



MOCA
Connecting the
Muresk Community



2020 Summer

Hello fellow Mureskian

The Muresk Old Collegians Association is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary. What a wonderful achievement!

A group of alumni gathered at an establishment in St Georges Terrace on 10 January 1930 to discuss the opportunity to create an alumni organisation for the former students and staff of the Muresk Agricultural College. The idea received support, and the Muresk Old Collegians Association was established on that day, ninety years ago.

Over its ninety year history MOCA has been a conduit for Muresk alumni from across the decades to come together for social and educational opportunities; to reminisce about student days gone by, celebrate the achievements of their Muresk friends and to share knowledge to advance their professional pursuits relevant to farm management and the broader agribusiness sector. This charter continues today.

Why not use the MOCA 90th anniversary as an opportunity to reach out and reconnect with people from your Muresk days? Perhaps organise to share a meal together, or a weekend reunion.

Or send an email to members of your network and encourage them to all meet up at the celebratory gathering planned for the MOCA 90th anniversary – an informal catch up at the OBH beer garden on Saturday 1st February 2020. (Please visit the MOCA website www.mureskoca.org.au or Facebook page for more details). Your help promoting this event would be appreciated – please spread the word.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the longevity of MOCA – whether by attending or organising a MOCA reunion, mentoring a young person to study agribusiness, serving on the MOCA Board; or making a contribution to the agribusiness industry – in an operational, academic, managerial, research, investment, customer, supplier or leadership capacity.

Thanks also to those people who stepped down from the MOCA Board at the AGM late last year – Deb Royle, Floyd Sullivan, Christine Storer and Ben Coman - for your great contribution to the MOCA mission. Welcome to our new Board members: Kari Jennings, Millie Milligan, and Simon Abbott. Your enthusiasm to promote MOCA and commitment to connect the Muresk network is fantastic.

Warm regards,

Trish Slee, President, MOCA



MOCA 90th Gathering

OBH Beer Garden, Cottesloe

Saturday 1 Feb 2020

From 4pm. Cash Bar

Great rates on accommodation too



MOCA Reunions and Gatherings 2020

Group / Region	Date	Location	Contact
MOCA 90th Anniversary Gathering	1 February	Ocean Beach Hotel – Beer Garden	Floyd Sullivan 0487 776 022 Craig Pensini 0418 466 110
MOCA 90th Anniversary Dinner	TBC	Muresk Homestead	Volunteer organiser required!!!
1974/75 group	March 2020	Private home Margaret River	Graham Fry 0417 994 827 Peter Cooke 0417 953 957
Midwest	Date TBC in July	Venue TBC	Anna Kennedy 0429 962 375
Dowerin Field Days	August 26 / 27 th	Venue TBC	TBC
Avon Valley	Sunday 27 th September	Toodyay Picnic Races	Craig Pensini 0418 466 110
1960/61 group	October	Private home, Perth	Kim Lee 0419 434 333

My Journey Since Muresk – Shendelle Mullane

At the start of a year-long holiday including a six-month volunteering stint in Lima, Peru, I am sitting in the departure lounge at Perth airport contemplating what to write for the MOCA Newsletter, as Tricia Slee suggested I might have a few hours to fill and could write a snapshot of my journey since Muresk!

Given some years have passed since my first year at Muresk in 1986, there's probably a few recollections to outline. After completing my rural journalism course (Bachelor of Arts - double major journalism and agriculture) in 1987, I worked as a journalist at the Collie Mail newspaper and then returned to Muresk in the role of Academic Officer, taking over from John Dymond as he moved into a lecturing role, and I worked alongside Don Robertson. I was responsible for student enrolment/admin in addition to Muresk public relations. I particularly enjoyed being on the road, promoting Muresk courses at various field days and rural events.

During this time I learnt to ride a horse, thanks to a loaned horse and tack from Derek Lampard and expert tuition from Linda Hockey. I honed my 'sticking-in-the-saddle' skills while playing polocrosse. On leaving Muresk, Kelly Jones stepped into the Academic Officer role, and then later, Tricia Slee.

In the early 1990s, I moved to Melbourne for a year working as a registrar/PR officer at Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School, and then spent a similar time period in Warwick, Queensland, working at the Warwick Daily News as a journalist and sub-editor.

On returning to WA, I was employed by Bunnings Forest Products as their PR officer during the Regional Forest Agreement process, which meant regular liaison with regional employees at various timber mills and interaction with the then Premier Richard Court and related government bodies. Dealing with logging protests and intense media interest was part of my role during this period.

In 1999, I moved to Bindoon and took on the role of Community Relations Manager at Catholic Agricultural College, formerly Bindoon Boys Town and now Edmund Rice College. I again got out on the road, promoting the College at field days etc, in addition to updating the overall image and marketing of the College to build student enrolments. I also got back into horse-riding, learning how to camp draft and competing in Western Pleasure events with my quarter horse Mallee Bull.

In 2002, I decided to go back to uni and did my teaching grad dip at ECU Joondalup. Once qualified, I went north to Djarindjin Lombadina Catholic School teaching a combined Year 7 to 10 class in 2003, and a Year 5/6 class in



Shendelle walking the Camino Ingles in Galicia, Spain.

2004. I very much enjoyed my remote teaching experience and would recommend it to anyone! However, wishing to be closer to family in the South West, I took a Year 5 position at Mandurah Catholic College in 2005 and by the end of the year I was questioning my decision to move out of PR work and into teaching, as I worked out that teaching 34 ten year-olds was not My cup of tea!

In 2006, I moved back to my home town of Bunbury and accepted a job at Bunbury Catholic College, my old school. I like to say I 'escaped' Bunbury for 20 years and I was surprised to find some of the teachers I had in the 1980s were still there. I filled several teaching roles at BCC and became a foundation staff member of the new Mercy Campus in Australind in 2015.

In 2016, I applied for the position of Head of Secondary at Kearnan College and commenced there mid-year. For the past three-and-a-half years, I have enjoyed living in the Manjimup community with my husband Tim Jones. We have become avid Parkrun members, are active in the local St Joseph's Parish and we have developed a passion for hiking. In recent years, we have completed most of the Camino France, from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela (possibly the only folk to walk 700kms without losing weight due to too much beer, wine and tapas!), a Celtic Camino and the Cape-to-Cape in WA. I have nearly completed a sectional end-to-end on the Bibbulmun Track and we are both maintenance volunteers for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. This year, we are both fortunate enough to be able to do 'deferred salary' through our employers, so after having 80% pay for the past four years, we now get that 'reserved' 20% while having a year's leave.

