The Hawkesbury Foundation Spreads its wings!

by Brian Lindsay ~ Chairman of the UWS-Hawkesbury Foundation.

(2007 was a busy and productive year for the Hawkesbury Foundation. We were able to grow our activities and support base for the Campus, its staff and students. Two new Directors were elected last year... Maggie Kable and Craig Miller. I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to George Bennett, who retired as a Director after serving the Foundation for nearly 15 years.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Total income in 2007 amounted to $775,000, which represents 11% of income, giving an operating surplus of $668,000. We transferred $360,000 to UWS Hawkesbury in the form of donations and support payments and the remaining funds were retained by the Foundation to build reserves. As at end December 2007, the market value of the Foundation’s fund holdings totalled $4.2 million.

THE YEAR IN OVERVIEW

The Hawkesbury Foundation continues to be a volunteer driven organization. We have no paid fundraising or support staff and we rely on the willingness of Board members and supporters to give freely of their time and energy. Early in the year the Board completed a review of our Mission, Objectives, Structure and Forward Plans. In addition to Sub Committees for Finance and Investments, Fundraising and Support, and Scholarships and Awards we now have a Promotion and Marketing SubCommittee. Neil Inall will chair the new SubCommittee and its activities will be designed to further lift the profile of the Hawkesbury Campus of U.W.S.

Our fundraising activities continued to be strongly promoted throughout 2007, a number of new donors came on board, and a number of our existing supporters agreed to extend their support. In total, $181,000 in donations and forward pledges were obtained in the year.

We continued to fund a range of student scholarships and prizes, to fund the Vincent Fairfax Chair in Agriculture and part fund the lecturer in Supply Chain Management. The F.G. Swain Post Graduate Research Award continued and a number of Research Projects were also supported. New funding initiatives included:

❖ Three new student scholarships and two new prizes were introduced and will be awarded in 2008 for the first time;
❖ Sponsorship of the School of Natural Science Seminar Series;
❖ Project funding for the establishment of a Vegetable Trial facility adjacent to the existing Horticulture growing plots. The facility will be operated by the Department of Primary Industries, further building on existing industry linkages.

Of major significance in 2007 was a review of the Vincent Fairfax Chair in Agriculture. The long-term occupant of the Chair, Professor Peter Cornish, retired in mid 2007. The Foundation took the opportunity to consult the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation regarding the Chair’s focus and the recruitment of a replacement Professor. Following this the Foundation consulted with senior UWS Management to finalise a revised position description for the Chair. In November 2007, the Hawkesbury Foundation hosted an on campus luncheon attended by representatives of the Fairfax Foundation and UWS Management, to finalise discussions regarding the recruitment strategy for the position. It has been retitled as the Vincent Fairfax Chair in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and at year’s end an international recruitment process was underway.

2007 ACTIVITIES

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES.

The Foundations Scholarships were publicised via the UWS Scholarship publication “A Flying Start”. It goes to all NSW High Schools and is also available via the UWS Web site. The Foundation-managed scholarships are:

❖ Vincent Fairfax Foundation Scholarships in agriculture, animal science or environmental science
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- targeted at first year students from rural Australia;
- Rabobank Scholarship in agriculture or animal science – targeted at first year students from rural Australia;
- Neville Amy Scholarship in agriculture or animal science – targeted at first year students from any area of Australia;
- Glider Nursing Scholarships - two scholarships for returning students studying nursing at Hawkesbury Campus;
- Baulkham Hills Shire Council Scholarship – targeted at first year students studying any course at Hawkesbury;
- Hawkesbury Rugby Club Scholarship (administered on behalf of the Rugby Club);
- 4 Residential Scholarships for senior year students living in the Hawkesbury Halls of Residence.

The value of most Foundation scholarships is now set at an annual sum of $5,000.

It is pleasing that all of the 2007 scholarship holders achieved good academic results.

Three new scholarships were established: The Kable Family Scholarship (for Horticulture) and the Hawkesbury Foundation Scholarship (for Food Sciences), which will both be awarded for the first time in 2008. The Foundation Scholarship has been funded from the Stable Square paver project. The Vinery Stud donated the third new scholarship in late 2007, and it is targeted at an Animal science student with an equine major.

In 2007 the Foundation agreed to take responsibility for the management of the Lorna Byrne Leadership award and the related Trust Fund corpus of $7,000. Income from the corpus will fund the sponsorship of a Hawkesbury student into a Rotary Youth leadership course each year.

Late in the year the Foundation entered into a partnership arrangement with the Country Education Foundation, involving joint sponsorship of rural based students into selected courses at Hawkesbury. The Hawkesbury Foundation has pledged scholarship funding of up to $15,000 p.a. for students selected by the Country Education Foundation who enrol in Hawkesbury Courses.

F.G. SWAIN RESEARCH AWARD

The Foundation Trust again provided $15,000 to support post graduate research at Hawkesbury. The 2007 award was won by Michelle Ryan whose PhD is entitled “Threats to the long term viability of the eastern long neck turtle”.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

These included a $65,000 infrastructure project involving the establishment of the vegetable trial facility on Campus in the Yarramundi Paddocks. This project will be operated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and will allow local growers to study results of different plantings and irrigation methods (see article in December 07 issue). The Foundation also jointly funded a $56,000 research project linked to the impact of treated effluent on storage biodiversity. This project was seen as particularly relevant given the Foundation’s involvement in the earlier Hawkesbury Water Re-use Project, which resulted in both stormwater run off and treated effluent being used to irrigate the campus.

CONFOCAL MICROSCOPE

It gives me great pleasure to report that the new, state of the art, confocal microscope, which arrived on Campus in late 2006, was officially opened as part of the Science in the Suburbs program in late 2007. This cutting edge equipment will allow the Hawkesbury Campus to be part of a National Imaging Centre and to be a world leader in non-medical imaging (for more info, see the December 07 issue).

PROMOTION AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES

Foundation Directors attended a number of Field Days (including Tocal and Orange) and were also involved with a number of on campus promotions. These included sponsorship of the 2007 Ag Camp and assistance with the initial “Science in the Suburbs” program held on Campus, which attracted over 1000 school students to Hawkesbury. It is hoped that Science in the Suburbs will become an annual event at the campus. The Foundation continued to support the production and distribution of the Hawkesbury Journal. This is now a joint publication of HAC (the Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter) and the Foundation, with each organization funding half the costs. Three editions of the Hawkesbury Journal were produced in 2007 and it is planned to ensure regular production and distribution of this publication.

The Foundation also conducted a number of Campus Tours for visiting Groups. The “self guided” history tour of the Hawkesbury Campus continued to be promoted. The tour is available on the
UWS Web at http://www.uws.edu.au/about/locations

The Foundation also hosted several on Campus afternoon teas in Stable Square as part of the paver laying ceremonies.

**FUNDRAISING**

The Fundraising Sub Committee, under the Chairmanship of Bruce Maltman, continued to actively promote the Hawkesbury Special Supporters appeal and the Stable Square Paver project. In 2007 we generated a total of $126,000 in new donations and $55,000 in forward pledges. A listing of donors is given as part of the Foundations Annual report and we gratefully acknowledge their support.

