

# MOCOSA



ISSUE 50 | DECEMBER 2022

INSIDE

## Crash through or crash

Dalara Foundation and Dalara Pastoral importing white rhinos to save them

## On the front foot

Sam Bell-pushing barefoot skiing boundaries

## The place to be

Students loving new accommodation, more planned





# Save the dates 2023

## FEBRUARY

3rd Annual Golf Day, Eynesbury Estate, VIC  
11th & 12th Marcus Oldham Geelong Horse Trials

## MARCH

7th-9th Wimmera Machinery Field Days, VIC  
17th-18th South East Field Days, Lucindale, SA  
24-26th Farm World, Lardner VIC

## APRIL

20th - 23rd Adelaide Equestrian Festival

## MAY

4th-6th Agfest Field Days, Carrick, TAS  
5th-7th Tocal Field Days, Paterson, NSW  
14th-19th Rural Leadership Program, Marcus Oldham College  
25th Foundation Cocktail Party, Melbourne

## JUNE

6th-8th Farm Fest Toowoomba, QLD  
Melbourne International 3-day event

## JULY

14th-16th Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo, VIC  
30th Open Day, Marcus Oldham College

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## AUGUST

6th-7th Sheepvention alumni reception Hamilton Club  
9-10th Mingenew Midwest Expo, WA  
22nd-24th AgQuip, Gunnedah, NSW  
30th-31st Dowerin Field Days, Dowerin, WA

## SEPTEMBER

5th-6th Westech Field Days, Barcaldine, QLD  
6th-7th Newdegate Machinery Field Days, WA  
19th-21st Henty Machinery Field Days, NSW  
26th-28th Yorke Peninsula Field Days, SA

## DECEMBER

8th Graduation, Geelong, VIC

We acknowledge we are educating on the traditional land of the Wadawurrung people and honour and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# Andrew Baker

**It is fantastic to see the optimism in agriculture so high at present as the Australian agricultural industry heads towards its goal of being a \$100 billion industry by 2030. Farmers are seeing confidence building prices for beef, sheep, crops and dairy. Added to this there has been good rainfall across most of Australia (albeit a bit much in some places).**

Despite all this, farming continues to be an even more complex business to manage. Currently, farmers are battling high input prices for fuel and fertilizer. Those who own farmland have had record growth rates. However, for those looking to expand, there is the threat of higher interest rates. Markets are becoming more complicated and volatile, with global leaders appearing to make more and more irrational decisions. Not to mention the ever-present threat of a biosecurity risk on our borders.

To top this all off, one of the biggest threats to Australian agriculture productivity is developing enough people with the required skill sets to run our agriculture and equine industries. As we move past the pandemic, Australian businesses have been exposed to one of the largest ever labour shortages. Australia's unemployment rate is at a 48-year low and both the agriculture and equine industries have not been immune to this. Recruitment specialists are now quoting that there are six jobs to every agricultural university graduate in Australia.

What does this mean for Marcus? One major positive is that in the recent Australian Government Department of Education's Quality in Learning and Teaching surveys,



Marcus Oldham tops all Australian tertiary institutions in graduate employment rates. However, now is not the time to be complacent. We must ensure that our graduates are equipped to make sound decisions in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world. This is why our curriculum continues to evolve and adapt, while ensuring we preserve a solid foundation based on our core values. Marcus Oldham needs to showcase the potential for students to create a professional career in agriculture and equine management.

Going forward, I want to make sure that Marcus continues to provide excellence in teaching and learning in agriculture, agribusiness and equine management. I want to ensure our curriculum matches what is needed to develop future leaders. The student experience is unparalleled both in and out of the classroom. I want to ensure we create and maintain an environment where everyone—students, staff and the Marcus community—can thrive.

The College has made two submissions to the government accrediting body to change the Diploma of Equine Management and Diploma of Agribusiness to Advanced Diploma courses. This will mean students who enrol in the Equine Program will require some practical experience before attending the College to be better equipped to get the most out of their Marcus experience. It will also mean that they will be able to articulate with ease into the 2nd year of the other courses, should they wish to obtain a degree qualification under the accelerated degree structure – potentially obtaining a degree within two years. We hope this will continue to improve the learning experience for all students.

**Andrew Baker,**  
Principal

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FROM THE MOCOSA PRESIDENT

# Peter Stephens

2022 has been a year of “returning to usual programming” with a full College, course tours to two different parts of the USA for both agribusiness cohorts and FM3, plus tours to NZ for EM and FM1. The lockdown period of 2020–21 now seems like a bizarre dream (nightmare!).



2022 also saw the level of engagement with the alumni resume, with the Principal and two Deputies between them, travelling to Dowerin in WA, Sheepvention in Vic, Agfest in Tassie and Henty in NSW to scout for new talent and catch up either formally at a Marcus hosted function or at the Marcus Marquee. In addition, the Council travelled to the south-east of SA to inspect farming operations and to meet with graduates and friends of the College in Naracoorte.

As mentioned in the last issue of MOCOSA, getting out in the bush is the key to attracting new students and keeping engaged with past students, and to that end MOCOSA is starting the process of “regionalising” the Executive. We have the opportunity to recruit four new Members of the Executive with **Mark Inglis DipFM'92** retiring earlier in the year after a contribution of 23 years and, at our last meeting, **Kate Sharkey DipAA'96**, retiring after 22 years, Vice President, **Graeme Harvey DipFM'71** after 30 years and MOCOSA Executive Secretary **Sam Inglis DipFM'66 Honorary BB(Ag)'18** after 36 years. That's 111 years of combined service to the Association! On behalf of the greater Marcus community, I would like to thank them all for their dedicated contribution and I'm sure they will continue to network within the MOCOSA family.

Travelling around various parts of the country, particularly the eastern seaboard, we've encountered very wet conditions, with the Murray-Darling Basin literally overflowing. I hope everybody in these affected areas stays safe and production levels are not affected too much.

All the best.

**Peter Stephens DipFM'83**  
MOCOSA President




# On the Front Foot

**Sam Bell AdDipFBM'98** has had to make some tough calls in his life, with options that would challenge the bravest of us, but he has always succeeded by being on the front foot.







**“I was going through puberty and adolescence and trying to deal with all that as well as be an amputee and it was tough. If you put your mind to it, you just have to work out what you need to do to make it happen.”**



At 13 years of age, Sam and his family were faced with an unthinkable decision after a knee-joint rugby injury that refused to heal was revealed to be bone cancer.

"It was tough at the time but there was no choice. There were two options- one was to survive and have one leg and the other was to end up in a box in the ground. At that time the lack of technology meant that the only way I was going to survive was through amputation, so we went down that path in 1988, and I lost my leg."

Sam grew up on his family's sheep farm near Goulburn and after school went jackarooing near Longreach before travelling to the US for a year working on feedlots and a cattle ranch. He knew his interest was in agriculture and he narrowed his choice of agricultural colleges to two - Orange and Marcus.

"We checked out both and they were chalk and cheese. Marcus was the one I was interested in, and I chose it because of John Miles, he took the time to show us around and presented the college really well. Marcus seemed more focussed on the individual student and John sold it for me."

After Marcus, Sam went home for three years, thinking it would be his future, but an opportunity popped up that drew him into the building industry.

"I'd always liked working with my hands and I love being outside, so I made a shift from farming to building. There are probably careers that I might be better suited to as I get on, I may have to reassess because I am on the tools every day, but I just went with my heart."

His skills transferred easily.

"Marcus taught me the business skills I needed to do anything. Although it was focussed on agriculture, the grounding is there for really any industry and it also gave me the ability to look outside the box, to look at how things work. In the building game, I used the knowledge I gained from Marcus to create myself a bit of a niche so that I'm not doing the same thing as everyone else is doing. I do quite a lot of rural building as well because of my background. We build shearing sheds because I know stock movements; I can blend my building knowledge with my agriculture knowledge and get into the design side too, it works really well for me. Marcus also taught me not to put all my eggs in one basket and the building game is up and down, so while I focus on the rural work, I keep my hand in the residential market too, then when the rural game is not strong, I can shift to the residential and vice versa."

Since his life saving and changing amputation, Sam has always had to work that bit harder to make things happen and that's just the way he likes it.







"I was going through puberty and adolescence and trying to deal with all that as well as be an amputee and it was tough, but it makes you more adjustable to your environment. I still wanted to do everything I used to do, I just had to learn different ways to do it. I still ride motorbikes, but I hop off to kick start it, using my left leg. If you want to do something there's always a way, anything is possible if you put your mind to it, you just have to work out what you need to do to make it happen."

His success in competition barefoot water skiing, placing 7th in the overall results at the 2022 World Barefoot Masters in Texas, USA, and now barefoot jumping, may have taken some time to eventuate but his determination has made it happen.

"I enjoy the challenge. One of the things I love about barefoot is it's not something that comes easily. If you want to learn a new trick you have to put in the work to get there. You can't come into the sport and just be very good without doing so, and I enjoy the work and the reward that comes in the end."