So in living out my motto for 2020 'live life to the full', we are flying to South America to spend six months based in Lima, doing community-based work with the Sisters of St Joseph - the religious order founded by St Mary MacKillop. Kearnan College has a particular link with Peru as one of its former principals, Sr Irene McCormack, was shot by Shining Light guerrillas during her missionary work in a Peruvian village. Irene McCormack College in Butler is named in her memory. Tim and I still unclear of exactly what work we will do in Lima, but we aim to live like locals and to enjoy a less materialistic lifestyle to the one we have in WA. We also plan to hike the Machu Picchu trail and will then travel through the USA for three months once we leave Lima. We will also celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary towards the end of the year, which should see us making 2020 a year to remember.


Saludos! Shendelle Mullane



Muresk Institute Ag Industry Courses in 2020

There's lots happening at Muresk Institute to kick off the new decade. Visit the website for more details about a range of industry focussed courses: <https://www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute/find-a-course/industry>

Some of the courses being delivered this year include:

- EMERGING LEADERS IN AGRICULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENTERPRISE (ELATE)
 - HEAVY VEHICLE PILOT/ESCORT TRAINING
 - STATIONHAND SCHOOL: JILLAROO/JACKAROO TRAINING
 - MARKETING SCHOOL
 - LIVESTOCK SCHOOL
 - INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING
 - OPERATE AND MAINTAIN CHAINSAWS
 - FIRST AID
- 

Catching Up With Mureskians at the Field Days...



L – R: **Jim Hamilton**, 2009 graduate, with 4yo daughter Audrey, farms at “Maradah” near Moora; **Ian McGillivray**, Ass Dip Ag graduate 1987, farming near Koojan; **Leonie Bryan (nee Miller)**, BBus(Agric) 1985, farming near Coomberdale and works as a registered nurse at Moora Hospital.



L – R: **Russell Trigwell**, 1970 AssocDipAgric, semi- retired after selling the ‘Old Goldfields Orchard and Cider Factory’ at Donnybrook, he’s an agent for TL Ultralights and spends a lot of time flying! **Anna Kennedy (nee Senior)**, 1987 BBus(Agric) and ~1992-2012 a member of Muresk academic staff, now based in the Chapman Valley with lots of horses where she and her husband run a tyre vulcanising business. **Peter Norris**, BBusAgric 1992, based in Geraldton running his independent consultancy ‘Agronomy For Profit’ (AFP). **Trish Slee**, GradDipAgribus 2000, Muresk staff member 1993-2001, now Executive Officer, City West Lotteries House.



L – R: **John Noonan**, staff 1994-97 and again 2001-2012, now Next Decision consulting and financial counsellor with RFCS. **Craig Pensini**, BBusAgric 1986, currently spending time on his ‘lifestyle’ vineyard while seeking new opportunities after more than 20yrs with Bayer. **Graeme McConnell**, BBusAgric 1990, Managing Director Planfarm. **Nicola McKay (nee Pontifex)**, BAgribus 2013, Domestic and Systems Coordinator with Emerald Grain, based in Albany.



L – R: **Damon Fleay**, BBusAgric. 1992, Regional Manager SACOA. **Floyd Sullivan**, AssDipAgric 1989, Business Development Manager for Alosca Technologies. **Mark Robinson**, BBusAgric. 1991, Business Development Manager with Origo Farm. **Simon Emmott**, BAgribus (FarmMangmt) 2000, followed by a GradDipLandcare, now farming in Dowerin on the family farm W.Emmott & Sons.



L – R: **Prof. Murray McGregor**, former Director of Muresk 1996-2012, now Yonda Consulting, with **Julia McGregor**. **Neil Mortimer**, BBusAgric. 1991, General Manager of 4 Farmers. **Justin Fox**, BAgribus 2012, Agricultural Teacher at Narrogin Agricultural College.



L – R: **Melissa (Millie) Milligan**, BAgribus(Mktg) 2011, Business Relationship Manager with Bankwest, based in Moora. **Amy Schlueter**, BAgribus(Equine) 2011, farming with her father on the family farm H.G. Schlueter & Co at Tambellup. **Adj.Prof. Christine Storer**, academic staff member at Muresk since 1993, she is Head of Agribusiness for the Charles Sturt program at Muresk Institute. **Kari Jennings**, BAgribus(Mktg) 2010, Account Manager with EBM Insurance and Risk. **David Storer**, BAgribus(Mktg), 2018, now running a building and handyman business out of Northam.



L – R: **Christine Moore**, BAgribus ~2009, farms at Badgerin Rock with her husband, fellow Mureskian, Tyrone Henning. **Gavin Crane**, BAgribus 2008, is a Land Valuer with Landgate. (His Dad, Les Crane, is also a Muresk graduate from ~1969, farming 'Gabalong Farms' near Bindi Bindi). **John Hicks** recalls the one week Junior Farmer short course about Sheep and Wool Management that he did at Muresk in 1955 as being the best professional development course he ever did. His son Paul Hicks completed a BAgribus at Muresk in 1999.



Thanks to the 'rural team' from Bankwest for hosting MOCA in their display at the Mingenew and Dowerin Field Days 2019. A big thanks also to Brid Hutchinson for 'making it all happen' behind the scenes'.

And thank you to everyone who dropped in to the MOCA display for a chat and to update their contact details. (You can do this anytime by visiting the MOCA website: www.mureskoca.org.au Or say 'giddyay' via our FB page).

Join the
Board of
Directors



Want to contribute to the
future of MOCA?
Nominate NOW to be a
member of the MOCA Board

Where you ever a member of the MOCA Board?

Please let us know your details and the years you served on the Board, as we're putting together a historical register to share on the MOCA website. Send details to: info@mureskoca.org.au

What a ride!

By Jack Webber

As a young boy horses were very much part of my childhood. By age ten I worked some afternoons after school and most weekends for the Irving family, who were running a large riding academy, and at that time, were probably the leading equestrian people in Victoria.

