

# OLD AGGIES

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 Treasurer/Membership: Colin Short, (02) 9876 1018, [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com)

**Alstonville luncheon** – Thursday 15 September 2022, venue to be decided. Contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or [gajacobs@bigpond.com](mailto:gajacobs@bigpond.com)

**Armidale/Tamworth luncheon** – March 2022, Bendemeer Hotel – contact Dr Barbara Vanselow 0434 344 992 or [bvanselo@gmail.com](mailto:bvanselo@gmail.com)

**Gosford luncheon** – November 2022 – Central Coast Leagues Club – contact Geoff Warr (02) 4342 3226 or 0411 128 936 or [warries@optusnet.com.au](mailto:warries@optusnet.com.au)

**Laurieton luncheon (cancelled)** – Laurieton United Services' Club, contact Geoff Jacobs 0412 107 727 or [gajacobs@bigpond.com](mailto:gajacobs@bigpond.com)

**Orange luncheon** – October 2022, Best Western Ambassador Motel. Contact Len Banks (02) 6361 7677 or [banks@lmbanks.com.au](mailto:banks@lmbanks.com.au)

**Sydney luncheon** – Tuesday 14 December 2021, City of Sydney RSL Club, 11.30am. Contact Col Short (02) 9876 1018 or [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com)

**Wagga Wagga luncheon** – May 2022 – contact James Hamilton 0447 225 875 or [jnch1950\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:jnch1950_1@bigpond.com)

## Subscriptions \$10 per annum 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.

## From The President's Desk

2021 has been another challenging year for individuals and communities.

I hope 2022 will slowly bring us back to pre COVID times allowing us to hold our regional gatherings/luncheons. Old Aggie luncheons are a great way to renew friendships as well as get to know former colleagues from different sections of NSW Department of Agriculture. I encourage your continued support of our Association. Stay in touch with each other, stay safe and healthy.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Looking forward to catching up in 2022 when Old Aggies Association turns 40! – *Frank Doughty, President*

## Alstonville and Laurieton Luncheons

Alstonville next year will be programmed in for Thursday 15 September 2022 with the venue to be decided.

Unfortunately I won't be organising a function for Laurieton as it is too much of a task coordinating from up the Far North Coast so it would appear to be off the calendar unless someone in that area was agreeable to do it. **(If there is anyone in the Laurieton/Port Macquarie area that is able to take on the role to arrange a reunion lunch in that area please talk to Our President Frank or Geoff Jacobs).** *There is quite a large number of retirees in that area, Ed.)*

A group of Retired Admin. Officers are having their Annual First Tuesday get together at Great Southern Hotel in Sydney on Tuesday 7th December for any one that may be interested from 11am onwards – *Geoff Jacobs*

## Sydney Luncheon

Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at the City of Sydney RSL Club at 11.30 am. The cost is \$35 per head. Please fill in the attached form and mail it back to Col Short, 27 Chesterfield Road, Epping, NSW, 2121 or [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com) if you would like to attend. RSVP no later than Thursday, 9 December 2021. Payment (prior to the lunch) is by cheque made out to Agriculture Retired Officers Association or by direct deposit to the Commonwealth Bank BSB 06 2263 Account No. 00903542, Account Name Agriculture Retired Officers Association. Please add your surname.

☐ I/We will be attending the Sydney Lunch

☐ Please accept my apology

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

Surname.....

Please advise of any dietary requirements



## **Helen Scott-Orr** **AM PSM**

Congratulations to Helen Scott-Orr for being awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours. This was for "significant service to public administration,

to biosecurity, and to veterinary science." Helen thoroughly deserves this award in recognition of her numerous outstanding contributions and achievements.

This is Helen's second official award. She received a Public Service Medal (PSM) in 2010 for Outstanding Public Service to Agricultural and Veterinary Science.

Helen had a long and distinguished career with NSW Department of Primary Industries/ Agriculture with many impressive contributions. She has continued her contributions since leaving NSW DPI.

Helen completed a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (with Honours) at the University of Sydney. She then completed a Diploma in Bacteriology, Microbiology and Immunology through the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She was admitted as a member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in Epidemiology in 1988. She became a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors in 2005.

Helen is fluent in the Indonesian language and is well known for her numerous distinguished contributions in that country. She has a deep regard for the Indonesian people and is highly regarded in that country.

