia

“Get back as soon as possible”

Tony and his wife Penny were at a function for their real estate firm in Adelaide when he got the text message. It was from his son Henry, who now runs Tony’s KI farm with his brother Ben. “Get back as soon as possible,” it read. Tony took the quickest flight he could find.

“There were lightning fires everywhere that basically set eight separate fires going,” Tony recalls. “That was the start of it. It’s pretty inaccessible country out there, with plenty of scrub, national parks and private land. When we got to the farm there were hardly any CFS [Country Fire Service] units around because they were off fighting fires to the west.”

Based out of their farm “Netherby” on Mount Taylor Road, Tony and his sons did what they could to control the blaze and try to avoid it sweeping through their property.

“Quite a few times we thought we’d got hold of it, but then the weather would change which was always the biggest problem. We knew by 11 o’clock every day that the wind would pick up, it would really start to heat up, and then we’d be off into the fires again. It was just a constant cycle of weather changes.”

Tony says exhaustion was one of the toughest challenges. “The fatigue part of it was really hard. Because we had people running on probably just three or four hours of sleep a night. The days were relentless.”

“You’ve got half an hour before it gets to you”

On Friday, 3 January, after weeks battling relentless blazes, everything turned for the worse. A massive fire at the Flinders Chase National Park had turned the land in what Tony’s

daughter, Mel, would later describe as the aftermath of an “atomic bomb”.

The fire itself was so fierce and widespread that it created its own weather system, pushing the blaze in all directions. Tony’s neighbour was able to watch this unfold in real-time, and it was him who warned Tony it was headed to Netherby farm.

“He gave us a ring and reckoned we had about half an hour before it got to us,” Tony says. “So we had to make a decision about what we were going to do. Then he rang back five minutes later and said: ‘Make that ten.’”

“So we made the decision to evacuate.”

That was 7.30pm. From the time Tony hung up the phone, gathered what little he could and headed towards Ben’s place on the north coast, KI looked like a different world.

“It was pitch black. We couldn’t hear anything. We could barely stand up.”

Rain fell overnight — about five millimetres. Nowhere near enough to stop the fire from tearing through Tony’s property.

In the light of day there was only destruction. The house he’d raised his family in — levelled, along with 88 other homes on the western end of KI.

His farm ute — totalled, the steel firefighting unit in the tray still boiling when he got back to the farm at 2.30am. And the livestock — 946 of Tony’s ewes perished or had to be shot along with 126 cows. He and his sons spent days burying their bodies in large pits.

Absolute destruction is something you simply cannot prepare for. The fires took a horrific toll. Two people lost their lives, 211,474 hectares were burnt, 59,730 livestock perished and 322 vehicles were destroyed. Despite the unimaginable pain and years of recovery ahead, Tony says the fires brought together the KI community like never before.

“It’s the great leveller,” he says. “We were actually lucky. Some people lost everything — all their livestock, their homes, their vehicles, their feed, their fencing and yards, the whole bloody lot.”

Help from the army and BlazeAid, in particular, allowed residents to get on with what needed to be done.

“They were just unbelievable, because you think of the army as soldiers, yet they are skilled in so many areas. They’re mechanics, plumbers, dozer drivers. We were fretting every day, but along with BlazeAid they enabled us to get back to looking after the stock, feeding them, containing them and rebuilding fences. It certainly brought out the best in people.”

And while Tony has since moved to Adelaide permanently — and brought his succession planning forward — Netherby is in good hands with his sons Henry and Ben running the show from now on.



Tony’s farm ute with fire fighting unit.



Tony’s son Henry Riggs

The Majesty of Mutooroo



To gain a basic grasp of the Mutooroo Pastoral Company it first requires some raw figures and historical context.

The Mutooroo Pastoral Company consists of five main stations located in the North East Pastoral area of South Australia along the SA/NSW border. The stations are Mutooroo, Mulyungarie, Quinyambie, Lilydale and Manunda. A combined a total of around 19,000 square km or close to 5.25 million acres/2.1 million hectares.

The Mutooroo Pastoral Company is owned and managed by the Morgan and Wells families – direct descendants of Peter Waite who was instrumental in opening up the North East Pastoral areas of South Australia in the late 1880s.

The Company was incorporated following the death of Sir Thomas Elder in 1897 to acquire the business of the long and successful partnership of Peter Waite and Sir Thomas Elder.

Over the years the company has added to its holdings and in 2010 they purchased Quinyambie Station, North West of Broken Hill, from S. Kidman & Co.

One of the unique differences with the company is that it can only be passed on to direct family members and James Morgan is the current custodian.

“We see ourselves as a medium-sized operation,” Morgan says with no intention of understatement. “There are some large enterprises out there and we have our own place in the system.”

With such a rich history attached, it was perhaps inevitable that the family was keen to further advance the Mutooroo name with the instigation of the Marcus Oldham scholarship.

“It started as an idea three or four years ago, we’ve had two excellent recipients so far and as far as we’re concerned it has been a great success. Our idea was to be able to give people some education and some career sense for later on,” Morgan explains.

“It’s a long game but we thought something like a scholarship was a good idea to help the next generation”

As part of the Mutooroo scholarship the student is required to complete the second year placement component of their degree at Mutooroo.

Morgan says the appetite of younger Australians to pursue a career on the land is still healthy.

“We’re getting more applications and that is something I would not have been able to say a few years ago. There is definitely a renewed interest in agriculture, given that we are currently in what I can categorically say is the worst drought we’ve ever had to deal with as a company.

“Fortunately we are just starting to get some decent rainfall however, it will probably take three years for us to be able to rebuild where we should be, we need at least two decent lambings.

“In normal seasons we can usually bounce back in a year but this is not normal so we just have to wait. The wool business is currently ok and the long term outlook is firm.

“We’ve always had a strong expansion plan with the livestock but not so much during drought. We are currently trying to rebuild but our beef numbers have been decimated and it will take some time.”

And as if the drought isn’t a difficult enough obstacle, in 2020 we have the coronavirus to contend with. While the social distancing obligations are not so much of an issue, it is logistical requirements that impinge on normal day-to-day operations.

“Coronavirus has made it awkward for us in terms of stock movement. We’ve been able to agist some sheep and that in turn creates some problems with transport and staff handling but so far we have coped.”