The oldest sister, Mrs Vouden, was a tough old biddy, but sort of took me under her wing. Very soon my main job was exercising clients' horses plus the usual dirty work. I also started competing in show jumping. By the time I was in grade seven at school I was spending every available, and many not so available hours (wagging school), at their property, which of course didn't go down well at school.

Our teacher at the time was Mr Moody; a sadistic old bastard who ruled with an old stirrup leather, dishing out 2, 4 or 6 cuts. One particular day he caught three of us smoking behind the dunnies; needless to say we were dished out the cuts. For some reason I always received the maximum six. There I was, hands outstretched. After about the third whack, as he brought it down from way above his head with his full force, I pulled my hands away at the last minute. Needless to say, he hit himself in the most sensitive part of his anatomy. Oh my goodness - what occurred next was unbelievable. He went beetroot red! I swear I saw the flames coming out of his ears. He looked like a volcanic eruption. I thought 'this is no place for me to be', so I took off. I never went back to school again.

My father was head of the stock department of Dalgety's, so he said, "Right then. I will sort you out". And so I was headed off to Chatsworth Station, approximately half way between Cloncurry and Boulia in Queensland, where I spent the next three years in the mustering camp. Being born in the Great Depression, my early childhood pre 2nd World War and the War years were tough, so it was not unusual to commence work so early. So started my career with horses.

Over the next decade I spent time as a professional rodeo rider, contract horse breaker, head stockman, yard builder, and fencer etc. In 1960, while mustering on Kalamurra Station on the Warburton River (which runs into Lake Eyre when it runs), I was offered a position running Kalyeeda Station, south of the Fitzroy River in the West Kimberley. I accepted.

In 1961 I met Bev and in mid-1962 we married and I took her to the station. It was a big cultural shock, but for the next 12 years Bev became one of the heroes of the outback; that being the women of the outback. All our kids were born there and there were many hard times.

I continued to manage Kalyeeda, then Mt Hart, and finally Ord River Station. Whilst at Ord an opportunity came up contract mustering for the WA Government. I had a full plant of horses and equipment, which went ahead. That same year Inverway Station offered me a contract, so I purchased more horses, put together plant, and by the end of the year had another plant working at Leopold Station. With three mustering plants working, plus my own road train, plus all equipment and staff, it was becoming hard to recruit good staff.

Hooker Pastoral Company, which owned Carlton Downs, Ivanhoe Stations (WA), Legune, Rosewood and Victoria Downs (NT) offered me a huge contract mustering on Carlton, Ivanhoe and Legune stations; plus the use of the chopper. Of course I took up the contract. I drafted off the best 100 head of horses (at that stage we had nearly 300 head), put together a super camp with portable yards, a tractor, trailers, and road train, and selected the best of my staff. I had, in conjunction with one of the Ord farmers, a 20,000 acre dry block about 20 miles from Kununurra where I built a bough shed with other facilities and made that my base. Bev lived there with the three kids while I travelled and ran the plant.

To cut a long story short, we spent 3 years mustering, and in the wet seasons were relief managers at Legune Station. Unfortunately, I tangled with an old, feral bull, which smashed me up badly; opening up my guts, and my

stomach started to spill out. Two of my Aboriginal stockmen saved me and got the bull off me. I was sure I was going to die. One of the stockmen, Barney, used to drive the tractor and trailer, but he had never driven a motor car, so I had to teach him to drive while hanging onto my stomach, rapped in old shirts and bull straps to stop it from spilling out. It took us 5 hours to get to the Kununurra hospital where Fred McConnell, the doctor, operated. Needless to say, I survived.

I eventually sold up all my gear, with the exception of my broodmares and stallion, plus a selection of my top drafting horses. I took up a position managing an intensive cattle operation on the Mary River in Queensland. There we were conducting AI, embryo transfer, and semen collection; but in 1974 the Americans completely shut down the top end of the cattle industry. Ships that were already on their way with frozen beef were cancelled. Broome, Derby, Wyndham, Darwin, Ross River, Alligator Creek and Rockhampton meat works were shut. Complete disaster in the 'Top End', and in particular Queensland, with many going to the wall, including the company I was manager for. We lost everything. We had our truck and managed to salvage three stallions and we returned to the west. There was no point in going back home to the Kimberley, with the situation being much the same there.



Left: Show jumping, 1944. Middle: Rough rider for Thorpe McConville Wild Australia. Right: Kimberley days.

As you can understand, my life revolved around horses. In fact horses were my tools of trade. We arrived in Northam and leased a small property close to town. I went back to shoeing and horse breaking, and I used my truck to cart chaff to Perth. Then I met Chris Back and our lives changed for ever.

I was asked by a number of people to purchase Quarter Horses on their behalf, so I had arranged to buy from a well-known stud in Queensland. In fact, I had purchased my Quarter Horse Stallion "Poco Santana" from Kevin. Upon returning, I suspected one of the mares who was in foal to one of the leading racing Quarter Horse sires, had lost the foal. I preg tested her, and yes, she had lost it. As it was an insurance claim I needed a Vet certificate to confirm this. Enter Chris, who was then working for Brian Barker's Vet Clinic in Northam. Over the next few months we became great friends.

Chris was later employed by WAIT to lecture in Animal Production at Muresk. Over many a beer we both talked about the need for a course in profession horse management, as there was nowhere in Australia offering this. Chris being Chris, arrived home one evening with the news that we had received the go ahead to present a two year course in Equine Stud Management, to commence at Muresk in 1977. This was accompanied by the news

that “you’re now employed by Muresk”. This was about the end of November. Panic. We had to commence at the start of first semester 1977. So we had to write up the course, advertise, and select the students; and I had to prepare some facilities. We were bequeathed the old chook shed and a bulldozer levelled a piece of ground for me to build the yards. Fortunately I used all of my equipment - the truck, chainsaw and all my tools. In those days our staff offices were the bottom rooms of Hughes Hall. We were given a large room which became our lecture room. 24 students were selected - coming from all the States and New Zealand. We were away!

I had one huge problem. The first day I stood before the group, all I could see was white faces. I was completely struck dumb, as for most of my life I had associated with Aboriginal people, and lived in isolation. I just found it difficult to communicate. However, they took me along to Rostrum, which was a public speaking club, and I slowly got over my problem.

