

# OLD AGGIES

President: Frank Doughty, (02) 9481 8787, [fdoughty@tpg.com.au](mailto:fdoughty@tpg.com.au)  
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 Treasurer/Membership: Colin Short, (02) 9876 1018, [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com)

**Alstonville luncheon** – Monday 14 September 2020 at Federal Hotel, Alstonville commencing at 11.30am to eat at 12.30pm – contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or [gajacobs@bigpond.com](mailto:gajacobs@bigpond.com)

**Armidale/Tamworth luncheon** – Wednesday 18 March 2020, 12 noon for 12.30pm start. Bendemeer Hotel – contact Dr Barbara Vanselow 0434 344 992 or [bvanselo@gmail.com](mailto:bvanselo@gmail.com)

**Gosford luncheon** – Thursday 5 November 2020 – Central Coast Leagues Club – contact Geoff Warr (02) 4342 3226 or 0411 128 936 or [warries@optusnet.com.au](mailto:warries@optusnet.com.au)

**Laurieton luncheon** – Monday 17 February 2020, Laurieton United Services' Club, 11.30 am, contact Ray Buxton (02) 6559 7001 or [rbu87351@bigpond.com](mailto:rbu87351@bigpond.com)

**Orange luncheon** – Wednesday 7 October 2020, Best Western Ambassador Motel, 11.30am for 12.30pm – contact Len Banks (02) 6361 7677 or [banks@lmbanks.com.au](mailto:banks@lmbanks.com.au)

**Sydney luncheon** – Tuesday 10 December 2019, City of Sydney RSL Club, 11.30 am – contact Col Short (02) 9876 1018 or [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com)

**Wagga Wagga luncheon** – Thursday 14 May 2020 – contact James Hamilton 0447 225 875 or [jnch1950\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:jnch1950_1@bigpond.com)

## Subscriptions \$10 per annum.

Subs can be paid by direct deposit into the Commonwealth Bank BSB 06 2263, Account No 00903542, Account Name Agricultural Retired Officers Association (please add your surname) or by cheque to 27 Chesterfield Road, Epping NSW 2121

## From the President's Desk

Regional meetings have greatly strengthened *Old Aggies* and our thanks go to the local organisers for the successful and well attended luncheons at Laurieton, Wagga Wagga, Alstonville, Gosford, Tamworth and Orange.

*Old Aggies* gatherings/luncheons are a great way to renew old friendships as well as get to know other former colleagues who worked in different sections of the NSW Department of Agriculture.

In March 2019, with the assistance of DPI Communications, our webpage has been updated. It contains the latest newsletter (November 2019) and archived newsletters from July 2015 to June 2019. The link is [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/old-aggies](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/old-aggies)

The Committee at the March AGM decided to raise the costs of printing and posting the newsletter to make the first increase in subscriptions since *Old Aggies* was established 33 years ago. The subscriptions are now \$10 as from 1 January 2019 but anyone who has paid in advance of 1 January 2019 will not incur the increase until they are due to pay the subscriptions again.

Once again I acknowledge the efforts of our newsletter editor John Bowler and assistant editor Barry Jensen.

My special thanks to the executive and committee for their support and encouragement during the year. Once again it has been my pleasure to have been your President. I extend an invitation for your continued support for our association.

Best wishes for Christmas to you and your families and I trust that 2020 brings good health, great wealth, peace and happiness to all.  
 – Frank Doughty

### Sydney Luncheon

Tuesday, 10 December 2019 at the City of Sydney RSL Club at 11.30 am. The cost is \$35 per head. Please fill in the attached form and mail it back to Col Short, 27 Chesterfield Road, Epping, NSW, 2121 or [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com) if you would like to attend. RSVP no later than Thursday, 5 December 2019. Payment (prior to the lunch) is by cheque made out to Agriculture Retired Officers Association or by direct deposit to the Commonwealth Bank BSB 06 2263 Account No. 00903542, Account Name Agriculture Retired Officers Association. Please add your surname.

- I/We will be attending the Sydney Lunch
- Please accept my apology

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr Given Name.....

Surname.....

Please advise of any dietary requirements

## Charting the changes in Australian agronomy

A new book which explores the evolution of Australian farming systems over the past 30 years has been launched in Wagga.

The book was showcased at the 19th Australian Agronomy Conference and is titled *Australian Agriculture in 2020: From Conservation to Automation*.

It has been edited by Charles Sturt University Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley and CSIRO Chief Research Scientist and Charles Sturt Adjunct Professor Dr John Kirkegaard.

