

OLD AGGIES

President: Frank Doughty, (02) 9481 8787, fdoughty@tpg.com.au
 Secretary: Graham Linnegar, (02) 9527 1830, helgra@linnegarplumbing.com.au
 Treasurer/Membership: Colin Short, (02) 9876 1018, cbshort@bigpond.com

Alstonville luncheon

15th September 2025, Cherry Street Sports Club. Contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or gajacobs@bigpond.com

Armidale/Tamworth luncheon

7th May 2025, Bendemeer Hotel – contact Dr Barbara Vanselow 0434 344992 or bvanselo@gmail.com

Gosford luncheon

5th November 2025. Venue TBA. Contact Geoff Warr (02) 4342 3226 or 0411128 936 or warries509@gmail.com

Orange luncheon

October 2025. Contact Len Banks 0428459117 or banks@lmbanks.com.au

Wagga Wagga luncheon

8th May 2025, contact James Hamilton 0447 225 875 or jnch1950_1@bigpond.com

Sydney luncheon

12th August 2025. Club Sydney, George Street. Contact Col Short, 9876 1018

Subscriptions \$10 per annum now due

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

From The Presidents Desk

Old Aggies celebrated 45 years on 3rd March 2025. I hope that 2025 brings peace, happiness and good health to all our members and their families.

At the AGM held recently the existing executive was re elected; Dr Frank Doughty , President; Graham Linnegar, Secretary; and Col Short. Treasurer and Membership.

Our group organisers continue to play a valuable role in arranging lunches and keeping the contact going so I would encourage you to keep in touch with your local members. The Old Aggies lunches are a great way to renew old friendships and get to know former colleagues from. the NSW Department of Agriculture/ Primary Industries.

Sadly, I have just been advised that Dr Graham Swain is undergoing palliative care at Richmond. He has problems with eating and swallowing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Del and family.

Dr Frank Doughty
President

Old Aggies

The Old Aggies, created 45 years ago from a thought bubble of Patrick Hanley, Sir Patrick as he was colloquially known, has been a great source of comradery and the renewal of friendships from a very different working life to the present. Roy Watts and Graham Edgar were the first patrons of the Old Aggies.

Over the years we have been fortunate to have had inputs from many ex-staff who have made great contributions to not only the Department but also continued serving the rural industries and the NSW community in their retirement.

The organisation was developed and strengthened by the efforts of many ex-staff, Fred Beneke, Jim Slater, Ernie Bragg, Earl Jones, Joy Clark, Sally Hodgkinson, Col Short, Col Begg to name a few that have come out of various divisions of the Department.

The rural industries also benefitted from the contributions that some of our ex-staff have made to the community since retirement. Fred Beneke continued his interest in the bee industry being involved in the Beekeepers Association for many years; Bob Colton was Secretary of the Orange Vignerons Association as well as the Oilseeds Industry; Martin Bellert was a major player in the Queensland Wide Bay recreational fishing; our President Frank has had a long involvement with various Animal Ethics Committees; Helen Scott Orr has made a great contribution to Australian biosecurity working with our near Asian countries and Bob Freebarn who has been a regular contributor to The Land newspaper, are

just a few that spring to mind. It would be really valuable to document these contributions before we forget as they are part of our history, not only of the Department but the rural industries. I would be delighted to include these articles in the Newsletter instead of finding out in obituaries when people have died.

In retrospect the culture of the Department of Agriculture and the close association that developed between staff, industry and individual farmers really fostered this service commitment which many have carried through into their retirement. Sadly the work situation has changed, with not only staff numbers in the DPI being significantly reduced through budget and program cuts and the divesting of many Advisory and Biosecurity responsibilities to Local Land Services, but with many staff now employed on short term contracts.

On a positive note, the new technologies now available in the agricultural industries and the instant communications now available has changed the work place. The rapid adoption of new varieties, better knowledge of genetics in both the plant and animal worlds and the increasing demand for clean foods whilst protecting the environment have led to a more productive and sophisticated industry. We need to maintain our personal communication and social skills so important in the past to ensure our rural communities remain viable in this rapidly changing world.