As with everything in Sam's life, he does not cut corners.

"Initially when I started barefoot, they wanted to look out for me. There are all these rules that cater for able bodied people. When you do a tumble turn you sit down, spin on your back, stand back up again. You spin one way and stand up on one leg and you get 100 points, and when you spin back the other way and stand up on the other leg, you get another 100 points but if you stand up on the same leg, it doesn't count. They were trying to change all the rules for me but that's not what I'm there for. I don't want it changed for me. I'm there because I enjoy skiing with the guys under the same rules and being competitive with them. If I want another 100 points, I'll go looking for them elsewhere, there's other tricks I can do."

"What I really love about it, and snow skiing as well, is that I'm competitive with my friends around me, they're able bodied and I guess I have 'challenges' - I don't really like to say disabilities - but I can still be competitive at the same level as them, doing a sport that they all do."

With two young children, a business to run, training on water three times a week and gym work as well, Sam is a busy man with an eye on what's still to come. And there is plenty, a twenty-five-year reunion with Marcus mates, snow skiing in New Zealand next year, and the World Masters for barefoot water skiing in 2024.

"My greatest achievement in this sport is yet to come. I haven't finished yet. I have won the respect of the guys in the sport at the moment because I do barefoot jumping as well. No one had ever done this or even dreamed this was possible. I didn't know if it was something I could do, but I gave it a go."

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# Ingrained

**Simone Dax DipAgri'07**

is the Grain Industry Association of Victoria's (GIAV) first female president in its 105-year history.





"GIAV has a long and proud history, and I'm honoured to be elected as the first female president," Simone said. "It's been a very positive last couple of years; with favourable seasons, a lot of growers have had big crops and the trading houses are making good money with exports. We will continue to support our members by bringing forward any issues they have and assisting them to work those out. It would be nice to see a bigger representation of women in agriculture but that's not necessarily something that I am setting out to achieve, it would just be nice if women were encouraged to come forward in the grains industry."

Simone was elected to the GIAV committee in 2018 and more recently held the position of Vice President. One of her first acts as President was to present fellow alumni, **Jim Riordan DipFM'93 Graduate of Excellence '17**, Managing Director of Riordan Grain Services, a life membership, only the sixth in the GIAV's history. Jim was recognised for being an outward-looking stalwart of the industry, someone who could take on the full supply chain and inspire others to do the same.



Jim Riordan received a GIAV Life Membership from newly appointed President, Simone Dax.

The moment was not lost on Simone.

"The main difference Marcus has made for me is through networking. People recognise it when they see Marcus on your resume. The connections you make with people who went there, or knew people who went there, are great. It comes around in a circle in a situation like this with Jim Riordan winning the award and me presenting it, having both been to Marcus. It keeps popping up through my working career. There is a huge Marcus community outside the College itself."

The College had always been on Simone's radar- after boarding at Yanko agricultural school then travelling to Alberta, Canada for a year to work on a farm, it was time to study.

"My father, **Greg Dax DipFM'82** went to Marcus, so as a kid I was always sure I would follow in his footsteps. Marcus was great, I only have fond memories of it, it was a good way to study, particularly as everyone was agriculturally minded which made it easier."

After Marcus, Simone worked with Riverina Australia in Leeton, NSW in a logistics role and really enjoyed it. She was



there for a year when a spot for a trader came up, and that's where Simone cut her teeth in the grain trading environment.

"In the beginning I was dealing a lot with farmers and, having gone through Marcus with a whole lot of people who were farmers themselves, it made it a lot easier to resonate with who I was speaking to. Grains have not been in my blood, but I fell into it. I didn't know what I wanted to do, I just knew I wanted to be in agriculture and that's why I went to Marcus to begin with, not University because I wasn't quite sure what box to put myself in and Marcus gave me the confidence to know I can study agriculture without quite knowing what to do with it."

Simone now works for Emerald Grain as a commodity trader, based in Melbourne.

**"An important skill I learned at Marcus is the ability to apply myself to the task. I remember doing big case studies and we had to allocate our time properly and make sure we really knuckled down. At the time I hated them, but outside Marcus those time-management skills and the ability to apply myself have been very helpful in my career."**

Simone brings knowledge and energy to her new role.

"We do a lot of grain industry activities, a golf day, crop tour- going out all through Victoria and assessing the crops and providing the supply numbers back to the grains industry. We support Grain Trade Australia, so if there are rule changes that are not working for them contractually then we will get members to go to GTA to push for a change. I am looking forward to pushing on with the strength of the crop tour which was started about six years ago. I have been on nearly every one since and it's been a great initiative. It has taken a bit to get off the ground, but it certainly has its place, so I'm looking forward to promoting the crop tour and making it something bigger and more appreciated by the industry."

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# Crash Through or Crash



Allan Davies and rhino



A cackle of hyenas, an intrusion of cockroaches, a rhumba of rattlesnakes, a shiver of sharks. Sometimes collective nouns sum it up perfectly. No less, a crash of rhinoceros.

"Each animal can weigh up to two tonnes, so it's no wonder a group of rhinos is called a crash," said Allan Davies, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Australian Rhino Project and the man behind the Dalara Foundation, Dalara Pastoral Scholarship at Marcus Oldham College.

Dalara is an acronym made up of the family's names DA-Davies, L-Lyn (Allan's wife), A- Allan, and R- **Rob Davies AdDipFBM'01**, A- **Andrew Davies DipAgri'02**, for their sons.

Dalara Foundation is the philanthropic arm through which contributions to not-for-profit causes are made and Dalara Pastoral is focused on agricultural operations.

"Under Dalara Pastoral there are three main properties in NSW, Denman where we grow fodder crops including lucerne and fatten our Angus steers and Angus/Wagyu cross steers and heifers. Then at Blackville there's 17,000 acres of mixed broadacre farming with fattening for 1500 cows. We double crop in winter, growing durum wheat and chickpeas and, in summer, sorghum and cotton. We also have a property south of Walcha of 9,600 acres, varying from 1,100m above sea level to about 1,300m, with an Angus cow herd of 1500 cows and 4,500 cross-bred ewes."



Allan and Lyn Davies

**Lyn and Allan support Marcus' students through the Dalara Foundation and Dalara Pastoral Scholarship, valued at \$20,000, and offered to a first year Bachelor of Business (Agriculture) student each year.**

"We felt it was important to give something back. We've been very fortunate throughout our lives, and it is a way of supporting others to become better people through education. It's a simple philosophy. That's how we decided to support Marcus with a scholarship because we felt it was important to provide opportunities for young people to get a good education in agricultural management, as distinct from learning how to build a fence."



Denman



Walcha



Blackville



They have seen first-hand how Marcus works, with their two boys having graduated from the College in the early noughties. Rob has since joined the family business as Manager of Farming Operations at Blackville. Andrew, who went on to Monash University to study a Bachelor of Business majoring in logistics, has worked for Coca Cola Amatil, CEVA- car carrying business, and then joined Qube Ports in 2010 working at Vic Dock and Station Pier in Melbourne, Karratha/Dampier in West Australia and now in Tauranga, New Zealand.

There is no doubt they are giving back. Since starting the Dalara Foundation in 2007, the Davies family has distributed a significant amount of money to a range of entities, all of which focus on education, animal and human welfare and medical research.

**“It is tough to narrow it down. You get approached by a lot of people for worthy causes. To manage a foundation, you have to be hard-nosed about the focus and you have to be unwavering with it, otherwise you end up diluting the effort.**

It took us a while to get it right. We concentrate on specific things such as scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys through the Clontarf Foundation; training midwives and nurses for the Royal Flying Doctors' Service; scholarships in veterinary science at the University of Sydney; and engineering at our alma mater, the University of Queensland.”

Allan graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) with Honours in 1973 and Lyn graduated just before him with a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education and was teaching when they met in Brisbane in 1976. A move to South Africa for Allan's mining work led to marriage there, and that is when their interest in rhinoceros started.





"When we lived in South Africa, we used to go to game parks because we both have a keen interest in animals. You could watch African game on TV with David Attenborough ten times, but you still don't get an appreciation of what it's like until you get out into the game parks and look at them in the wild. We were very fortunate to be able to do that."

In 2014 they were approached to assist importation of some rhinoceros into Australia because the poaching had become quite problematic. The rhinoceros' horn is in high demand and worth more than gold on the 'black' market, so there has been a downward spiral in the population of white and black rhinos, with more being killed than are born.

"What we are trying to do sounds really simple, relocate about 30 to 35 white rhinoceros to Australia and assist in extending the genetic diversity of the existing population. It sounds simple, but it's one of the most difficult and complex projects I've been involved with."

The only way rhinoceros can come to Australia is to a registered zoo or wildlife park. Even so, they cannot come directly from South Africa to Australia, they must quarantine for at least 12 months in New Zealand.