Professor Pratley is the plant systems research pathway leader at the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, alliance between Charles Sturt and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Professor Pratley said the book charts the changes in soil management practices in Australia's history, as well as identifying the challenges facing farmers in the decades ahead.

"This book celebrates the achievements of agronomy, the research teams, and farmers in transforming our agricultural landscape to one of soil stability," Professor Pratley said.

"It details the changes to farming practice and technology, including new approaches to weed, pest and disease management."

Dr Kirkegaard is one of Australia's leading agronomists and was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2016.

In 2017, he was awarded the Farrer Medal for his contributions to agriculture.

He praised the innovative and resilient spirit of Australian farmers and agronomists. "Farming



RURAL DOCUMENTATION: Professor Jim Pratley and Dr John Kirkegaard pictured with a copy of the new book. Picture: Supplied

systems must always evolve to meet emerging challenges, and the book records the success of partnerships between innovative farmers and evidence-based agronomy," he said.

The book has been produced for Agronomy Australia and is free to download on the websites of Agronomy Australia <https://www.agronomyaustralia.org/> and the Graham Centre.

More than 300 people from throughout Australia attended the 19th Australian Agronomy Conference – Article courtesy *The Rural News*.

A newspaper clipping from 'THE IRRIGATOR' dated Tuesday August 06, 2019, page 3. The headline reads 'Yanco farewells a true gentleman'. The sub-headline is 'LOCAL LEADER'. The main text describes the retirement of Ronald Morriss, a long-serving employee of the Yanco Agricultural Institute. A photograph shows Ronald Morriss, an elderly man in a yellow high-visibility shirt, smiling. The text continues with details of his career, starting in 1970 as a handyman/mechanic, and his contributions to the institute. The article concludes with a 'GOODBYE' message and a quote from Leonie Napier.

Tuesday August 06, 2019 THE IRRIGATOR 3  
**NEWS**  
**Yanco farewells a true gentleman**  
**LOCAL LEADER**  
ON JULY 11, 2019, Yanco Agricultural Institute celebrated the achievements of Ronald Morriss who reached the milestone of working with us for 49 years and stepped into a new season of his life, retirement.  
He started working for NSW Agriculture on November 18, 1970 initially as a handyman/mechanic. It was much easier to apply for a job then; he just had a conversation with manager, Robin Scott who asked if he could grind valves in a head. When Ron replied he could, he was told to start Monday.  
"There were no tests, skills or application just a 'gentleman's conversation," Ron said.  
Ron started on a salary of \$72 per week which he thought was pretty good. He began fixing and maintaining plant and vehicles.  
He welded, drove trucks and took over the irrigation of Leeton Field Station as leading hand. He trained staff, sharing his knowledge, and worked closely with the farm foreman, manager and researchers.  
**GOODBYE:** Ronald Morriss celebrated his retirement.  
Some highlights of his working life have been working with students and a diverse range of people in an environment of learning, growth and development that he really enjoyed.  
Ron has seen enormous changes like moving from open tractors with canopies to air-conditioned cabs with GPS. He is proud of his work as he always gave 100 per cent of his time and effort but his most important value has been to treat others with respect and fairness.  
We will miss this gentleman who represented stronger primary industries and valued diversity of skills and people.  
— LEONIE NAPIER

Article courtesy *The Irrigator*

## Orange Old Aggies lunch

The Old Aggies lunch on 9 October 2019 was a great success. We had 48 attended at the Ambassador Motel in Orange for a lovely two-course meal. In attendance was President Frank Doughty, Secretary Graeme Linnegar and Treasurer Col Short.

I welcomed everyone and recognised the Old Aggies Executive as well as recognizing the work Peter Witschi had done in organising the Orange luncheons over the past 16 years. He gave me a great data base and helpful hints to get this one off the ground. I also read out the apologies and the names of a few members who had recently passed away. Frank Doughty spoke about the Old Aggies, indicating that luncheons are being held across the State with good attendances, but that numbers are dwindling at the Sydney luncheons. He also encouraged members to look at the Old Aggies web site <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/old-aggies> to keep up to date with news and future events. The current DPI staff have been very helpful in updating the web site along with Barry Jensen – *Len Banks*



*Orange organiser Len Banks with Lyn South and Viv Touzell.*



*Eddie Parr, President Frank Doughty, long-time Orange organiser Peter Witschi and daughter Janelle Witschi*

## Gordon Mark Yabsley, 1924–2018

Gordon Yabsley was born in 1924 at Coraki, NSW and was a member of the pioneering Yabsley family of Coraki on the Richmond River. Gained his Leaving Certificate as a boarder (2 years) at Newington College in Sydney. Returned home to the family dairy and the age of 19 joined the AIF. Following some training he served in the 2/4th Armoured Regiment, 4th Brigade in New Guinea during the Second World War. After the war he returned to the family dairy farm at Coraki. In 1950 he married Betty and took over one of the family dairy farms.