**FOUNDATION FUNDS POSITION**

The Foundation will continue to manage its portfolio with the objective of building its 4.2 million dollar corpus, as well as supporting the many established initiatives, via annual transfer of funds to UWS. The Finance and Investments Sub Committee, under the Chairmanship of Neil Dobbin, continues to very effectively manage the Foundation’s portfolio within the broad guidelines established by the Board.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

On behalf of the Board I would like to extend a special thank you to Warren Potter, for his work as Company Secretary and Accountant in 2007. Also thanks to the Sub Committee Chairs for their leadership roles in 2007 and to all of the members of the Board of Directors who gave freely of their time for the benefit of Hawkesbury and its staff and students. Finally, my thanks to UWS, and especially the staff in the Development Office, who assisted the Hawkesbury Foundation in 2007.

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**A SUPER GYM FOR HAWKESBURY**

**A $700,000 upgrade**

If you haven’t been to Hawkesbury in many a long day, you may not know that it now has a modern fitness centre. It’s behind the old blacksmith’s shop and besides the big old hay shed … the one with all those names painted way up high in the rafters. Older blokes will remember the shed as being beside the original swimming pool (that’s a long time ago). Anyway, the “new” gym or fitness centre typifies the relationship UWS has with the wider Hawkesbury community, with over 50% of the members external to UWS. As you know the campus has a strong heritage in sporting achievements and has a special place in the local community. All that is history, because the gym will soon have a $700,000 (approx) re-fit, courtesy of UWS and the Federal Government. Campus co-ordinator, Simon James, says the Hawkesbury Gym operates 7 days a week and has 1200 members. Currently members have access to the 55 yard 6 lane outdoor pool on campus (in summer) and a range of group fitness classes. Over thirty classes are offered at Connect Fitness – Hawkesbury every week.

The centre also has Spin classes where participants use a stationary bike at various levels of cycling intensity and for differing durations under the watchful eye of the class instructor. On top of these, Simon says there’s a full range of cardio, machine weights and free weights equipment. He pointed out that free weights are not attached to any fixed point and allow for a full range of motion, whereas machine weights are fixed and allow movement only through a limited range of motion.

The gym has been subsidised minimally by the Student Amenities Fees, but now requires some capital investment to ensure its long term viability. UWS was successful in obtaining funding through the Voluntary Student Union Transition Fund, which is administered by the Federal Government. In addition, UWS will also contribute to the upgrade with the total amount available for works approximately $700,000 to upgrade and refurbish the existing facilities. According to Simon James, when compared with gyms on other UWS campuses, the Hawkesbury facility is the largest operation. He says it has the potential to be financially viable through greater use and appropriate partnerships. Once the works are completed at Hawkesbury it will make Connect Fitness - Hawkesbury the premiere health and fitness centre across the UWS Campuses, and ensure it provides the business model benchmark. “With an upgraded facility, a wider range of programs and services can be offered” says Simon. “It will also bring the facility closer to the standard of other health and fitness facilities in the Hawkesbury Region and will enhance the ability to operate on a commercially competitive basis”. It is planned to install an extensive inverter reverse cycle air conditioning system throughout the facility, which will provide climate control all year round. There will be an improved PA system and the main entry / foyer area will be reconfigured to incorporate a café service. What’s more Simon says “subject to suitable service providers being identified, it is anticipated that physiotherapy, masseuse and other health and fitness related services will also be provided”.

UWSConnect, the company which manages the gym, has partnered with a private sector rehabilitation group who utilise the gym facilities across all the UWS Campuses. The company also recently initiated a health and fitness program with funding through the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. “This is a twice weekly exercise and seminar program which educates participants on what is involved in leading a healthy lifestyle”, he added.

If all things go well, it is hoped that building improvements will start in July/August and be ready for opening in September this year.

For more information contact simon.james@uws.edu.au or on 02-97726337 or Mobile 0414 185192
One of the elements of the Bachelor of Agriculture degree at UWS Hawkesbury, actively supported by the Foundation, is the study of agricultural supply chains that explores the ‘paddock to plate’ system linking agricultural inputs, on farm production, food and agricultural processing, marketing/distribution, retailing and consumption, and how we can respond to changes, trends and influences in the future.

The majority of Australia’s 130,000 farms are still family owned and worked by an ageing population. Within their lifetime these farmers have seen the balance of power shifting from production to marketing and consumption. Gone are the days when they sold what they grew with the help of grower-led cooperatives and statutory marketing arrangements that moderated the power of ‘market forces’. Most commodity growers now have fewer than three or four processors nationally (fewer locally) through which to sell their produce. In turn, these have even fewer outlets.

Two supermarket chains control 56% of domestic food sales (80% goes through 5 retailers and a handful of ‘fast-food’ outlets). Australia is the most highly ‘concentrated’ market in the developed world and more open to pressure from imports of processed food products. The result has been increased attention to the logistics of supply chain management with an emphasis on reducing costs, ‘just in time’ delivery at point of sale, and more tightly controlled specifications of food products (with impacts all the way back down the chain).

Changes forced on producers are not always beneficial from the point of view of either production efficiency (many are indeed resource wasteful) or changing consumer concerns over food safety and the ecological impact of food production practices.

Worldwide there has been a significant shift in consumer attitudes. The public is increasingly concerned over food safety issues. Scandals over bacterial contamination, ‘mad cow’ disease, and lax controls on pesticide residues and some food additives have sensitised the public to ask ‘is it safe for me to eat?’

In addition, growing public health concerns over obesity and health impacts of processed food diets rich in fats, salt, sugar and low in fibre have people asking: ‘is it good for us?’ In addition consumers are also concerned about the wider ‘ecological implications’ of food production - how the whole system impacts on the environment.

These health and environment concerns are at the heart of the public controversy over such issues as who bears the risks and who benefits from genetically engineered foods. In general these concerns are far more advanced in Europe and North America than Australia - but pose a particular risk to the industry here. Rapid shifts in consumer demand can result in significant costs to an industry ‘playing catch-up’ rather than one responding strategically to long term trends.

In fact it may be better to think less of supply chains than of ‘demand’ chains as the true drivers for future change with both risks and potential benefits for farmers. The risks are obvious and significant if farmers are unable or unwilling to adapt, but the benefits can be equally significant if they do. Many of the consumer health concerns and most of the environmental concerns can only be met by responses at the farming end of the chain. A farmer / eco-consumer alliance would significantly shift the balance of power and return some of the influence over terms of trade farmers have lost.

The focus of government policy for the past decade has been to encourage cooperation between all elements of supply chains - to deliver greater efficiency and better respond to changes on both the domestic and export markets - while maintaining competition between different chains. This within-chain ‘cooperation’ is more than simple discussion and negotiation.

It involves real collaboration based on sharing of information and, critically, sharing the economic benefits of the closer cooperation. Yet this sharing of information and benefits could as easily be regarded as ‘collusion’ within a ‘cartel’ when seen through the eyes of national competition policy and bodies set up to police it such as the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACC).