One of those staff is the current scholarship recipient Harry Oates. Hailing from Boomi, some 100km north of Moree, Oates says he has never considered any other career than that of agriculture.

“I’m fifth generation on the land, have always had a passion for the land and couldn’t see myself doing anything else,” Oates said.

By his own admission not the most enthusiastic student, Oates credits a conversation with friends for finding Marcus Oldham.

“I wasn’t overly keen on school but I spoke to some mates who had been to Marcus and that really opened my eyes. They said it was the best thing they could have done and now I have to agree.”

Even coming from a country background, Oates says the scale of the Mutooroo properties still astounds him.

“I’m so grateful for the scholarship — without it I wouldn’t be here and I will be forever grateful for it.

“It’s given me a different perspective, that’s for sure,” Oates said. “It’s massive and takes a bit of getting used to — the country of the different stations is so different and you have to learn to work with and adapt to the land.”

Oates says his passion is for sheep and cattle so he is in the right place. A normal day starts around 7.30am and can go until around 6pm.

“At the moment I’m like a sponge, just trying to soak everything in. Coming from home where we had pretty regular rainfall, to see how you have to run the stock here on different country is amazing.

“The drought has certainly knocked us about a bit and a lot of the dams are struggling but we’ve had some rain recently and things are looking better.

“There is no right or wrong, it’s all about working with the land — I bloody love it.”

“I’m so grateful for the scholarship – without it I wouldn’t be here and I will be forever grateful for it.”



Years in the making: Unveiling the state-of-the-art Douglas Boyd Centre



After five years of planning, 18 months in construction and almost \$2.5 million raised from the We Need Great Minds campaign — more than any previous amount raised by the Marcus Oldham College Foundation — the state-of-the-art Douglas Boyd Learning Centre was officially opened in February 2020.

It is fitting that a college founded on the ideals and impetus of entrepreneurialism has created the physical embodiment of that very concept. As Simon Livingstone, Principal at Marcus Oldham, puts it, the new Learning Centre is “allowing innovation in education to flourish”.



SEEKING VISUAL SPLENDOUR

When the decision was made to build a brand-new learning facility, the College Council was adamant that it needed to focus not only on what happened inside the space — namely, transforming a legacy system of single-desk classrooms into something much more flexible and modern — but the building itself also needed to display a fresh and innovative style.

Today, walking into the Douglas Boyd Centre delivers a sensory experience unlike any other building across the Marcus Oldham campus.

“You feel a sense of warmth and inclusion every time you enter the building,” says Dr Livingstone. “It is hard to explain, but the Centre gives everyone a sense of belonging.”

From the dramatic sheer wall of glass that welcomes you into the Centre, to the architecturally alluring Auditorium ceiling — and its intelligent acoustic design — to the playful use of complementary timber and cladding throughout the building, there is both a charming modernity to the Centre as well as a nod to Marcus Oldham’s vision for the future.

As Dr Livingstone puts it: “The Centre has instilled a modern heart to the campus, enabling Marcus Oldham to maintain its leadership in teaching excellence into the future.”

LEARNING IN THE TIME OF COVID

There’s no doubt that the completion of the Douglas Boyd Centre is an exciting new chapter for Marcus Oldham. The College Council made the bold yet forward-thinking decision to move ahead with construction despite the fact that not all funding was in place at the time; the justification being that the need for a multi-purpose facility was imperative to support current students and entice new learners to Marcus.

Not only that, but the Centre is a sign of how the College is invested in — and willing to adapt to — evolving learning styles for the coming decades. This is particularly relevant given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on face-to-face learning.

When the 2020 academic year commenced on 3 February, few could have predicted that students would only enjoy six weeks on campus before switching to a remote learning program. Adjustments needed to be made fast, and thanks to the capabilities of the Douglas Boyd Centre, the transition made a difficult situation much more palatable for all parties.

“The new Learning Centre continues to enable the College to deliver its programs,” Dr Livingstone says. “Dr Peter Jamieson, who was instrumental in designing the teaching spaces within Marcus Oldham’s new Learning Centre, worked with

the lecturers to adjust to online teaching. The aim has been to promote increased sharing of effective remote teaching methods within the Marcus lecturer team.

“The advanced technological and communication capabilities within the Centre are allowing students to value-add to their education through connection with interstate and international industry experts.”

When students are once again able to freely walk the halls of the Douglas Boyd Centre, they will be able to visit any time of the day or night in order to use the variety of outstanding spaces available to them. These include:

- An exceptional and modern auditorium with three flexible learning spaces to accommodate three individual classes or be opened up to seat 200 students for College gatherings and larger group presentations.
- An impressive amphitheatre to support a range of classroom practical activities.
- An academic ‘wing’ which houses all of the academic offices, a second meeting room and smaller meeting hub spaces to encourage greater student-lecturer interaction.
- A dedicated reading lounge with study nooks to provide students with ‘quiet’ space alternatives.

- A state-of-the-art meeting room to connect with global industry leaders.
- Virtual interaction, recording and editing facilities throughout for flexible and remote learning.
- A gigabit per sec fibre connection via AARNET to ensure free-flowing communication with what’s happening on farms — without having to leave the Wairu Ponds campus.

THE INCOMPARABLE VALUE OF SUPPORT

It would be quite the understatement to say multiple parties contributed to the development of the Douglas Boyd Centre. From the students who participated in early focus groups, to the stakeholders who advised on the Centre’s design, functionality and flexible-learning requirements, as well as the many donors, sponsors and benefactors who helped raise the funds needed for such a specialised agricultural learning centre.

Special acknowledgment must be made to: The Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Trust, The Anthony Costa Foundation, John B Fairfax, Yarram Park, The Yulgilbar Foundation and of course project patron, Philip Myer for the enormous generosity bestowed on the College and whose names have been honoured in various spaces within the Centre.



There has never been a more important time for educated, knowledgeable and globally connected minds to be managing and leading the way in agriculture.

The future of agricultural learning in the region will be proactive, rather than reactive. With an anticipated 20 percent rise in our population by 2025, global food and fibre production will need to increase significantly — with food-production needs around the globe expected to increase a whopping 70 percent by 2050.

