

OLD AGGIES

Orange, North Coast, Gosford luncheon reports and photos, obituaries and more

Diary Dates

Alstonville luncheon - Monday 19 September 2016, Alstonville Bowling Club 11:30 - contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or gajacobs@bigpond.com.au

Orange luncheon - Wednesday 12 October 2016, Eighteen70 Restaurant 11:30 for 12:30 - contact Peter Witschi (02) 6369 0011 or jfpwitschi@bigpond.com

Gosford luncheon - Thursday 3 November 2016, Central Coast Leagues Club 11:30 for 12:30 - contact John Stone (02) 4362 1834 or jgandjastone8@gmail.com

Sydney luncheon - Tuesday 8 December 2015, City of Sydney RSL Club 11:30 - contact Col Short (02) 9876 1018 cbshort@bigpond.com
(See booking slip - back page)

Wagga Wagga luncheon - Thursday 12 May 2016 - contact James Hamilton 0447 225 875 or jnch1950_1@bigpond.com

Laurieton luncheon - Monday 22 February 2016 Laurieton United Services' Club 11:30 - contact Alan Lee (02) 6553 7630 or 3 Gannet Crescent, Old Bar 2430 Sadly, due to falling numbers, this may be the last Laurieton luncheon

Armidale/Tamworth luncheon - March 2016 - Bendemeer Hotel - more details to come - contact Barbara Vanselow bvanselo@gmail.com

AGM - City of Sydney RSL Club
11:00am Tuesday 8 March 2016

From the President's desk ...

Funny how we say regularly: "another year almost over ... and don't they disappear faster now than they used too?" Certainly, 2015 has just flown by and here we are at Christmas time once again.

It's very pleasing to report that almost all our Old Aggie regional and city-based groups are going well, with one or two exceptions due to our ageing membership and lack of critical numbers in certain locations through the State. Laurieton, which has been ably looked after by Alan Lee, appears to be in that category unfortunately. Whether the Laurieton luncheon continues or goes by the board, I would like to publicly acknowledge the terrific effort Alan has put in over the past years.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the other regional organisers of the Old Aggies and the executive office bearers who all work tirelessly behind the scenes during the year to run the association and organise the many luncheons that provide great camaraderie among a diverse group of former work colleagues, many of whom are considered life-long friends.

Happy Christmas to you all and I trust that 2016 brings good health, great wealth and lots of happiness ... especially good health!

- Frank Doughty
President

ORANGE LUNCHEON ATTRACTS 49

Thanks largely to hard-working Peter Witschi, the 13th Old Aggies Orange luncheon was held in mid October at the Eighteen70 Restaurant.

Guests travelled from near and far, including Bevan Sommerlad and Shirley Jamieson from Maclean, Jim Booth from Sydney, Marlene Ward from the Central Coast, Bob Sproule and Bill Muldrew, Peter Simpson and John Dymock from the Southern Tablelands, and Keith and Philippa Woodlands from Parkes.

Among the locals, it was lovely to have Sally Spence, Robin Vogler, David Michalk and Rob Napier join in the celebrations.

Peter Witschi reported over 50 apologies, including President Frank Doughty and Secretary Graham Linnegar who had significant family commitments on the day. Ken Hutton - a strong supporter and Patron of Old Aggies - sent good wishes to all.

Acknowledgements were made to Shirley Sugden for being nominated as Orange's Citizen of the Year for her tireless volunteer work, John Fisher, who bred a new Salvia plant which was awarded 3rd prize at this year's Chelsea Flower Show in the UK and Graeme and Louise Eggleston who once again organised a very successful Camp Quality Tractor Trek, which raised \$304,000 for the charity.

All in all a great social get together with former work colleagues and friends from all over the State. Next year's Orange luncheon is already locked in for Wednesday 12 October 2016 - 11:30 for sit down 12:30 at Eighteen70 Restaurant once again.



Frances and Peter Witschi and Dick Jane.



Graeme and Louise Eggleston.



Len Banks and Jim Booth.



Bob Colton and Bob Sproule.



John Dymock and Peter Simpson.



Mark Bristow and Christine Payne.



Ray Johnston, John Rumble and Ross Loebel.



Von and Ray Buxton.



Col Short and Peter Mooney.

NORTH COAST BRANCH CELEBRATIONS AT ALSTONVILLE

The North Coast Branch of Old Aggies had its annual get together at the Alstonville Bowling Club on Monday 21 September.

Geoff Jacobs reports a healthy roll up of 30 people which, while down on previous years, was still a good number and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere. Col and Barbara Short ventured north from Sydney as did Peter Mooney and Chris Ballantyne.

Alan and Val Lee travelled up from Old Bar, as well as Ray and Vonnie Buxton from Laurieton.