Helen was instrumental in the very successful eradication programs of both bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in NSW and Australia. The eradication of these diseases has resulted in long term benefits for the cattle industry.

She is a former Chief Veterinary Officer of New South Wales and Executive Director within the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

She is and has been a member of numerous high profile boards and committees including Animal Health Australia and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. She is an Honorary

Association Professor with the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney

After leaving NSW DPI, Helen served from July 2016 until July 2019, as the Inspector-General of Biosecurity, a statutory body under the federal agriculture portfolio. Helen has always recognised the need for biosecurity to keep our farming and natural environments safe.

Probably one of Helen's greatest achievements is her ability to encourage and develop the numerous people she has worked with over the years. Her approach is always one of kindness, generosity and support and there are many people whose careers have progressed thanks to the guidance provided by Helen.

Helen is currently working with a group of former Chief Veterinary Officers and Senior Government veterinarians from all over Australia to encourage more action on climate change.

Helen lives with her husband Tim in Millthorpe –  
*Ian Roth and Dick Jane*

## **Barry McLeary news**



Barry McLeary, previously employed with NSW Agriculture as a Biochemist at BCRI from 1975 to 1988, has contacted us, appreciating the news of the 'Old Aggies'.

Barry worked on a range of projects at BCRI culminating in developing the still used world standard for Beta glucan,

a quality parameter in barley and malt. He was awarded his Doctor of Science degree for this work by the University of Sydney.

After leaving the Department in 1988 he set up his private research company Megazyme and became involved in various international consultancies.

After selling out and retiring in January 2021 Barry has written up an outline of his work and experiences. The article is a bit long for the Newsletter but is an interesting story and further validates the great training and opportunities that the work of the Department provided for the bigger stage of the world agricultural industries.

Barry's article is available on our website at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/old-aggies>

## Report on NSW Department of Primary Industries, Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute, June 2021

WWAI continues to support 140 staff and has seen some major investment into the site as viewed by the Former Aggies at lunch in May 2021.

The front office reception has increased security but also a facelift with the new gardens to resembling experimental trials but with perennial plants NOT annual crop plants like the architect requested. New driveway, parking and truck turning delivery zone has increased the safety in that area. Plus new carpet, painting and furniture has brought the area into this century. The ladies in reception are enjoying the new fresh environment and it is far more functional than previous design.

The molecular lab now officially named the Agriculture Gene Technology Centre has seen a redesign of the internal labs and added growth chambers and new gene technology equipment to place NSW DPI in a position to apply for gene technology projects. This will be a great asset for the prebreeding, pathology, pest and diseases areas.

The Bilateral Agreement with Grains RDC has allowed the co-investment with NSW DPI into the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Research Facility (also known as Deb's Barn) that is purpose built to bring the functional technical areas of the Institute together in one building. Since taking the role of Institute Director in 2011 I have been trying to find a way to pull together all the technical staff out of the numerous sheds into one purpose-built facility and finally have achieved it! The Barn has growth rooms, staff amenities, open plan processing areas, data room, microscope & equipment room, dehydrator rooms, plant threshing rooms, seed cleaning rooms, a quarantine room, freezers, cold storage rooms and large storage areas. The staff are moving in now and we are sorting out any issues and what other equipment we need to purchase as this happens. But overall it has been well accepted as a new climate controlled, safe place for them to work. The official Ministerial opening was planned for September 2021.

The pastures group has also been fortunate to have funds available from treasury to refurbish the area behind the current pastures shed with new cold storage and equipment areas.

Covid 19, bushfires, drought and flood have taken a major toll on the NSW Government over the past twelve to eighteen months and we do expect that treasury will be careful with expenditure over the next few years.

External projects are still being developed by researchers and co-investment continues from RDCs. With the improvements on the WWAI site we hope to draw further research and development and commercial work to the site. The feed lab, oils lab, cereal chem and pathology laboratories have many external clients that they assist every year, and this does not look like slowing down. The value of stock ensures that feed is tested regularly, the oil industries are growing in size and value and there is never a shortage of pests and diseases to contend with even in the best of years.

It was wonderful to catch up with the Former Aggies lunch recently at the WWAI. I hope that you all enjoyed the tour and the changes that have occurred the past few years – *Deb Slinger, Director*



*Phil Bowden, Wagga Wagga and the historic olive oil container.*

## Vale Eric Kime

I regret to advise of the passing of our sub-Branch member Eric Kime, a former executive of the Sydney Produce Markets Authority. Eric was 96 years of age when he passed away last week at the Northern Beaches Hospital. His wife had predeceased him many years prior. A small family funeral was held for him on 10th August, 2021 at the Sydney Northern Suburbs Crematorium which I was able to view on-line.