At Coraki, Gordon was involved in many local organisations – Junior Farmers, Agricultural Bureau, sporting and civic groups.

Gordon and his family sold the Coraki farm when early changes in the dairy industry started to take place. He applied for and secured the position of Field Assistant to Noel Vane the District Agronomist at Kyogle.

While he was in this role, he began studies at a mature age, external student for a degree through the University of New England. He attained his degree and was appointed to the District Agronomist position after Noel Vane at Kyogle.

He was highly regarded in the district. His background as a successful farmer and Field Assistant gave him empathy with the community and a high degree of acceptance by those with whom he worked.

After a number of years at Kyogle he was appointed as Extension Methods Training Officer in Head Office in Sydney. As part of his role he was involved with the development of the *AGnotes* Publications. Gordon also edited the book *Farming in a Small Way* which was aimed at the fast growing Hobby Farming market and which was starting to consume time of the District Advisory Officers

Gordon conducted the annual Extension Methods Development courses (AKA Charm Schools) which were held at Orange Agricultural College.

He investigated ways in which Extension Officers could improve their knowledge and skills. One of the ways this was done was to initiate a plan for a staff Exchange program with the Agricultural Department in Alberta, Canada. Gordon exchanged with a Canadian Officer for 12 months.

He was highly regarded by those that knew him and related with him. Gordon was a Past President of Old Aggies and a regular attendee at the Sydney luncheons – *Bevan Sommerlad* and *Frank Doughty*

## 2019 Grassland Society of NSW Inc. Biennial Conference Report

The 31st Conference of the Grassland Society of NSW Inc., titled “Renewed focus on livestock systems for resilience – the swing back to forages” was held in Gunnedah 3 and 4 July 2019. With the ongoing dry conditions across much of NSW we endeavoured to attract people to the event by promoting it as opportunity to plan and learn from others as to how they are adapting to the dry conditions and what opportunities have arisen with the increasing demand for forages and livestock.

The program contained themes and presentations on: ‘Overview’, Climate Change and Variability – Prof Mark Howden

Economics – the swing to forages

Livestock Production Systems

Livestock Nutrition and Genetics

Drought Opportunities – producer panel

Attended by approximately 160 farmers, agronomists, and industry personnel, delegates were also able to attend one of two bus tours to regional farming activities. One tour headed to Carroll and Tamworth, the second to Boggabri and Narrabri. The tours gave delegates the opportunity to see beef, temperate pastures under irrigation, forage conservation, re-use of effluent water, resultant changes to soil structure from tropical grasses and a visit to the Sydney University Plant Breeding Institute.

A key to the success of our conferences is our sponsor’s involvement. On behalf of the Grassland Society of NSW Inc, I would like to thank all our sponsors very much. To our premier sponsors; Local Land Services, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Landmark and Meat & Livestock Australia, our major sponsors; Heritage Seeds, Valley Seeds, Corteva and Agrimix Pastures, our corporate sponsors; Auswest Seeds, Pasture Genetics, Sumitomo Australia, Upper Murray Seeds, Wengfu Australia and Elders, and our local sponsors; Rabobank and Gunnedah Shire Council. Without your collective involvement, organisations like ours cannot deliver the technical programs to producers locally.

We had a great trade display with around 15 companies and organisations setting up a table. This provided a great opportunity for networking and receiving technical advice on many of the products on display.

Collectively, through the conference program, interaction with our sponsors and delegates, the bus tours and the dinner, there has been much positive feedback. The comments and suggestions for future activities have been enormously encouraging– *George Truman Convener, 2019 Conference.*

## Kentia Palm Project on Lord Howe Island

Why would the NSW Department of Agriculture take on a project that involved Gerry Gleeson the Lord Howe Island (LHI) Board Chairman and part of Neville Wran’s Portfolio? That’s what happened in the early 1980’s when the NSW Department of Agriculture became involved in the kentia palm industry on LHI.

The kentia palm industry on LHI had been the biggest single revenue earner for the Island up to the end of the 1970’s. The industry had been based on the export of seed to Europe for over 100 years.