But the journey doesn't end here. In fact, with the widespread disruption caused by COVID-19 and its knock-on effects throughout the education and agricultural sectors, only half of the fundraising target has been achieved. With a further \$2.5million required to meet the construction budget, the

We Need Great Minds campaign has been extended for another 12 months.

When Marcus Oldham first set out to create a specialised learning facility, they wanted to design something that would help the College grow and remain competitive. But more than that, they wanted to provide students with a space that shows an unwavering commitment to the future.

As Bruce Wilson, Council Chair, stated during his speech at the Centre's opening ceremony: "The rapid continuing advancement of the technological age was rendering some of our buildings into the realms of the educational dinosaur wilderness. Thanks to what has been achieved within the Douglas Boyd Learning Centre, that is certainly no longer the case."

The College looks forward to the return of students and guests post-lockdown. The Douglas Boyd Centre is ready to welcome a new generation of learners at Marcus Oldham, but there will always be a keen eye on the past — represented by the memorial tree at the northern entrance, which was planted to acknowledge all College graduates from 1962 through 2019.



Who is Douglas Boyd?

The namesake of Marcus Oldham's new agricultural learning centre is a man who made a significant contribution to agriculture. His name — and indeed his legacy — is forever intertwined with Marcus Oldham's.

The former chairman and founding member of the Australian Wool Board is perhaps best remembered for his contributions to the wool industry. A visionary at a time when dramatic developments were occurring overseas, he was adamant that competition growers in Australia needed to be increasingly imaginative and resourceful in order to meet new market demands.

But Douglas was also a powerful advocate for teaching young people about the land.

"He was a strong advocate for the education of young people who were going on the land," remarked Jennifer Stokes, granddaughter of Douglas Boyd, at the Centre's opening ceremony. "He saw a need for technical training in rural Australia that targeted the specific skills required for different careers."

Boyd's desire to help young people develop their agricultural knowledge no doubt flows through his bloodline. Philip Myer, Douglas Boyd's grandson, is the largest benefactor to the new Learning Centre, thanks to proceeds from the sale of his Murradoc Farm in Drysdale. Simon Livingstone, College Principal, says that Philip's generosity will have a huge impact on the lives of students for years to come.

The Douglas Boyd Learning Centre is but a tribute to everything Douglas achieved for the agricultural industry and for young people throughout his lifetime, and it deliberately underpins the values he strove for. There is no doubt that College students will glean incredible knowledge and value from the Centre that bears his name.

To commemorate Douglas Boyd's contribution to the Australian agricultural industry, an extraordinary painting hangs inside the Learning Centre of his Western District property "Tarrone". The piece was another gift generously bestowed on the College by Philip Myer and undertaken by local artist and personal friend of Mr Myers, Jane Flowers.



The art of riding a bronc

Luke Chaplain is a cowboy from Cloncurry, a relatively short dusty drive east of Mount Isa, and he is something of an artist.



Photo: Mark Vivian Photography



Photo: Luke Chaplain

Luke has a passion for photography, and he's proud of his images of the red-tinged landscape of the magnificent inner North-East of Australia.

He has mastered the use of videography which has made him something of a social media sensation in his North Queensland region, and show him a stage, a microphone and a script and he lights up a room.

Luke Chaplain is also an artist on horseback. However, he doesn't represent a conventional image of man and horse — his equine artistry is riding the fireball bucking broncs of Australia's rodeo circuit.

Chaplain's biggest achievements in his sport — which he describes as a hobby that he applies a professional approach to — is the APRA Rookie Australian Title, NRC Open Australian Title, numerous wins on the Australian rodeo circuit and a win in the cauldron of pro-bronc riding in Canada.

Chaplain, 29, is a long way from representing the traditional image of a rough rider. When he's not pro-riding bucking broncs and helping run the 75,000-acre cattle run near Cloncurry in North Queensland, he's working for the local government.

"I do a bit with the local government in promoting the region and helping research new business," he said.

"I use the photography and videography. We put together some fun comedy skits, tasteful stuff that go viral sometimes."

This passion outside the rigors of bronc riding and mustering hasn't endeared him to everyone.

"I had one person, probably jealous, say about me the other day, 'he's not really a cowboy, he's just a showboater', and I thought, you know, what's wrong with that. You might as well have some fun, eh. Some people take life a bit seriously."

Chaplain was named Australia's bronc-riding Rookie of The Year in 2017, which was the same year he spent doing a Diploma of Agribusiness at Marcus Oldham College. He was also awarded the RC & EC Webb Trust Scholarship for 2017.

He only did one year at Marcus, and would have loved to have returned in 2018, but the busy life on the family farm beckoned him away.

"I went to Marcus Oldham because of a lot of my friends had been there and it had the reputation of being the best course, and I loved my year there"

"I'm interested in business, especially as I was coming back to the family business, and also the entrepreneurial side of business, including the AgriTech space, so Marcus Oldham offered a fast-tracked, condensed course."

The intensity of that year was heightened by the fact Chaplain continued to compete on the pro-rodeo circuit while studying — broncs and books, and not necessarily in that order.

"I was ducking off on weekends riding in rodeos. There are a lot of rodeos at the start of the year and towards the end of the year in Victoria.

"The Geelong rodeo made a comeback that year. A lot of my classmates came to watch. I won that one. They loved it and were very supportive. Even "Livo" (Principal Dr Simon Livingstone) came up to me to tell me about his buck jumping days!"

Chaplain, like most youngsters from the bush, was riding horses before he could walk.

"Riding was kind of natural. When I was working on a big property (Boomarra Station) in the Gulf, it was the camaraderie (with the other riders) that I loved ... all of us from the station would go to the camp drafts and rodeos and we'd have a crack."

It was at the Normanton rodeo in 2009 when well-known Cloncurry cowboy BJ Shepherd tossed the 19-year-old onto a steaming, fidgety bronc and said: "Squeeze your legs and hold onto this."

The ride lasted four seconds before Chaplain landed on his head, but it was a four-second thrill that hasn't ever left him.

Last year, Chaplain went on a working-learning holiday in Canada, which whetted his appetite for more competition at that elite level. He showed his talent to the locals by winning the bronc-riding competition at the Festival Western de Saint-Tite in Quebec late in 2019.