Trangie History

As we all well know there has been significant changes to the role and functions of our Research Stations across the state with reductions in staffing, contract research and privatisation of research and advisory roles. From being a focal point of many communities in the rural areas they are now seen as an isolated government office, an environmental resource, or community facility with only limited research activity.

Volunteers at the Narromine Local History are working to document the history and development of the Trangie Agricultural Research Centre. The Narromine Library has borrowed documents, maps, plans and photographs from the Station and copied with plans to digitise and index the material over time.

Trangie was one of the major in-service training stations for many research and advisory staff over the years and many of us would have many memories of our time there. I am sure that there are many photographs, anecdotes and stories that would add to the history of the Station particularly to the culture

and the contribution to the Trangie community. Sally Anderson Trangie ARC (1992-2014) is the contact if you have any material or memories that are of interest to the record.

Please contact Sally at i-sanderson@bigpond.com

Riverina/Murray Former Annual Luncheon

All people were welcomed to the 2024 luncheon held on 16th May 2024.

We especially welcomed Dr Jeff Evans, Dr Rod Mailer from Newcastle, & Dr Cedric May from Canberra, George Stevens from Yanco/Leeton, and John Bowler from Orange. We welcomed Norma Brown (worked at Ag college then Institute) and Joan Taylor (wife of Alan Taylor) to the luncheon. The annual luncheon was held in our normal location at the Thomas Blamey Tavern Lake Albert. There were 24 in attendance including 2 X Station Managers, & 2 X Directors of the Institute. There were 17 apologies. We welcomed new member Jeff Evans to the annual luncheon. Jeff presented an update on his activities during his working life and since retiring. We welcome back Professor Deirdre Lemerle, Dr David Luckett, Dr Rod Mailer, Peter & Lynette Olson, Eric Armstrong, and Rhonda Beecher.

The Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute held an Open day in October 2023 to celebrate 130 years. It was very well organised by Deb Slinger and the team. Various research aspects were on display for primary producers information as well as the general public. The bus tour of the farm was well received as it showed actual trial plots and other research features which was happening in the paddock. A time capsule was buried near the front entry sign. A large cake was cut by Dr Cedric May, Deb Slinger, Alison Bowman, and Peter Jessop (Manager). Congratulations to Deb Slinger and the WWAI team for a very successful day. The WWAI Director's annual summary of activities and events was read out to the gathering. The report was quite positive. Congratulations to Deb Slinger's leadership of WWAI.

George Stevens gave an update on Yanco Agricultural institute citing that rice research has ceased and that the YAI Director's position is vacant. George advised that YAI is a mere shadow of its former self. Professor Deirdre Lemerle was asked to give an update on her life history and sharing her experience of activities in Laos. The main article in the Daily Advertiser on 9th March 2024 was about Deirdre's educating the Lao people about weeds and how to use the weeds for animal fodder.

CSU digital farm held a summit in October 2023 attracting about 500 delegates. They examined various aspects of digital farming including automated spray units. The subject of drones was raised where the use of drones is increasing at a rapid rate. Approximately 700 Aussies are trained to fly drones. There are 98 companies licenced to sell drones. There are approximately 10,000 drones in operation in Australia.

Destination Riverina Murray has developed an Agritourism Strategy to guide and stimulate the development of agritourism across the region. This new Agritourism Strategy will provide significant opportunities for famers, tourism operators, and the wider community to capitalise on the Riverina Murray unique combination of agricultural and tourism assets including wine, food, fibre and natural attractions. The Agritourism Strategy has 4 strategic objectives. First – To build capacity across the regions local government & agritourism sectors. Second - focus support for agritourism development and marketing on emerging hub areas. Third – Develop lead agritourism on products to reflect brand & maximise the regional competitive agritourism on offer. Fourth – Lead the region's marketing.

James Hamilton
Coordinator

Vale: Robert 'Robin' Michael Vogler 1946 –2025

When NSW Agriculture relocated from Sydney to Orange in 1992, Robin was appointed to the newly created position of Building Manager, managing the Building Services Unit in the Department's new Head Office. The Department was extremely fortunate in recruiting such an experienced person as Robin. He had only recently immigrated to Australia from England.

