



MOCA
Connecting the
Muresk Community



Hello fellow Mureskian

Autumn 2019

We're very proud that the Muresk Old Collegians Association is in its 90th year, formally turning ninety on the 10th January 2020.

MOCA would love to share some of your career and life stories and achievements with your Muresk friends and the broader Muresk network, as part of this milestone anniversary. Please send us an email – even a few paragraphs would be great - and any 'G' rated historical photographs we can share with the MOCA community.

Thank you to the few brave MOCA folk who kindly 'volunteered' to write an article for inclusion in this newsletter – Di Smith and family, Marie O'Dea, Craig Pensini, Lindsay McNeill, Christine Storer and Peter Russell. You have led the way – so we look forward to others making future contributions so that we can have interesting content for a 'next' MOCA newsletter, planned to be published in August.

As noted in the short update sent late in 2018, during 2018 the MOCA Board's focus was on developing a website: www.mureskoca.org.au Please visit the website and update your contact details.

MOCA also has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/muresk.moca/> You'll find MOCA updates, graduate achievements, discussion about current agri-affairs and links to employment, agri-education and industry training workshops. Please get involved and share your news, opportunities and views.

The MOCA Board has as its key objectives for 2019 to:

- produce a newsletter at least twice each year,
- continue to gather contact details to update and build the alumni database, and,
- to support members of our Muresk alumni from across the decades to host regional, cohort and group reunions

None of these goals can be effectively achieved without your input and support, so please get on board and make a contribution. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome. As are any volunteer efforts! Drop us a line at info@mureskoca.org.au or give me a call on 0427 330 103.

Warm regards,

Trish Slee

President, MOCA

MOCA Reunions and Gatherings 2019 / 2020

We'd love to hear about any reunions that are being planned, so that MOCA can help to put you in touch with relevant people and assist to promote your event.

Please share any photographs from your event and send us an update of contact details and what members of your group are doing, so that their news can be shared via the MOCA newsletter or Facebook page.

See below for details of some of the MOCA events being organised during 2019/2020. Please send details of any others. Email: info@mureskoca.org.au to share your event details or to find out more about any of the reunions listed below.

Group / Region	Date	Location	Contact
West Kimberley	Tuesday 25 th June	Broome	Christine Storer 0447 926 231
East Kimberley	Sunday 30 th June	Kununurra	Christine Storer 0447 926 231
Northern Territory	Saturday 6 th July	Darwin	Christine Storer 0447 926 231
Midwest	Friday 5 th July	Bootenal Tavern	Anna Kennedy 0429 962 375 (nee Senior)
Avon Valley	Sunday 29 th September	Toodyay Picnic Races	Craig Pensini 0418 466 110
1960/61 group	October	Private home, Perth	Kim Lee 0419 434 333
MOCA 90th Anniversary	10-12 th January 2020	TBC. Volunteers Needed!	Tricia Slee 0427 330 103
1974/75 group	March 2020	Private home Margaret River	Graham Fry 0417 994 827 Peter Cooke 0417 953 957

Let us know if you are planning a reunion, so we can share the details up front, and the photographs afterwards!

Muresk Old Collegians Assoc'n turns 90!

Archive records show that the Muresk Old Collegians Association (MOCA) was 'created' in a café in St Georges Terrace in Perth on 10th January 1930.

No doubt a gathering of Muresk old boys came up with the idea after sharing a few social beers, probably following a footy match against the Old Guildfordians, or the like. If you know the 'facts' then do drop us a line with the 'real' historical details.

This is a milestone MOCA invites all alumni to celebrate. What better way than by bringing people with a Muresk connection together – whether by cohort, regional location or from a specific era of agricultural education.

MOCA can support people willing to organise a reunion or gathering by sending emails to people who have registered an email address in the MOCA database, by year, town or region.

Please contact 0427 330 103 or email info@mureskoca.org.au if you'd like help to organise and coordinate a MOCA gathering or reunion event. And we'd love some volunteers to help organise an occasion to mark the 90th Anniversary of MOCA, please!

We know there are Mureskians all over the world that love to get together!

Your 2019 MOCA Board

			
Christine Storer	Floyd Sullivan	Anna Kennedy (nee Senior)	John Hassell, Past President
			
Ben Coman, Treasurer	Deb Royle, Secretary	Craig Pensini, Vice President	Tricia Slee, President

Visit the MOCA website to learn more about MOCA, alumni reunions, members of the Board and coming events:
www.mureskoca.org.au

Seeking Your Help – Volunteers Needed PLEASE

<p>MOCA 90th Anniversary</p> <p>We need help to organise and run an event or some fun activities to celebrate MOCA's 90th Anniversary. Email us your ideas and details.</p>	<p>Newsletter Contributions</p> <p>Let us know if you can write an article, share some photos, design some graphics, or coordinate and edit the next newsletter? (July/Aug 2019)</p>	 <p>We need YOU to electronically scan & save old Muresk images</p>
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To volunteer, anytime, email info@mureskoca.org.au or call Trish on 0427 330 103

Welcome Ben Coman to the MOCA Board

Ben Coman completed the Muresk Institute of Agriculture / Curtin University Bachelor of Agribusiness (Horticulture) degree in 2005, and more recently he has graduated with an Executive Certificate in Agribusiness from Marcus Oldham College, NSW.