In 1980 the LHI Board made the decision to cease export of seed and commence exporting live palms. This decision was the result of trials to demonstrate that kentia palms could be successfully germinated on the Island and shipped directly to nurserymen all over the world without affecting the viability and quality of the palm. The establishment of a Nursery on LHI would also deliver the LHI Board with a value-added product and provide additional employment opportunities for the local residents.

In the first 4 years, the project was a dismal failure. The Nursery lost \$50,000 per annum against a previous annual income of \$400,000. It should be noted that kentia palm seed is notoriously difficult to germinate taking up to 4 years.

As a result of a report into the industry and the initial involvement of the Department the recommendations of the report were adopted. The major recommendation for the Department was the secondment of a Departmental Officer to Lord Howe Island as the Production and Development Nursery Manager and technical support.

Once this position was filled the limiting factors for production were identified through the Technical and Professional support of Departmental Officers. These included Dr David Latham, (Plant Pathologist), John Gellately (Entomologist), Greg Lamont, (Research Horticulturist), and Dr Geoff Creswell (Plant Nutritionist).

Through the collaborative work of the Department’s Officers within two years, the limiting factors to production were now under control.

Plant seedling diseases had been identified (two of which were new to science and endemic to LHI), salinity was under control, nutrition of the palm was understood, an understanding of the insect relationship with mature palms was developed and the germination rate of the seed was lifted from 4% to 67% within 18 months of sowing. More importantly, the Nursery returned a net return of \$1.5m after two years of the Department's involvement.

Today the Nursery is still in operation although it is being run as a private enterprise. The LHI Board is no longer involved in the production of the seedlings. The Department has no involvement today after providing two Nursery Managers. The LHIB appointed a local Manager in 1990 who successfully completed his training under the guidance of the Department.

I spent (1984–1988) on LHI as Manager of the Kentia Palm Enterprise. The position provided many challenges but was very rewarding once the problems were overcome. It was a wonderful experience both professionally and personally to live in such a beautiful environment – *Chris Weale*

## **Commonwealth Agricultural Extension Grant – Project 208, 1954–1962**

Near to 1954 the Department commenced AESG – Project 208. The unit included an International utility built into a panel van, housing a 240V petrol generator, film projector plus mechanical servicing equipment. Located at Wagga Wagga to service the two regions of the State's south under the control of J.A. Atkinson. Following Jack's appointment to Plant Inspector, Head Office, the unit was taken over by Mr Rod Malcolm and transferred to Orange to service the Western Regions. Following Rod's appointment to Plant Inspector I was appointed to the position of Demonstrator/Lecturer, Farm Machinery and took over operation of the unit in 1958. After spending a number of months in Orange the unit was transferred to Tamworth.

After overcoming my nerves when addressing field day crowds, I was able to really establish the unit and increase farmer interest and demand for its services.

The objective for the Project was to impart knowledge of farm machinery servicing and operation to groups rather than individual farm visits. This was achieved by working with Agricultural Bureau member groups, Farmer & Settlers association, Junior Farmers and other groups.

Demonstrations included most aspects of engine maintenance and servicing. Instruction days for

Bureau meetings held on farms or halls were often followed by a showing of films made available through the State Library. This type of day was very much appreciated by the farmers and their families of that era. The late 50's and the 60's were a great learning time for anyone taking part in agriculture. Roads and modes of travel, plus communication, were nothing like it is today.

Bulk handling of grain crops, particularly wheat, was in its infancy at that time and the introduction of the first SP headers generated many innovations. At this time bulk handling of the fruit crop in the New England district was also starting to be introduced.

One other initiative which helped establish the unit's good name was the input with the newly introduced hay conditioners designed to hasten the curing of hay for baling, however due to inappropriate use these machines were discarded. Investigation revealed they had been operated with the rollers set too tight, compressing the leaf as well as the stalk causing leaf loss when baling. The ABC Rural broadcast was used to advise on the proper setting of rollers to only split the lucerne stalk so as to assist with a quicker drying period.

A further activity I enjoyed was taking part as a regional judge for the then annual Atlantic Silver Plough Competition conducted during that time. I also took part as a co-judge in the National finals held at Camden.