Robin was born in Kent. His first job was a Junior Office Assistant. He set about studying Building Construction and Management. During his British career he managed various complex buildings and relocations across London including several major buildings for the Newspaper magnate Robert Maxwell. One of the complexities he faced was the IRA bombings in London. He had a love for Scouting and obtained the Chief Scout Award. In addition, at one stage he was appointed to the SES for his navigation skills obtained in the Scouting Movement.

Robin is survived by his wife, Jenny, and children, Andrew, Leanne, Naomi, Brett and 11 grandchildren.

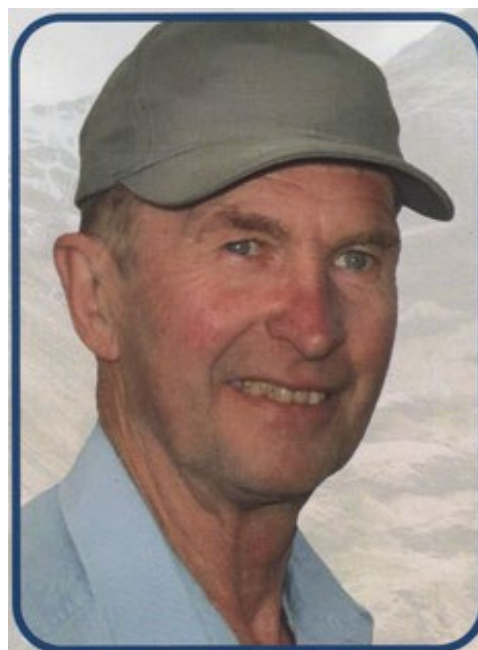
Chris Weale

Quietness can often be mistaken as shyness or weakness, but when quietness is coupled with conscientious morality, authenticity, kindness and precision. It is usually defined as the quality of a true gentleman and a strong person. Robin was a true gentleman and a strong person. Quiet in his manner Robin was a strong defender of his staff, fair and ethical in a busy area of the Department. It became clear very quickly to all his staff that they had a great leader, supervisor and boss.

As Building Manager Robin was responsible for the switchboard; when we had people who answered the phone, the Mail Room, cleaning, renovations and maintenance in a new building with more than a few problems. He was always crystal clear in what he wanted, and was kind and respectful to all, staff, contractors, tradies and visitors. Robin always had time to listen to his staff to discuss any issues and always dealt with it on a one to one basis. If the matter needed to be dealt with he handled it and nobody else would hear about it. He would analyse it and then decide whether it was the right thing to do or not. He had contact with many contractors, who often didn't agree with him or what he wanted but we never saw him angry or cross. I saw him handle a couple of very tricky episodes, but he never discussed it with his immediate staff.

I personally learnt a lot from Robin in those years I worked in the Building Management area. Just as an aside, Robin, being an Englishman, always knew the cricket score!

Andre White



Robin Vogler

Passing of Joan Taylor

Sad to report the passing of Joan Taylor, wife of Allan Taylor on 20th January 2025.

Joan was a great supporter of the work of the Department and regularly attended the Wagga luncheons.

Vale Neil Inall 1933 -2024

An icon of the Australian Agricultural Industries and a friend and mentor to many officers in the NSW Department of Agriculture, Neil Inall passed away in September 2024 aged 91 years.

Neil grew up on a mixed farm in the Hawkesbury and worked in the rural industries for three years before studying at Hawkesbury Agricultural College graduating in 1957. His leadership, vision and public speaking abilities were soon recognised, leaving a great legacy for the institution and future students. He remained a great advocate for Hawkesbury and maintained his involvement through the Alumni for many years

He joined the NSW Department of Agriculture as an Agronomist in the MIA before joining the ABC as a rural Reporter at 2CR Orange in 1962. Neil and another young rural reporter Alex Nichol initiated the program 'Always on Sunday' which was the precursor to Ian McNamara's 'Australia All Over'. Many Departmental Officers were coached and their work promoted in their interviews with Neil over this period as he was a great advocate for the work of the Department and the improvement of the agricultural industries and the rural communities.