Ben has worked in the Agribusiness Banking and Finance sector since graduating from Muresk, initially for Landmark Finance, then in the role of Senior Relationship Manager with Bankwest, which he commended in 2012.



During his career to date Ben has developed strong relationships with businesses from a wide range of agricultural and horticultural industries across the State.

Ben is passionate about agriculture and rural communities (and a bit of travel and footy) and actively encourages younger generations to take up a challenging and exciting career in Agribusiness.

Ben joined the MOCA Board at the 2018 AGM and is the MOCA Treasurer.

Let us know the details if you are holding a get-together or reunion, or if you or one of your colleagues moves into a new role, develops a new business or is recognised for an achievement in the industry or community. Let's share the news with the wider Muresk community.

Where Are They Now?

Jack Carmody BAgric 2012; Manager, Prenti Downs Station, Wiluna

David Clegg BBus(Agric), 1994; Regional Manager WA & SA, Seednet

Linda Cooke (nee Hockey) BBus(Agric) 1989; Director, Grass Valley

Steele Davey AssDegAgric, 1997; Mt Whaleback BHP

Tara de Landgraaff BAgribus(Mktg), 2007; Rural and Resources Reporter, ABC Radio, Esperance

Lara Ladyman BAgribus, 2006; Director 'Tennisdale Grazing', Katanning; Freelance Journalist, 2017 Nuffield Australia Scholar "'Future of Food', from the lab to the paddock to the plate".

Kim Lee AssDipAgriculture 1961; Retired

David Lisle AssDip student 1977; Biosecurity Officer, DPIRD, Geraldton

Gavin Morgan BBus(Agric) 1983; Owner / Manager, 'Kailoa' Doodlakine

Eric Nankivell BBus(Agric) 1988; Partner, Farmanco, Albury NSW

Lucy Radzikowska BAgribus(Hons)1998; Advisor & Research Officer, Parliament of WA

Nigel Rowe AssDegAgric, 1996; Galafrey Wines, Mt Barker

Tara Slaven (nee Gawned) BAgribus(Hort)(Hons), 2002; Development Officer, Ord River Irrigation Area (Mango Industry) DPIRD, Kununurra

Our Journey Since Muresk – Di and Dick Smith

Richard (aka Dick) Smith and I (Diana Overhue) met at Muresk in Feb 1974, so we have recently celebrated /survived 45 years together.

Apparently, we are a rather `unique` combination of a couple who met at Muresk and we are now being followed by a farming son doing the same. So I was asked to put this story on paper to share with you.

Following Muresk, I had a gap year in the ANZ bank which was interesting, but proved I did not wish to do an office job, and Dick went straight into Uni from boarding school.

We both came from long family/farm backgrounds at Beverley and Brookton/Esperance and were probably never going to do anything else but be soulmates and work hard to expand the business and family at Beverley. This was not really discussed or planned in our early years – it simply evolved.

While at Muresk we made some wonderful staff & student friendships we treasure to this day. We both enjoyed the summers working with the Australian Merino Society (AMS) Nucleus breeding scheme. Dick had fun helping set up the double decker bus for the housing of rams to travel to various Nucleus properties from Mullewa to South Stirling. (Fresh semen was the only way back then). I was involved with a team in associated work to prepare & record the ewes for insemination and follow up scanning.

Following Muresk Dick had two years on the family farm and I worked at Murdoch Uni in wheat research developing the 'Special Dowerin Fertiliser' mix to solve Copper deficiency in wheat. We both had the main intention of saving money to travel. In 1977 we went on the best working adventure trip with IAEA (the International Agricultural Exchange Association) to spend the summer of 1977 on farms in Alberta and the winter of 1977/78 in Denmark. We made long lasting friendships in many countries as there were 50 exchangees from Aust/NZ and about 250 in Southern Alberta from Europe – all with agricultural backgrounds. We still regularly communicate with a Canadian malt barley marketer who was an English trainee on Dick's farm in Alberta – who now lives near Calgary!

Over the years it has been a bonus to catch up with friends from this trip and keep up with their lives and work in agriculture.