A few others travelled shorter distances from around "God's country" to enjoy the day and the company.

Next year's luncheon will be held on Monday 19 September 2016 at the same venue at this stage but if numbers are down, a venue change might be in order as the caterers need a minimum of 30 guests to open the kitchen. Geoff suggests the Federal Hotel in Alstonville might be an alternative.



Michael Jeffery and Graham Denning.

Congratulations to Margaret and Fred Benecke on the celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

GREAT ROLL UP FOR GOSFORD LUNCHEON

On Thursday 5 November Old Aggies who now live within striking distance of Gosford met at the Central Coast Leagues Club for our annual luncheon. Forty five members and wives was a record attendance for Gosford, especially considering 10 apologies the day prior, from members who for were not able to attend.

It was good to welcome Ray and Yvonne Buxton who travelled down from Laurieton for the day. Ray related many experiences about the purchase and operation of the Department's motor vehicle fleet in by-gone years. Some stories seem to get bigger and more fascinating as the years move on. Don Phillips accompanied by his wife Beth attended for the first time although he had retired to Point Clare some 20 years ago. I only became aware of this by a telephone conversation with John Wildman in Queensland who gave me Don's telephone number. It was great to meet up with Don and Beth after not seeing or hearing from them since 1994.

Bob and Margaret Martin also made the trip from Port Stephens to be with us for the day. Bob seemed to know everybody and in his usual manner conversed with many relating enjoyable events that occurred during his time in both the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries prior to his political career. Bob always adds colour to any gathering as he recalls events that occurred back to his college days. Ken and Marie Hutton always attend the Gosford luncheons but while they planned to be with us this year couldn't make it as Ken was in hospital with a severe chest infection. They were missed by all and we trust Ken makes a quick recovery. So good to see Frank Doughty, Graham Linnegar



Johnathan Eccles and Rod Roughley.



Beth and Don Phillips.



Yvonne and Ray Buxton.

and Col Short attending, after travelling up from Sydney by train. The day commenced at 11:00 am and ended at 3:00 pm. It was a great time of fellowship enjoyed by all in attendance.

- John Stone

Lotto win

Wife says to the husband: "What would you do if I won the Lotto?"

"I'd take my 50% and leave you," he answered.

"Terrific," she says. "Here's \$6, I won \$12 yesterday! On your way."

CAMERON ARCHER RETIRES

Dr A C (Cameron) Archer AM retired from duty in late September 2015, following a 40 year career with the department. Cameron is probably best known for his energetic and innovative educational leadership role as Principal of the C B Alexander Agricultural College Tocal, in the Hunter Valley.

In addition, he has played a pivotal role in the former Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture, the C B Alexander Foundation, Friends of Tocal, Tocal Students' Association, Tocal Ex-Students' Association, Tocal Field Days Association, the Belgenny Farm Trust and the Primary Industries Education Foundation of Australia. As well, Cameron has seen the conservation and promotion of the historic Tocal Homestead as a viable, commercial business, attracting tourists



from around the globe. His significant contribution to high quality agricultural education in New South Wales in particular, but also across Australia and overseas, has been nothing short of stellar. Job well done Cameron! A long, healthy and happy retirement wish from us all.

PUT ME IN CHARGE ... WRITTEN BY A 21 YEAR OLD AMERICAN WOMAN

Wow, this girl has a great plan! Extracted from the Waco Tribune Herald, Waco, Texas, USA.

.... PUT ME IN CHARGE....

Put me in charge of food stamps **no cash for Ding Dongs or Ho Ho's, just money for 50-pound bags of rice and beans, blocks of cheese and all the powdered milk you can haul away.** If you want steak and frozen pizza, then get a job....

Put me in charge of Medicaid. Then, we'll test recipients for drugs, alcohol, and nicotine. If you want to use drugs, alcohol, or smoke, then get a job....

Put me in charge of government housing. **Your "home" will be subject to inspections anytime and possessions will be inventoried.** If you want a plasma TV or Xbox 360, then get a job and your own place....

In addition, **you will either present a check (cheque) stub from a job each week or you will report to a "government" job. It may be cleaning the roadways of trash, painting and repairing public housing.** We will sell your 22-inch rims and low profile tires and your blasting stereo and speakers and put that money toward the "common good."

Before you write that I've violated someone's rights, realise that all of the above is voluntary. **If you want our money, accept our rules.**

If we are expected to pay for other people's mistakes we should at least attempt to make them learn from their bad choices. The current system rewards them for continuing to make bad choices. AND While you are on Gov't subsistence, **you no longer can VOTE! Yes, that is correct. For you to vote would be a conflict of interest.**

You will voluntarily remove yourself from voting while you are receiving a Gov't welfare check (cheque). If you want to vote, then get a job...