Like a lot of people during this COVID-19 pandemic, Chaplain has put his pro-bronc riding career on hold. He was set to return to Canada and America in April for the full rodeo season, but that was cancelled, so he's settled into life helping his parents, Patrick and Paula, run the farm, which boasts approximately 3,000 head of Charbray beef cattle.

He is keen to compete in the Australian circuit again, once things 'pick up', before hanging up the spurs.

Chaplain also would like to reacquaint himself with the one Australian buck-jumper that still sends shivers down his spine, the aptly named Moves Like Jagger.

"He's the scariest buckjumper I have ridden. Although I've ridden him twice out of three, he still scares me."



Photo: Birtz Photographie



Photo: Birtz Photographie

"He tries to inject you straight into the air — humps his back and sends you straight up. Some people get along with him, not me, but I'd like to have another crack at him."

Is there a horse he can't ride? "Oh yes, there's quite a few I slip off from," he said.

"When I went to Canada last year to learn off some world champions, I rode the first couple of horses and thought I was pretty awesome. After that I just got smacked on my head about five or six times.

"I was on these massive Calgary colts that were as wide as bulls. They were ridiculous."



Photo: Birtz Photographie



Photo: Mackenzie Clark

2020 Scholarship Recipients



1. **Bill Gooden** (Brisbane QLD) Currawong.

2. **Nick Warmington** (Alderley QLD) Hazeldean Livestock Production.

3. **Lauchlan Clarke** (Coober Pedy SA) RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust (Agribusiness).

4. **Elliot Jaeschke** (Mundulla SA) The Calvert-Jones Foundation.

5. **Amy Lohse** (Biggenden QLD) Warrawidgee Agriculture.

6. **Laura Greenfield** (Holbrook NSW) Greenham Agriculture.

7. **Dugald Grieve** (Millmerran QLD) Lowes Petroleum.

8. **Renee Donpon** (Cloncurry QLD) Lowes Petroleum.

9. **Timothy Allen** (Hamilton VIC) RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust (Agribusiness).
10. **Ripley Atkinson** (Tamworth NSW) RMA Network.

11. **Angus Denholm** (Hamilton TAS) Warrawidgee Agriculture.

12. **Elizabeth Kelly** (Caramut VIC) RASV Emerging Leaders.

13. **Marcus Eleftheriou** (Traralgon VIC) Australian Thoroughbred.

14. **Saskia Kennett** (Forster NSW) Australian Equestrian.

15. **Diana Wheaton** (Broughton VIC) Australian Farm Management.

16. **James White** (Coolah NSW) Dalara Foundation & Dalara Pastoral.

17. **Lachie Brumpton** (Mitchell QLD) Dr Alastair Mackenzie.

18. **Hugh Browning** (Narromine NSW) Ingleby Farm Management.

With thanks to our scholarship sponsors:



19. **Evie Hetherington** (Longreach QLD) Mutooroo Pastoral Company.

20. **Jack Moor** (Warialda NSW) RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust (Agriculture).

21. **Matt Connellan** (Sydney NSW) Te Mania Angus.

22. **John Ashleigh** (Farrer ACT) Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association.

23. **Frazer Duff** (Forbes NSW) Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.

24. **Joe Kerin** (Yeoval NSW) Yiddinga Farm Management.

25. **Lachlan Gardner** (Paterson NSW) Nick Petersen Memorial Scholarship.

26. **Will Howse** (St George QLD) Ingleby Farm Management.

27. **Timothy Howes** (Bochara VIC) Mutooroo Pastoral Company.
28. **Hugo Ryan** (Keith SA) RC & EC (Cappur) Webb Trust (Agriculture).

29. **Brayden Warren** (Warrington VIC) Warrawidgee Farm Management.

30. **Toby Polkinghorn** (Griffith NSW) Wealthcheck Management.

31. **Lachie Davis** (Camperdown VIC) Dairy Australia Dairy Farm Managers.

32. **Jim Conn** (Flinders Island TAS) Dairy Australia Dairy Farm Managers.

33. **William Renyard** (Timboon VIC) Dairy Australia Dairy Farm Managers.

34. **Georgia Buchholz** (Mingay VIC) Freemasons Foundation Victoria.





FROM THE FOUNDATION MANAGER

Alannah Halloran

It goes without saying that the last 12 months has been a year like no other. Arduous drought, heartbreaking floods, devastating fires and now COVID-19. Who would have predicted 2020 would alter the national psyche in such a significant way? And yet here we are...

Not only are we experiencing a second wave of this deadly virus in Victoria, and a stage four restriction in our capital city, including compulsory face masks, curfews and 5km limitations on travel, but we are starting to see the real impact and domino effect on life as we knew it, worldwide. For many, it will take years to recover.

And while at times, it feels like we are trying to fight something that is impossible to beat, it has perhaps provided the average person with an insight into what those involved in agriculture face on a regular basis ... fighting the impossible, resilience and the importance of one's wellbeing.

I am delighted to report that whilst there is much to be disheartened about as we try and navigate the remainder of 2020, the Foundation in conjunction with Laguna Bay, headed by Tim McGavin (A94) are currently working on a Graduate Wellbeing and Performance Program that we hope to launch in 2021. Through Tim and Laguna Bay, \$150,000 has been pledged to develop this exciting project.

For those who are not aware, Marcus Oldham was the first tertiary institution in Australia to embed a health and resilience program into all course curriculum. Recognising the typical stresses apparent in agriculture, this new initiative aims to further support graduates manage self, family and community, as well as advance self-exploration to achieve peak performance.

Since 1989, the College Foundation has raised important funds for programs such as the graduate wellbeing program, student scholarships and capital works projects. In the last three years, no project has been more apparent than the construction of the \$10 million learning centre.

In February 2020, The Douglas Boyd Centre was officially opened. Major benefactor, Philip Myer, many of the extended Myer-Boyd family, past staff, graduates and friends of the College saw the building for the first time. The occasion was of pure joy and excitement, and the promise of a new educational chapter for Marcus Oldham.