We live in interesting times where we may be witnessing a return to a more planned agrarian economy with the potential for better social, economic and environmental sustainability. We may also be witnessing a fundamental challenge to the current economic order – one emerging in part from within the efficiency demands of the industry reinforced by pressures from consumers to reintegrate the public health and ecological ‘externalities’.
Sixtieth Graduation Reunion
1947 HAC Graduates

A very successful and enjoyable graduation reunion was held on the Hawkesbury Campus of UWS over the weekend 14, 15, and 16 September 2007 during ideal Richmond spring weather. The reunion marked the sixtieth anniversary of graduation for the HAC 1947 graduates. Most of the graduates booked accommodation in the College Motel or in Student Residences, arriving at Hawkesbury on the afternoon of Friday, 14 September.

A programme of activities was arranged based on Hawkesbury. Activities included a tour of the Hawkesbury Archives, a coach tour of Hawkesbury and the surrounding district, and a Reunion Dinner, which was held on Saturday, 15 September. An evening meal was arranged at Hawkesbury on Friday evening, 14 September, as were hot breakfasts on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Coach Tour, conducted by Bilpin Coaches, included a tour of the College grounds and immediate surrounds before progressing to Windsor, Freeman’s Reach, Streeton Lookout, where the River Farm could be observed, North Richmond, Grose Vale, Kurrajong, and Bilpin where a lunch stop was taken at the Fruit Bowl. The return to Hawkesbury was again through Kurrajong, and North Richmond to HAC. The coach driver, Cam, was local to the district, which enabled him to provide a very good commentary on the area.

Many of the graduates returning to Hawkesbury for the reunion were able to take advantage of the opportunity to wander around the campus, reminiscing about their College days.

A very successful Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday evening, 15 September with forty two graduates, partners and visitors attending. Those present included: Gordon and Jean Barnett; George Bennett; Max and Betty Brodie; Noel and Margaret Dunston; John (Joe) Gardiner; Warwick Godlonton; Ken and Barbara Howard; Keith Humphries; Bob Hunter and daughter Victoria Berry; John Hutchinson; John and Dawn Johnston; Bill and Jose King; Col and Dot Levick; Phil Mallinson; Wrenford (Blue) and Barbara Perkins; Bill and Val Powell; John and Lyn Pryor; Maurie and Evelyn Randall; Dick and Peggy Stone; Emeritus Professor Graham and Del Swain; Devon and Mary Taylor; Ron and Jean Trescothick; Ken and Carol Woodham; Don and Val Wright.

Apologies were received from: Noel and Carol Bennett; Peter Budd; Harry Burton; Athol and R.E. Callender; Judith Campbell; Doug and Phyll Delves; Don Gillies; Jim and Sheila Greville; Neil and Val Guppy; Malcolm and Margaret Halliday; Clem and Daphne Holdsworth; Hilton and Ngaire Hollingdale; Kevin and Marie Morgan; Noel and Margaret Nebauer; Mary Patterson; Jack Salmon; Eric and Ruth Swann; Peter and Jean Teague.

During the Dinner a Remembrance was held for absent and departed graduates, especially remembering known graduates who had departed since the previous reunion. They included Phil Henry, Max Nutman, George Osborne and Les Voss.

The evening was concluded with the War Cry. A further reunion was decided upon, which will be held in Orange, probably during September 2009. Ken and Carol Woodham ‘volunteered’ for the task of organising the event.

Contributed by George Bennett.
Over 60 people attended our 30 year reunion held at the Rafferties Resort on Lake Macquarie. After thunderous rain all week that interrupted harvest so some old boys could attend the reunion, the weekend skies opened up to beautiful sunshine.

It seems everyone regarded the reunion as an outstanding success. We just clicked back into conversation as if we only saw each other yesterday. This is the special thing about Hawkesbury.

Contributing to the success of the weekend was the establishment of our own website, www.hac77.com. We believe this has been the first one ever created so it must be a sign of the times…fancy the baby boomer era kicking this off and not the Y generation! This made communication so much easier and kept postage costs to a minimum. The site was organised by Greg Seymour and will be maintained until at least our 35 year reunion in 2012.

One of the incredible observations from the weekend was the diversity of occupations from the graduates of what was an Agricultural College at the time. In our midst, we had an AOM, a Professor, an Engineer, Teachers, Valuers, General Managers, Builders, Landscapers, Software consultants, Logistics Managers, Commercial Managers, a TAB owner, a Real Estate Agent, a Black Belt in martial arts, and we even had a few Rural Producers, Rural Contractors and Government Department Managers. How things have changed.

Hawkesbury taught us how to learn and gave us attitudes that have often led to success.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the war cry, which woke every holidaying family in the resort. This was ably led by Will Robilliard, who still has the passion that he had at HAC. It was great to have some come from other years, notably Rukie (John Reynolds), Wally McColl and Gillian Belle (nee Wade).

Gill takes the prize for commitment as she flew from Mansfield in Victoria just to attend the dinner and then returned home the next day. Wally was a close second, who flew in from business in Perth and then hired a car to drive up to Rafferties.

The focal point of the weekend was “Desperados Cottage”, which was home for the singles and a meeting point for all arrivals. After settling the dust on Friday night and an all-nighter for some, the weekend got away to a great start. However, at the end of the weekend, the quote of all quotes came out as the fridges were being de-stocked of beer when Jayce Morgan said, “I didn’t think I would ever see the day when all the beer wasn’t consumed at a Hawkesbury gathering”.

It was a great weekend and we all now look forward to our next major get-together in 2012. Watch the website for more updates www.hac77.com

Contributed by John Heath
My generation is constantly being told by you youngies...and that's thousands of you...that we've got to get with it! In this case 'it' is the internet. So I am grateful to Dave Rankine (Systems Agriculture 1996) for telling me about all the Hawkesburians who meet on the internet site Facebook. In fact there are two sites...There are currently 280 members on this one......http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2444873139

Also a UWS Hawkesbury Group that has 97 members: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2412038448

Oops, my mistake! In the December 2007 Journal I said Bruce Maltman, the current Chairman of HAC, the Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter, was the first food science graduate in that job. Wrong! Mark McCallum was the first, back in 1984/85. And Phil Woodward, an aggie AND a foodie, was President back at the turn of the century. My apologies to both!

Late last year my wife Annie and I went to the Werrington (near Penrith) Headquarters of UWS to view the excellent “Out of the archives exhibition” of photographs about the very early days at Hawkesbury. All the photos are by Charles Kerry, who was born on Bobundra sheep station near Mount Kosciusko in 1858. In 1890 he was appointed official photographer for Lord Carrington, who was Governor of NSW. By this time Kerry had established the largest photographic practice in Australia and was obviously attracted to Hawkesbury. The extraordinary thing about this exhibition is that it is the result of a chance discovery made by Juliana Swatko on a visit to the archives of UWS at Hawkesbury. Juliana is a lecturer in the design department of the School of Communication Arts within UWS. She chose the images for the exhibition. Juliana says “I noticed many boxes of large unidentified 5” by 7” glass plate negatives sitting on the shelves. I was intrigued and asked if I could develop some prints of the negatives, not knowing that they were more significant than I first imagined, owing to their maker’s historic importance in Australia’s visual history.”