I remembered Eric's role at the markets where I worked on occasions as an Inspector, Farm Produce Agents Act during the late 1970s. Eric served as a RAAF radio operator in the SW Pacific area during WW2 and later, BCOF, Japan and was a long term and respected member of the Dee Why RSL sub-Branch. Lest we Forget – *Old Aggie Christopher J Ballantine JP, Secretary, Dee Why RSL sub-Branch*

## Riverina & Murray 2021 Report

It was a great occasion to return to our old stamping ground (for most members of the former Aggies) at the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute. It was the first occasion to get together for our annual luncheon since 2019 because of COVID19.

We welcomed 30 former Aggies plus 10 staff to our annual luncheon BBQ style at the Institute on Thursday 13th May. The day was sunny so allowed us to enjoy the courtyard of "A" Block to conduct the BBQ lunch and give updates on happenings in Agriculture and the Institute over the past 12 months.

We welcomed people from Canberra, Leeton/Yanco, and Castlemaine. We welcomed Rod Mailer (May 1979–?) and Kerry Taylor (December 1974 to 2018) as first timers to our luncheon. We welcomed three former Directors of the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute (Professor Ted Wolfe March 1981 to December 1982), Dr Keith Helyar (January 1999 to June 2003), and Dr Cedric May (January 1993 to February 1999), a former OIC of the Wagga Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Dr Ian Links (around 1993 to 1996), and two former Managers of other locations (Steve Sweet, Temora and George Stevens, Yanco AI). A warm welcome was extended to all members at the luncheon, including Deb Slinger current Director of the Institute and Peter Jessop, current Manager of the Institute, and staff.

Updates – New Head Office in Orange named the Ian Armstrong Building celebrating 130 years of NSW Agriculture department formed in 1890. Wagga Wagga Experimental Station was established two years later in 1892. The first intake of Agricultural students at Wagga Wagga occurred in 1896 with 12 students. Also, a number of olive trees were planted in the winery area in the same year.

Professor Ted Wolfe gave an update on the history of the Institute detailing how effective the Institute over many decades achieving outcomes to benefitting the farming fraternity, the general community at large, and Australia wide. Ted reflected on how the staff working at the Institute worked as team supporting each other, how innovative and progressive they were and still are in accomplishing outcomes and, also, discovering new techniques in various facets of research in the process. Ted expressed his appreciation of having worked with the team at the Institute and his continued long-term association with the Institute through the Graham Centre and other organisations.

Phil Bowden gave account of the history of the olive oil container.

NSW Old Aggies Association has now been operating for 39 years. Pat Hanley asked me to become involved with the Association in the late 1980's early 1990's. The Association was the brainchild of Pat Hanley. The Association is a great way to keep in contact with former fellow work colleagues and to keep abreast of what is happening in the Agriculture in NSW.

After the dry period of three years and bush fires, 2020 was a good season for the farming community despite the COVID19 crisis. The harvest was above expectation coupled with good prices even with China placing tariffs on some Australian Agricultural products. 2021 is shaping up to be the biggest winter crop in the nation's history with strong rainfall, high global prices outweighing the mice plague. It is estimated that 23 million hectares will be planted with crops this season with crop production to be 46.8 million tonnes which will be 13% above the nation's 10-year average. The mice plague in NSW and Qld will increase costs to farmers in the form of loss of contaminated or eaten agricultural commodities and bait control.

Agripark (Science & Business Park) aspect was discussed which involves using the Graham Building as its base. CSU is to embark on a \$14 million expansion of its Agripark with the purpose of increasing agricultural innovations. Up to 500 jobs will be generated in the construction phase with the expansion a further 420 positions will be created over 10 years.

Graham Centre (housed in "C" block) resources has decreased due to the reduction in financial support by CSU, due to their declining financial situation. A number of factors included blended courses and the pandemic.

After lunch and the formalities, Deb led the group to the expanded Gene Laboratory Centre and then onto a new multi-purpose research facility which will be housing most aspects of research under the one roof (refer to Deb's summary report for more detail). Former Aggies were very impressed with the new facilities.