Within a couple of years Roseworthy in South Australia, Marcus Oldham in Victoria, Wagga and Orange in NSW, and Gatton in Queensland had all jumped onto the band wagon; so we no longer had the selection of students Australia wide and were finding it difficult to attract suitable applicants. So it was decided by the powers to no longer offer the course. The last intake was 1987.

As I had been running some short courses in conjunction with Master Farrier Alby Mollet, we convinced the ‘powers that be’ that we should run a professional farriers course. Chris of course got to and arranged the secondment of Scott Simpson from Montana State University to assist and run a 13 week Farrier course. Clive (The Emu), as usual, came up with the money from somewhere to construct the workshop. So Barry Butterly and Tom Morrissey got to and completed the job. It was an outstanding success, so the following year, 1983, Scott sent out another Farrier from the American Farriers Association, but within three weeks he proved to be a disaster. When Chris phoned Scott he was advised to sack him, and Scott told Chris that Jack had the expertise to run the course. So I did, and we continued to run two courses a year until 1994, when I was then employed full time as the Master of Apprentice Jockeys.

In 1986 the West Australian Turf Club asked if I would run a small trial course for the training of Apprentice Jockeys. This was a success, so I was asked to set up a complete course of 13 weeks for the pre-training of apprentice jockeys. I conducted both these courses under the banner of Muresk Institute of Agriculture’s External Courses. But by 1990, Muresk opted out, so I had to establish my own Accredited Training Course. I leased the Horse Facilities plus the SMQ facilities at Muresk.

In 1987 The Pastoralists and Graziers Association funded a short course to train stockmen and station hands. Both Bev and I conducted this course, which again was an outstanding success; so much so that they wanted to extend it and run it annually. But there wasn’t enough weeks in the year for me. I passed it over to TAFE. By 1994 I was running four 13 week courses a year, and by then my insurance - which included Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and Product Liability - was costing a small fortune; some \$42,000 dollars a year! So the WATC employed me as Master of Apprentice Jockeys and Director of Training. I continued to lease the Muresk premises until the year 2000. And when that finished, that was the end of my association with Muresk.

If you are holding a get-together or reunion, or if you or one of your Muresk network moves into a new role, develops a new business or is recognised for an achievement in the industry or community – please let us know all the details.

Let’s share the news with the wider Muresk community.

Fifty Years On...The Graduating Class of 1970



Do you know any of these good looking young graduates from 1970?

Perhaps you are one of them? Please help us identify the names of each of them. Russell Trigwell found himself when he saw the photo on display at the Mingenew Field Days, and has identified some of the other 'lads'. But there's some gaps we'd like to fill. Please email details to: info@mureskoca.org.au

The 'Sprogs' – 1970



Thanks to Harry Goff for sharing this photo of the first year students of 1970.

*Back Row left to right: Ian McPharlin, Chris Richardson, C. Crane, Neil Perry, Don Miles, Charles Bentley, A.J.H. (Podge) El-Effendi, Graham Dunn, Richard Williamson, Gordon McNeil, Peter Blake, John Krygsman, Dave Falconer
Front Row left to right Steve Perkins, Eric Martin, Harry Goff, C S Finn, Martin Lain, P. Braxton, Gary Batt (partly obscured), Craig Lloyd, Andrew Bennet, John Stanton, Peter Spicer*

Time for a 'Pit Stop' *By Owen Catto*

After completing a Bachelor of Business in Agriculture (1984) I farmed in partnership with my father for 18 years in Morawa while also operating a farm consultancy business. After selling the family farm in 2005, my wife and I took our young family and travelled across Australia for a year whilst home schooling the children.

Years have passed, and we now have three adult children. My interest now is in empowering men to move forward and embrace progressive changes in their family relationships and their wellbeing and health. Since 2007 I have worked specifically in men's holistic wellbeing and health, presenting a range of educational programs and strategies for men, their families and communities.

I am currently the Senior Community Educator/Executive Officer for The Regional Men's Health Initiative which is a small team of people who are passionate about raising awareness of men's wellbeing and health in regional, rural and remote communities throughout WA. We're not "a health organisation" – rather, we act as a bridge of support and education to men, communities and health services.

Empowering the community - One of the most difficult things about men's wellbeing and health is getting men to connect with their needs. Our unique community model, a 'bottoms-up' approach means everything is community driven where all events we attend are organised by grass root community groups, individuals and/or other organisations. We always go to where the blokes are.



The Regional Men's Health Initiative is a NGO, funded to support men in regional, rural and remote WA. The emphasis is on men's holistic wellbeing and health, which means the whole person and understanding problems/issues in the context of life. When we consider the individual we believe we are more than just physical and mental beings, the often neglected element, is our "social/spiritual" wellbeing. RMHI:

- Promotes the requirement that it is important to know and understand the story behind our identity and what it is that makes us an individual.
- Engages with blokes on their terms and goes to where the blokes are.

- Provides education sessions, runs a fast track pit stop (health awareness) and advocates for all men.

We encourage men to talk about issues in their lives and identify their true mates and the people they can confide in when times get tough. As blokes we have three main categories of people we can talk to. These categories are; a partner, a peer and a mentor. It's important to identify that all of these categories may not be available to us at different times in our life, so take the time to stay in touch and talk to a mate.

The slogan "...before it all gets too much...Talk to a Mate!!®" is the basis of all our initiatives.

This year I have been privileged to work with the Rural Clinical School student doctors, including my daughter (Sara) at the Mingenew Expo. The photo is of a proud dad at our display setup for the pit stop at Mingenew Expo.

First and foremost look after yourself, enjoy the journey, and always keep a look out for others.

Seeking Your Help – Volunteers Needed

<p>MOCA 90th Anniversary</p> <p>We need your help to organise a dinner event at Muresk to celebrate MOCA's 90th Anniversary.</p> <p>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? (Spring 2020)</p>	 <p>We need YOU to electronically scan old Muresk Jangelings</p>
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To volunteer, anytime, email info@mureskoca.org.au or call Trish on 0427 330 103

Muresk Institute

Muresk Institute FarmSmart Conference - Monday 21 September 2020 – HOLD the Date

The 2020 FarmSmart Showcase is a one day event featuring the latest agricultural innovations, technologies and upskilling opportunities. As Western Australia's skills hub of modern agriculture Muresk Institute has partnered with industry leaders, ag tech companies and training providers to hold a one day showcase that brings you the knowledge and skills you need to do better, smarter business.