Many of the images, including the first school in apiculture staged in January 1916, were on show for the first time ever and were accompanied by an excellent interpretation booklet.

Michael Smith, the University’s Manager of records and archives management services, says the exhibition focuses mainly “on students and the challenges they faced from clearing land, shearing sheep and ploughing, to their social pursuits.” Some are very funny. Annie and I (being biased) couldn’t understand why the exhibition was first staged at Werrington rather than Hawkesbury! Anyway some of the photos will soon be in the re-furbished Yarramundi House, and hopefully the whole exhibition will be in the new archives centre at Hawkesbury.

Anyone who was a student at Hawkesbury in the last 50 years will know that the “new” dairy factory (opposite the oval) is no longer new and has not been used as a dairy factory for some time. It is now being turned into the University’s archives centre. Michael Smith told me “in addition to the storage, we should be getting a permanent exhibition area of our own. We are really looking forward to it, as you can imagine. It will provide some great opportunities for displaying the University’s unique heritage. They have already put a new roof on the building and have started some of the demolition work (minor stuff, nothing structural).”

Tony Martin (Land Economy 1987) tells me he played 450 games with the Hawkesbury rugby club! Extraordinary! Talk about punishment! I wonder if 450 games is a record for anyone at any club? It must be. While he was a student Tony was captain of the first XV for 2 years and won two honours caps. He was President of the Rugby Club for a year (you can’t be President for any longer...what a sensible tradition). He also played front row (always front row!) for Eastwood, Norths and Colleagues. Little wonder that Tony is now a life-member of the now financially healthy and very active Hawkesbury Rugby Club. (See its excellent web site http://www.uwshawkesbury.rugby.net.au/).

Tony has his own company Oracle Property, which is based in Sydney’s CBD. Previously he worked for the McNamara Group, James Land Wooten, Laing and Simmons and Colliers. If you thought that Tony was a fly by night at Hawkesbury and that it was, you’d be wrong. He is married to Vanessa, who is the daughter of Mike Cox (Agriculture 1958) and granddaughter of Geoff Cox (1926). Tony is now on the executive committee of HAC!

The inaugural Youth Science Forum at Hawkesbury Campus in January this year brought together some of Australia’s brightest young students eager to pursue a career in science, engineering and technology. Thirty two Year 12 students from New South Wales and Victoria spent three days discussing everything science – from global warming and modern medicine through to nanotechnology and forensics. The program, which was developed by Associate Professor Robert Mulley from the School of Natural Sciences in close partnership with Rotary International, was designed to teach students more than just science. “The forum introduced students to research and researchers, helped them develop their communication and interpersonal skills through a series of practical tutorials, and gave them the opportunity to meet other students who have similar interests to them,” said Rob Mulley. Students took part in an array of activities from extracting the DNA from a strawberry through to examining the cells of a sea worm through one of the most powerful microscopes available to scientists.

The group worked with Glenn Porter and learnt how to analyse evidence to help solve a crime, Dr Tony Haigh from the Centre for Plant and Food Science, who discussed the impact of climate change on Australian forests and ecosystems, and Associate Professor Roy Tasker, who brought chemistry to life in an exciting workshop on the relevance of chemistry in our understanding of science. Students also took a bus trip.
to Campbelltown campus, where they visited the state-of-the-art medical education facility, and learnt about recent advances in the medical sciences and the evolving areas of traditional and complementary medicine.

“The forum was a great success and would not have been possible without the support and work of the UWS Offices of Marketing and Development, and our very talented academic staff” Rob Mulley said.

For more information, or if you know a young person who would like to get involved in future forums, please contact Rob Mulley http://pubapps.uws.edu.au/teldir/personprocess.php?4807

Maurice Sinclair (Systems Agriculture 1988) took up a new job in January as Supply Chain Director for George Weston Foods (GWF) across Australia and New Zealand. He says “My first year or so will be spent sorting out the supply chain issues in the bread division. GWF is approximately a $2b business with several major divisions - It has household brands such as Tip Top Bread, Top Taste Cakes, Twinings Tea, Weston Milling and Dons Smallgoods.

Maurice was chairman of the external advisory group which recommended changes in the Hawkesbury agriculture course based on supply chain management, which started last calendar year.

If you graduated in agriculture from Hawkesbury in 1999 you’ll remember Hayley Goddard as she was then. To-day she is Hayley Taylor and last year was appointed co-ordinator for new crops for the Hunter (CFH) covering Scone, Muswellbrook, Murrurundi, Merriwa and Singleton. “After Hawkesbury, my first posting was with the Twynam Pastoral Company on a property between Warren and Trangie, in Central Western NSW”, she said. “Within 12 months though, I was offered a sales agronomy position with Wesfarmers Dalgety and I jumped at it, as it was located at Merriwa. I’d always been keen about the Hunter Valley as it seemed to be full of action. "After 2 years with Wesfarmers, she was offered another position...this time with Pitt Son and Keene (Elders). “I did that for four and a half years before going on maternity leave.” Hayley said “Since living in Merriwa I have been married, had 2 children and acquired a small property where my husband and I run a small cattle enterprise.” No wonder she was so keen to go to the Hunter Valley!

“My focus at present is to look at climate change, which has become a hot topic due to the persistent drought and flash floods. In September last year, I was lucky to be in Japan and to visit its beautiful Lake Tazawako. Beside it is a beautiful statue of a young man carrying buckets of water on a long pole on his back. The sign on it reads YIN SHOEI SZU YUAN. Translated it means 'grateful for favours received'. Previously, people lifted water by hand, or on their shoulders, from wells, ponds and rivers etc. It was very laborious, unsafe, difficult and time consuming. Nowadays, tap water is so convenient and clean. Therefore we should think of it’s difficult source and treasure it”.

We do need reminding don’t we?

Anyone who was at Hawkesbury from 1952 -54 will be delighted to know that Lee Ruth has just celebrated the 50th anniversary of his family owned and operated company. It supplies veterinary products and animal feed supplements, in conjunction with a specialist consultancy service. Lee started his enterprise at Annandale in Sydney in 1957, before relocating to Glenorie where he operated for over 30 years, before moving to the present site at Mascot. Fellow student Dave Heptonstall says “Lee’s achievement is especially meritorious when it’s considered how many similar agricultural businesses have either “gone under” or been absorbed by the now fewer national or multinational companies. While our names were at the wrong ends of the alphabet at Hawkesbury, I have been fortunate to get to know Lee better over recent years through shared experiences in his ventures in Malaysia and China, where his knowledge had gained immense respect from Governments and the intensive livestock industries”.

Alicia Kasbarian didn’t even have Hawkesbury on her list when she finished her HSC at John Therry Catholic High School near Campbelltown a few years ago. Even in her early teens, she had her heart set on doing veterinary Science at Sydney. But after visiting the Hawkesbury campus, Alicia says she had a big change of heart and enrolled in the animal science course adding “since then I haven’t looked back”. This year she has started work on her PhD! “My interests through the undergraduate program largely focussed on wildlife management, with a passion for big cat nutrition and care”, she says.

Staff members Gavin Ramsay and Jason Flesch encouraged Alicia to do honours, in which she researched wildlife health information systems in Australia. This meant investigating the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and the issues being faced in the current system... whether positive or negative.