We married in 1978 and settled on the family farm when Dick's parents then semi-retired to Beverley at 52 (4th generation farmers -since the original grant in 1898). We soon had ambitions of providing for business expansion – land being very tightly held in those years. Having started with 730 ha we acquired a separate 270 ha in 1981. In 1997 we were able to purchase an uncle's property next door and in 2012 with the 5th generation coming back to farm, we bought another property 10km east of us. Now we have 2,600ha in all.

Before children I was for a time on the Muresk Board, the IAEA Board and running Induction seminars at Muresk for incoming overseas IAEA trainees and a reporter for the Western Farmer & Grazier newspaper - while Dick was heavily into the local Agricultural Society and Show, Apex, footy and the Fire Brigade.

Following these years we had 3 children and subsequently had much community involvement in the school, sports clubs, P&C, Fire Brigades, LCDC, St Johns Ambulance, crafts, crop groups, Landcare, tourism etc. etc.

We never expected any of our children to farm – but emphasised that you need to love and be passionate about whatever you do. So it was totally their choice. Our eldest son Karl and his family live on the farm and run their own electrical and photography businesses; our daughter Leigh, who lives in Perth with her family, studied Ag Science, before working in mining and agriculture.

In 2007 our youngest son Adam finished at Cunderdin College of Agriculture. It was a very tough season in WA and while many of his mates were going to mining via apprenticeships, he decided he wanted to farm and go to Uni at Muresk. He really enjoyed Muresk, made many contacts and friends and met his wife to be, Rebecca Jenkinson, from a family farm at York. Rebecca worked at CBH HQ during her Uni holidays and in her Honours year took a part time job at Living Farm Research & Development Group in York. Rebecca has worked at Living Farm since 2012, holding numerous roles over that time.

In terms of our farming business, we were traditionally a `mixed farming system` of crops and livestock. One of the main things we learnt from Muresk was to continually research, review and notice the changes in agriculture – i.e. methods, returns, equipment etc. and to not be sentimental about the farm life – it is a business that has survived for us for 5 generations and needs to be sustainable and survive into the future.

The family had bred and exhibited prize winning Angus Cattle and Prime Export lambs over many years. Despite the fact that we all loved livestock - with the changing economic and rainfall patterns we saw the need to move out of cattle in the 1990`s (as we were feeding them for 9 months of the year).

During the 2000`s we adopted the principles of Prof John Milton with sheep production – in theory the application of confinement lambing and focus feeding after teasing the ewes was great and we produced many lambs – however merino cross ewes still can`t count past one (to quote Prof Graeme Martin of UWA) and often the multiples are left to die in poor seasons, which we had in those years !! So after all of our efforts we decided to phase out of Prime Lambs in 2012 and concentrate on cropping.

It is interesting that none of us have any regrets about this decision – the budget always favoured cropping and it is incredible how you can transform a farm on undulating/rocky/treed and gullied Avon Valley land into a much more productive cropping property with no fences and into Controlled Traffic Farming.

There are always many challenges but with reasonably reliable (if different) seasons in the last 6 years, we have been able to hit the weed and disease burdens with new methods: applying different fertilisers including much lime and chicken manure, and going back to ploughing some areas with huge success on yields etc., all of which have been researched and applied by Adam and Rebecca following their Muresk experience.

Our average rainfall has reduced by about 50 mm to around 350 mm over the 40 years but the winter rainfall pattern is certainly not reliable, so we need to store the moisture when and where it falls (summer rainfall is great). We agree that we are getting more severe and larger frost events than we ever used to.

We still find agriculture very exciting and love seeing our children happily engaged in it, in a great community of like minded younger farmers.

Last year Dick and I moved off the farm (@ 63) and are setting up a new home on the edge of Beverley. We are all happily working through our succession phase and we are still engaged in the farm work and management when necessary and now we`re getting some time to travel and enjoy our three (soon to be five) grandchildren. The next generation has happily moved into the farm homestead and life goes on.

Written by Di Smith (nee Overheu) Associate Diploma Agriculture 1975, with input from Dick, Adam and Rebecca 😊



Higher Education at Muresk Institute in 2019

The Muresk Institute of today, managed by the Department of Training and Workforce Development, is a multi-functional, multi tenanted campus, focussed on bringing the best agri education and training opportunities to Western Australia, in partnership with universities, training providers and industry experts.

Charles Sturt University Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management taught in partnership with **Central Regional TAFE** had state government funding withdrawn in 2017, so is in ‘teach out’ during 2019. Students that are unlikely to complete the degree by Feb 2020 are being offered alternative exit pathways to graduate. CSU intends to offer face to face opportunities through a summer school for Precision Ag and Data Analysis in January / February 2020.

Curtin University Associate Degree in Agribusiness delivery commenced on campus on 25 February. The two year Associate Degree offers a direct pathway to the Bachelor of Agribusiness, taught at the Bentley campus.