REMARKABLE OLD AGGIES GONE TOO SOON

DOUG MUMFORD - 1920-2015

It was sad to note the passing of well known and well liked Doug Mumford in June 2015. Doug graduated from the University of Sydney in 1945 with a degree in Veterinary Science. He joined the Department of Agriculture in 1950 and for 17 years was the Veterinary Inspector in four Pastures Protection Board Districts - Brewarrina, Bega, Bourke and Dubbo. In 1967 he transferred to head office in Sydney as Assistant Principal Veterinary Officer (Disease Control). Doug spent seven years in that position before serving as Deputy Chief and as Chief of the Division of Animal Industries and later as Chief of the Division of Animal Health, following the reorganisation of the Division. Doug retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1980, however he became a Trustee on the McGarvie Smith Institute in 1985 and retired from that position in 2003 and subsequently I was elected as his replacement as Institute Trustee. Doug Mumford was a true friend, colleague and mentor. - **Frank Doughty**

COLIN CARLIN

Colin Carlin passed away on 27 September 2015 - aged 92. Colin was one of the Agricultural Mechanisation Officers with the Department who worked at Yanco Agricultural Institute and other centres. He was a regular attendee at the Old Aggies luncheons in Wagga Wagga. Colin's wife Nadine was also a regular attendee at these luncheons.

One of Colin's great interests was the Wagga Wagga Historical Museum where he was the curator for a number of years and enjoyed restoring many historical mechanical items for display. A few years ago, Colin contributed over 2,000 different slides of his work and departmental activities. His funeral was held at Wagga Wagga in mid October. - **James Hamilton**

NOEL THOMAS DOUST 1923 - 2013

As a young man Noel worked on his family's farm Kyra just outside the township of Glen Innes. When World War II broke out he enlisted and served his country well in the 9th Division in the islands north of Australia, in the New Guinea region, Morotai and he experienced front line action in Borneo.

After his discharge from the army Noel returned to Glen Innes where he found work as a Farm Assistant with the Department of Agriculture on the Glen Innes Experiment Farm. He was appointed to the orchard section which at that time had a large pome and stone fruit orchard. He enjoyed working in the nursery section producing young fruit trees for experimental purposes throughout NSW. During this time he gained good experience in the production of a range of fruit crops. In 1952 he was appointed to the position as Fruit Inspector and was transferred to the district of Yenda in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area where he worked from the Griffith Office. Noel was well respected by the commercial fruit growers in the Yenda

(Noel Doust ctd.)

district. He provided good advice to them on the control of pests and diseases and also played an important role in quarantine responsibilities and inspection of fruit for export.

It was here that he met and married Claire Berecny and built their first home and raised three children Geoffrey, Kim and Mark.

In 1958 Noel was transferred to Gosford on the Central Coast where he continued to serve and advise commercial horticultural growers, particularly in the Mangrove Mountain and Somersby areas, until his retirement.

Upon his retirement Noel and Claire went onto a small acreage at Tumbi Umbi where he became well known for the high quality tomatoes he grew each year. The operation of this became more than Noel could manage and in 2011 they moved to the Mountainview Retirement Village at Dural where they could be closer to their daughter and her family.

There Noel celebrated his 90th birthday and the following year experienced a massive stroke and passed away on 19 March 2013. Noel is survived by his wife Claire, his children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild, Hayden who brought enormous joy to him in his final years.

ANTHONY (TONY) BLAKENEY

Tony Blakeney was born at Parkes in 1948 and spent much of his childhood on a sheep/wheat farm in the district. He attended Coradgery Public School and Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore). In 1970 Tony received a BSc.Agr. from the University of Sydney majoring in agricultural chemistry and in 1980 he gained a MSc.Agr from the same university. Initially Tony worked in the laboratory of Prof. B A Stone at La Trobe University, after which he was employed by the NSW Department of Agriculture at the BCRI Rydalmere initially and at the Yanco Agricultural Institute later in his career. During this time he was heavily involved with the selection and release of 15 rice varieties, many of which are still widely grown. Tony played an important role in opening the market for high quality Australian rice in Japan and in the sale of paella style rice in Spain. He also served with distinction for many years in the wheat and barley industries, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, as an Adjunct Professor in the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation and as a long-serving organiser of grain competitions for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

OLD AGGIES' SYDNEY LUNCHEON - TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015

I will attend the December 2015 Old Aggies' Luncheon to be held at the City of Sydney RSL Club, 565 George Street, Sydney and enclose \$35 cheque/money order, made payable to NSW Agriculture Retired Officers' Association.

11:30 am for fellowship - 12:30 pm for lunch

Please tear off this form and post it with your remittance to Col Short, 27 Chesterfield Road, Epping 2121 **to reach Col no later than 3 December 2015.**