“While I thoroughly enjoyed the research topic, it was probably one of the most demanding and stressful years of uni so far” Alicia says. “I can’t say that I have regretted any of my experiences at Hawkesbury so far and am excited to be starting my PhD this year. Under the supervision of Dr Gavin Ramsey, Dr Jason Flesch and Mr Bruce Simmons I am going to determine the types of wildlife species located within the South Creek sub-catchment (near Richmond). More specifically, the interactions between mammalian species and vegetation, land use and water quality” she added.

Ricky Spencer has been working on wildlife since he graduated in science from Sydney University in 2001. Earlier this year he became a lecturer at Hawkesbury, responsible for co-ordinating courses in biology for students in horticulture, agriculture, food and forensics.

Ricky’s PhD at the University of Sydney looked at the impact of foxes on freshwater turtles; he then continued research as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of
Queensland, investigating the ecological impacts of fire on Fraser Island. Ricky then spent three years at Iowa State University, back studying turtles again...this time spending months paddling in the Mississippi River. More recently, he has been working in the private sector with a Canberra based company (PESTAT Pty (http://www.pestat.com.au/) researching and developing more humane and specific control methods for wild dogs, foxes, feral cats and cane toads.

I’m sure PhD student Michelle Ryan will have lively conversations with Ricky about turtles. She was the winner of last year’s F.G Swain research award and is researching the eastern long necked turtle at present. (see December 2007 Journal)

Anyone who was a student in the mid-fifties at Hawkesbury will remember “Cave” or John Warran (Agriculture 1958). He told me that after leaving College he helped out in the family Real Estate business at Cronulla, as the company was involved in the setting up and marketing of the Sylvania Waters development.

“But after 12 years, enough was enough and my wife Alison and I bought a dairy farm at Wattamolla, between Berry and Kangaroo Valley on the south coast. Nine years later we sold it and bought another dairy in Kangaroo Valley, on the river”, John said. “We retired to Nelson Bay in 1995 and I enjoy fishing and riding the waves on my surfski in summer. I am also involved with Legacy, looking after the welfare of war widows in the area”.

Hayley Stannard, like her friend Alicia Kasbarian, has also decided to start a PhD in Animal Science this year. She too grew up in the Campbelltown area and went to Rosemeadow and Ambarvale High Schools. Hayley also wanted to be a vet, but missed out on an offer from Sydney University. You could say she was lucky because subsequently she enrolled in the Bachelor of Equine Studies degree at Hawkesbury, then transferred into the Animal Science program a year later.

“I enjoyed this course; it allowed me to develop knowledge and skills in native animal management, conservation and ecology”, she said. “I then enrolled in the honours program, where I researched a captive platypus population in South Australia. My project provided me with an excellent opportunity to expand my skills in aquatic ecosystem management. It also provided the opportunity to travel to another state to conduct the research. Whilst at university, she worked as a casual shop assistant at a local supermarket to support her through her studies. However, half way through her honours year the supermarket closed down. Fortunately, she was able to take up a position as an animal technician at UWS.

“I have really enjoyed my time at UWS, although the travel has been hard at times, especially with current petrol prices. After much encouragement from my honours supervisors, I decided to apply for a PhD. Looking at the statistics, usually 150 people apply for a PhD and only 60 places are offered, so I did not get my hopes up. When I did receive a scholarship I was over the moon, I emailed all my friends and family. My mother was the most excited, and she even had a few tears. My PhD project is named Dasyurid Biology - I am going to investigate 3 species of dasyurids (carnivorous marsupials), 2 of which are housed at UWS for teaching and research purposes. I hope to discover some fundamental information about these species as little is currently known about them” she told me.

Talk about never giving up!! Ken Langford (B. Applied Science in Agriculture 1974 and Hawkesbury staff member from 1991 to 2006) certainly takes the cake for persistence. Just before Christmas last year Ken heard that after 11 years of hard slog, his PhD had been conferred by UWS, after being approved by 3 international examiners.

His thesis topic was “Developing a more effective agricultural graduate”. Ken says it focuses on undergraduate curricula, both generally and specifically, in agriculture and related fields. “The point I am making is that if we continue along traditional lines in the education of graduates then the evidence indicates that they will be less prepared for tomorrows’ challenges”. He goes on “a remedial model for the development of a core curriculum that’s grounded in on and off campus communities emerges from my research. It focuses on increasing the graduate’s effectiveness through developing their personal and professional attributes”.

Ken’s primary research was conducted at The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India and the University of California, Davis.

I used to think that I knew something about agriculture. That belief was rudely shaken at the end of November, when I sat with 220 others (mostly scientists) from all over the world at the third International Conference on Greenhouse Gases and Agriculture, held in Christchurch, New Zealand. I struggled to understand the basics of the multi-million dollar research programs the scientists reported on. Those studies are aimed at reducing the emission of methane and nitrous oxide from ruminant animals. It was a long time since my student chemistry days! What are the scientists testing? Everything from plants high in sugar or tannin to vaccines, antibiotics, different feeding regimes with extra concentrates, fats and oils, and controlled release capsules for the rumen as well as smarter fertilizer management.

Fortunately, the scientists in Christchurch seemed very aware that anything they might develop has to fit in to a farming system and must guarantee to be at least income neutral or better than that.

One of Australia’s biggest cattle companies, NAPCO, is acutely aware of its role in greenhouse abatement. Delphine Bentley, General Manager of Corporate Development, told delegates that recent innovations have increased the efficiency with which beef is produced from its herd of 190,000 head. This was done by improving herd genetics, property infrastructure and utilization of the seasonal feed base, all of which are expected to reduce the number of unproductive animals and reduce their age at slaughter. In turn it is hoped they
will contribute to a reduction of methane in particular. Yes, Christchurch was a big learning experience. Methinks we communicators have a lot of communicating to do about greenhouse gases and livestock. I hope I can keep up.

Hawkesbury is playing a special role in helping tackle the worldwide shortage of nurses. This past summer (07/08) 197 people in two groups from all over the world started a 5 day a week, 6 week nursing intensive at Hawkesbury, which is designed especially for university graduates who want a career change to become nurses. Ana Smith, who is the Hawkesbury-based Associate Head of the Nursing School says January 2008 was the third year this course was run at the campus. “The students, who come from all over the world, must have completed an undergraduate degree with a focus in the biological sciences, the arts or behavioural sciences or hold overseas, three-year post secondary school qualifications as a registered nurse. They do this summer session and if successful, they then join our second year of the three year Bachelor of Nursing program.” She added “there are very few programs like this offered anywhere else in Australia. We have people with degrees in social and behavioural sciences, doctors, psychologists and pharmacists”. Last January there were people from most of the Asian countries - India, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Nepal and Pakistan.

The course is full fee paying. In another move, the School of Nursing has recently appointed its first indigenous academic, who is based at Hawkesbury. She is Associate Lecturer Elveana Deranti Day, who is also undertaking a doctoral degree. There is a new indigenous health unit in the Bachelor of Nursing degree at all four campuses where nursing is taught.