"Apart from our Australian Zoo partners (Monarto Safari Park in SA, Taronga Western Plains in NSW), we have partnered with the Orana Wildlife Park near Christchurch, which has the ability to quarantine exotic animals from South Africa. They've almost completed a quarantining facility there for up to 15 rhinoceros at a time, and our charity, The Australian Rhino Project, has supported that construction financially. We've also sourced appropriate rhinoceros from a person who breeds them in South Africa and takes in orphans. Orphans are a big issue because mothers are killed for their horn and the young are left stranded. COVID threw a massive spanner in the works because it's delayed everything, and it's also increased the cost of freight – and you can imagine that the cost of freight for a rhino is not cheap. So, we have had our fundraising skates on to get ready for the first transfer of 15, which we hope will arrive in New Zealand by the middle of next year."

A crash landing of rhinoceros (or the landing of a crash of rhinos) in Australia will be a big achievement indeed.

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# Technically

**George King AdCertAA'95** is determined to connect farmers. He and wife, Melinda have created ONFARM, the world's first central meeting and marketplace platform for farmers and stakeholders of the agricultural industry to engage, trade and communicate both locally and globally.

"Farmers have long been disconnected from our consumers and from each other. Prior to the second world war, farmers were plentiful, they caught up with each other every Sunday after church, our food was produced and sold locally. ONFARM is a free portal where people can connect directly with their food producers and share in the journey from the paddock to their plate, creating a model for community-supported agriculture."

While establishing ONFARM, George continues to run his family property, "Coombing Park," at Carcoar, NSW.

"It has been in our family since 1880, my grandfather managed the company for 50 years. We run an Angus breeding herd of 1200 cows and grow all progeny to feeder weights. Before Marcus I worked on a cattle station in the Kimberley, WA, living in a stock camp for three years then, after graduating, I had a year on a sheep farm in the Riverina before returning home."

It was in his third year in the stock camp that George decided he wanted to further his education, so he had several agriculture colleges send their prospectus' and thought Marcus would work best with his career plans.

"Agribusiness was a perfect fit, being a one-year course, I could get the education I needed then get back into the workforce. Aside from the wisdom and learnings from experienced teachers, we gained an invaluable network of friends and associates all over Australia. I can't see a more effective way to gain commercial sophistication and a big-picture understanding of operating a business. Without practical tertiary education, employees will hit a glass ceiling fairly early on in their career. Without the understanding of operating a business's finances, long term farm planning, budgeting and accounting, being able to speak effectively to banks and other related professionals, your business would be very short lived."

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[onfarm.co](http://onfarm.co)



George King with Melinda King



# Speaking

**Edwina Warby BB(Agri)'20** believes education is power, but she doesn't just talk the talk "I loved my time at Marcus, but it wasn't long enough." She walks the walk too, having received the BBM Global Agricultural Scholarship in 2019, Edwina has just returned from her COVID-delayed trip to the USA and Canada.

"The focus for my trip was to visit and learn from current leaders in sustainable agriculture and consumption, and those who are ahead of the game in capturing data and analysing it, fostering advanced technology and innovation. It was a great experience, not only to increase my knowledge and help further my career but to enhance my own personal growth and build a network of people who I can reach out to anytime to learn more about the industry."

Now Client Manager for agtech company, Black Box Co, founded by **Emma Black GCertAgri'17**, Edwina grew up on a mixed farming and cattle property near Glenmorgan, QLD, hearing a lot about Marcus Oldham College.

"My Dad, **Robert Warby AssocDipFM'89** was a Marcus boy. He was a huge reason that I wanted to go to Marcus. He loved his time there, took things from his course back to our family property, and has friends and connections he still reaches out to today from all over Australia, across diverse careers. Similarly, there have been aspects of the course that I use often. I still refer back to the Marcus folder on my laptop to look up something or connect with a business that we visited."

Black Box Co, a cloud-based software program, was initiated to solve an industry-wide lack of data transparency and utilisation. It ingests raw data from along the beef supply chain, instantly turning it into key insights, with the aim of increasing industry productivity.

"The beef industry has many modernisations that continue to generate more data, but data generation isn't the problem, it's about utilising it. Black Box Co has been built with producers for producers. The ability to analyse genetics, fertility, growth, feedlot and carcass performance is vital to ensuring a more sustainable, productive and profitable industry. We're forever hearing new clients tell us that they've got all this data collected and don't do anything with it. We are helping take the fear out of it for producers."

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# Matters of the Mind

“I’ve learnt that if you get the inside right then the outside falls into place,” said **Tim McGavin, AdCertAA’94, DipAA’99**, Laguna Bay Founder and now Marcus Minds Project Sponsor.

Launched on Tuesday 30th August 2022, the Marcus Minds Project is an online tool to help ride the highs and lows life throws all of us.

“A lot of this is not rocket science, it’s just about healthier habits that set you up to optimise your potential. I was talking with some of the leaders at Marcus and we thought wouldn’t it be fun to put together a project that looks at some of these questions and we have come up with user-friendly ways for regional communities to optimise happiness and potential.”

With input from experts like Dr. Luke Bennett and Dr Joanna McMillan, the Marcus Minds Project platform is a one-stop source of essential information.

Luke is the performance coach to some of the world’s highest paid and most successful and famous sports stars, royal families, world leaders and business elites, those committed to be the world’s best. Luke is also the doctor for the Mercedes Formula One Team and manages a team of high-performance coaches engaged with the majority of the best Formula One drivers. Every Formula One driver and constructors’ championship winner since 2014 has worked with Luke.

**“What makes Luke so special is that he is a former Royal Flying Doctor Service doctor, so he has seen more of the Australian bush than most of us, and understands rural and regional communities as well as what high performance means” said Tim.**

Joanna is focussed on the important role nutrition has in powering and supporting the body. Scottish-born, Joanna has become one of Australia’s favourite and best-known nutrition and lifestyle specialists. She is a PhD qualified Nutrition Scientist, Accredited Practising Dietitian, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with La Trobe University, guest lecturer at The University of Sydney and a Fellow of the Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine.

Five areas of focus have been identified as being essential ingredients to supporting a healthier, wealthier, happier and wiser rural lifestyle.

**Body**– understanding and managing your physical tools,

**Mind**– it all starts with self-awareness,

**Relationships**– driving social wellbeing,

**Purpose**– recognising that anyone with a plan has a purpose

**High Performance**– bringing it all together with disciplined decision making, good habits and time management.





Principal, Andrew Baker is excited about this fresh addition to the College.

“The Marcus Minds Project is about helping our students and alumni to continue to grow within themselves once they have left Marcus. It brings a set of tools to help achieve higher personal performance for anyone interested in living a happier, healthier life and optimising their potential. By accessing these tools, you can build a strategy for self-development, resilience, and achieve your own high performance. You’ll find that the project is easy to navigate and is packed with resources to help you manage your body, mind, relationships, purpose, and maintain your higher performance.”

To navigate the website, a simple, easy to use and appropriately designed 'tractor wheel' tool has been developed that provides farmers and agricultural professionals with an array of engaging solutions and activities that can help to build resilience, realise pathway strategies for self-development, achieve higher performance, and improve overall quality of life.

“Potential ebbs and flows, I know it does for me, if I’m feeling down or I’m doubting myself or I’ve made a mess of something, my ability drops because the self-chatter in my mind makes me start doubting myself. Life’s not a linear ride, there’s often bumps along the way, and these can mould us, so this is about taking some of the trial and error out of the journey,” said Tim.