Thank you to Brian Reid (November 1974 to January 1990) for numerous photos taken during the luncheon.

Big thank you to Deb for her efforts in organising the day for us former Aggies. Deb your efforts and friendship are fully appreciated by all.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 10am, currently at the Rules Club in Wagga Wagga – *James Hamilton, Riverina & Murray Regional Coordinator, Wagga Wagga.*

## Vale Bryan Patrick Mullins



Born 8 December 1927.

Bryan sadly passed away on 26 August 2021.

Many will remember Bryan as a valued member of the Department in the Dairy Industry for over 30 years with his experience extending over many areas of the State.

He lived his early years in the Riverina with his schooling close by to Wagga.

He then attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College where he graduated with a Diploma in Dairy Technology with his first appointment at Albury with Habberfield Dairy Company.

This was followed by appointment in the Dairy Division of the Department with successive locations at Bega, Casino then back to Hawkesbury as lecturer.

He then transferred to Deniliquin and then to Windsor as District Dairy Officer with locations at Parramatta and Windsor.

He was then promoted to Principal Dairy Officer at Head Office and following demise of the Division as Principal Officer (Extension) with the Division of Animal Production.

Bryan then resigned to extend his career as a private advisor with this involving the Riverina, Broken Hill, Armidale and short 'stays' in Pakistan and Afghanistan (Kabul).

Bryan's community experience include a member and then Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Windsor Hospital .

For many years Bryan was a regular attendee at the Old Aggies Dinners held in Sydney – *Notes provided by Dave Heptonstall*

## Letter from David Mason

I am somewhat saddened to learn of the passing of three men I highly regarded. Bob Sproule, Clarrie Beckingham and John Betts. I got to know John when I was manager of the Sri Lankan project he was engaged on as project agronomist back in the mid 1980's. I can still picture the look on his face as he entered the calamitous Colombo airport building after alighting from the aircraft from Australia. He indeed was very accommodating and a true gentleman. We had lots of laughs. A funny story – the Sri Lankan people tend to take things said in English very literally. The day after John arrived and was settled into the rest house which was part of our Colombo office I took him for a beer at the famous Galle Face Hotel overlooking the sea in Colombo. We were sitting in a very elegant part of the hotel – beautiful leather chairs etc. – and the waiter came over and asked us what we would like to drink. John said he would have a beer and I said I would have one too. John got one and I got two – *Regards David Mason*

*David Mason has recently caught up with the 'Old Aggies' and has provided a great story of some of his experiences in Sri Lanka whilst working on a Rural Development Project. It is a bit long to include in the Newsletter but it is attached to the NSW DPI website for those interested in the 'The Crow Wars' – great tale of Australian pragmatism, Buddhist beliefs and the native crow population. Go to <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/old-aggies> (Ed).*

## Vale John Britton

Just wanted let you know that Dad (John Britton) passed away quietly on 10/03/2021.

He was 89 (dob 16/12/1931). His health had deteriorated significantly in the last few years.

John transferred from Rural Youth to Agriculture and was an agronomist on the north coast of NSW – *Information from daughter, Kim Gorman*

## Vale Geoff Roddom

Geoff Roddom Died 31 Dec 2020 after a long illness with mesothelioma from contact with asbestos in his earlier profession in the roofing industry. After suffering back problems Geoff looked for other employment and worked as a cleaner for the last three or four years before his retirement at Gosford Agricultural Research Station, where his wife Marg was also employed. Geoff and Marg were married for 53 years.

## James Alexander Murison

25 December 1946 – 2 October 2021



Jim was born in 1946 and spent his early life in New Guinea and Townsville. Jim went to the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton. The three years there (1963–5) were seminal for Jim. In retrospect, it seems an unusual choice for a young man from

industrial and arid Townsville to be drawn to agriculture but it worked for him.

His first job was with a sugar mill at Macknade, near Ingham, in 1966.

Looking to improve himself, he scored a job with the NSW Dept of Agriculture in 1968 as a trainee district horticulturist. This involved shifting around to learn the ropes and postings to Bathurst, Griffith, Alstonville, Dareton, Lismore.

New opportunities drew him to Maitland, then Gosford, and finally head office in Sydney. As a district horticulturist at Gosford, he was acutely aware of how arable land was being replaced by urban sprawl. He was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1985 to investigate how this issue was being managed in Europe and the US.