**Likely HAC Subscription Increase**

The annual fee of $25.00 to be a member of HAC… the Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter... could go up to $40.00 a year if a notice of motion is adopted at the next AGM on Saturday June 21, 2008 at the Hawkesbury campus. A separate notice of motion proposes that ex-students over 70 years of age lose their free membership. The motions were considered at the February meeting of the HAC executive and carried, but any changes in fees must be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. Proponents argue that HAC has been facing severe financial difficulties.

One way to help is to increase annual fees, especially as the cost of sending out annual bills is so expensive. Supporters of the changes argue that ex-students would be better off filling in the supporters appeal form (see the form in this issue) and making a one off payment of $350.00 which not only provides life membership as well as three issues of the Journal each year, a paver with their name inscribed and placed in Stable Square AND a $350 tax deduction!!

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The UWS-Hawkesbury Foundation will mount stands at various field days throughout NSW this year to market Hawkesbury. If you could help in this task in marketing the Hawkesbury campus to Mums and Dads as well as high school students, you’d be very welcome. In recent years total student enrolments at Hawkesbury have been in decline and the Foundation is doing all it can to sell the campus, its accommodation and its courses wherever possible. Hopefully staff members will join ex-students in this marketing task to fill in knowledge gaps about courses, pre-requisites in terms of subjects and HSC marks, as well as accommodation and course costs. The field day dates are Mudgee Small Farms Field Days, July 19 and 20; AgQuip at Gunnedah August 19-21; Henty September 23-25 and Orange, October 21-23, as well as the Farming Small Areas Field Days at Hawkesbury Showground in November (date tba). If you are able to help (and that means harassing potential students and their parents!) please contact Brian Lindsay on B.Lindsay@uws.edu.au or Neil Inall on inall@iinet.net.au or phone him on 02-94121361.

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1958 Agriculture FIFTY YEAR reunion.

The 1958 graduating year fifty year reunion will be held at Nelson Bay NSW from Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23rd October, 2008. There will be a BBQ dinner on the Tuesday and a formal reunion dinner on Wednesday. There will be golf at the Horizons course for those interested and a dolphin and sightseeing cruise within Port Stephens. If numbers are sufficient, deep sea fishing can be arranged. The organisers are attempting to contact all graduates, but if you are one, or know of one who hasn’t been contacted please contact John Warran at 1/38 Danalene Pde, Corlette NSW 2315 or phone (02)49 843870 or email jonalran@nelsonbay.com

Memories of an O.B.U. President

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Bruce Maltman on his re-election as Chairman of H.A.C. I have known Bruce since his graduation from Hawkesbury in 1990, and am well aware of his dedication to the College and its future welfare. The article on Bruce in the last issue of the Journal brought back memories of my three year Presidency of the O.B.U. from 1974-77. Hopefully my comments will be of interest to Old Boys from that era. In accepting the role, I was somewhat in awe of previous Presidents including John Kelly, Bob Lewin, Neville Medley, Alec Miller, Jack McGibbon, Bill Chaffey, George McGillivray and Peter Teague. Regular meetings were then held at the State Office Block in Sydney, with at least one a year at the College. I was especially fortunate to have Jim Holbeche as secretary, followed by the evergreen George Bennett. Sadly, Harry Silversides passed away before succeeding me as President and was replaced by John Lean (1953-55). This period was the start of the great change at Hawkesbury, when it moved from a Department of Agriculture institution to a College of Advanced Education. This required the O.B.U. to recognise the inevitability of the change, which was accompanied by the appointment of a new Principal, Graham Swain, and establishment of a College Council under the leadership of Sir William Vines. It was also a time of scepticism from many Old Boys, which was accentuated by the constitutional need to change the O.B.U. to the “Hawkesbury Assembly of Convocation” (and much later “Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter”- but fortunately both still H.A.C.). Indeed, when Convocation was established at a meeting in Sydney in 1977, O.B.U. members actively handed out “how to vote” cards to ensure they dominated its management structure.

Another milestone of the O.B.U. at the time was establishment of the E.A.Southee Memorial Trust Fund and the ultimate awarding of scholarships - the first to Jim Wilson, former College Lecturer and fellow student from 1952-54. The fund raising activities for the fund commenced during a difficult economic period - an example of this being a return of only 0.1% to our Art Union letter box drop, compared to an expected return of 1.0%. Fortunately, other means of fund raising were more successful.

A further issue, in a hitherto male environment at the College was a questionnaire we sent to female graduates, seeking their feelings on retention of the term “Old Boys” to refer to all College graduates. Surprisingly, to me at least, over 80% indicated their strong desire to maintain the status quo.

A benefit of Presidency of the O.B.U. entitled me to attend annual branch reunions which included Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane, Darlington Point, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Singleton, Taree and Orange. Also annual reunions were held during the Royal Easter Show for many decades with attendances in the 1970’s always exceeding 100. At one of these reunions, when Hawkesbury was moving to a C.A.E., I well remember Department of Agriculture Director General, Roy Watts, saying that the change was like “cutting the umbilical cord”- a cord that had previously remained intact for over 80 years. I also remember annual visits to talk to final year students on the merits of joining the O.B.U. In the company of either Jack McGibbon or Alec Miller, this contact brought back fond memories and re-emphasised the close bond between Old Boys and students.

Hawkesbury continues to maintain many of its old traditions through still existing O.B.U. branches, year reunions and other functions. The “Hawkesbury Journal” is a vital part of this communication process- although I agree with the Editor’s comments that more contributions from “Old Boys” would be appreciated.

“Up the blood and mustard”.

Contributed by Dave Heptonstall (1952-54)
Life Member, O.B.U.
Determined. Undeterred. Committed. Focused. These WORDS certainly describe mature age student Lillian Barry, who will soon complete her PhD in Horticulture at Hawkesbury. Her focus is on using horticulture to help marginalised people, particularly women, to turn around their lives. “Women who are socially and economically marginalised...either through poverty, or low education levels, or growing up in an environment of abuse. I’m also interested in indigenous groups. She says “I just seem to have empathy for people who have had to endure inequities in their everyday lives. And my children will tell you that I have always had an interest in social justice issues.”

It was research with all sorts of marginalised groups that kept Lillian going through all her years of part and full time study. For her a step by step growing process, a thirst for more knowledge. And all this when managing a family and travelling up and down to Hawkesbury from the Hills district every day!

“I did that for four years part time while I was completing my undergraduate and then 2 years for the honours degree. And I also needed to work, to bring in an income”, she told me. When she started the undergraduate horticulture course, she wasn’t young and wasn’t old! She was mature! Was that a deterrent? A turn off? Not for Lillian.

“I loved it - absolutely loved it. I found it a very valuable and rewarding experience and got a lot of support. And I found a lot of people in my position doing undergrad university courses as well. We were able to form good supportive friendships and also received a lot of support from the School, as well as the lecturers and ... it was great” she said. She was daunted by the thought of facing up to the science based courses, which she hadn’t done since high school, particularly chemistry. “But I loved the biology and plant physiology. I also found that I could actually do more than I thought!”

The undergraduate degree took six years, with honours another 2 and then 3 years to complete the PhD. Along the way she kept putting her new found knowledge and experience into practice. “I’ve done horticulture therapy with groups such as adults with disabilities, intellectual and physical disabilities. I did that while I was completing my honours degree. That was my income.”