Rural and Remote Student Scholarships 2020 - Applications Now Open!!!

RuralBiz Training is pleased to offer two scholarships for *rural, regional and remote* students wishing to study the: **AHC50116 Diploma of Agriculture**. These scholarships cover the full course fee of \$11,000.

If you would like more information about the scholarship or the course please view:

<https://www.ruralbiztraining.com.au/announcements/regional-remote-scholarships> or contact Melanie Moeller on 02 6884 8812 or via email on mmoeller@ruralbiztraining.com.au

Diamonds in the Rough *By Codie Henville*

My choice to move to study a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Muresk in 2016 was a decision that saved my life.

My name is Codie Henville, I come from the most northern edge of the northern Wheatbelt. I grew up on a broad acre and livestock property in Balla. I was the 5th generation on that property, so it's safe to say that agriculture runs through my blood. I have a love for livestock, Quarter Horses, beauty therapy, country music and having one hell of a good time! But that hasn't always been the case.

In 2016 I took the plunge to change my mode of study from distance education on the Charles Sturt University online portal to study on campus at Muresk. This proved to be one of the best decisions I have ever made! It was great to be seen as an individual, not as someone's daughter or from the farm you came from, but as a student in agriculture, and one soon to be a professional in the industry that I loved.

While away from home, the mates and family I created at Muresk are ones that I will never lose, and I owe many of them a beer to today! Though little did my mates know that for the 4 years before heading to Muresk, I had been a full-time carer for a family member battling cancer. I was working two jobs, studying online and helped to run a property.

Many didn't know where I would head on a Friday night and return back to campus late Sunday night ready for class Monday morning. I was driving 600km back north to care for my family member, who wasn't at that stage battling cancer, but mental demons that had been dismissed by the medical system up north. Nor did I really have the guts to tell any of them the actual truth.

I was 21 and bullet proof, right? But sadly, my grades dropped as I tried to keep all my balls in the air, and by the end of the year, I had to appeal my position at university. My appeal was dismissed and by the end of 2016 and I found myself kicked out of university - tired and very fatigued. But I was having too much fun at Muresk - this girl didn't want to go home. So, as the Queensland University was offering an advanced diploma in agriculture, I enrolled in the 2017 intake of that course at Muresk. I enjoyed this study and still made great mates but by the end of 2017 the course was in limbo. I had to make a financial call whether to continue studying in 2018 with an unknown educational provider - but before making a decision whether to continue to study or not, it was made for me.

The last week of semester in 2017 I collapsed in my mates' room from extreme fatigue - and what I later learned was extreme anxiety and depression. My body wasn't able to handle what was occurring in my life and it all came to a halt. My mate picked me up off the floor and the next day I was face to face with a GP and hearing the hard truth.



Three days after my 23rd birthday I drove down to Perth and self-admitted myself into a mental health ward. I spent five weeks there and was discharged 2 weeks before Christmas. It was there that I realised that I had neglected to place any value on my own mental health; I was so busy keeping all my balls in the air that I was afraid to stop and slow down. The hard truths I had to face while in hospital, and the terror of having to open up to someone, is now something I am extremely grateful for, as it has helped me to become the more confident and healthier version of myself that I am today.

When I was discharged from hospital, I was very reluctant to tell anyone where I had been. Hell, it was Christmas. Who wants that judgement at a time when rural communities are forced to come together and celebrate in good spirits with Christmas cheer? I knew how fast gossip spreads in a small town, and I didn't want to be a Christmas headline.

As much as I don't want to admit it, YES, the stigma of mental health is still very strong within many of our communities. Little value is placed on your own mental health and few seem to take notice of those early signs that you should slow down, take a break, check in with yourself and check in with others. We seem to put running a property, business and keeping those animals alive above our own needs - and I can't fault anyone one bit for this attitude. These are the things that bring money into our lives, give us the social status that we live by and pay those damn bills. But to say it frankly, you can't do any of these if you are passed out on a floor - like I was.

Fast forward to 2020; a few years after having to face this stigma and deciding to open up to close friends and family made me realise that I could potentially make a positive contribution towards mental health within rural, remote and regional Australia. If I was willing to breakdown my own walls and fears and let people know the truth, by sharing my story within people in rural communities, I might actually be able to have a positive impact by helping to slowly break down the stigma attached to rural mental health.

So, this is how 'Diamonds in the Rough' was created....

'Diamonds in the Rough' aims to bring social awareness of the silent struggle of mental health to the forefront of rural Australia. It's time to **BREAK THE STIGMA + KICK UP THE DUST**. By using social media and grass root community involvement, 'Diamonds in the Rough' aims to create a community that unites and supports the people of rural Australia.

I also wish to help assist and share other people's stories of their journey associated with mental health. I feel that it is important to highlight that you are not alone, and mental health does not discriminate to gender nor location. We wouldn't think twice to wrap a piece of rag and tape over our hand if we sliced it open in the yards; so why do we treat our mind and brain so differently?

I am sharing my story not for sympathy, nor empathy, but to make people aware of the hidden truths that lie in our communities. I hope that it helps some people to embrace their self-worth and not to ever forget the value of the strong friendships that we make while going through hardships in a place like Muresk. If it wasn't for those special souls that are now my 'family', I would never be where I am today. So, hold those friendships close, embrace the support we share amongst us and please remember to place a value on your own mental health, even when life gets busy. Over time I am positive we will **BREAK THE STIGMA + KICK UP THE DUST**.

If you would like to be at all involved with our rural social media mental health awareness campaign 'Diamonds in the Rough' please contact me through:

Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/diamondsintheroughruralmentalhealthAUS/
Email	info@dusttodiamondsbeautytherapy.com ,
Instagram	@diamondsintherough_au

I would love to hear from you!

Please find below resources for your own reference. Write them on your ute window near your spraying ratios in that white board marker I know you have rolling around in the cab; pin them to the back of the toilet door or place them on the fridge. And please remember: **IT IS OKAY NOT TO BE OKAY.**

CALL 000 If a life is in danger

13 11 14 Lifeline Australia. Provides 24/7 helpline crisis support and suicide prevention services.

1300 22 4636 Beyond Blue Australia. Helpline 24/7
Talk to a trained mental health professional.