Whilst at Maitland he was an avid surfer at Nelson Bay and his visits there led to his meeting Penny. They married in March 1983. Jim was 36 then and set in his ways. Penny, Rachel and Kane were the perfect family to 'civilize' him.

Moving on, he accepted another opportunity as a manager at Flemington markets for a year. As his scope of the vegetable industries broadened, he was drawn to Agsell in Sydney.

The job required finding markets for NSW produce. This entailed travelling to, and making connections, in Japan, Korea and Europe. He thrived in this role. Ado Zanella describes their collaboration during this episode.

In retirement, Jim took up beekeeping. His honey was choice and he gained a lot of enjoyment in sharing it with friends and became involved with Landcare.

He also maintained his horticultural background and judged vegetables at the Royal Easter Show for over 20 years. The show was a highlight of his year

when he reacquainted with exhibitors from around NSW and fellow judges.

Jim collected a comprehensive, eclectic library. His nephew, Greg, would avidly dive in to the books on diverse topics like The Voyager spacecraft, launched in 1977 and Shipton's Arch, near Kashgar. Jim observed this and each year he gave Greg, (son of Mary and Rob) and Julie (daughter of Mary and Rob) a year's subscription to National Geographic.

## Recollections of Jim

### From John Baker, workmate, Memories from Murwillumbah

Jim and I worked together in Murwillumbah in the early '70s as horticulturists with the Department of Agriculture – Jim was the fruit specialist and I covered vegetables. We shared numerous interests, including communication with farmers and the wider community. This led us to establish a very successful weekly three-page feature in the local "Daily News". We then expanded our efforts with a fortnightly one-page feature in the regional "Northern Star". Only recently Jim and I reminisced about our time together in Murwillumbah and how being so far from head office, we were able to do our own thing with farmers.

Socialising together and rugby union were also common bonds. Long-term friendships with people like Graham Anderson, Alan Smith and Wendy Morrison and my wife Jacquie started in Murwillumbah, almost 50 years ago. The rugby bond was reignited in the mid '90s when a group of us (Jim, Ado Zanella, Mike Titley, Tony Biggs and myself) became members of NSW Rugby Union and went to Waratahs and Wallabies matches, in good times and not so good.

### Dean Hayes, workmate

I worked in the same Department of Agriculture office as Jim for over 10 years. My friendship with Jim started in the mid nineteen nineties when we were both based in the Liverpool Street, Sydney office. We both agree that our time in that Sydney office was the best part of our working lives. Today you would refer to that particular office as a 'hotspot' because it regularly had visitors from all over the place coming through the doors, including from overseas. A favourite pastime for both Jim and I was studying some of the behaviour patterns of our regular departmental visitors, which included the ones that always turned up on the eve of the Mardi Gras parade. On any social occasion Jim would only ever have one or two drinks at most. There

was one exception though, and this was a Xmas get together involving the minister's office, who we shared the office space with, where Jim drank every drink that was handed to him and also helped himself in between. Although our unofficial boss, Carmel, was not too impressed with Jim, I thought he did fantastic, and his performance at that Xmas function was the highlight for the year. The next day I remember Jim saying 'I feel that crook, I can hardly even read my Herald'. Jim retired 15 years ago and kept in touch, he will be missed.

### **Ado Zanella, workmate**

Jim in the 1990's became head of Agriculture's Marketing and Export Unit, Agsell. In this position Jim was able to use his technical skills to develop potential new industries. Through his extensive travels to Japan he was involved in areas as diverse as Asian vegetables, green tea and various grains. His personal rapport with customers in Asia opened many doors and led to long standing friendships.

### **A simple system of research to assist trainee agronomists**

I joined the Department of Agriculture in 1964 as a Trainee when I was studying Rural Science at Armidale. When I graduated I commenced my career working as a research agronomist at the Leeton Agricultural Research Station. My position was as a Research Agronomist working on pasture improvement. Later I was transferred to Berry to conduct research on pastures for the dairy farmers. After the Second World War pasture seed supply was low and considerable attention was paid to seed production and seed quality. During the 1950s the application of superphosphate and planting subterranean clover was becoming common practice. Although breeding pasture plants was not undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, testing imported varieties and a range of different grasses and legumes was undertaken at the Experiment farms throughout the State. District agronomists undertook their own demonstrations and trials. In 1955 agronomists reported that most of their work was about pasture improvement. Much of this work was establishing demonstration plots. In 1957 there were more than 100 throughout the State.