Neil moved into Television in the 1970's hosting 'Countrywide' which was one of the first agricultural and rural affairs programs on TV. Neil left the ABC in 1983 establishing Cox Inall communications and public relations consultancy.

Neil remained committed to rural Australia, serving as the Chairman of the Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Committee where he played a significant role in assisting farmers through the severe droughts of the 1990's and demonstrated his empathy and ability to communicate with so many landholders in the farm visits assessing the eligibility of the different regions for Exceptional Circumstances assistance. He was a member of the Crawford Foundation for 20 years, playing a critical role in promoting extension, training and agricultural research. His commitment to the rural industries was recognised and was awarded Life Membership of the Agricultural Institute of Australia in 2021.

Neil was awarded his Ph D from University of Western Sydney which was the successor to Hawkesbury Agricultural College. for his thesis on

John Kerin a long serving Federal Minister for Agriculture under whose watch a number of major reforms to the rural industries occurred.

I remember Neil well, from my first nervous radio interview with him in about 1966, through having a great association with him during the Drought Exceptional Circumstances visitations during the 1990's. He was a wonderful communicator establishing instant rapport with people from all walks of life, with a great vision for rural Australia.

John Bowler



Neil Inall

Vale: David Ian Pickering 1947 - 2024

David commenced his career with the Department as an Assistant at Orange Agricultural Research and Veterinary Institute in the 1980's. He worked with Ewen Greer, Livestock Research Officer, in the 1980's. David was appointed as a Technical Officer when he completed an external Degree in Rural Science in the early 1990's. In this role he assisted various Research Scientists working on Biological Control of weeds, pasture and livestock research.

He was also instrumental in converting the Department's manual Metrological Observation Weather stations to 24-hour automatic weather stations during the early 2000's. During this time, he developed a close association with the Bureau of Metrology and after retirement developed an automatic evaporation pan which has been installed at all Bureau Weather Stations throughout Australia.

David will be best remembered in Agriculture for his work and passion in the Australian Cider Industry. He was the first Secretary of the Australian Cider Association and devoted his time outside the Department growing and researching heritage cider apples. He was awarded a Churchill Scholarship in 2001 travelling to England and France to study the

cider industry in those countries.
When David retired from the Department to his Cider Arboretum to continue his work in the Cider Industry.

Chris Wheale



David Pickering

Old Aggies Lunch 7/11/2024

Central Coast branch annual lunch was held at Gosford Leagues Club on Thursday November 7th. We had 18 members in attendance with 8 apologies. George and Joan Slennett were unfortunate apologies on the day as George was in hospital for observation. We wish him all the best for his recovery. Members enjoyed catching up with old friends over a meal and drink. Thanks to Graham Linnegar for attending and representing the Executive. Unfortunately Frank Doughty and Col Short were unable to attend. It's always important that our members hear about what is happening to the Department, although it has now got to the stage where we and I don't have any contacts in the restructured department.

Graham Linnegar spoke on the Orange lunch he attended, where the new department secretary Steve Orr attended and outlined the new department structure.

Allan Bell was the lucky door prize winner. Our next lunch for 2025 will be held on Wednesday November 5th 2025 starting at 11.30am, venue to be decided.

Thanks to all who attended.

Geoff Warr

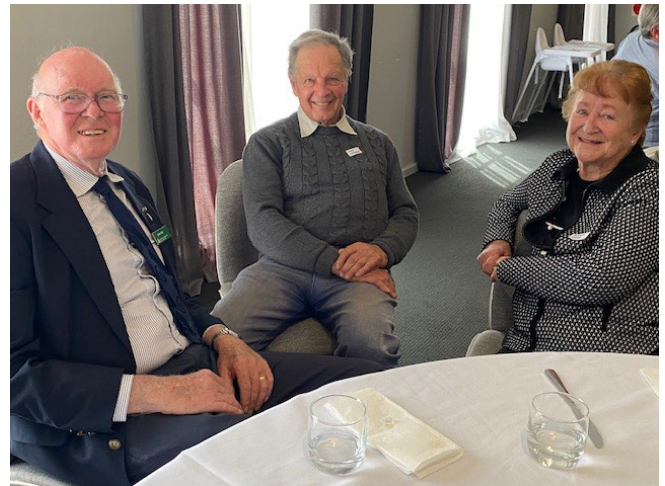
OLD Aggies Orange Luncheon 9th October 2024