The work carried out within the Project must have made an impression because it was decided to appoint an Agricultural Engineer and later Machinery Officers. These appointments contributed to Project 208 being no longer required and it was closed down at the end of 1962 – *Ray Buxton*

## **Wollongbar 125th Celebrations**

Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute celebrated 125 years of service to the region with an Open Day on Saturday 24 August with over 2000 visitors to the Station inspected a wide range of displays and demonstrations. A reunion dinner on the preceding evening saw 90 ex staff gathered at Summerland House at Alstonville. Photos from both events are available on the NSW DPI web site [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/research-development/centres/wollongbar/125-years-growing-our-region](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/research-development/centres/wollongbar/125-years-growing-our-region) Unfortunately there are no names but some familiar faces appear.

*Martin Bellert ex Manager visited Wollongbar and sent a brief report.*

'I could not resist the invitation to attend the reunion dinner and the Open Day the next day. I must say

both were very well planned and a great credit to the organisers. I have been retired for over 20 years and left Wollongbar in the mid '80s for Dubbo.

It was such a pleasure to meet any staff since retired, that I had a hand in their recruitment.

John Williams (former Regional Director) did a marvellous job of MC at the dinner and recounted a long list of amusing anecdotes.

The Open Day demonstrated the diversity of research being conducted. The emphasis on environmental issues seemed a prominent thread, through many of the displays. The lack of any livestock research was disappointing. The only thing remaining of the piggery is the Entrance Building. Of course the Dairy Buildings were in lock down as well. The Horticultural Research has benefited from many joint projects with the Qld Department of Primary Industry and other research institutions.

I can recall when I first went to Wollongbar the Vet. Lab and the Main Building stood out in the landscape. Now with the extensive tree planting over the last 40 years it does show that we can claw back some of the 'Big Scrub'.

I met up with Graeme Laing (Manager for 19 years) and Graeme Schuhkraft, former Manager of Grafton Research Station and Rik Whitehead, the current Regional Director at Wollongbar.

It was a wonderful couple of days exploring the past especially as my daughter Jenny was with me'.



## Obituary – Alan Russell Birnie Jackson, BVSc, PhD – 2/4/1927 – 21/5/2019



Alan was raised in the Sydney suburb of Wollstonecraft and attended Shore School. Despite this, he yearned for rural life and loved the bush. So following school he spent time as a jackaroo and then off to The University of Sydney to study Veterinary Science in the days when it was easy to get

into the course but hard to get through!

Alan became a Field Officer with NSW Agriculture working in Lismore, Orange, Riverina at Wagga Wagga Agricultural college.

Back to Sydney University in 1962 for PhD studies on Coccidiosis in sheep, completing this in 3 years at the same time tutoring in pathology/microbiology. During this time he helped confirm an outbreak of Swine Fever in NSW. He must have impressed his bosses.

In 1966, he was sent to Armidale to set up the first Regional Veterinary Laboratory in NSW. The design of the laboratory and the grounds and garden were a great credit to Alan. The laboratory was a great success in identifying and recording animal diseases in the region and producing many world renowned scientific publications. This laboratory became a blueprint for the establishment of other Regional Veterinary Laboratories. When koalas were brought to the laboratory with conjunctivitis and cystitis, all cultures for bacteria kept coming up negative as other researchers had found. Alan, having tutored in Microbiology, suspected Chlamydia, an organism notoriously difficult to culture. It was at the Armidale lab, that this was first confirmed and published in 1974. He was particularly proud of this. Alan also lobbied for the RVL to be directly involved in the programs to eradicate Brucellosis and TB from cattle. A large Serology Lab was established at the RVL to test blood samples for Brucellosis. Abattoir samples were sent to the RVL to test for Tuberculosis. The successful eradication of these two diseases from Australia are the envy of the world and the RVL was a big cog in this machine.

As the RVL was situated on the campus of UNE, he encouraged scientific collaboration between RVL staff and UNE. He himself did some teaching in Microbiology and one project of great interest to him was studying the toxins of blue-green algae in collaboration with Maria Runnegar and Ian Falconer at UNE.

For 12 months from 1977 to 1978, he taught pathology at the newly formed faculty of Veterinary Science at University Pertanian Malaysia. This was undertaken for the Australian Asian Universities Cooperative Scheme.

### Funeral of Rod Roughley

I attended the funeral of Senior Research Scientist Rodney John Roughley at the Palmdale Hillside Chapel on 10th July 2019. Rodney and I go back a long way, to 1957, when we were students in the Faculty of Agriculture at Sydney University and chose to specialise in Microbiology. On graduation, we both started work in the Biology Branch of the NSW Department of Agriculture. Our association continued for a time after the Division of Science Services moved to new laboratories at Rydalmere.