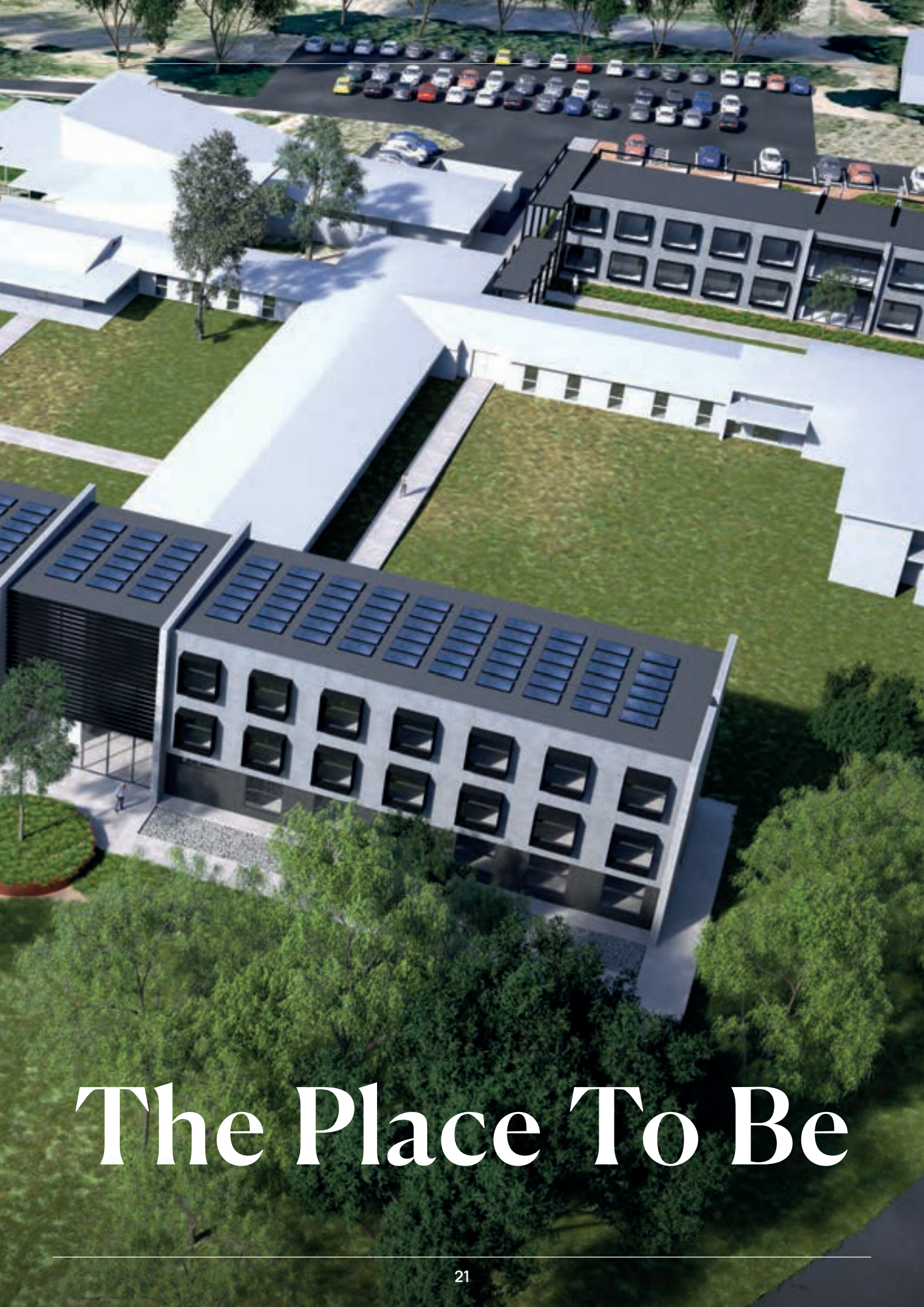
[themarkusmindsproject.com](http://themarkusmindsproject.com)





Artists impression of planned wing





# The Place To Be









Deputy Chair of Council, James Bufton DipFM94', Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Principal Andrew Baker

State Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Mary-Ann Thomas MP opened the new accommodation wing on Wednesday 5th June 2022. The additional 30 bedrooms make a total of 153 rooms on campus. The College is grateful to the Victorian State Government for providing \$2.5M in funding under the Agricultural Colleges' Modernisation Program.

Over recent years, there have been many students required to live in off-campus accommodation due to insufficient beds on campus. With this build complete, the focus is now on accommodation for a further 40 beds. The proposed building will include a laundry, two common rooms, storage and bedrooms, similar to the 30-bedroom building. It will be situated at the northern end of the site, allowing easy access to the dining room and to lecture facilities. It is expected to cost \$10M.

Thank you to Deputy Principal, Tony McMeel for his work behind the scenes and for commissioning our beautiful glass artwork, Sunrise Sunset, from Wathaurong Glass and Arts.

**For opportunities to support the next planned accommodation contact Winks Gubbins**  
**[foundation@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](mailto:foundation@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au)**





# Changing it up

2023 brings exciting changes to the Equine course structure with the opportunity to complete an Advanced Diploma of Equine Business Management\* in the final trimester, making students eligible to apply for entry straight into the final year of the Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness) or industry placement year of the Bachelor of Business (Agriculture).

Equine Director, Katrina Wood is looking forward to the opportunities the changes will open up for our students.

“Our Equine Business Management course equips ambitious and determined graduates with the business foundations, horse husbandry and science knowledge they need to excel in the equine industry.”

The course is internationally recognised by the major sectors of the industry, offering an intensive year of accelerated learning in the practice and theory of equine business management.

“We cover a wide range of key topics to ensure graduates walk away highly qualified and ready to enter the industry.

These include equine science, young horse education, breeding, nutrition, exercise physiology, business planning, management and communications, designed in consultation with industry leaders within the equine and education professions.”

If students are wanting to continue their studies, they have a clear pathway to complete a degree within two years (Agribusiness) or three years (Agriculture), while still having the equine foundations as the first year of their degree.

To apply, students need to have successfully completed Year 12 or equivalent, have had at least 12 months employment since finishing school, and possess a strong desire to pursue a career in the equine industry.

For further information:  
**[marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/2023-equine-course-guide](https://marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/2023-equine-course-guide)**

\*subject to TEQSA approval





Emma Muldoon EM



# Filling the Jobs Gap

**Katherine Bain BB(Agri)'18** is keen to see more people study agriculture-related courses to help fill the gap in labour across the farming sector. She hopes more young people will take the chance to explore the endless opportunities of the agriculture industry, beyond working on a farm.





"My Dad and his generation were focussed on the idea of education being really important for farmers, and not just coming home after high school and doing what's always been done. My two years at Marcus were amazing. It was so great meeting people from all agricultural industries. In my class we had everything from northern cattle and broadacre cropping to bees and horticulture. All the classes we had were extremely relevant to working in the industry, and the practical approach the lecturers took made most concepts easier to understand. Now there aren't too many issues that I don't have someone I can call to ask about."

### **For Katherine, her sights were always set on a Marcus education.**

"I had decided I wanted to go to Marcus when I was quite young. I remember going up to their booth at Sheepvention and putting my name on the list when I was in Year 7. I think then I wanted to do the horse program, but that changed when I was a bit older to wanting to do Agribusiness. I got an early experience of Marcus attending the Rotary Defying the Drift program, which ran over a weekend at Marcus where we got to see all the facilities and learn about some of the curriculum. That weekend really cemented that I wanted to go once I had finished school."

Katherine is continuing to learn and was selected to complete the Australian Wool Innovation's Breeding Leadership course in February. All part of her 'take on any opportunity that comes your way and see where it leads you', life philosophy.

"During my 3rd year of agribusiness, I went to Canada to a cattle ranch to gain a bit of experience overseas. During that time, I landed a job with Paraway Pastoral and started as a Production Analyst when I got home and was still finishing off my degree. Once I had graduated, an opportunity came up in Paraway to be a Business Analyst for their Central West NSW properties, which I was very excited to take on. I spent two years in this role and learnt so much from the farm managers and the Paraway office about running a hugely successful farm business. Then, at the beginning of 2021, I moved back home to work on the family farm and have been learning the ropes here ever since."



### **Katherine has come full circle, from shadowing her father as a child and now contributing to the family farm herself.**

"Working at home as the sixth generation of sheep farmers at Stockyard Hill has been a dream of mine since I was very young, so to achieve that is definitely a highlight."

**[k.bain1920@gmail.com](mailto:k.bain1920@gmail.com)**







# Jumping over hurdles

**Peter Griffiths CertHM'82** chooses to ride steel horses now – safely in the gym – but in 1987 he rode the winner of the Grand National Hurdle, Sir Agrifo at Flemington. It was a lifechanging experience.



"I went from zero to hero in a matter of minutes. It felt like I'd won the Melbourne Cup. From then on, whenever I was introduced it was, 'This is Peter Griffiths, he won the Grand National Hurdle.'"

Growing up on a small farm near Ballarat, under his mother's guidance, he started riding at pony club at four. Then it was in secondary school, while a boarder in Melbourne, that Marcus came into his line of sight.

"Rowdy (Graham McConnell, Principal 1978-1994) came to my school to talk to prospective students. After school, I attended a couple of weekend live-in courses at Marcus, one was saddlery and the other farrier skills, so I had some idea of what was on offer. I worked for a year in stables and then went to Marcus. The only other horse course available was at Glenormiston but Marcus had a far better curriculum. Marcus drew on industry experts outside the teaching skills of College staff."

His time at Marcus has stayed with him.

## **"Marcus gave me some structure in my life and taught me to set goals."**

The Marcus network, although in its infancy, started to gain traction, with momentum gained as graduating students multiplied. Up to that stage I had never read a book on how to ride a horse per se, but I could ride a horse. Marcus taught me that after 'reading the book' I would be a better rider, and that has been a theme ever since. I also enjoyed the off-campus tours to NSW and New Zealand. When in NZ I stayed on and worked for legendary horseman Ken Browne."