1300 659 467 Suicide Call Back Service Australia
Helpline for free 24/7 telephone/online counselling and crisis support across Australia.

1800 250 015 National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline

1800 55 1800 Kids Helpline Australia

Help and support for children and young people 24/7.



What value do you place on YOUR OWN mental health??? Until next time, please take care

Let's BREAK THE STIGMA + KICK UP THE DUST #ruralmentalhealthAUS



Muresk Legend Bryan Mickle (graduate 1948) at the front of his restaurant, The Lucky Shag, surrounded by four of the five Scholars he has funded through the Mickle Family Scholarship for the Agribusiness course (run by Charles Sturt University at Muresk).

We're sorry Alec Wiles couldn't get back in time. Good excuse for another lunch ☺

Wine Steward on Trainer Wheels *By Craig Pensini*

I volunteered to be a Wine Steward at the 2019 Wine Show of WA. It was Monday 7th October 2019 and I set off early from my home in Mundaring for the 378 km drive to Mt Barker.

This annual event is coordinated by Muresk graduate Marie O’Dea. Beginning in 1978 as part of the Mount Barker and Districts Agricultural Show, the Wine Show of Western Australia has grown to become a separate and distinguished event which annually determines the best of Western Australian wines. Along with wine shows in Margaret River and Perth, it is one of the few ‘top tier’ wine judging shows in WA.

Monday was set-up day: this included setting up tables and infrastructure for the event at the Mt Barker Recreation Centre, and unpacking the 5,000 plus bottles of wine that were entered for judging.

Judging began on Tuesday 8th through until Thursday 10th October. We were expected to be (and were) ‘on duty’ from 8am – 5pm, each day. It was long hours on this old boy’s feet!!

There were 15 wine judges plus a chief judge participating during the week-long event. They came from overseas, interstate and Western Australia.

So what does being a wine steward involve? Each day we had to oversee the following:

- arrive half an hour earlier before the judging began (judging usually started at 8.30am)
- ensure that each of the judging tables had the judging requisites – spittoon with shredded paper, water, cheese, biscuits, apron, iPad, paper and pencil
- open bottles and pour wines as directed by the chief steward
- label bottles that had won medals
- general tidying up, which included support to the glass washing team



Wine stewards at the 2019 Wine Show of WA; Craig Pensini with Ian and John

I assisted the group [committee and volunteers] to tidy up Friday morning before heading home. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay for the exhibitors tasting and trophy presentation lunch at Plantagenet Wines.

This year there were 855 entries from a total of 115 producers and 57 gold medals awarded. Margaret River winery Xanadu was announced as Best Wine of Show winner for its 2017 DJL Cabernet Sauvignon.



Wine show entries ready for judging



Judging for the 2019 trophy wines

From a Muresk perspective, well known winemaker and Muresk Old Collegian Larry Cherubino of Larry Cherubino Wines was the Most Successful Overall Exhibitor.

Other vineyards with entries in the 2019 Wine Show of WA who have a direct history to Muresk included; Duke Ranson (Dukes Vineyard), Phil Whishart (Shepherds Hut) and Kevin McKay (Forester Estate). Also well know wine label (West Cape Howe Wines) has a strong link with Rob Quenby.

Reunion of Animal Production Staff



Peter Symons recently organised a reunion of many of the staff that used to teach in Animal Production. Unfortunately Chris Back, Don Robertson and Glen Thompson couldn't attend, and sadly, George Tomes had recently died (RIP George).

Pictured (L-R) Dick Visser, Peter Symons, Ian Fairnie, Jack Webber, Tom Morrissey and Steve Rogers.

23-25 JUNE 2020

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Study Tour Declared an Outstanding Success

By Lindsay McNeill

A study tour through the Kimberley and Northern Territory by students from the Charles Sturt University Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management course at Muresk was an outstanding success.

The 11-day tour provided students with a dynamic learning experience highlighting the enormous job opportunities in remote agricultural and horticultural enterprises in the Northwest and central north of Australia. It also focused on living remotely and health in remote areas. Few had been to the tropics or remote north.

Comments from students included one from Euan who said Northern Australia provided a huge opportunity for anyone willing to give it a go. Olivia said trip was a once in a lifetime event... "I experienced many inspiring things that will help me in my future career". Alice said... "I have always been told you learn most from talking to people... this trip confirmed that immeasurably... the women who are industry leaders in this part of our country were particularly inspiring."

The tour started with a dinner in Broome on June 25. From there the 20 students and staff including four students from the eastern states, made their way in 4WD camper vehicles to Darwin visiting enterprises on the way. Their first stop was at Beagle Bay to see pearling and barramundi enterprises followed by a visit to Yeeda abattoir and on to Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek and GoGo Station. At Halls Creek, the group toured Margaret River Station, visited the art gallery and learnt about living in remote areas.

At Kununurra they visited Kimberley Fine Diamonds, Quintis Sandalwood along with the North Australian Crop Research Alliance field day followed by a dinner with Muresk graduates on June 30. Graduates present included Jim Engelke, Paul Mock, Travis Hollis, Tara Slaven, Joy Sherlock (nee Valle) and John Foss.

On July 2, they reached Katherine for a tour of the research station to see mango, cotton, soya bean and melon crops and pasture seed production. At Douglas Daly on July 4, they visited the research station and saw Leucaena pasture and toured a pellet mill and cattle depot. Here they caught up with Joy Sherlock again along with Renae McLean.



The Charles Sturt University agricultural business management student group during a tour visit to the Berrimah Export Cattle Yards near Darwin.

In Darwin they heard from Muresk graduate Luke Bowen, GM of Northern Australia Development House, as well as representatives of other primary producer groups before visiting Berrimah cattle yard, buffalo and crocodile farms, Charles Darwin University and several historic sites. On Saturday, July 6 the students presented detailed reports on the trip to gain credit for a subject towards their degree. They met for the last time at a dinner with Muresk graduates at the Darwin Sailing Club. Graduates at the dinner were Chris Howie, Luke Bolton and Renae McLean.

Head of the School of Agribusiness at Muresk, Dr Christine Storer, said the tour gave students an understanding of tropical farming and agricultural systems. It also provided insight into working in remote areas, trade with Asia and the opportunity to develop teamwork and leadership skills. "Industry support for the trip was fantastic. "People drove long distances and gave up their time to show us around and to discuss research findings. "We have seen an amazing range of crops and enterprises as well as lots of innovation," she said.