Murdoch University undertakes livestock sensor research and development at the MI campus.

A Blast From The Past



The Muresk Football Team, 1930

Do you know the ladies pictured in this newspaper clipping, found in the archives?

We believe these were the first women to enrol at Muresk Institute of Agriculture in the Associate Diploma in Agriculture in 1971, which made them the first female students admitted to any tertiary agricultural institution in Australia.

According to our research (thanks Ian Fairnie, Di Smith and Fiona Falconer) this photo was taken at their graduation ceremony, held at the Perth Concert Hall, early in 1973.

L – R: Colleen Henderson, Fiona Cumming, Sandy Staalsen, Eileen O’Neill, and Barbara Smith.

We’d love to share your Muresk memories. Send us the image and details for a future newsletter.



Muresk Graduates and Leadership *By Marie O'Dea*

Does a campus specialising in one field provide a breeding ground for leadership or is it in the small cohort of students (relatively speaking) that you notice the common thread?

In later years with horticulture and viticulture and more units available at Curtin, Muresk shifted from a cohort of students who regularly socialised together to one with fewer connections with students.

Two years ago, I attended Local Government Week as a representative from the Shire of Plantagenet. I was rather amazed at how many former Muresk graduates were also there. Some, like myself, were new to this forum, but others, like Matt Steber (Kellerberrin) and Laurie Butler (Perenjori) had been in local government for several terms.

During my student days at Muresk I distinctly remember conversations, particularly amongst diploma students, the value of getting Dad onto the local council so he was busy and would let you run the farm.

The reality of small populations for many local government areas means that anyone with a university education and/or some understanding of finance, probably needs to put their hand up to go onto council to share the load and ensure democracy gets a chance.

The recent CBH elections had at least two Muresk graduates vying for a position: Chris Antonio and Royce Taylor (in different regions) and both have local government experience.

At a farmer lobby group level, we have several Muresk graduates, Michael Partridge for the dairy section and Steve Maguire as Vice President of WA Farmers. Both have national representation roles.

At a community level with football, hockey, netball, cricket, tennis, plus schools and agricultural societies there are no shortage of opportunities to take up the leadership challenge.

The upcoming Federal election will see two Muresk graduates as candidates in the electorate of O'Connor, sitting member, Rick Wilson and John Hassell, endorsed National.

Back to the opening question, did Muresk as a small campus nurture leadership and connectedness or is it just a reality of rural WA that small populations need everyone to put up their hand sometime?

Pasture to Pocket Workshop 26 – 28 June at MI

This workshop is a comprehensive introduction to regenerative grazing land management. In two and a half days producers will gain the knowledge and tools to improve the productivity of grazing country and livestock in an ecologically sound and financially viable manner.

The first two days of this workshop are in class training and focus on the interconnectedness between livestock, pastures and profit. The third morning neatly brings together learning from the previous days, leaving producers motivated and ready to implement changes to lift land, production and profit to a new level.

Suitable for: Graziers, mixed farmers and pastoralists at any level of experience.

Register here: <https://www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute/find-a-course/industry/booking-course?courseid=77>

An Affection For Wine By Marie O'Dea

My journey to wine is not a surprise, given I grew up near the Barossa and then worked in plant physiology at the Waite campus of Adelaide University, home to wine research gurus such as Bryan Coombes and Peter Dry.

Way back in year 11 contemplating career paths in the school chemistry lab, studying oenology at Roseworthy and becoming a winemaker was a definite career option. Instead I moved to WA to study rural journalism at WAIT, in Perth and visited the Muresk campus regularly for the rural side of things. Shearing shed shows and champagne breakfast at the swinging bridge were obviously an attraction and my study pathway took a turn to agribusiness.

Whilst guzzling that bubbly wine in a keg along with the chicken treat, who would have thought I could be writing about Mureskians now involved in the wine sector. My own journey was enhanced by studying for a Graduate Diploma in Wine Business externally through the University of Adelaide and I now coordinate the Wine Show of WA. Along the way I have been a cellar rat (vintage and beyond at West Cape Howe Wines) and helped develop a distillery that makes whisky, gin and vodka.

The following labels are just a few that have a Muresk connection: Duke's Vineyard, Duke (Ian) Ranson, 1958; Shepherds Hut, Phil Wishart ~ 1985; Forester Estate, Kevin McKay ~ 1987; West Cape Howe, Rob Quenby, 1989; Green Door Wines, Ashley Keeffe, 1988; Larry Cherubino Wines, Larry Cherubino, early 1990's; Leeuwin Estate, Justin Horgan (1990), joint CEO with his sister; and Matt Swinney of Swinney Vineyards.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of Craig Pensini's adventures in wine at Faber Vineyard, owned by former Muresk Institute of Agriculture / Curtin University oenology lecturer, John Griffiths (pictured R below).