It was that experience that led Lillian to undertake research with women in prisons. “I think it just developed as I did my undergrad and honours, and realised that there was more research I could do. I wanted to continue to work with marginalised groups. I worked with young women who were living in a refuge for my honours prisons, I pursued the idea of doing a PhD”

Lillian says the horticultural therapy worked extremely well with adults with disabilities. “It becomes an enjoyable recreational activity for them...in such a way that it’s not a challenge. They loved working with plants. We would focus on the different qualities of plants, such as the smell, the shapes, the colours. The activity of putting their hands into dirt was wonderful for some of them. Others didn’t like that. We built gardens. We did crafts using plants. We did cooking using plants. We did almost any activity you can think of using plants.”

The next step was the big one...the PhD! Lillian said “I started off from the focus of using horticultural therapy as a restorative tool for women in prison. After my work with young women in a refuge, I found the therapy was extremely useful in managing their anger issues and coping with aspects of depression and drug use; all those things. So I wanted to explore that further with women in prison and so I developed a horticultural therapy program that is adaptable. I took that into the prison and started working with a small group of inmates”.

But Lillian began to see a much broader focus to explore, and that was the impact of the institution on women in prison. “How it affected issues that they came into prison with, such as substance abuse, depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome as a result of the abuse they’d experienced in their previous lives and circumstances.” So she started to examine the effects of the system on women and how that affects rehabilitation programs. She always felt quite safe with the women in prison - “they became very responsive to the program that I offered, so I was able to build up quite a rapport of trust with a lot of the women”.

It was winning a full University of Western Sydney Higher Research scholarship that allowed Lillian to undertake her PhD fulltime......nine to five, five days a week. Treating it like a job has been really useful, because it means that I have a set structure to each day in terms of knowing what I have to do that day. Particularly when I was working in the prisons, because it was quite emotionally draining. And there was a lot of work in establishing the garden project in each of the prison centres that I worked in.” I asked Lillian what has been the hardest part of doing her PhD...the research, the interviews, the writing up or what? She replied “The hardest part for me was overcoming the fraud syndrome - that I actually wasn’t a fraud and gotten this candidature by some sleight of hand. That I had actually earned it and was legitimately able to do this PhD. It’s been more of a personal battle, but I gather that I’m not the only PhD candidate to ever experience that”, she added.

So when she has that very special piece of paper, what then? “I don’t know the answer to that one yet. I really would like to pursue more post-doc research opportunities and continue this type of work. I’ve only just scratched the surface.”

And all the years of travelling up to Hawkesbury have not dented Lillian’s enthusiasm for the place. She says “I love the campus. I think it’s got a lovely relaxed, country feel about it. I’ve been to other campuses as a visitor and as a student earlier and I find this a much more pleasant campus to be in every day, day in, day out. The people are great. I found it a very supportive environment Determined. Undeterred. Committed. Focused. Yes, that’s Lillian Barry.
2007 HAC Christmas Luncheon

A very well attended Christmas luncheon was held at the Rugby Club on 17th December 2007, with guest speaker well known author and Rugby guru Peter Fenton to entertain the gathering. 49 graduates, former staff and a couple of guests made up a larger than normal group for this annual function, and it was good to see a spread of representation across so many years (1942 to 2007) of association with the campus, from its College days to the present Hawkesbury Campus of UWS. All arriving were warmly greeted by George Bennett, ensconced at a table outside the Rugby Club entrance – signing in was mandatory for all!!

Those present were : George Bennett (1942-44-48 and later staff); John Mullinger (1997-2002); John Pryor (1947); Ben Moody (1950-52); Neville Russell (1945-46); Dave Hepstonstall (1952-54); Chris Hicks (HAC Rugby); Ben Andrews (1949-51 and later staff); Frank Kelleher (staff 1971-2005); Owen Shelley (1943-45); A.L.Gatenby (1943-45); Darce Duggan (1952); Ken Langford (1972-74 and later staff); Bruce Maltman (1987-89); Graham Swain (Principal/CEO/President 1972-1993); Peter Headley (1962-64); Barry Pulsford (1962-64); Alan Bell (1962-64); Lee Ruth (1952-54); Peter Stevens (1959-61); Max Brodie (1944-47); Hilton Hollingdale (1946-48); Ian Grieve (Dookie 1948-50); Ian Black (1950-52); Peter Houghton (1970-72); John Heath (1975-77); Peter Fenton (Interloper/Guest); Tim Vidler (1962-64); Dean Tams (1987-89); Nick Fallon (2006-07); Damian Watson (2007); Mark Wiggott (2006); Tony Martin (1985-87); Garry Wilcox (1982-84); Sandra Peachey (1982-84); Dick Laffan (1964-66); Russell Meacham (1990-92); Stuart Harborne (1987-92); Andrew Simons (1988-91); Donald Howard (1943-44-46); Graham Thompson (1950-52); Jose Sanz (2004-07); Justin White (1988-92); Chris Twyford (2000-03); Mick Gallagher (2001-02); Damien Carpenter (1991-94); Phil Kelley (1987-91); Murray Burke (1988-91); Andrew Couchman (1985-87).

Guest speaker Peter Fenton entertained the gathering over lunch with a wide-ranging and often colourful address, covering his extensive experience in the Rugby world at all levels, followed by an overview of Peter’s research experiences that led to publication of his book on the career of Boy Charlton, highlighting Charlton’s association with HAC. Peter’s address was peppered with excerpts from his sporting poetry, which was very well received by his audience.

Special HAC Supporter Appeal

Special HAC Supporter Appeal Responses at 20 February 2008

The year ended 31 December resulted in a total of 180 responses to the Special HAC Supporter Appeal having been received since the launch of the Appeal during March 2006. This response rate is the same as reported at the last HAC Executive Committee meeting. It would appear that further responses to the Appeal will be directly related to an active promotion of the Appeal, with a promotion through the Hawkesbury Journal seeming to provoke a better response rate than other methods of promoting the Appeal. A summary of the funds received and held by UWS Hawkesbury Foundation Trust is presented as follows:

Funds held at 01 January 2007 $30,531
New Donations received to 31 December 2008 $29,250
Expenses directly related to purchase of pavers ($5,674)
Donations paid to HAC ($2,100)
Balance of funds held at 31 December 2007 $52,007
Distribution of income at 31 December 2007 $3,641
Funds held at 31 December 2008 $55,648

It will be possible, without reducing the underlying capital base, for UWS Hawkesbury Foundation Trustees to make a distribution of $3,600 to HAC during 2008.

During March 2006 the HAC Executive Committee, together with UWS Hawkesbury Foundation, launched the Special HAC Supporter Appeal. This appeal provided HAC members with permanent membership of HAC, together with membership of UWS Hawkesbury Foundation, for a once-only tax deductible donation of $350 to UWS Hawkesbury Foundation Trust. Not only did HAC members gain permanent membership of HAC, (that is, no more annual subscriptions), they were also given the option of having an engraved paver laid in the Stable Square Commemorative Walk. The Stable Square Commemorative Walk is now becoming quite a feature of Hawkesbury Campus and it has no equivalents on any of the other UWS Campuses, a testament to the strength and heritage of Hawkesbury.