It is safe to say, it certainly is a new chapter for the College, our students and our staff but a challenge that would have been impossible to overcome, without this new learning facility. The Douglas Boyd Centre has enabled the College to effortlessly deliver educational programs through distance channels as interactively as possible. And as many students returned to the campus after the first COVID wave, the flexible learning spaces inside this state of the art facility enabled students to come back together, whilst ensuring social distancing and strict health and safety protocols could be enforced.

Prior to COVID-19, the College Foundation had raised more funds for the Learning Centre project than any other capital works activity undertaken and in half the time. 2020 was the year, to showcase this amazing building to potential supporters and raise the final monies needed to ensure the College held no debt. We still have \$2.5 million to go and through the direction of our dedicated Foundation Chairman, Antony Baillieu, and his enthusiastic executive, we are committed to achieving this.

To anyone who has prospered through agriculture and understands the importance of a Marcus Oldham graduate in this diverse industry, please help us to reach our target. Not only will you be supporting the College but you will be ensuring that many young people for many years to come are obtaining the very best agricultural education possible.

There are some wonderful ways that you can still support the Learning Centre project including naming rights inside the facility. Please direct any interest you may have my way.

Finally, thank you to the many individuals and organisations who have already supported this amazing project. Marcus Oldham's advancement is only as strong as the community we have behind us and who believe in the role we play in Australian agriculture.

Opening of The Douglas Boyd Centre

A monumental moment for Marcus Oldham. With more than 300 guests in attendance, combining graduates, students, past and present lecturers, close friends and valued supporters, the Douglas Boyd Centre was officially opened.



1. **Pictured:** Principal, Dr Simon Livingstone, 2020 Student President, Harry Kemp, Foundation Patron & grandson of Douglas Boyd, Philip Myer, Council Chairman, Bruce Wilson (FM71) and Foundation Chairman, Antony Baillieu (FM71) 2. **Pictured:** Graduates and Foundation members, Rob McGavin (A93), Tim McGavin (A93/99) and David Koch (FM71) 3. **Pictured:** Margaret Gurry AM (Scobie & Claire Mackinnon Foundation) with student, Angus Scott 4. A very special day for Patron supporter, Philip Myer and his partner, Mary-Anne Keading pictured in front of an original painting by Jane Flowers of Douglas Boyd's Western District property, "Tarrone" 5. A view of the luncheon 6. **Pictured:** The extended Myer and Boyd families came together to celebrate the opening of the Douglas Boyd Centre. 7. **Pictured:** Foundation fellow, Frank Hargraves AM, College council member, Michael Dowling AM and former lecturer & Foundation executive member, Peter O'Loughlin 8. Guests gathered outside for the official unveiling of The Douglas Boyd Centre.

Marcus Oldham Events 2020

Foundation Golf Day. A golf day like no other!

Like most of 2020, this year's Foundation Golf Day will be one to remember. Not only did we welcome new event sponsors RB Sellars into the fold but we secured a full house of playing teams in record time. However with the onset of COVID-19 making significant waves 48 hours out, our record numbers dropped quickly and the typical banter from a number of our regular players was certainly missed around the greens.. As always, Eynesbury weather was on par and guests enjoyed a morning read of the Stock & Land at breakfast, a leisurely

18 holes, on course massages, nibbles of local fineries with a magnificent provincial style luncheon including superb Bass Strait beef, provided by our wonderful sponsors Greenham. An inside/outside putting green was a new feature of the day and Hamish McLachlan proved to be an absolute favourite, providing guests with a very candid account of his experiences as a sports commentator, interviewing sporting elite and the life lessons he picked up along the way. All in all, the day still managed to raise just on \$20,000 for the "We Need Great Minds" Learning Centre project.



1. Mutual Trust Team 1 — Peter O'Loughlin, Tom Blackford (FMO6), Craig Brewin (AO4) and Tim Gubbins (FMO4) 2. Duncan Campbell, College Chairman, Bruce Wilson (FM71) and current FM students, James Mitchell and Lewis Bothe 3. Maxine Campbell and Judy Wilson make their way to the greens 4. On course luxury at its finest!



1. The Greenham Team — Peter Greenham, Michael Urban, Dean Motram and 2020 Greenham Scholarship recipient, Laura Greenfield 2. The "Old Boys" — Alan Green, Tim Durham and John Carson (all FM77) and David Robertson (FM79) 3. New event sponsors, RB Sellars provided a range of gifts, prizes and auction items for the day 4. Golfing Pro, David Tapping is in close concentration with Foundation Chairman Antony Baillieu (FM71) and Nick d'Antoine 5. Marina Oman, Sally Hawkins, Kath Kerr and Annie Maslin looking and playing like pros 6. Golf day guest speaker, loyal supporter and Sports Commentator, Hamish McLachlan 7. Refreshing pre-luncheon drinks and nibbles in the Eynesbury gardens

Student Touch Footy Competition

The Marcus Oldham touch footy day ran on a Wednesday sports afternoon just prior to the COVID-19 lockdown.

It was a fantastic afternoon, 20 degrees and sunny with little wind — perfect for touch footy. The day was the pinnacle of 2020 sport with outstanding involvement from all. We had four teams and a girls' match. Although the competition was tight, the Farm 3's edged the competition out for victory in the big dance with AG1's runner up and Farm 1 taking out the boat race.

Team 3, 2, 1's

FARM 3	AG 1
Timmy McIntyre	Hugo Fraser
Toby Polkinghorne	Tom Quinn
Bryce Pini	Sam McCosker