After graduating, Peter worked for Cliff Fahler who trained 2-year-olds. He gained his jumping rider's licence and rode for a couple of years before setting up his own training stables in Ballarat. Then came his moment in the sun. After winning the Grand National Hurdle at 23, he then rode in the Grand Annual at Warrnambool. Peter trained Sir Agrifo after he had won on him, which proved to be a great start to his career as a trainer, winning the Moonee Valley Hurdle, the Dousta Galla Hurdle, and finishing third in the Grand National Hurdle. Then came a complete change of direction.

"I joined the Police Force. The work comes with highs and lows. I think for me the highs are many but fundamentally what other job are you able to respond to the question, 'So what do you make?' Me, and my colleagues, we get to make a difference. Probably one of my biggest highs was winning an appeal to the High Court which rewrote the law in Australia regarding the definition of consent in sexual assault cases, The Queen v Getachew. My low was attending a search warrant to arrest an offender who attacked one of my members, who then turned and went to attack me. In nearly 30 years of policing, it was only the third time I had drawn my firearm but the first where I shot and wounded another human."

As tough as that was, his life experiences and friendships with College peers lasting 40 years have kept Peter focussed on what is important.

"Manners and kindness are free."

[griffopj@live.com.au](mailto:griffopj@live.com.au)



# Foundation Cocktail Party

The Foundation Cocktail Party for 2022 was a great evening with more than 200 friends and supporters of the College and scholarship holders and sponsors gathering at The Metropolis, Melbourne on Thursday 23rd June.

Guest speaker, John McKillop, CEO of Hancock Agriculture and S. Kidman and Co shared his insights into being involved in agriculture in Australia. His honesty and energy hit the mark with everyone. RC and EC Webb Trust scholarship recipient, Jack Jordan-Hill inspired and moved all with his personal story.



Guest speaker John McKillop, CEO Hancock Agriculture and S Kidman and Co



Jack Jordan-Hill RC and EC Webb Trust scholarship recipient and student speaker



2022 scholarship students





James, Jacinta and Sam Crouch-Loveday scholarship recipient, April Browne Dairy Australia and Reagan Jones- scholarship recipient



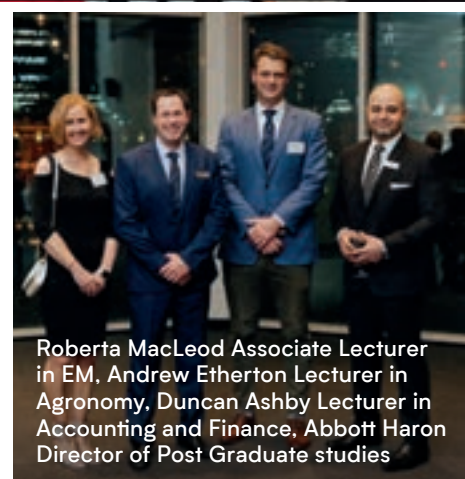
Hamish McFarlane TeMania Angus, Sally Seyffer, Will Seyffer TeMania Angus 2022 scholarship recipient, Paul Seyffer, Amanda McFarlane TeMania Angus



Stewart McArthur AM College Council, Fiona Macdonald, Philippa Jordan-Hill, Graham McConnell past Principal



Jock Richmond, Peter O'Loughlin-College Council, Taf Denga



Roberta MacLeod Associate Lecturer in EM, Andrew Eitherton Lecturer in Agronomy, Duncan Ashby Lecturer in Accounting and Finance, Abbott Haron Director of Post Graduate studies



Lachie Miles, John Miles past Deputy Principal and CEO, James Bufton Deputy Chairman of Council, DipFM'94, Antony Baillieu, Chairman of Foundation DipFM'71



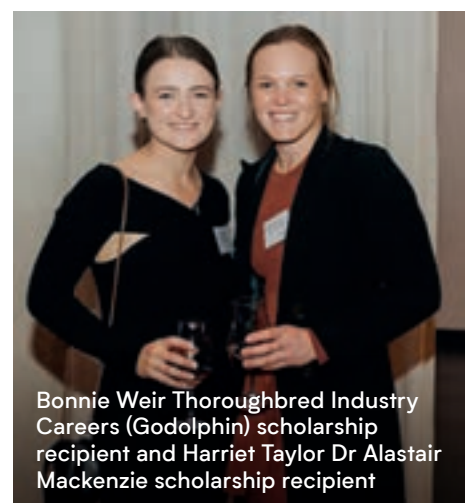
Kate McGavin, Fiona Barclay, Rob McGavin Chairman of Council AdCertAA'93, Graduate of Excellence'00, Richard Barclay



Neen McKenzie, Scholarship and Alumni Officer, Cathy Bell, Student Services Officer, Cathy Bent, Finance Officer, Winks Gubbins, Deputy Principal, Matthew O'Toole, Marketing and Communications Officer



Andrew and Rachel Gill, Mutooroo with Lachlan Barrett 2022 Mutooroo scholarship recipient



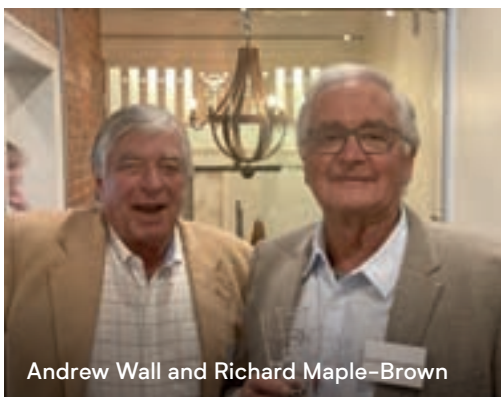
Bonnie Weir Thoroughbred Industry Careers (Godolphin) scholarship recipient and Harriet Taylor Dr Alastair Mackenzie scholarship recipient



# Reunions

Several year groups took advantage of the 60th anniversary celebration weekend to have their own catch ups. 1968, 1972, 1982, 1987 all gathered on Friday 20th May in and around Geelong.

## '72



Andrew Wall and Richard Maple-Brown



Ross Adams, George Tyers, Peter Faser overlooking Dave Palmer Graduate of Excellence'01. All DipFM'72.

## '82



1982 Longhorns Graeme McConnell Past Principal, Peter Bowman, Martin Ballinger, David Ham, Tim Squire-Wilson, Hugh Barnet CertHM'80, David Bush, Markus Rathsmann. All DipFM'82.



David Ham, Martin Ballinger, Hugh Barnet, Tim Squire-Wilson, David Bush. All DipFM'82.

## '87



Phil Gough, Dr Simon Livingstone Past Principal, James Mann, Richard Hawker, Pat Hanly, Chris Lee, Tim Mayers, Col Irving, Rob Lennon, Sam Stephens and partners. All AssocDipFM'87.



# '91

Gerard Kath, Greg Scanlon, Peter Gall, Peter Godwin, Andrew Taylor, Damian Whyte. All DipFM'91.



# '02

The 2002 graduates gathered on the weekend of August 6th and 7th in Sydney.

27 attended (10 Farm Management & 8 Agribusiness graduates plus 9 partners)

Missing from photo but attended the weekend – Jock Snodgrass DipAgri'02, Ross Campbell AdDipFBM'02, Kirsten Campbell and Hannah Johnston



#### Back row L-R

Sam Pincott AdDipFBM'02, BBAM'03, Richard Cannon DipAgri'02, David Bufton AdDipFBM'02, BBAM'03, Dougal McIntyre DipAgri'02, Anthony Mulcahy AdDipFBM'02, Ben Lane DipAgri'02, Colin Rex DipAgri'02, Andrew Kettlewell AdDipFBM'02, Sarah Johnston AdDipFBM'02, Richard Johnston AdDipFBM'98, Simon Fisher AdDipFBM'02, Henry Welsh DipAgri'02, Scott Dixon AdDipFBM'02, BBAM'07, Lauchie Cole AdDipFBM'04

#### Front L-R

Sarah Cannon, Ali Lane, Liz Dixon, Rob Handbury AdDipFBM'02, Eliza Handbury, Stuart Johnston AdDipFBM'02, Glenn Aldridge DipAgri'02, GCertAgri'16, GDipAgri'18, MAgri'20, Millie Fisher, Sarah Cole.