Old Aggies from Orange, Millthorpe, Blayney, Dubbo, Bathurst, Boorowa, Mudgee, and Sydney gathered at

the Ambassador Motel in Orange for the 2024 annual luncheon. Representing most sectors of the Department over the years, the 48 attendees were privileged to hear from Steve Orr, Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Steve outlined the current structure of the Department, with one of the sections (headed by a Deputy Secretary) being Primary Industries – agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining. He acknowledged the challenges the current department faces in integrating research activity and findings with the extension services provided through Local Land Services (LLS), which are structured to provide a regional focus across 11 regions. LLS provides the agricultural, veterinary and pest management interaction with the rural community.

Old Aggies enjoyed the interaction with their past colleagues and were pleased to hear about others who could not make it to the event.

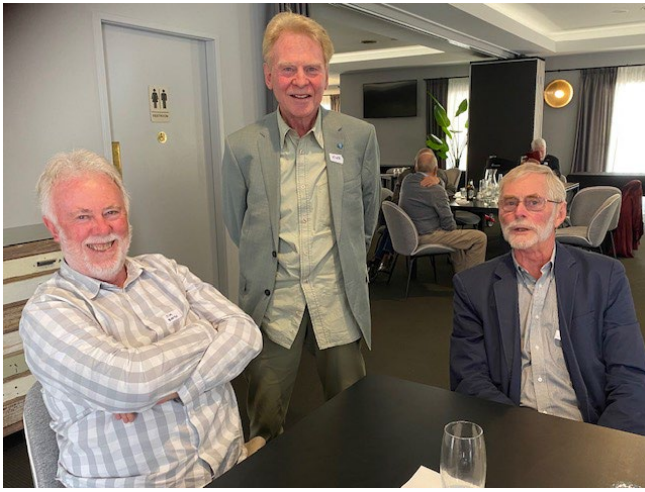
Len Banks



John Read, John Dymock and Roberta Read



Warren Jones, Bryn Jones (son) and Bruce Mackay



Jim Booth, Mike Curll, David Kemp

EXTENSION

Ken Fishpool.

A few days ago I attended the Old Aggies luncheon in Orange where the guest speaker Steve Orr spoke of employing some 60 persons to be extension officers in his portfolio. He is the senior public servant reporting to the minister and hence the NSW state parliament on services to the agricultural communities and farm enterprises through several organisations. He mentioned the extension officers would be attached to the Land Services group which historically is perceived as a Regulatory organisation. I write this note based on my experience over 40 years with NSW Agriculture firstly as a District Agronomist [Extension], then the first Agricultural Extension Specialist in Australia based in a Region, Regional Extension Manager, State Extension manager of 96 District Agronomists and Horticulturists in 57 locations across NSW. Extension is a discipline in its own right and those in Regulatory, Research, and Education within NSW Agriculture serve a primary role in a different way. What I write here I know there are “exceptions to the rule” and I will agree with you. People from research like Eric Corbin, Neil Fettell and Malcolm Campbell played a significant extension role in their chosen field. The Regulatory discipline has as its core function the adherence of the farming community and primary producers to the Laws and Regulations from the NSW and Commonwealth legislation. When Fisheries and Water Resources joined the Department of Agriculture in the 1970’s they had great difficulty in assimilating with the Extension function because of the underlying tenant of regulation in their function. Pasture Protection Boards, and their subsequent portfolio Land Services, core function and philosophy is regulation of the NSW and Commonwealth statutes. They are seen by the farming community as a regulatory body first and an extension organisation second.

Research plays a large role in the agriculture scene with its philosophy on the generation of new knowledge. This knowledge is shared between the broad scientific community, agricultural scientists, agricultural educational institutions, commercial agricultural suppliers, and other organisations and extension personnel. Their direct role in extension is less than their core responsibility to the scientific and educational community. The most successful research programmes for the farm enterprises and communities have been when there have been taskforce teams that combine the disciplines of research, extension, regulation and education. The Central West Wheat Nutrition Project, and the Cotton programmes from Narrabri Research Station come to mind.