Reflections from the Muresk Farm 2019

Rainfall:

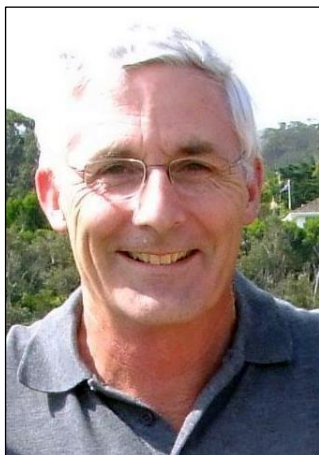
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
1926-2015	11.8	14.1	19.1	26.8	60.4	83.8	86.8	61.1	36.7	27.1	12.1	9.1	453
2016 Actual	116	0	43.2	51.6	67	39.2	80.6	63.8	38.6	19.4	5	12.8	537.2
2017 Actual	105	134	29.7	0	21.6	20.2	48.6	102.1	45	9.3	13.2	17.0	545.7
2018 Actual	89.2	11.0	1.4	7.3	47.3	52.8	97.6	90.8	8.5	31.1	1.2	5.0	443.2
2019 Actual	0	0.4	5.2	14.2	8.6	48.1	49	45.6	25.5	14.3	8.7	?	?

Key Muresk Farm Operations 2019

- *Wheat*
 - *Scepter, 75ha, Yield 2.3t/ha*
Low protein/high screenings
Sold 30t ASW1 \$315/t
- *Barley*
 - *Spartacus, 81ha, Yield 1.7t/ha*
Retained for stock feed
- *Canola*
 - *RR408, 110ha, Yield 0.7t/ha*
Oil 48%
- *Soils - Initial planning meeting completed*
 - *PredictaB soil samples taken on all cropping paddocks as a result of root disease testing carried out earlier in the year. Nematodes (P. Neglectus)*
 - *Soil testing to be undertaken December 17th. Will determine liming program*
- *Harvest contract (3 years + 1+ 1) agreed to by contractor*

Welcome to New MOCA Board Members 2020

A BIG thank you to Debra Royle, Floyd Sullivan, Ben Coman and Christine Storer who stepped down from the MOCA Board at the 2019 AGM. To each of you, thank you for your commitment to MOCA and your significant contributions to the development of MOCA over recent years.



Simon Abbott, 1976-1977, Associate Diploma Agriculture

Simon was a city boy whose first job out of school was as a field technician to UWA researchers investigating ewe flock fertility and clover disease in WA. This inspired him to enrol at Muresk at the age of 24.

He took an overseer role on a corporate shipping wether trading farm at Munglinup and moved on to land development contracting, share-farming and contract spraying, before joining the Department of Agriculture in Jerramungup and Albany as a technical officer from 1985 to 1991.

He took a strong interest in the use of airborne geophysics for the management of dryland salinity through the 90s and completed a Master of Science in Natural Resource Management and a PhD in Geophysics in the early 2000s. Simon is currently in charge of agriculture and natural resource management applications at Landgate Satellite Remote Sensing.

Simon was a member of the MOCA Board from 2012 to 2017. He joined in order to support the continuation of regional tertiary education in general and agribusiness in particular. He served as secretary for a year.

Simon has a strong passion for the agricultural regions and the businesses that manage 60% of Australia's land resource. Outside of work, Simon enjoys seeing the rest of Australia and spending time on a farm at Brookton with his grandchildren, daughter and son in law.



Kari Jennings, 2006 – 2010, Bachelor of Agribusiness (Marketing)

As a young girl, Kari spent most school holidays visiting her godparent's dairy farm in Dardanup. This sparked her love for agriculture and she enrolled in the Muresk Enabling Course, commencing in 2006. She then progressed to the complete a Bachelor of Agribusiness.

Since graduating, Kari has had significant on farm experience and held various positions in precision agriculture and agribusiness banking. In 2012, Kari began her career in insurance and she accepted a position at Elders Insurance Merredin.

Now based in Perth, Kari is an Account Manager at EBM Insurance Brokers. Her role at EBM allows her to utilise her agricultural knowledge in servicing the insurance and risk requirements of agribusiness clients.

Kari joined the MOCA Board in 2019 and currently holds the role of Secretary. She is extremely grateful for her time at Muresk and hopes to be able to provide an insight to graduates and prospective students regarding career opportunities available post-study. In her spare time, Kari is very much involved in Toastmasters and loves any opportunity to practice her public speaking!



Melissa (Millie) Milligan, 2008-2010, Bachelor of Agribusiness (Marketing)

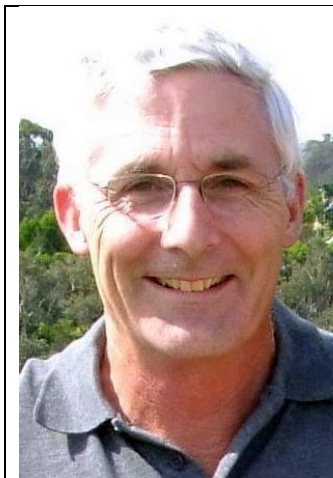
Millie grew up in Toodyay and Northam completing her schooling education locally. Upon completion of Year 12, Millie joined Co-Operative Bulk Handling as a seasonal grain sampler. This is where her interest peaked for agriculture and moved to Perth to become a Quality Assurance office for a private Grain Handler.

Discovering she did not enjoy the fast pace of city living, she returned to Northam and commenced her studies at Muresk Institute with a focus on expansion of her agricultural knowledge and passion.

Upon completion of her studies Millie joined Bankwest in the Graduate programme and has been with Bankwest now for nearly 10 years. Millie is currently the Bankwest Business Relationship Manager based in Moora, looking after agribusinesses and commercial businesses.

Outside of work, Millie is passionate about travel, food, spending time with loved ones, new experiences and being creative. She has a passion for the Wheatbelt and helping to grow all rural businesses through collaboration & learnings. Millie is the Chairperson of the Moora Chamber of Commerce, on the boards of the Wheatbelt Business Network and Bankwest’s Women of the West (Women in Business).