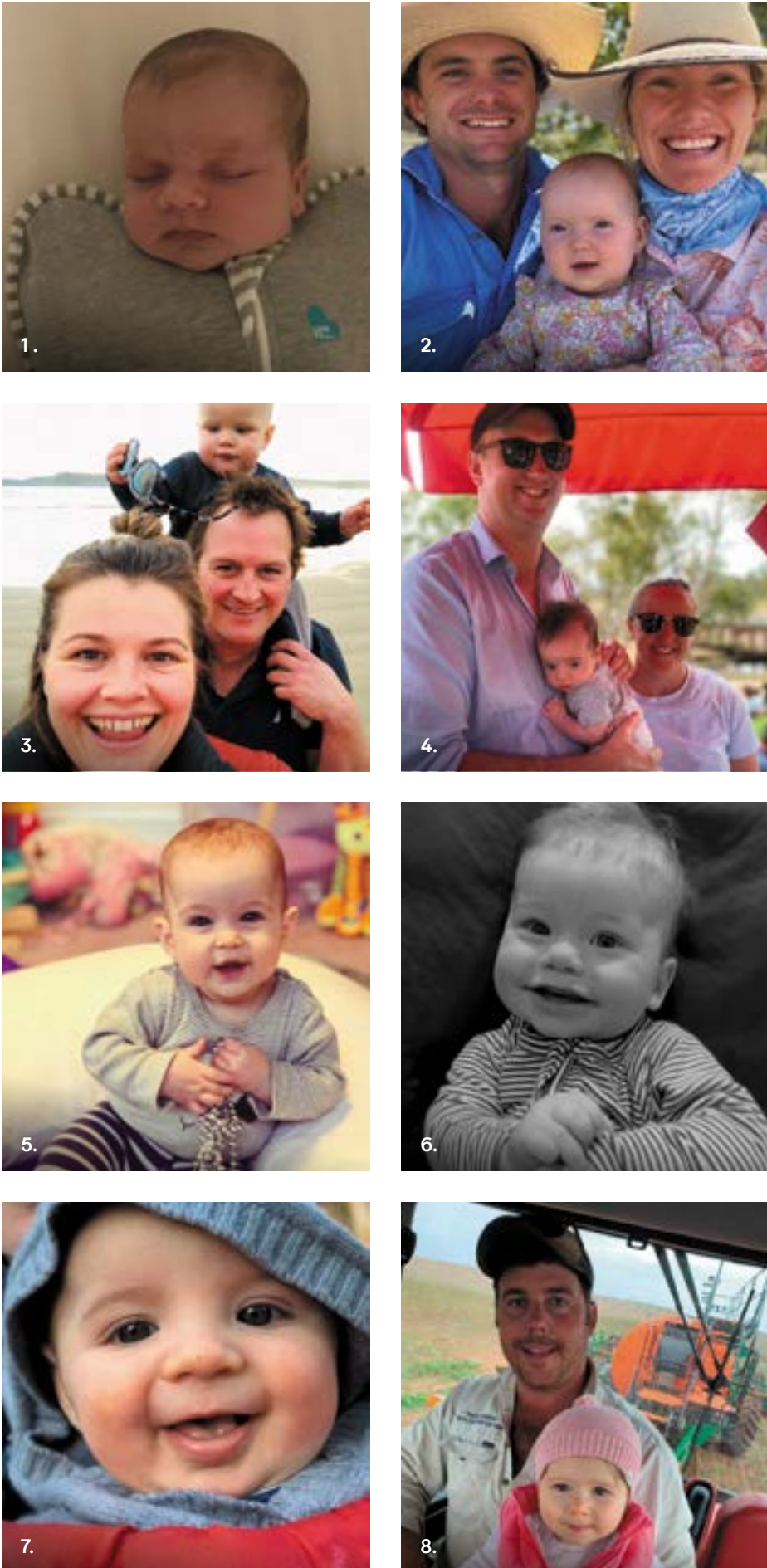
FARM 1	AG 2
Hughie Browning	Darcy McKenzie
John Ashleigh	Dugald Grieves
Sam Crozier	Max Alcorn



The Network

BIRTHS

1. **Shannon McCormack DipAgri '16** and his wife Prue are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Isla Margot Lindeman McCormack. Isla was born at 12:53am on 14 January 2020. Their son, Jock (21 months), is excited to have a little mate to play with.
2. **Alex (Webster) Archer BB(Ag) '14** and Ian Archer BB(Ag) '17 were blessed with the arrival of Marley Grace Archer on 12 February. The family reside on a farm at Goondiwindi, QLD.
3. **Ben Morrison AdDipFBM '10 and Kirsty Hawkins AssocDA '11** got engaged in Tasmania in September 2018. They also announced the arrival of son Bruce Askin Morrison on 1 October 2019.
4. **James Ellis BBFM '12** and wife Alex had a baby daughter Georgina Anna Chute Ellis on 27 October 2019 born at 6:30. The little legend is going very well and keeping them very well entertained.
5. **Nick Paterson AdDipFBM'11** and Neka Jones welcomed Poppy Diana Handbury Paterson on 19 February 2020. A little sister for Lottie and William. We also are looking forward to celebrating our engagement (which happened on Christmas Day!) and a wedding once COVID allows!
6. **Hugh Landale BBFM '12** and wife Airlie welcomed Sidney Alfred Landale on the 6 December 2019.
7. **Andrew Stevens BBFM'09** and wife Ginny Stevens welcomed a baby boy William John Michael Stevens on 20 January 2020.
8. **Jack Handbury AdDipFBM'11** and Nerida Handbury introduced Louise (Lou) Ruth Handbury to the world on 16 May 2019. The photo is taken at Jack and Nerida's Booborowie Valley property.



ENGAGEMENTS

1. **Molly Mackay BB(Agri)'19** got engaged to Linden Deans on June 16, 2020 at Linden's family property 'Kamira' in Baradine. Molly and Linden plan to tie the knot with friends and family in the wool shed at Molly's family property 'Vatua', early next year (pending Corona).
2. **Tom Dempster AdDipFBM '10 and Emma Sutherland DipAgri '11** announced their engagement on 2 May 2020 on Emma's family property "Burlington" in Tasmania. Wedding plans are coming together for late 2021 at "Tooma Station" in NSW.
3. **Nick Paterson AdDipFBM'11** and Neka Jones are looking forward to celebrating their engagement (which happened on Christmas Day!) and a wedding once COVID allows!



MARRIAGES

Clare Hensley DipEM '18 and Micah Hood announced their engagement on 9 August 2020. The happy couple then married on 4 September 2020 in Tennessee USA.

Claudia Nasuti College staff member Claudia Nasuti married Tony Krizmanic on 14 December 2019 under the vines at the Ivo Dean Centre on campus. A huge thank you to Simon Livingstone for allowing us to celebrate our special day under the vines and the beautiful surroundings at Marcus. Also to Lyn Cameron and her Catering Staff for your assistance with setting up the Ivo Dean Centre catering. All of our guests said "the food was absolutely delicious, the best they have had at a wedding and the venue was fantastic".