Education through Agriculture Colleges in the past played a significant role in giving base agricultural qualifications to a group of students for farming, service organisations, and a path to higher qualifications for the agricultural sector. With the closure of most of these educational facilities the educational role has been filled to a lesser degree by TAFE. Higher Educational Institutions continue to provide services for graduate, master and doctoral qualifications. All these levels of qualifications are essential for a successful educational base of future agriculture in Australia

Now we come to the discipline of Extension. I define the discipline as a framework that facilitates the integration of knowledge and farm application to the benefit of farm communities and farm enterprises. Historically farm operators relied on a narrow spectrum of friends and contacts to enhance their farm operations. Modern technology means that farm operators have national and worldwide sources of information that can be applied to their farming operation. To service this situation the extension officer must:

Have a detailed knowledge of the specialist discipline, a close liaison to the regulatory and research information that impacts on that discipline, an association with the commercial suppliers and competitors for the provision of information, an understanding of the information channels, social networks, community influences and farm structures of the industry group.

I have seen many extension officers from NSW Agriculture with these skills: Fred Chalker, Paul Hassab, Bob Gulliford, John Kneipp, John Lacy, Harry Kemp to name a few. Old Aggies will think of others including some who were at the Orange luncheon. When I was completing a part time degree with psychology, sociology, and adult education

components I was asked why when you work in Agriculture. My reply was that “it is the farmer who makes the decisions not the sheep”.

I hope that others may have a differing view to my statements, and would welcome them, to expand this debate on the role of ‘extension’ to the agricultural farm community.

The Evolution and Challenges of Beekeeping in Australia

Bruce White OAM

Australia is home to around 49,000 registered beekeepers, including 514 commercial operators and 13,000 amateurs in New South Wales (NSW) alone. While the industry has shown remarkable resilience over the years, it continues to face significant challenges such as biosecurity risks and economic pressures. As someone who has spent decades immersed in the world of bees, I’ve had the privilege of witnessing the evolution of this industry firsthand.

My Journey in Apiculture

I began my career in apiculture in 1964 with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), dedicating 41 years to the field. My work spanned advisory, regulatory, and research roles across (Farrar Place, Orange, State Office block, Mc Kell building, Parramatta, Seven Hills, Windsor and Richmond.) Among my responsibilities were:

- Queen Bee Importation: Managing quarantined imports at Eastern Creek Quarantine Station.
- Sentinel Hives: Overseeing high-risk points of entry across NSW to detect exotic diseases early.

During this time, DPI had a robust network of apiary officers, and I had the pleasure of collaborating with notable colleagues like Neville Cutts, who resides with his wife near Hawkesbury Agricultural College. After retiring, I remained active in the industry, contributing to international aid projects, teaching Certificate III in Beekeeping, serving as Chief Honey Judge at the Royal Easter Show, and managing the State Governor’s apiary in Sydney. My contributions were honored in 2011 when I received the Order of Australia Medal.

Last year, I had the opportunity to present on Small Hive Beetles at the World Beekeeping Congress in Chile—a topic of growing concern for our industry.

Structural Changes in DPI’s Apiary Services

During my tenure, DPI unified advisory, research, and regulatory services under one management structure. However, this changed under Dr. Kevin Sheridan’s

leadership, when regulatory duties were separated. Today, fragmented silos for Advisory, Education, Biosecurity, Compliance, and Local Land Services create challenges for industry oversight. A committee formed under Minister Niall Blair when he was the Minister sought to bridge these gaps, and it still meets but confusion persists.

Advancements in Beekeeping

Beekeeping in Australia has largely been a family business. With the advent of larger trucks and innovations, the industry has become more dynamic:

- Technological Progress: Enhanced honey extraction methods, commercial queen breeding, plastic hive materials, remote hive monitoring, and improved loading equipment.
- Migratory Practices: Most commercial apiaries are migratory, moving up to six times annually to follow eucalypt flowering cycles and follow demand for commercial crop pollination. (eucalyptus accounts for 70% of nectar source) However, this increases biosecurity risks.
- Product Diversification: In addition to honey, hives now produce items like pollen production, royal jelly and bee venom, offering beekeepers diverse revenue streams.