# The Network

## MARRIAGES

### Will & Camilla

**Will Mercer BBFM'12** married Camilla Forbes on the 26th of March 2022 in Melbourne.



Alumni who attended the Mercer-Forbes wedding were:

Edward Guthrie  
Jack Handbury  
Nick Paterson  
Andrew Laidlaw  
John Durham  
Edward Mercer

James Ellis  
Sandy Robinson  
John Porter  
Adam Dye  
James Butler  
Sean McDougall

Nick Baulch  
Simon Allen  
Charlie Cameron  
Toby Robinson  
Darcy Ellis  
Hugh Landale

Hamish Barclay  
Angus Gilmore  
Charlie Archer  
Alister Fraser

[wdjmercer@hotmail.com](mailto:wdjmercer@hotmail.com)



## MARRIAGES

### James & Shannon

**James Morrison BB(Ag)'17** married Shannon Jenkins at Casterton February 26th, 2022.

[james.morrison.ag@gmail.com](mailto:james.morrison.ag@gmail.com)



## BIRTHS

### Paisley

Paisley Jean Joyce 30th March 2022  
at Wangaratta to **Brooke Goldsworthy  
DipAgri'21** and Mathew Joyce

[brookegoldsworthy22@gmail.com](mailto:brookegoldsworthy22@gmail.com)



## ENGAGEMENTS

### Megan & Isaac

**Megan Webb BB(Ag)'19** and Isaac Broadbent were engaged on the 13th of Jan this year at their property in Bridgewater. They are planning to marry at the end of February 2023 alongside bridesmaids **Sally Edwards nee Conway AssocDFBM'18** and **Alex Mulcahy BB(Ag)'19**

[meganwebb56@gmail.com](mailto:meganwebb56@gmail.com)



### Phillipa

Philippa Louisa Barclay 17th July 2022  
Epworth Geelong to Belinda and  
**Lachie Barclay AssocDFBM'14.**

[lachiebarclay@hotmail.com](mailto:lachiebarclay@hotmail.com)





# Out & About on Tour

Marcus students on tour in 2022.

All student cohorts travelled overseas with members of staff for their tours in August 2022.

AG1 with Deanne Whelan, Abbott Haron and James Lang, EM with Katrina Wood and Roberta MacLeod and FM1 with Andrew Etherton, Duncan Ashby and Lisa Gowers all toured New Zealand.

AG2 with Dave Cornish and Kate Gorman toured the west coast of the USA, and FM3 with Andrew Baker, Ben Jones, Cleo Gower from MOC, along with Boo Harvey DipAA'96 from CBRE, travelled to Texas and Louisiana.



FM3 Tabasco McIlhenny Co, Louisiana



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## CBRE proudly assisted with the FM3 and AG2 tours.

"Agricultural education is the future of our industry. Marcus Oldham has been dedicated to supporting the creation of young leaders for over sixty years and has done an amazing job. I think our whole industry should support Marcus Oldham, so CBRE sponsoring some of the costs of running the study tours is just one way that one corporation is showing support," said David Goodfellow, Managing Director, CBRE Agribusiness.

"I've always been passionate about the study tours organised by Marcus Oldham because one way to learn is by reading and listening to theory, but another way is to go and see for yourself who is actually trying out those theories and what's working best. Seeing slightly different perspectives, that are not easily accessible in Australia, creates a great learning experience, so this initiative is very worthy of support."

"If students can see the joy that CBRE gets from helping others such as an institution like Marcus Oldham then, one day, each and every student might also be able to create that same joy for themselves, the joy of helping others."







FM3 King Ranch, Kingsville Texas



FM1 Trevelyan's Kiwi Fruit Packhouse, Te Puke NZ



AG2 Corn field Russ Hovey Davis CA



EM with Kevin Gray, Palmerston North



AG2 Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

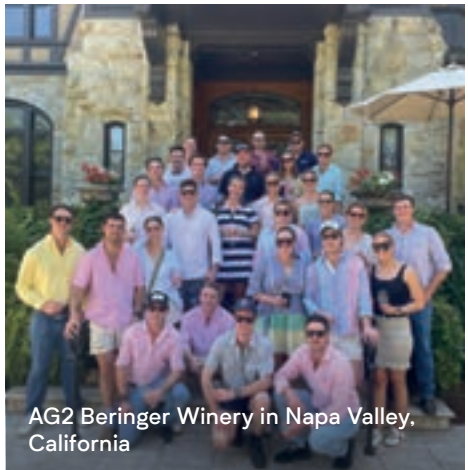


AG1 Viticultura, Cromwell, Otago





FM1 NZ – traditional bogged bus



AG2 Beringer Winery in Napa Valley, California



FM3 CHS Myrtle Grove Terminal, Mississippi River, New Orleans



AG1 Charlie Uren, Henry Maconochie, Lucas Atkin, Xavier Lefebvre, Omarama NZ



AG2 olive grove at Cobram Estate, Woodland California



EM with Andrew Forsman, Cambridge NZ



FM3 TCU Institute of Ranch Management, Texas



FM1 Clevedon Oysters NZ



FM1 Te Mania NZ



AG1 students at Lake Pukaki



# Cross Country

A record-breaking cross country was run on Wednesday 13th July, the first once since 2019. The most participants in college history covered the 5.3km course with 46 running and 29 walking. Harriet Taylor FM1 broke the female record set by **Sasha Treloar nee King DipAgri'08** by nearly half a minute, coming across the finishing line in 23 minutes. Henry Maconochie AG1 took out the honours for the males with a very speedy 18:51. Staff set a mean pace with an average of 26 minutes and 14 seconds.

## Males

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Henry Maconochie (AG1) | <b>18:51</b> |
| 2. Matt Dykes (FM1)       | <b>18:56</b> |
| 3. Damien Moloney (FM3)   | <b>19:46</b> |

## Females

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Harriet Taylor (FM1)                          | <b>23:00</b> |
| 2. Annabelle Hamilton (AG1)                      | <b>24:48</b> |
| 3. Anna Paton (AG1)<br>& Annabelle Milling (AG2) | <b>27:39</b> |



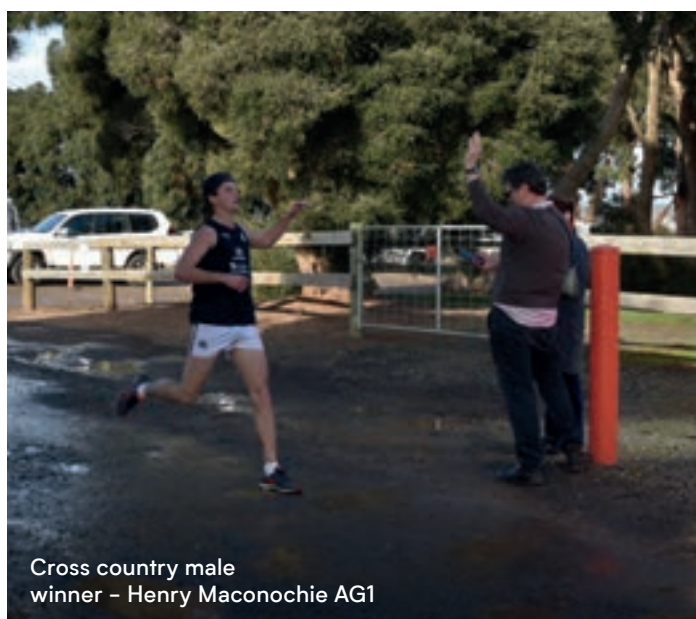
Staff participants – Scott Vanderkley, Andrew Etherton, Lisa Gowers







Cross country female  
winner - Harriet Taylor FM1



Cross country male  
winner - Henry Maconochie AG1



The stragglers





# Council News

## Erin Fitzgerald nee Richards

**DipHBM'04**, Council member, has a lifetime love of horses. Growing up in Canada, three-year-old Erin snuck out of the family's holiday accommodation mid-winter in the Rocky Mountains to sleep in the barn with the Clydesdales.

"From then on, I was hell bent on it and my parents were good enough to get me lessons for a few years. In the late '80s I started riding in Thunderbird Show Park near our home in Vancouver. I often found myself admiring the warmblood jumpers I saw at shows. I started following their bloodlines back then, and I knew I wanted to breed my own horses someday."

In the late 1990s the family decided to move to Australia- it timed well in the lead up to the Sydney Olympics.

"Sydney was so glamorous- there was a huge buzz, and it was visible on the world stage. I won a lot of tenders to do ticketing systems and web designs at that time, so I was pumping out work. I went to the Olympics and saw our team ride some incredible cross country and show jumping. There were a lot of people there I would have loved to talk to, but I just wasn't connected to the Australian community yet. I didn't have a jumping off point where I knew somebody who could introduce me. It genuinely takes time, and you have to be introduced."

In order to make the move to Australia, Erin's mother needed to sell her computer business - The Software Store - the first of its kind in Canada and one of the first in North America, but tragedy struck and Erin's Mother died of cancer. Not only had she lost her Mum, but the sale was disrupted, throwing the family into several years of tough times.

"Dad and my two brothers moved in with me in my Sydney flat. We had a couple of years fighting the lawsuit. It meant that I went from being a fairly carefree 20-something to

having a 15-year-old, 11-year-old and my dad living with me. We lost Mum and the aftermath for our family was pretty tough. I have met so many people in all types of family business who have gone through loss, and then had some rough times with succession planning and family wealth on top of the grief. But then people climb out of the hole- and it's the making of them. I can't regret the lessons I learned but I definitely would not wish it on anyone."

During this time, Erin found her escape from reality in front of the magazine stand at her supermarket looking through "Horse Deals", dreaming of riding again.