Editor's note: I found it impressive that when I asked Marie if she could provide a photograph, within five minutes she had gone to her 'cellar' to select the WA 'Muresk' related wines above for the photograph!

Trespass Planned for Muresk Farm

On 15th February Muresk Institute was notified that an animal activist group was intending to enter the campus farm facilities, (i.e. piggery and the shearing shed), uninvited, and with no legitimate business on site. Thankfully, this 'visit' did not eventuate.

It is encouraging to hear that WA's Attorney General John Quigley plans to introduce new laws where a person convicted of aggravated trespass is issued a "misbehaving restraining order" to stop them from entering any land used for production, preparation or sale of foodstuffs (meat) for up to two years. He said the spot fines for trespassing don't do enough, because the convicted 'activists' simply raise money to pay the fine by going to the 'Go Fund Me' site for support. Let's hope this proposal receives bipartisan support by Members of Parliament.

Taking a Sabbatical to Work the 2019 Vintage

A chat with Craig Pensini

Did you know that the concept of the 'sabbatical' is based on the Biblical practice of [shmita](#), which is directly related to agriculture?

According to [Leviticus 25](#), Jews in the [Land of Israel](#) were required to take a year-long break from working the fields every seven years, a concept that continues in many workplaces today as an extended absence in the career of an individual to fulfil a goal, such as study or research.

Craig Pensini (Muresk BBusAg 1982-85) commenced working with Bayer Crop Science in 2002 as the WA Horticultural Area Manager, moving on to other roles with the company in Australia and overseas, before spending the past five years as Regional Sales Manager, Broadacre West.

Craig has a passion that he has been developing since the mid 2000's - a small hobby vineyard on his property in the hills.

"My winemaking experience has been limited and I have always had the idea that working a vintage in a commercial winery would develop my practical winemaking skills," he said.

A window of opportunity opened up for Craig at the end of 2018 with the Bayer acquisition of Monsanto.

"There was some uncertainty on what the WA Broadacre sales team structure would be, so I had discussions with management and they were open to my request to take an unpaid sabbatical to undertake a vintage.

"I had some discussions with John Griffiths, owner and winemaker at Faber Vineyard, initially to seek his ideas of who in the Swan Valley I could speak to about a vintage job, but he cut the process short and offered me the role of casual cellar hand for the 2019 vintage.

When asked what lessons he'd learnt from this sabbatical, Craig responded by quoting John Griffiths, "Every vintage throws up different opportunities & challenges."



"At the end of the first week, I thought I was going to die".

Craig noted that while working this vintage, he had learnt the value of planning & working under pressure, and that wine making is definitely an evolutionary practice!

“In terms of challenges, first & foremost, this sort of work is very physically demanding.

“At the end of the 1st week I thought I was going to die, but thankfully, my body adapted, although I’ll need to see a ‘physio’ straight after vintage to put all the bits of my body back together.

“I have gained a very good understanding of a commercial vineyard & how it operates,” he said.

“The practical application of this experience is that I’m determined to use the skills and information I’ve gained to improve the quality of my wine,” he said.

We’re sure Craig will have plenty of offers to taste his next vintage to see just how much his sabbatical experience impacts his winemaking skills and the flavour of his wines.

John Griffiths was employed by Muresk as the oenology lecturer in the Associate Degree in Viticulture in the late 1990’s. Faber Vineyard, in the Swan Valley, was established by John Griffiths & Jane Micallef in 1997 to grow regionally distinctive grapes and craft wines that are rich and flavoursome.

<h1>Join the Board of Directors</h1>		<p>Want to contribute to the future of MOCA?</p> <p>Nominate for the 2020 Board to be elected at the MOCA AGM on 3/12/19</p>
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Regional Leadership Masterclass – June 2019

To be offered from the Muresk Institute, The Rural, Regional Remote Women’s Network of Western Australia (RRR Network) in partnership with Curtin University is offering a residential leadership program designed exclusively for Western Australian women.

This three day Masterclass will provide an in-depth understanding of the role of power and influence, trust and justice as essential components of contemporary leadership. The program design draws on an extensive body of international research and practice in the public and private sector. Register here

<https://www.rrrnetwork.com.au/product/regional-leadership-masterclass-5-7-june-2019/>

A link to all Muresk Institute courses here:

https://www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute/find-a-course/all-courses?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Muresk%20Newsletter%20March%202019&utm_content=Muresk%20Newsletter%20March%202019+CID_0b959c2f996b09ad84f8d2869d22e162&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=VIEW%20COURSES



A Letter to the Editor, From Peter Russell

Hi Trish,

Keith Burton, Harry Wilson and I were the first to attempt the **Bachelor of Business** course at Muresk, finishing in 1979. After graduating in the first cohort (along with Keith Burton and Harry Wilson) of the Agribusiness degree in 1980, I went new land farming at Esperance. After 12 tough years our farming enterprise failed, I was forced to develop my career elsewhere and moved to the East Coast.