Rodney's ambition to further his career in research into the rhizobium/ legume fixation of nitrogen led him to work for a PhD degree at the leading centre for such work at the Rothamsted Experiment Station in England. His work won him high regard and formed the foundation for his outstanding achievements in this field. Rodney was author or part author of over 100 scientific papers on rhizobium nitrogen fixation. Pat and I have fond memories of visiting Rodney and Pam at Harpenden in September 1968.

As it happened, after many years of occasional contact with Rodney at our Christmas meetings, Rodney came from the central coast to Sydney on 19th December 2018 and with Col Short and I attended the funeral of our Rydalmere colleague, Ted Jacob. At that time Rodney seemed to be his usual self. Six months later, on 8th June, I visited Rodney in Gosford Hospital where he was gravely ill.

Scientific achievement was only part of Rodney's story. He was a keen cricketer, a bushwalker who

could name the plant species encountered along the way. In our Department, he was involved at a high level with administration matters, conducting reviews at research establishments. It is little known, but his work as a consultant took him to many dangerous areas in poor countries foster the use rhizobium/legume nitrogen fixation in their agricultural systems.

### Death Notices

Noel Baker ex Economist died on 13 September 2017.

Frank Tome ex Wagga Institute died on 1 Nov 2017.

Tony Moody ex Economics Branch, Orange on 4 January 2019.

John Windsor ex Clerical Branch died on 6 February 2019.

Neil Fettel ex Research Agronomist, Condobolin, died on 17 March 2019.

Ross Macindoe ex Poultry Branch and Extension died on 19 March 2019.

Bob Gulliford ex Apiary Officer died on 12 April 2019.

Stuart Bray ex Water Project Officer Tamworth/ Gunnedah died on 26 April 2019.

Alan Jackson ex RVL Armidale died on 21 May 2019.

Eileen Andrews, died 29 May 2019. Long time Old Aggies member. Worked in the Division of Animal Industry and Animal Production, in both areas and assumed the role of OIC of filing before transferring to Orange with department's relocation.

Ernest Tindale ex Regional Director of Extension – Ballina died on 8 June 2019.

Rod Roughley, died July 2019

Barry Wallbank, died on 1 September 2019, aged 76.

### Updated Mailing List

As you all would appreciate, the cost of postage has increased dramatically. In an effort to keep our costs down we ask that anyone who would prefer to receive the newsletters via email to advise the editor John Bowler at [jkpbowler@bigpond.com](mailto:jkpbowler@bigpond.com) Please advise the Secretary/Treasurer of changes to contact details.

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## Central Coast Old Aggies luncheon, 7 November 2019

Our yearly luncheon was held at Gosford Leagues Club, with 24 in attendance. Apologies were received from 18 members. We welcomed our President Frank Doughty, Secretary Graham Linnegar and Treasurer Col Short again and we are really appreciative of the effort that they make to get to our luncheon and all the other get togethers throughout the year.

Sadly we acknowledge the recent passing away of Eileen Andrews, Dorothy Nixon and Rod Roughley.

A warm welcome was extended to Ben Andrews and visitor John Wilkins (North Coast group). Bill and Shiela Trimmer from Orange were making a special effort to attend but Bill ended up in Orange Hospital just before the lunch. We all wish Bill a speedy recovery.

In talking to our members who apologised for not attending the luncheon the same two issues stand out – health and travel, although it is still difficult to contact some members who have changed telephone numbers and not informed anyone.

Gosford Leagues Club continues to provide a very good lunch venue with a great variety of food from the buffet at very reasonable prices.

After the lunch Co-ordinator Geoff Warr thanked every for coming and read out all the apologies. Our president Frank then addressed the meeting, giving a brief update from what he knew of the Department and the fact that construction of a new Head Office in Orange has commenced on the old Orange Hospital site.

Our next luncheon will be held again on the first Thursday in November, so keep the date free.



*Jacqui Priest and Margaret Roddam*



*Ken Archer, Doug Hocking and Ben Andrews*



*Graham Linnegar, John Wilkins and Alister Grieve*

### Old Aggies

Len Banks 2019

Old Aggies met in Orange for their annual get together. There was talk of times gone past and of course, the current weather.

48 were at the lunch from across the Central West; and all recalled their time at work was just the very best.

They chattered with old colleagues; no memory gaps to fill. The stories were remembered as if time had just stood still.

It's good to see Old Aggies are still alive and well with a very successful luncheon at the Ambassador Motel.