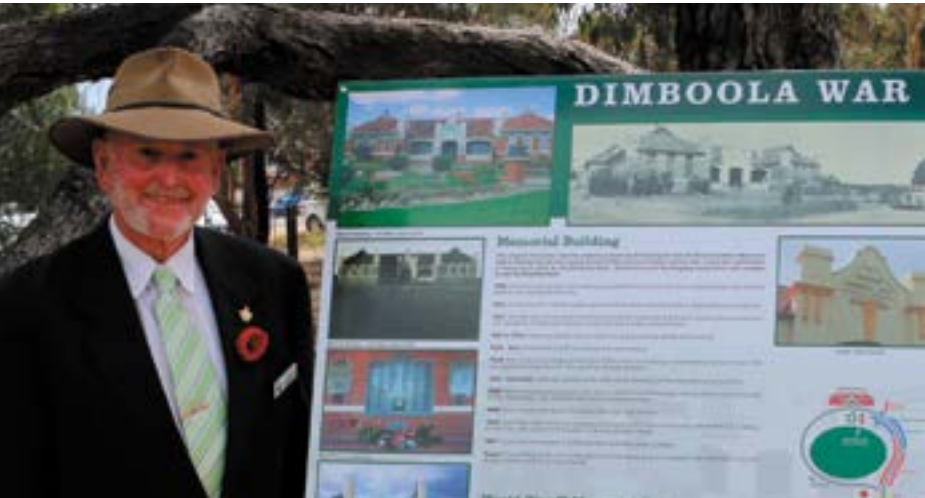
DEATHS

Brian Wilson DipFM '72. 1/11/51 - 14/06/18. Brian attended Marcus Oldham in 1971-72 and then returned home to the family farm in Dowerin, Western Australia which he later took over in the late 70's. To further keep himself busy, Brian also started a contract harvesting business to justify the purchase of another header and another header and another header! This provided his own four boys and many young guys in Dowerin a chance

to drive big headers at a very young age. The farm was sold in 2016 and Brian's working life then revolved around heavy haulage piloting. Brian was a tireless worker and ambassador for the Dowerin Field Days and an enthusiastic member of the Dowerin Football Club for which he was rewarded a Life Membership. Brian is survived by his wife Wendy, five children and six grandchildren.



Marcus All Over



Charles Rees DipFM '73 and Simon King DipFM '90

In October 2019, two Marcus graduates were involved in the rededication of the Dimboola War Memorial Avenue of Honour (AoH) by RSL State President Dr Rob Webster.

Charles Rees DipFM '73 and Simon King DipFM '90 formed an alliance during a chance meeting at a 2015 Anzac Day service in Dimboola and share an ongoing interest in WW1 history.

The restoration project began in 2016 and was also extended to honour five forgotten WW1 men during the WW1 centenary years at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College (DMSC). The College is unique in that it is the only school in Victoria listed as a war memorial.

Charles was volunteer co-ordinator/manager of the project on behalf of the Dimboola RSL sub-branch in collaboration with the College. Included in the ceremony was the unveiling of an information sign at the new commemorative site located at Dimboola's War Memorial.

Simon and son Andrew assisted with the information sign project; history

research and sign layout. Andrew (2015 DMSC Captain) presented a history overview at the ceremony and Simon reported the event for the online magazine — Dimboola Courier.

The following poem *Trees* was read by Charles during the rededication ceremony. (Written by Joyce Kilmer in 1913).

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Dimboola's AoH layout and the Rededication ceremony program can be found on the DMSC Website: dmsc.vic.edu.au – go to: About Us– Memorials – AoH– layout with the names honoured.

Luke McKay – Nuffield Scholarship

Luke McKay AdDipFBM '07 was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship with support from Cotton Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation in 2018.

McKay was awarded the scholarship for his research into the cotton industry in Northern Australia and the opportunities which exist to develop the industry sustainably. McKay visited farms and businesses across 12 countries researching ways to optimise cotton production in variable climatic conditions.

"During my travels, I sought to develop a blueprint for the cotton industry in Northern Australia, but through various meetings with Brazilian farmers, agronomists and researchers, it became clear that a rigid year-on-year production plan in these climatic conditions doesn't exist," Mr McKay said.

Mr McKay outlines several factors that impact cotton production in tropical climates, and the role management plays in adapting to changing growth habits of cotton in the extremities of rain, cloud, humidity, and temperature that occur in Northern Australia. In the report, he reveals that responsibility doesn't stop at the farm gate, with all growers playing a role in area-wide management for pest, disease and resistance mitigation.



A change of direction for Angus Cameron

Angus Cameron DipFM '93 & 2003 Graduate of Excellence, ran a food company out of Brisbane supplying high end restaurants for 20 years but has recently sold the business.

Angus has since built an algorithm for day trading the Australian stock exchange.

The algorithm works by constantly scanning all the stocks on the market

and looks for high profit companies. Angus has spent about two years building the program.

The software picks on average around five companies each day. To date these companies have had share price increases of around 12% a day.

Angus lives in Brisbane and is married with two kids.



Jessica Knight – Master of Agribusiness student, appointed to Victorian Young Farmers Advisory Council

The College congratulates Jessica Knight for her recent three year appointment to the Young Farmers Advisory Council in Victoria. Jessica, a dairy farmer from Gippsland, joins eight others on this Advisory Council to be chaired by Dr Sarah McLean. Members of the Advisory Council provide strategic advice to government on issues that impact young people working in agriculture, represent industries and regions across Victoria, and act as young ambassadors to attract new entrants to the agricultural sector.

Minister for Agriculture, Jaclyn Symes is "excited to be welcoming the new members of our Young Farmers Advisory Council. Victoria's agriculture sector is in safe hands with such skilled and highly accomplished young people willing to make a difference to the future of their industry."

Jessica is due to complete the Master of Agribusiness in 2021. We look forward to reading her thought leadership project that caps postgraduate studies at the College, and is likely to be influenced by this appointment.



30 Years' Service at Marcus Oldham

Cathy Bent first came to work at Marcus in July 1990 as the Finance Officer to assist John Miles, who was the Business Manager of the College at the time. Her first desk was in the corner of John's office and they worked together like that for a number of years.