Erin Fitzgerald with home bred stallion Brookside Esperance by Emerald van't Ruytershof

"It puts it in context that the \$4.95 price at the time wasn't in my budget! I couldn't afford the magazine, but I remember seeing the Marcus Oldham ads and thinking 'what a dream- to go and enjoy being educated, go on tours, get to ride, make friends with people, make industry connections, experience those events...' Then I'd laugh and walk away."

Around that time, the family situation finally changed for the better, and suddenly the possibilities opened up.

"I remember standing at the magazines again and I was at the checkout when I realised I had an extra \$100 that week in my budget- so I went back, got the magazine and bought it. I actually still have it, it's under my bed, it's 2003 "Horse Deals" and it had a big Marcus ad in it with the scholarships listed. One of them was the Vanessa Hawkins Equine Sports Breeding Scholarship."



With encouragement and support from her brothers and father, Erin applied and Nick Roe, Director of the Horse Business Management course, asked her to come to Geelong for an interview. “I got the scholarship. I wouldn’t have ever been able to afford it at the time without the scholarship.

At Marcus, for the first time for I can’t even think how long, it was all just lovely. It’s hard to explain but people who have a university experience gifted to them from their parents probably don’t fully understand the grind if you have to pay to be educated. That was magical for me, personally, and the friends were awesome and touring around was like connecting with this critical part of myself.”

Erin had an inkling at the time that breeding was going to be her future but was unsure how to finance it.



Erin and Luke Fitzgerald at Marcus' 60th celebration

“I met my husband, **Luke Fitzgerald BBAM’05** at College that year and we both wanted to buy a farm, but when we left College we did not have the funds. Over the next few years, we saved enough money to buy a property in Adelaide. We did a development on it, made a great return, and in 2016 we were able to buy our farm, Brookside, in the Adelaide Hills. It’s 85 acres of prime land within 45 minutes of Adelaide. Luke was already doing agistment producing prime lambs and I wanted to be producing world class show jumpers and eventing warmbloods”

With two children, Bennett 12 and James 8, they work together at Brookside. Their first stallion– the now 23-year-old Renegade Z– was purchased in 2019, and is consistently serving 20 plus mares a season, which was a game changer for their stud. They have backed themselves, and it’s paying off.

“A lot of people told us you can’t do paddock service. It was wonderful having been on tour at Marcus, because we met



Erin, James, Bennett and Luke Fitzgerald

people who told you what they had done and showed you how they were doing it. Businesses are built by people who take risks and try things. Most of the people who tell you ‘you can’t’ say so without actually having tried it. There are many stages of maturity that a business and the owner go through. Their mindset matures and their confidence settles into a place where they will take on certain opportunities. There’s been mistakes along the way and disappointments – there’s always bumps on the road– but I think you have to keep going.”

## Erin felt privileged to be invited to join the College Council.

“I had some pretty strong emotions about contributing to Council because my Marcus experience was so profound, and the timing was so perfect. I met my husband, we were inspired to set up our farm and business, and we felt so supported and connected by our Marcus network. With that start, we were able to go out and find a way into that first farm. Even if there’s only a few kids a year for whom it is a pivotal moment in their lives, what Marcus offers to students matters.”

Erin’s less direct pathway into the equine industry means she has a great deal to offer the Council.

“One thing always on our minds is the business of equine. Horses are a discretionary item– it’s a sport, it’s a luxury, I also think it’s in danger of becoming a lost art. It’s not that long ago that all our farming was done using a horse-drawn team. In human terms, moving away from horses is very recent. They are also a bridge between urban and rural life. I think the College has a real opportunity to have the art and sport of horsemanship bringing more people in touch with the amazing agricultural industry. Horses are expensive, so entrepreneurship is critical. You have to be quite creative to succeed. I think the Equine Business Management Course has to be of the highest entrepreneurial standard, because we have the most variation in breeding values, the most volatility in revenue, accessing capital is hard, and nothing is commoditised– each horse is special, not the same. The academic strategy and the standard for our students needs to be challenged– horses are the hardest business, not the easiest.”

[erin@brooksidefarms.com.au](mailto:erin@brooksidefarms.com.au)



# Staff news

Wednesday July 6th eleven staff visited the Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Grovedale. We were treated to bush tucker including marinated crocodile fillets, emu sausage with dips and damper made into johnny cakes.

Then told about hunting tools, didgeridoos and a range of communication forms by Cultural Officer, Anthony Hume.



Narana boomerang throwing practice





## Danni Bond

### Reception & Administration Officer.

Danni previously worked at Leisurelink Aquatic and Recreation Centre for nine years following a variety of jobs as a surfing and kayaking instructor, lifeguard, swimming teacher, receptionist and legal secretary. Originally from Echuca, Danni has lived in Melbourne, Shepparton, Hong Kong and finally found her way to Geelong in 2007. In her younger years, she represented Australia in kayaking, and participated in swimming, triathlons and cycling (which she competed in until 2020). Life now is about working at Marcus and searching for a new adventure in her campervan.



## Luke Hanson

### Groundsman

Luke has worked for genU for 18 years on their gardening crew. He spent several years working at Alcoa and many other work sites around Geelong during this time. He also has experience as a kitchen hand at a local pub. He started his working life delivering newspapers while he was still at Nelson Park School. He has spent lots of weekends gardening for many people. He enjoys going to the movies and live theatre, and crafts such as long stitch and diamond art. Luke is a keen Cats supporter and an avid collector of Melbourne Storm memorabilia. He is loving his work at Marcus Oldham and has enjoyed the opportunities it has given him to meet new people and learn new skills.



## Abbott Haron

### Director of Postgraduate Studies.

With a background in business administration and managing innovation and technology, Abbott has held multiple senior positions in higher education for 20 years. Dubai, Perth, Sydney, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Oman and Singapore are some of the locations Abbott has lived and worked in throughout his career. Abbott considers himself a "Blue Collar Academic"; his pride in his working-class roots informs his teaching, management, leadership and research styles. He is not interested in the politics of "big academia" and values applied higher education with outcomes that benefit his students, Marcus Oldham and Australia.



## James Lang

### Lecturer in Applied Marketing and International Business.

James has worked in the agricultural industry for more than 20 years in roles from marketing to management in farm machinery, grain storage, seed and food processing, and poultry and pig production in Australia and New Zealand. During his spare time James is very invested in the horse industry, in particular show jumping and eventing, where he and his family compete at an elite level. James hopes his experience can add value to MOC and enhance the education of students into the future.



# Marcus All Over

**Rebecca Kelly BB(Agri)'18 and Tim Houston BB(Ag)'22** are Nuffield Scholarship recipients for 2023.



Nuffield is Australia's leading agricultural scholarship organisation that gives the opportunity for farmers in Australia to travel and study international farming practices. Marcus Oldham College congratulates Rebecca and Tim on receiving this prestigious award.

Rebecca runs her family's cropping property in Mingenew, WA, growing wheat, canola, lupins, commercial pasture seeds, and coriander. Her return to the farm after Marcus coincided with a company requesting to put a gas rig on their best cropping land. The experience of dealing with the gas company prompted Rebecca to undertake a Nuffield Scholarship to study the issue further.

"I started a group with all involved families to help determine how we would like to proceed and assisted in the communication between the two parties. Companies within the mining or energy sector often have significant resources and expertise to guide their negotiations, which is often not matched by, nor available to, farmers and small business owners."

Rebecca is interested in researching this area of contention to help level the playing field for farming families.

"My aim is that others faced with similar situations can access support that I, and many other farming families,

would have found beneficial in our own negotiations, and to better understand the longer-term impacts on agricultural land and businesses."

As part of her Nuffield Scholarship, Rebecca plans to travel to the US, Canada and Germany to gain an understanding of how relations between energy, mining and agriculture can be more collaborative and advantageous to all.



**Tim will travel from the family farm at Mungindi, on the border of NSW and QLD, to South America, the US and Canada. He will research how other parts of the world go about sustainably transitioning land from grazing to cropping and plans to bring this information back to Australian landholders.**

Tim and his parents, Rob and Sally, crop approximately 11,500 ha between Mungindi and Inglestone in southern QLD. They rotate wheat, barley, chickpeas, sorghum and dryland cotton. They also run a Brangus breeder herd and are diversifying into Australian White sheep.

"There is huge potential for landholders, regional communities and the Australian grains, pulse and cotton sectors to capitalise on the ability to sustainably develop



agricultural land. There are areas in Australia that are suited to dryland farming but are still underdeveloped. I will study how landholders who wish to develop their land, can do so in a way that provides positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.”

Tim is also keen to explore how governments and landholders can better work together to support sustainable farming development. He feels collaboration between the two groups could be enhanced.

“With the United Nations stating in 2009 that world food production would have to double by 2050 to keep pace with global population growth, Australian agriculture has an opportunity and a responsibility to play its part in meeting future demand.”

Both Rebecca and Tim credit Marcus with setting them up to succeed.

“Marcus gave me more confidence to back myself in decision making and it created great friendships,” Rebecca said.