Two men from Head Office provide supervision, Tommy Atkinson (Principal Agronomist, Pastures) and his deputy, Milton Walker. I came to respect both men for their broad knowledge and experience with pastures and their management styles.

I soon learnt they both had unusual styles that were not always respected or understood by other

Head Office people. Milton was adept at forming acronyms for projects. Examples were SCAR (South Coast Agriculture Research Council) and SCARE (a complementary organisation, South Coast Agriculture Research and Extension council). Another state-wide program was UPSET (Uniform Pasture Survey Extension Trials)

UPSET initiated by the Pasture Section involved developing ready to plant seed packets of various pasture species and varieties ready to plant by agronomists in uniform plot sizes throughout the State.

The types of trials included legumes, grasses with instruction about the size of plots and how to manage them and collect yield data. Each year the various trials were advertised and agronomists submitted their requirements in December. When all the requests were received Head Office staff set about packaging the kits and sending them out early in the next year. Trainee agronomists were roped in to help so in a room set apart in the Farrer Place Head Office, a mini factory production line was established. Those roped in were able to learn who was who in HO and more about each species and variety. At the time it was tedious work and many worked begrudgingly yet later appreciated the knowledge and the contacts gained. The kits were despatched to agronomists and they established the experiments/demonstrations in their districts and each year submitted their results. Milton was involved in collating the results and providing reports about the varieties that suited the various district conditions. Later the trials included fertiliser trials.

Sadly Milton died in the Granville train crash in 1977 and we lost a great man who was poorly understood by many in Head Office – *John Read*

### **Vale Joyce McDonald**

Sadly we learnt recently of the passing of Joyce McDonald in mid-2019. Most of you may remember Joyce who was the Executive Secretary of the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture. She worked for Dr Kevin Sheridan from 1988–1991 and before then for George Knowles from 1980–1987. Prior to this role she worked for Doug Mumford, Chief of the Division of Animal Industries. Joyce retired from the Department just prior to the Head Office move to Orange and then moved to a retirement village in Kiama. We remember Joyce fondly as a lovely, friendly and always pleasant lady and a very professional, outstanding and exceptional role model for all the Secretaries of the Department. She was highly respected and admired by all – *Carmel Romano*

## Vale Dr Stephen Goodwin



Stephen Goodwin and wife Marilyn Steiner

*Courtesy of Coast Community News, 16 July 2021*

Dr Stephen Goodwin, died 9 July in Harbison's Care Home at Moss Vale in the Southern Highlands.

He was born in Hull, England, in 1946 and migrated with his parents and younger brother David to New Zealand when he was eight.

In 1971, he moved to Australia to pursue a PhD at La Trobe University in Melbourne.

Much of his working life was spent in Gosford with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, working as an entomologist in viticulture and later in protected cropping when western flower thrips arrived to devastate the industry in the early 1990s.

In 1993 he met and later married Marilyn Steiner, a Canadian entomologist researching natural enemies for thrips and other greenhouse pests.

As a team, they worked very closely with the protected cropping industry and had many collaborations with overseas researchers, particularly those active in Biological Control methods.

Their output included technical manuals, IPM courses, research papers, and many articles, notably in *Practical Hydroponics & Greenhouses* magazine.

They were successful in the global commercialisation of two Australian natural enemies effective against thrips, through their long collaboration with Biological Services insectary in Loxton, SA.

On retiring in 2007, they became involved in two local garden clubs, Kulnura & District Garden Club and Matcham Garden Club. Stephen founded Plant Lovers Fair at Kariong in 2013 and ran it very successfully for three years.

In December 2020, he was awarded the Garden Clubs of Australia's Ann Williams Clark Medallion for his contributions to gardening.

The couple joined the Mountain Districts Association and became involved in environmental activity opposing coal seam gas and land fill. He was instrumental in bringing the ABC *Four Corners* program to focus on waste management.

Goodwin was passionate about protecting the environment and doing the right thing by the community.

He had an innate grasp of political issues, was an excellent organiser and motivator, and worked tirelessly to achieve a just outcome.

As a result of Stephen's rapidly declining health, he and Marilyn downsized to the Southern Highlands in September 2020 for better access to palliative care services.

Stephen will be much missed by his wife Marilyn, children Nicholas and Alison, and grandchildren Isabelle, Finn, Lachlan, Tye and Charlotte – *Marilyn Steiner*

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### Updated Mailing List

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

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