The Special HAC Supporter Appeal has proven successful to date, with now almost two hundred members having taken up the offer ... Are you one of them?

The Special HAC Supporter Appeal is still available and now is a very opportune time to participate. Not only will HAC members receive the benefits of permanent membership, together with the option of having a personalised paver laid in Stable Square, but as a participant in the Appeal, you will be able to claim an allowable deduction of $350 on your next Income Tax Return.

Don’t delay. Act now by completing the Special HAC Supporter Appeal form included in your March edition of Hawkesbury Journal.

Contributed by Warren Potter
THEY MET AT HAWKESBURY AND THEY GOT MARRIED!!

John and Trudi Heath

Acting as spokesperson for the pair, John said “In a nutshell, Trudi Schubert and I met on 4th Feb 1977, the first day of Mott Week”. Obviously a memorable day in their lives! “Trudi was starting her 4 year Bachelor of Education - Home Economics and I was in my final year of the Applied Science in Agriculture course”, John said. “When I left HAC, I landed a job with Elders in Parkes and studied for my Stock & Station Agents and Real Estate licence”.

They didn’t delay for long – “Trudi and I became engaged in October 1978 (had to snatch her up or risk losing her to one of the current students!!). By June 1979, I had been transferred to the Elders state office in Sydney, and we were married in December 1979”.

“Trudi still had a year to go of her course, so we rented a small cottage on a farm in Agnes Banks (near Hawkesbury). A great start to married life, as it only cost us $40 / week. Whilst Trudi had the 10 minute drive to HAC, I had the 100 minute trip into the city each day. I drove to Emu Plains and caught either the ‘Fish’ or ‘Chips’ express train into the city. After Trudi’s graduation, she was posted to Bidwill High School, near Mount Druitt. This was a challenging experience for Trudi and it became even more challenging when she was appointed Acting Head Teacher. She loved this too, but had to give it away when, in 1986, I was transferred to Tamworth with Elders to manage their Merchandise operation. I was subsequently transferred back into the state office of Elders, and we bought our home in Cherrybrook.

Trudi now works 3 days per week at nearby Pennant Hills High School (where both our girls, Jessica and Celia, were educated). I now work for Fort Dodge Animal Health, in a marketing and sales capacity for their companion animal business. The above note is the first of a series about people who met at Hawkesbury and subsequently married. There is probably a case for a similar series about blokes from the days when there were only blokes at Hawkesbury and subsequently married the sisters of some of their mates!

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Investing for a Sustainable Future
**Obituaries**

**David (Johno) Johnson 22.02.1930 – 18.01.2008**

Dave was born in Sydney on 20 February 1930, the eldest of four boys. His parents George and Grace originated from Northern Ireland and Denmark. George was a dairy farmer at Taylors Arm where Dave started his education, riding his horse Barney to a one teacher school. For high school education Dave’s mother moved to Sydney with David and his three younger brothers to attend his father’s old school – The Scots College. He rowed in the school eight, was a champion middle distance athlete and a good rugby player. In 1947 Dave passed his Leaving Certificate examinations, gaining Honours. In 1948 and returned to Taylors Arm.

Dave attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College from 1949 to 1951, where he studied agricultural technologies, achieving an A level in Wool Classing. In his third year he was ‘king’ of the motting, a champion athlete, played second XV, graduated with honours and won the Work and Sport Trophy. During the mid 1950’s David purchased his own dairy farm ‘Yaringa’, at Berry. He looked upon this purchase as one of his greatest achievements. In 1957 he married his wife Judy in Sydney and they subsequently had two daughters, Clare and Leah.

For forty six years Dave ran a very successful dairy and, as a side line, bred very good Herefords, which achieved success in the show ring. David and Judy were involved in different local activities, especially the Berry Show. Judy passed away in 2003. Dave is survived by his three brothers, two daughters, Clare and Leah, son-in-law Bruce and three grandchildren Harry, Ollie and Freya.

Dave was a great mate and a true friend for over sixty five years. I will miss him.

Submitted by George Rowlands.

**Les Henley 21/11/1919 – 19/12/2007**

Les attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College during 1938 – 40 and was a popular student, completing the HDA. He often stated that the three years he spent at HAC were amongst the happiest days of his life. After leaving HAC Les worked on the lovely family property, ‘Bassett Downs’, Cowra, with his father and brother Tom.

Les had a strong community spirit, which was evident in his becoming involved with many local committees to which he always gave generously of his time. Les was also a good sportsman and he was noted as a crack rifle shot.

Les married the charming Margaret Hutchinson in 1948. Margaret had returned to Cowra in 1946 after having completed her training as a Nurse in Sydney. Les and Margaret, together with their four children, lived at ‘Bassett Downs’ for many years until a chronic back problem brought about the sale of the property and a move to Newport, where they remained for the next twelve years.

Several HAC Old Boys including Bob Adcock formed, on 12 October 1983, the 1938 – 40 HAC Old Boys Association. Both Les and Margaret offered great support to this group, attending all functions and greatly contributing to the success of the Association.

In latter years Les and Margaret moved to the home of Les’s late parents, at Manly. Les developed Parkinson’s Disease, which curtailed his physical activities, but he always received great care from Margaret.

Les was greatly respected by all who knew him.

Contributed by Bob Adcock HAC 1949-51.

**Thomas Gordon Hungerford 1911 – 2007**

Tom Hungerford was a brilliant student, graduating from Hawkesbury Agricultural College as dux, with first class Honours and a scholarship to Veterinary...
Science at Sydney University. He graduated in Veterinary Science in 1934 and then worked for the NSW Department of Agriculture for 11 years as a veterinary officer, port quarantine officer and at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. He developed programs to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis, both diseases that can also infect humans. The outcome was that milk eventually became safe to drink and eventually, Australia was declared free of bovine brucellosis in 1989 and of bovine tuberculosis in 1997.

He lectured at both Sydney University and at Hawkesbury, along the way producing a stream of publications including Diseases of Poultry (1939), Diseases of Livestock (1945), and the Veterinary Physicians Index (1959). Hawkesbury was the springboard for his move in 1945 into private practice at Penrith, founding what was to become the largest private veterinary practice in Australia at that time. He led the way in the adoption of preventive medicine practices, the benefits of which soon became obvious to primary producers.

In the early 1960s the postgraduate veterinary foundation was established to provide continuing education opportunities for practicing veterinarians and Tom Hungerford took over as foundation director in 1974. By the time he retired in 1987, the foundation provided five-day courses, workshops and publications that were used in 53 countries. He received an OBE and, in 1977, the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal and the two highest awards of his profession, the Seddon prize in 1967 and Gilruth prize in 1971. The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists made him an Honorary Fellow in 1982 and he later became a Fellow of the University in 1988.

Tom Hungerford is survived by his four children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. His wife Roslyn predeceased him in 2005, after 69 years of marriage.

Paraphrased by Frank Kelleher from the obituary by Douglas and John Bryden published in the Sydney Morning Herald on September 13, 2007.