While living in Orange I completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Agribusiness through Monash and was subsequently awarded a stipend to complete a PhD at the University of Queensland. However, I chose the commercial road and joined Peppers Hotel Group based in Sydney in 1993.

The skills in dealing with financial duress on the farm proved to be exactly what was needed to help Peppers at that time. Over the following 12 years, working alongside the founders, we turned the business from near failure to operating 26 hotels on the East Coast and in New Zealand. We were able to “right the ship” and we floated on the ASX in 1996. The Peppers brand persists today and it is good see a Peppers has finally opened in Perth.

While at Peppers, I attended Harvard and completed the AMP program in 2001. In 2005 I sold out of Peppers and moved to Melbourne to develop a retirement village group using essentially the same systems needed for hotels. Soon after, my partner bought me out, which fortuitously happened to be right at the beginning of the global financial crisis. As the impact of the GFC started to sink in, it provided some great investing opportunities in commercial property.

Being in a cautious mood, I started providing advisory services for a wide range of clients from professional services, aviation, biotech and many more. I was chairman of Yarra Ranges Tourism, a regional tourism industry Board for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. I am currently chairman of Snap Franchising Ltd (print). I have also been investing in commercial property.

Over the last 10 years I have had the privilege to work with many great companies. Most recently I have been involved in building technology companies, one of which is ASX listed Panorama Synergy (now Hydrix), formerly a Perth based company.

We have restructured the business and acquired an engineering services business that is at the forefront of medical technology. We are building such things as an exoskeleton for stroke victim therapy, a technology for dementia treatment using ultrasound and micro bubbles and cardiac controller devices for artificial hearts. It is very exciting to be involved. It is a long way from picking stumps at Mt Beaumont!

I am currently chairman of Snap Franchising Ltd, the national print franchise group, which is nearly 120 years old and is WA owned. I am actively looking for opportunities to return to agribusiness and agriculture.

We are currently living in the old cop shop in Carlton, with our son in second year commerce and daughter in Year 12.

Regards,

Peter Russell

+61 418 800 007

skype: peter.russell0711

Snippets from Kim Lee (1960/61) in response to MOCA email notice 2018

Hi Trish

...I notice that you are only interested with the graduates from Curtin Muresk. You should follow up the previous graduates from the Muresk Agricultural College. *(Editor's note: Kim, MOCA would love any Mureskians from any era to send us news and photographs to share – current and historical).*

...Back in my days at Muresk, Mr Southern was the Principal. Some graduates became heads of various agricultural businesses and the Ag Department. One of the famous graduates from our era was the late Ted Keoh. One medical research institute has his name, 'Ted Keoh Medical Research Institute'. Then there was a well-known surgeon, Kingsley Faulkner. Both were from 1960/61. Then we had a lot go to the Rural Bank of Australia, and many graduates from our time donated a lot of funds to the Muresk Agricultural College.

There was a function held at Gloucester Park Restaurant around 1983/86 for the old boys when Mrs Southern was still alive.

I was from 1960/61 batch. The boys (old men) and wives still meet annually. Quite a few have gone to a better world!!! There are a few juniors living in country towns. I still know of one of our lecturer's still living in Daglish.

...You should make an effort to trace those who are still alive as far back as possible, not those from Curtin Muresk. NO HISTORY !!! *(Editor's note: Kim, MOCA would welcome any volunteers with the time to help us trace former Mureskians from across the decades. Just email or call to volunteer. And thanks for making contact).*

Regards,

Kim Lee

Seeking Opportunities

Executive Chairman, Chair or Director

Agri Industry

Looking to contribute back to the agribusiness industry – in an organisation trying to make a really significant difference for farmers / producers and /or rural communities.

No opportunity is too big!

Peter Russell

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-russell-87715311/>

0418 800 007

skype: peter.russell0711



Employment - Professional Role

Agri Industry / Regional Communities

Qualifications include BBus(Agric), Frontline Management and Project Management
Seeking full time, contract or part time employment in Perth but other locations considered.

Industry experience – agricultural production systems, international organic produce, agricultural education, and regional community development.
Significant experience in project management and developing high performing teams.

Sue Ellen Shaw

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sue-ellen-shaw-1b423553/>

sueellen.shaw@gmail.com

0474 792 651

MOCA Award for Community Leadership

The Muresk Old Collegians Association has for many years sponsored an award at the annual Muresk Graduation and Awards ceremony.