Despite these advancements, low wholesale honey prices (\$4.60/kg), competition from imports, and rising production costs continue to strain the industry.

Tackling Biosecurity Threats

Over the years, I’ve witnessed several biosecurity threats:

1. European Foulbrood: First detected in South Australian hives migrating to Tilpa (NSW) in the late 1970s.
2. Chalkbrood: An airborne fungus likely introduced in 1995 through imported pollen or honey fed to bees.
3. Small Hive Beetle: Detected in Richmond, linked via DNA to South Africa, possibly introduced through soil contamination under a shipping container stored in the area during the Sydney Olympics, 2000. (Small hive beetles are also fruit pests.
4. After surveillance within a month all were declared endemic and management put into place

While we managed to detect and prevent Varroa mites on three separate occasions through quarantine, their eventual arrival in 2022 marked a turning point.

The Varroa Mite Crisis

The detection of Varroa mites in Newcastle in June 2022 sparked an unprecedented response. While initial efforts focused on eradication—destroying over 27,000 hives and setting up 1,100 feral bait stations—the scale of the infestation made this goal unattainable.

Eradication meant all feral, registered and non registered colonies had to be eradicated in infested area and colonies in flight range of infected colonies



Hives Eradicated, Wrapped in Black Plastic

The response became the largest multi-agent plant biosecurity response in Australia. While not achieving the aim of eradication it slowed the spread of the mites that in the next twelve months are expected to become endemic over the whole state and eventually other states. Victoria has recommended Varroa infected colonies be managed as Varroa has crossed the border into that state.

The shift to management practices has been challenging. Beekeepers now rely on chemical, mechanical, and cultural controls, much like their counterparts worldwide. Yet, the transition has been emotionally and financially draining. During training workshops and visiting beekeepers, I heard firsthand accounts of the strain beekeepers faced. One beekeeper in Kempsey shared how he had to deal with twelve different Varroa DPI staff at different times, each providing a different message. The eradication efforts were doomed from the outset due to the presence of unmanaged and feral colonies in remote areas and non compliant beekeepers and mites being present in colonies over a wide area in the Hunter area. DPI considered the mites had been present for twelve months before detection. Experienced retired apiary officers were not consulted during the response, further hampering efforts and none of the six took part in the eradication due to the large endemic mite infected area detected in the first month.

Varroa mites spread between colonies when bees come into contact during foraging or robbing infected hives, and when drones carrying mites drift between colonies and apiaries. The mites carried by bees travel several kilometers, spreading infestations across apiaries. In some cases, infected colonies can survive for years without treatment, as observed in Tonga, where the same mite-infested colonies persisted untreated over two years. This may indicate some level of natural resistance or tolerance in the bees.

Having visited Varroa-affected apiaries in over 20 countries, including major honey-producing nations like China, Russia, and Argentina, I believe Australia's beekeeping industry is resilient. Bees and beekeepers here will adapt, as they have elsewhere. Prior to retirement, I produced educational videos on Varroa and other exotic bee diseases with Phil Mc Lennan from the DPI media unit in Thailand funded by the Honeybee Research and Development Committee.

Lessons and the Road Ahead

The Varroa crisis has been a wake-up call, underscoring the importance of preparedness and adaptability. Workshops across Australia have equipped beekeepers with management strategies, and the government has funded development officers to support the transition till March. Looking ahead, *Tropilaelaps* mites pose an even greater threat than Varroa. Yet, I remain optimistic. This spring, 20% of package bee buyers were newcomers, a sign that interest in beekeeping remains strong.

A Legacy of Leadership

Beekeeping in Australia faces ongoing challenges, but its history of resilience and innovation gives me hope. From biosecurity threats to economic pressures, we've navigated turbulent times before. The future will undoubtedly demand collaboration, education, and research, but I'm confident the industry will thrive.

As someone who has devoted a lifetime to apiculture, I'm proud of the strides we've made and the foundation we've built for the next generation of beekeepers.