Your 2020 MOCA Board



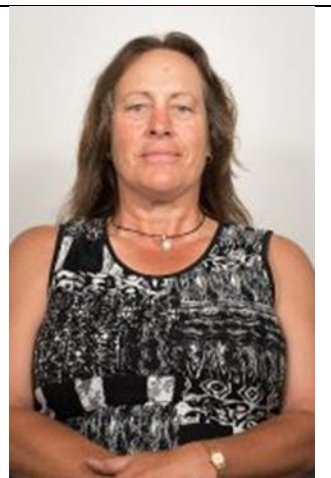
Simon Abbott



John Hassell, Treasurer



Kari Jennings, Secretary



Anna Kennedy



Millie Milligan



Craig Pensini, Vice Pres.



Tricia Slee, President



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Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships

Applications for the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships 2021 open on 1 March, 2020.

These scholarships give Australian farmers and farm managers the opportunity to study farming practices in Europe, Asia, South and North America and those countries best suited to the scholar.

Academic qualifications are not a prerequisite for this scholarship. The preferred age for scholars is between 28 and 40 years, however, applicants outside this range may be considered. Applicants must be Australian citizens; be engaged in farming or fishing as an owner or manager (or active member of a family farming business); and be intending to remain involved in primary production in Australia.

Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships are valued ~ \$30,000. This is a unique program that awards primary producers with a life-changing scholarship to travel overseas and study an agricultural topic of choice.

Nuffield has been selecting primary producers for over 60 years and it is the leading program for primary producers in Australia. Scholars are selected annually on merit as people who are committed and passionate about farming or fishing, are at the leading edge of technology uptake and potential future leaders in the industry.

There are approximately 400 Nuffield Scholars in Australia who, through their Nuffield Scholarship, have had a world experience into global agriculture to enhance their knowledge and skills. Scholars represent a wide number of rural industries and have returned to Australia to adopt best management practice so that excellence in all aspects of agricultural production is achieved.

Nuffield Australia is also part of a unique global network of 1,500 Nuffield Scholars from other countries which also award Nuffield Farming Scholarships annually.

And Finally...



WE NEED YOU
MOCA Newsletter
Writer and Editor
required for July 2020

Volunteer by return email to:
president@mureskoca.org.au

Summer Newsletter

Visit MOCA at:

Editor: Tricia Slee

president@mureskoca.org.au or 0427 330 103

Feedback welcomed by email or on the MOCA FB page.

Would you like to write the next newsletter?

Volunteer editor needed.

Please send your ideas, images and articles for the next MOCA newsletter.

MOCA Website: www.mureskoca.org.au

Don't forget to update your contact details

MOCA Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mureskoca/>

Drop us an email: info@mureskoca.org.au

Muresk Old Collegians Association Inc.

MOCA Newsletter 2020 - Summer

Published 20 January 2020

Information: president@mureskoca.org.au

See over for MOCA 90th Anniversary merchandise order options...

MOCA 90th Merchandise – Soon to Be Released

Beanie

\$20.00



Striped Rugby Jumper – Cobalt Blue / White \$80.00
 Classic Fit
 Sizes S – 3XL

Ramo Rugby Top is made from 20% Polyester, 80% Cotton, 360gsm rugby knit fabric. It has ribbed knitted sleeve cuffs, straight hem, internal contrast woven back neck dome.



Unisex Rugby Jumper – Navy / Gold \$70.00
 (Refer to size chart above)

65% Polyester & 35% Cotton
 350gsm rugby knit fabric
 Straight hem with herringbone trimmed side splits



Ladies Long Sleeve TrueDry Polo – Navy / White \$50.00



PS70 - Ladies' TrueDry® Long Sleeve Polo

MODERN FIT	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Half Chest	43.5	46.0	48.5	51.0	53.5	56.0	58.5	61.0	63.5
Body Length	60.0	62.0	64.0	66.0	68.0	70.0	72.0	74.0	76.0

Weight & size measurements are for guidance only



TrueDry® Mesh 160gsm with 60% Cotton 40% Polyester
 Breathable mesh panels under arms & on sides



Ladies Short Sleeve Polo – Navy / Gold / Grey \$45.00

Sizes	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Garment Half Chest (cm)	46.5	49.0	51.5	54.0	56.5	59.0	62.0	65.0	68.0



Men's Short Sleeve Polo – Navy /Gold /Grey \$45.00

Sizes	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
Garment Half Chest (cm)	52.0	55.0	58.0	62.0	65.0	71.0	79.0



Vest \$60.00 Polyester & Elastin 2 layer bonded softshell

	Men		Ladies														
	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
CHEST	54	56.5	59	61.5	64	66.5	69.5	72	46	48	50	52	54.5	57	59.5	62	64.
LGTH	72	74	76	78	80	82	83	84	61	63	65	67	69	71	73	75	77

Orders close on Friday 28 February 2020.

Fill in the order form below, scan, and send by email NOW to avoid disappointment.

See the MOCA website or FaceBook pages for more details.

Merchandise Order Form

Full Name				
Home Postal Address				
Town		P/Code		State
Home Email Address				
Home Phone		Mobile Phone		

ORDERS TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

Item Description	Cost	Size(s)	Quantity	Line \$
MOCA Lapel Pin	\$10	-		
Beanie	\$20	-		
Striped Cobolt/White Rugby Jumper	\$80			
Unisex Navy Rugby Jumper	\$70			
Ladies Long Sleeve True Dry Polo	\$50			
Ladies Short Sleeve Polo	\$45			
Mens Short Sleeve Polo	\$45			
Vest (Indicate M=Men or L=Ladies)	\$60			
SUB TOTAL				\$
How will you take delivery of your order? Tick ONE below				
	Forward my items by Standard Parcel Post (within Australia) Postage and handling fee per items: 1 = \$12, 2 - 3 = \$15, 4 - 6 = \$20			\$
	Collect my order from Tricia Slee at: City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St, West Perth			Free
TOTAL OWING				\$

Preferred Payment Method - Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Payment

Payable to - BSB: 306 089 Acc: 371 4620

Reference - your **initial** and **surname** + **MOCAMerch** eg *ABrownMOCAMerch*

Email completed order form to - treasurer@mureskoca.org.au Include EFT date & reference.

Cheque Payment

Payable to - Muresk Old Collegians Association Inc

Post order form & cheque - **Attention: MOCA**, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth 6005

Enquiries

Craig Pensini 0455 141 992