The Muresk Old Collegians Association (MOCA) Community Leadership Award aims to recognise a tertiary agribusiness student studying at the Muresk Institute campus for the quality of their engagement and leadership within the student and wider Muresk Institute campus community.

Congratulations go to Angela Ryan, who was selected as the winner, based on her contribution to the University community through leadership on committees, peer assistance, involvement in sporting activities and interest in student / university issues, as well as her leadership contribution to the wider community whilst enrolled as a student.

Angela hails from Merredin, where she has actively contributed to many local sporting clubs and community organisations. Her abilities and attributes were acknowledged in her very first year of study at Muresk Institute when she was awarded the Collgar Wind Farm Agribusiness Student Scholarship. Well done Angela, and best wishes for your awesome career in agribusiness!



L: MOCA V/President Craig Pensini presented graduand Angela Ryan with the MOCA Award for Community Leadership

R: Members of the MOCA Board, Craig Pensini, Floyd Sullivan, Christine Storer, and Ben Coman (far R) with 2019 MOCA Community Leadership Award recipient Angela Ryan

Agribusiness Graduate Opportunities

Wool Young Farming Champion applications are now open. Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), is seeking applications from early career professionals in the Australian wool industry to join the prestigious [Young Farming Champions](#) program. The Young Farming Champions (YFC) are identified youth ambassadors and future influencers working within the agriculture sector who promote positive images and perceptions of farming. Find out more on [Career Harvest](#). The **Horticultural Engagement Program** is run by Hort Innovation and is designed to increase graduate interest in careers across the Australian horticulture sector and build a new pool of industry leaders and create networks of young professionals. [Find out more](#) before applications close in October 2019.

Nuffield Australia Scholarships



Apply Now!
2020 NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Developing current, emerging and future leaders

\$30,000 bursary available to study cutting-edge global agriculture

- 16 weeks overseas travel in 18 months
- Applications close Friday June 14, 2019

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The banner features the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars logo (a red bull) and three circular portraits of scholars in agricultural settings.

WA primary producers who studied agribusiness / farm management at Muresk are very well represented in the list of Nuffield Australia WA Scholarship winners. Pictured below are just a few Scholars with a Muresk connection, who were at the Nuffield Australia Scholars WA Luncheon, held at in February. What an opportunity a Nuffield Scholarship presents! Call any one of these grads to find out more about applying for a Scholarship!



Top L: Nuffield Australia Scholars Andrew Fowler (Muresk Graduate 1996), Nuffield Australia Chairman, and Steve Kelly (1990) with Crawford Taylor (1988), State Manager WA, Rabobank. Top R: David Fulwood (1996) and John Foss (1990). Bottom L: Shane Sander (1996), Director Agvise Management Consultants with Neil Smith (1991), Nuffield Australia WA Chairman. Bottom R: Lara Ladyman (2006) with Andrew Fowler.

Agribusiness Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Graduates from the Charles Sturt University Agricultural Business Management degree celebrated their achievements at the annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony held at Muresk Institute on 16th April.

Proud parents, family groups, lecturers and industry representatives joined to celebrate the graduation of the ten Charles Sturt agribusiness students at the Muresk Institute campus.

It was interesting to note that a number of the industry representatives presenting awards on behalf of leading agribusinesses, were themselves graduates of agribusiness courses completed through the then, Muresk Institute of Agriculture. The other stark observation was the number of family members at the ceremony who were themselves graduates of Muresk. Together, these observations provide a wonderful reflection of the value of agribusiness in terms of employability, the importance of the agribusiness industry and the breadth of the Muresk network across generations.



Top left: Dr Ian Fairnie, former Director of Muresk Institute of Agriculture (1985-89), presents Sienna Bergersen with the Bryan Mickle Scholarship. Bryan Mickle (1946/47) has been a sponsor for many years and takes great interest in encouraging young people in the agribusiness industry. Sienna is obviously following her parents, Carol and Glen's footsteps, both 1980's Muresk graduates.



Top right: Matthew Flint winning the ALOSCA prize for Pasture Production & Utilisation presented by Floyd Sullivan (1989), Business Development Manager, Alosca.



Left: Judith Storer, daughter of Dr Christine and Graham Storer (Muresk staff members since 1990's) was the recipient of a number of prizes, including the Lee Halford Award for Dux of First Year, presented by Ben Coman (2005), Senior Relationship Manger, Bankwest.



Right: Judith also won the CSBP Prize for Soil Science presented by Nicholas Hardie (2017), Area Manager CSBP.



Above: George Walton-Hassell is presented with the Bright Futures award by Dr James Fisher of Desiree Futures, in recognition of demonstrating the greatest improvement in academic performance during his degree studies.

Pictured above right: George with proud parents Michelle and John Walton-Hassell (1988), and Hon. Colin de Grussa (1999), MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region.