When Cathy finally had her own office, she had one of the best views at the College overlooking the fernery and garden. Unfortunately it was also mice infested. She has since been spared much of that now with an office in the Geoff Neilson Administration building that was completed in 2011.

Cathy has enjoyed a close association with many students, and a number of parents, over the years whilst dealing with student fees. Cathy has been and remains a great asset to the College.

John Carson

John Carson DipFM '77, originally from Glen Innes in Northern NSW, is a former Senior Manager with Fairfax Media with more than 30 years' experience as a publisher, editor, journalist and public relations consultant in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Australia.



As a former Editor and General Manager of Stock & Land, he was the face of the Victorian rural weekly from 1999-2015. As a journalist and more recently freelance writer, John has worked mainly in the rural sector. He grew up on a livestock and farming property in Northern NSW, spent some time

as a jackaroo and attended Marcus Oldham College in Geelong before joining The Land newspaper.

While at Stock & Land John also developed his skills in public speaking and facilitated public meetings as president of the Rural Press Club of Victoria from 2001-2004 and 2007-08.



A Marcus connection through Quadrant Australia

As well as farming on Flinders Island for the last couple of decades, Hugh MacTier DipFM '68 broadened his passion for trekking and today is a highly sought after professional guide. It is no wonder that when Quadrant Australia were searching for a local

Tasmanian agriculturalist to assist with their AgTours on the Apple Isle, that they came across Hugh who now lives in the Tamar Valley with his wife Anne, growing wine grapes. Colin Beckett DipFm '69, one of the founders of Quadrant Australia,

recently travelled to Tasmania to discuss processes with Hugh. During the day both were keen to reminisce on the few months their courses overlapped at Marcus, more than 50 years ago, and compare notes on their respective journeys since leaving the college.

Lucy Morissey

Lucy Morissey AssocDA '16, has been on a number of journeys since leaving Marcus, working in various roles in the intensive beef production industry. From Trainee Manager at the largest feedlot in Australia (at the time), through to Onsite Supervisor of a backgrounding yard in remote New South Wales and Livestock Manager at a family owned operation in Western Queensland. More recently, Lucy has started her own business with her father, 'Morrissey and Friends Livestock Services.' The business provides practical and progressive training and consultation in stockmanship, horsemanship and team development. "At this point in time, there is no other business in the country offering a service similar to what we do and in the last eighteen

months, since becoming operational we have gained a number of clients and interest continues to grow." Lucy has also purchased a house in Texas, QLD, where Morrissey & Friends Livestock Services is based. Since her Marcus Oldham placement in Middle America, Lucy has continued to return and work with the same consulting veterinarians year on year. "I work and travel with these people for a couple of weeks to a month to gain experience and help them educate and support their network of clients. A recent project which we conducted with The PAC Group included making some short educational videos which can be used to help train staff in stockmanship and horsemanship."



Queen's Birthday Honour

Sally Francis HBM 82 (from Victoria) has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Sally has worked tirelessly and her contribution to equestrian sport and people with a disability is fantastic.

Robert Bruce DipFM '76

My wife Susan and I are isolating at our fishing lodge. We have been there for at least seven weeks now. I think we shall stay here at least until this virus thing is over (if ever). This has been a good time

with plenty of work for me outside and Sue with her photography. The bush fires came within 500 meters but with the RFS and some back burning we were able to control it, so all good. This

time we have experienced, drought, fires, and pestilence with the virus now to get the economy going which will be the biggest thing. At least we are all well!

New Staff Members



Kate Gorman
Lecturer in Human Resource Management

Kate Gorman started at Marcus Oldham in December 2019. Kate grew up on a family sheep and cropping property between Balranald and Hay in NSW. Upon completion of her formal education in Melbourne, Kate has come to the College having maintained a varied career in Human Resources, both in the private and public sector, across a broad range of industries in Australia, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. Kate is Masters qualified in Human Resource Management and is delivering courses across Agribusiness, Agriculture and Equine in Communication, Self and Team Management, HR Management and Workforce Risk.



Andrew Etherton
Lecturer in Agronomy

Andrew joins the lecturing team and brings a well-rounded base of industry experience and networks to the College. Prior to joining Marcus in late 2019, Andrew was the Southern Region Manager for the Agronomy and Farming Systems research portfolio with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) which is based in Adelaide. Following his graduation from Monash University with a Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness), Andrew spent a period of time teaching at Longerenong Agricultural College and participated in an agricultural exchange program to Denmark in Scandinavia. Previous roles have included positions within agronomy across Victoria, in addition to a role as a territory manager for a canola and wheat breeding company located in South Australia.

Reunions

FM 1974 Reunion

We were planning on holding a reunion of the Class of 74 on 20 and 21 June 2020. Unfortunately with the COVID-19 outbreak, we have had

to postpone this event. We are looking into new dates in 2021, approximately the same time of year. Watch this space!

1965 Update

The planned reunion, that was to be held in Geelong in May this year, was cancelled like so many things due to COVID-19. Let's hope we have moved on and a reunion in 2021 can be organised.

2020 has certainly thrown up some challenges for us all.



FM 1980 Reunion

The 2020 Marcus reunion for the Farm Management class of 1980 has been postponed until further notice due to the uncertainty relating to the COVID-19 virus.

last year have received good rains in general. Andrew Campbell of Glen Innes has an abundance of grass but is struggling to find stock to graze it.

Gus Gardener has started to transition into retirement downsizing to 100 acres on the Bellarine Peninsula whilst Foster Crooke is soldering on down at Maffra.

We are thinking of two colleagues in particular, Doug Reading, whose wife Gaie died just before Easter and Graham Hooper whose daughter Bridget died in tragic circumstances in June. Doug Stewart's son Lachie (FM 96) was one of many farmers burnt out last summer.

Those of us being challenged by drought



If you have MOCOSA stories or network updates, please send them to: alumni@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au or call 03 5247 2927.

Introducing Marcus Connect!

Connect. Network. Support.

It's never been easier for Marcus graduates to stay connected with the launch of Marcus Connect. This completely secure platform has been developed by graduates for graduates and is proudly supported by the Marcus Oldham Old Students Association (MOCOSA).



Sign up today marcusconnect.com



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