“Marcus Oldham was a huge building block in my career in ag. It opened my eyes to the agriculture industry as a whole and allowed me an insight into what industry leaders from all parts of Australia were doing on their farms. On top of this, the networking that came from attending Marcus was invaluable. I made connections and lifelong friends with people from across Australia that I will use for the rest of my life,” said Tim.

**beccaleighkelly@gmail.com**  
**tim@sandholes.com.au**



Time has flown for **David Evans DipFM’93** but he has certainly packed a lot in to his working life.

“It’s 30 years next year and feels like 10! Since Marcus, I’ve worked in various roles including rural real estate sales, livestock sales, a sales role in viticulture, grain trading and accumulation, grain industry policy and advocacy, and since January 2022 with Farmers Business Network as SA Account Executive.”

FBN aims to change the way farmers purchase inputs, such as crop protection and animal health products, by offering a 24/7 store where growers can order online with transparent pricing and free delivery to the farm, as well as a host of business and production analysis tools. David’s role is partly sales but also identifying, recruiting and managing regionally based representatives who are the face of the business in their local community.

David uses skills he learned at Marcus every day.

“Marcus taught me to think differently and to question the status quo. I often say it took a lot of information that was in my head and reassembled it in a logical and useful way. I gained much more confidence in my own ability, which ultimately led me to take up career opportunities beyond the farm gate in agribusiness. It also equipped me to converse with rural businesspeople on a different level.”

It took David a while to consider further study after school.

“Prior to coming to Marcus I’d worked in the livestock agency business for six years, followed by 10 years managing our family farms. No one had been able to successfully sell me the benefits of tertiary study when I left school, so I learnt on the job, largely by trial and error. I met a recently graduated, mature-age student who convinced me that I needed some business skills and that my practical experience should allow me to complete the final year of the Diploma of Farm Management course. Fortunately, the Principal Graham McConnell agreed, and we leased our farm and relocated to Geelong for a year.”

It was a smart decision.

“Learning good study habits, finding out that I was smarter than I thought, visiting other farms and agribusinesses and learning what made them tick and how to analyse their performance was all really worthwhile. My IT skills also improved out of sight with constant use.”

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“I look back at those halcyon days at Marcus Oldham and the many harmless acts of devilment on buses during farm tours with fond memories,” recalls **Chris McClelland DipFM’66**.

In 1964, the Board of the Scottish Australian Company decided to send one of their jackeroos each year to attend the two-year farm management course at the new Marcus Oldham Farm Management College (MOFAC) in Geelong. In 1965, Chris was proud to be the first jackaroo selected from their twenty-two Australian pastoral stations to attend the College.

In return for having a permanent place open for one of their junior staff, the company generously provided an annual bursary for an outside student (selected by the College) and employment afterwards with the company should the student so desire. Co-incidentally, **Mike Stephens DipFM’66**, with whom Chris had attended Mosman Preparatory School in Sydney, was given this additional scholarship.

“In 1965, I was elected Senior Student with Mike as my very capable and supportive deputy and **Sam Inglis DipFM’66**, a steadfast and reliable backup. They were two marvellous years under the expert guidance and vivacity of Principal Ivo Dean.”

After leaving Marcus, Chris was promoted to Overseer and, later, Station Manager of three properties with the Company until he was offered a position with the McLachlan family of SA to manage Tupra Station, Hay NSW, an 86,000-ha property running 42,000 Merinos, where he worked for 30 years.

During this time, a trip to Africa re-ignited Chris’s connection with art which had lain dormant since his school day. His sketches published in the African Safari Magazine attracted the attention of prominent Zimbabwean Safari tour owner, Stewart Cranswick.







"He asked the Harare based publisher whether this McClelland chap would be interested in travelling around Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa sketching all his bush lodges. So, for the next ten years or so, my wife Margie behind a camera, and I would travel to Africa for our holidays to photograph, sketch and write reviews."

In 2003, now retired from the land, Chris began drawing African and Australian wildlife, later setting up a gallery of his work in Hay.

"It very much became a team effort, Margie's countless photos providing valuable information for my intricate and actively depicted work, and her tireless efforts in promoting my work which has received countless awards around Australia."

Chris has been well recognised overseas too, with an invitation from the Canadian Artists for Conservation Group to display his work in New York, leading to investiture as a signature member of the prestigious international Society

of Animal Artists. He embraced the opportunity to address the Warnborough College's annual Conference of the Arts at Canterbury, England on wildlife art.

"In 2011, I taught art at St Jude's School at Arusha, Tanzania and during all of this time Margie and I completed many assignments for the African Safari Magazine, which included a journey around Namibia to promote the country's tourist potential under the auspices of the Namibian Minister of Tourism and Environment."

Although still devoted to wildlife, Chris has branched out into drawing commissioned work of pastoral scenes and military subjects – but travel is never far away.

"Some years ago, Margie and I were asked by Swagman Tours in Geelong to take tours to Africa. Before COVID, we took clients on three overland safaris through Namibia and Botswana, and we hope to continue to do so."

**wildprints@bigpond.com**







# MARCUS OLDHAM



**Back Row(L-R):** Pat Molloy, William Wenzel, Hamish Bell, Walter Wilson, Archie Rial, Sam Agar, Reagan Jones, Tom Aveyard, Zach Jenkinson, Lachie Barrett, Reilly Gall, Sam Crozier, Hugh Cleary, Archie Howard, Sam Marshall, Lachlan McGregor, Tom Cleland, Samuel Black, Tom Foss, Jack Madafferi, Dan Luers, Will Metcalfe, Kevin Nicholls, Dougal Coleman, Will Tickner

**Sixth Row(L-R):** Hugh Bradley, Matthew Dykes, Charlie Langley, Lewis Parsons, Jock Livingston, Tom Warr, Tom Walton, Benjamin Mulligan, William Greig, Will Kirkpatrick, Lachlan Gardner, Jack Waters, Charlie Uren, Jack Jordan-Hill, Elliot Jaeschke, Wil McHenry, Henry Maconochie, Oscar Simson, Lachlan McLennan, Hamish Christie, Hugh Valpied, Hamish Klemm, Matthew Kelly, Ned Ladner

**Fifth Row(L-R):** Steven Harris, Lachie Brumpton, Tom Field, Sam Phillips, Jeremy Bates, James White, Thomas Simmons, Samuel Palmer, William Jackson, George Cumming, Samuel Crouch-Loveday, Alex Edgar, Thomas Southwell, Ben Hughes, Ben Hansen, Jack Webster, Sam Berry, Will Seyffer, William Warriner, Benjamin Coe, Harry Thompson, Martin Smith, Paisley Hornery, Georgia Cronin

**Fourth Row(L-R):** Katie Faithfull, Emma Muldoon, Jack Moor, Lucia McDermott, Sam Hanrahan, Georgie Evans, Thomas O'Brien, Oscar Klose, Hugo Miller, Hamish Sylvester, William Sylvester, Gery Lefebvre, Sam Curr, Cameron McKenzie, Sam Fysh, James Paton, Dan Ryan, Matt Connellan, Frazer Duff, Fergus White, Ella Pearson, John Gooden, Emma Knight, Annabel Milling, Dimity Chandler, Kiera Buzza



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# COLLEGE 2022



**Third Row(L-R):** Anna Paton, Sophie Harris, Diana Wheaton, Georgina Berryman, Jimmy Dawson, Hugh Tuck, Sophie Morris, Georgia Denny, Sydnie Williams, Andy Edwards, George Hickson, Angus Earle, Will Cameron, Charlie Watson, Lucas Atkin, Damian Moloney, Mitchell Lollback, Chloe Ellis, Olivia Barber, Sara Kosch, Luke Johnson, William Wright, Asha Kelly, Amelia Harvey, Bonny Weir, Brooke Daly

**Second Row(L-R):** Tayla Lord, Meg Kennett, Harriet Taylor, Natalie Turner, Amber Strelitz, Emily Watts, Penelope Caldow, Lucy Reed, Sam Pickering, Donna Thomson, Tilika Tasic, Ayesha Clark, Abbey Arbuckle, Ebony Naden, Judith Jaeckle, Bella Joseland, Zali Thomas, Sophie Loane, Joanna Nicholas, Holly Bastian, Annabelle Hamilton, Jane McGuire, Molly McLean, Caitlin Ward, Asha Bedgood, Alison Campbell

**Front Row(L-R):** Cleo Gower, Jess Roberts, Lyn Cameron, Danni Bond, Cathy Bent, Kate Gorman, Andrew Etherton, Ben Jones, Elizabeth Gubbins, John Ashleigh, Andrew Baker, Hugh Browning, Tony McMeel, Neen McKenzie, Lisa Gowers, Emily Van Es, Scott Vanderkley, James Pickles, Ben Hole, Matt Robertson, Katrina Wood, Heather Davis, Bettina Bates-Casey  
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