Congratulations to all the Charles Sturt agribusiness award winners and graduates for 2019. Thanks to all the academic and general staff who supported the graduates' journey to success.

Tour Widens Awareness of Agribusiness Industries

By Lindsay McNeill

As part of an ongoing program to broaden students' knowledge of agribusiness industries, students from the Charles Sturt agribusiness degree at Muresk went on a two-week study tour of agricultural and horticultural enterprises in Queensland and New South Wales.

Organized jointly by students and staff, 17 students studying for the Charles Sturt University Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management took part in the tour that started on June 2018 at the Gold Coast and finished up at Wagga Wagga in July 2018.

In addition to gaining an understanding of marketing and processing, the aim was for students to explore new ideas and diversification opportunities.

The first stop on the 2018 tour was at the town of Brooklet in NSW to visit a macadamia plantation to see harvesting and on farm processing of nuts for market. The next stop was in Lismore to see blueberry production and marketing.

On route Boonah to Gatton, the tour visited a carrot production and processing enterprise and a University of Queensland campus for a briefing on soils and farming practices in the border area of Queensland and NSW. At Toowoomba they visited a stone fruit, fig and persimmon orchard, and an animal blood products manufacturer.

Other visits along the way included the Auscott cotton gin, Fletchers abattoir and grain transport facility, Dubbo livestock saleyards, Western Plains Zoo, Canobolas egg farm, Adagio alpaca fibre mill, wineries, a cidery, Riverina milk processing plant, Junee liquorice and chocolate factory, and the Coolamon cheese factory. The tour also visited enterprises producing sheep, cattle, and compost olives, as well as mice and pythons, and several locations of historic and cultural significance.

The tour ended at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga campus where the students prepared and delivered their presentations on the knowledge and understanding they had gained, as assessment for a unit of study.

Things that stood out for students included seeing enterprises they wouldn't see in WA, such as macadamia nut production, a farm with more than one million blueberry plants and the processing of alpaca fibre. Other processes that attracted particular attention were a flow of water being used to move newly harvested carrots at a processing plant and the automated collection and transport of eggs from layer sheds to the packing room.

Students were also impressed by the use of technology for monitoring of livestock and soil moisture, thermal imaging, weather data collection and the wireless transmission of data to the office of the primary producer as well as the vertical integration in the agricultural industry.

The tour follows on from successful tours for students from the degree at Muresk to South Africa in 2015 and Europe in 2016.

Another tour from Broome to Darwin via Kununurra and Katherine is being run June to July 2019. The alumni of Muresk are invited to meet up with the 20 students and staff on Tuesday 25 June in Broome, Sunday 30 June in Kununurra or Saturday 6 July in Darwin.

Details from info@mureskoca.org.au or call Christine Storer 0447 92 62 31.

VALE

Dirk HESSELS 19.10.1929 - 25.12.2018

An era came to an end on Christmas Day with the peaceful passing of Muresk graduate, Dirk Hessels.

After leaving Muresk in 1955 Dirk joined the WA Department of Agriculture and became an important part of the rapidly growing poultry industry.

Later recruited into the pharmaceutical industry, he eventually became the Asia-Pacific manager for Smith Kline Animal Health, and a supporter of many Muresk Animal Science tours in the region.

He served as Chair of the Muresk Foundation for a number of years, to which he was a significant donor.

Dirk continued his dedicated support of Muresk for many years as a regular donor of a student award at the annual Muresk Institute of Agriculture graduation ceremony.

Dirk was a friend to many Mureskians and a great contributor to agribusiness.

We offer our sincere sympathy to wife Margot, and their children Anna and Quinten and families. RIP Dirk.

Des WELLS 19.5.37 - 26.12.18

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Des (George Ivor Desmond) Wells of Denmark.

Des studied at Muresk 1955-1957. He farmed cattle and contributed to his local community of Denmark for much of his life.

Des was the dearly loved husband of Pam and wonderful Dad to Geordie and Lindy ("Wellsy", Muresk 1983-1985). He was an Inspirational 'Pop Pop' to Kate, Cam and Lachie.

Des will be remembered as a one in a million bloke, who will be sadly missed by so many people, pets and cows.

And Finally...

Soon to be released:

Limited Edition Rugby Jumper for MOCA's 90th Anniversary.

Keep an eye on the MOCA website and Facebook page for ordering information.

First round of orders will close at the end of May to allow the Kimberley / NT student tour to deliver to people based in Broome, Kununurra and Darwin. Second round of orders planned for delivery in Spring.

Newsletter Editor:

Tricia Slee

president@mureskoca.org.au

0427 330 103

Feedback welcomed by email or on the MOCA FB page. Please also send your ideas, images and articles for the next MOCA newsletter.

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