

THE ROBBER

Robb College Alumni Newsletter

August 2023



Head of College Report

We currently have 140 Residents in college and recently we said farewell to our two Canadian imports who have been with us for trimester one. These ladies made a great contribution to college and their presence has encouraged some of our residents to look at studying overseas next year.

The 2023 Rural Focus Dinner Address, "Agribusiness ESG opportunities and challenges", was delivered by Troy Setter. Troy is recognised as one Australia's leading agribusiness managers and thought leaders in agriculture and food. Troy is the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Consolidated Pastoral Company, a large, privately owned, Australian and Indonesian Agrifood business. Troy is a Robb College alumnus and currently Chairs the Board of Dolly's Dream, the Council of Research and Development Corporations and LiveCorp and is a former Chair of the Australian Beef Industry Foundation and several other organisations. Along with having a degree in Rural Science from University of New England, he has also completed the Agribusiness program at Harvard Business School and The Australian Rural Leadership Program. The Rural Focus Dinner was attended by residents, sponsors, alumni and a range of representatives from a broad range of agribusinesses.

[Read more >](#)



Robb Alumni

UNE is leading on leadership

New research shows that UNE has produced a significant number of business leaders, like CEO of Consolidated Pastoral Company, Troy Setter.

Australian cattleman and agribusiness leader Troy Setter who was a former Robb College resident, studied Rural Science at UNE in the 1990s.

Today, Troy is Chairman of The Council of Rural Development Corporations, Dolly's Dream and LiveCorp, as well as CEO of Australia's largest private beef producer and significant cropping operation - Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC) - and oversees a company worth an estimated \$1.1 billion, an Australian workforce of 180 spread across nine stations

[Read more >](#)



In Memoriam

Vale Frank Spilsbury

The Robb College community is mourning the loss of respected stock and station agent Frank Spilsbury who died in May following a short illness. Jill Spilsbury, Frank's wife, was Head of Robb College for three years from 2001-2003 and through that association Frank was intricately involved in the college and came to many Robb functions, etc. He was involved in the Rural Focus symposium back in 2017-18 and has always been very supportive of the College. Frank and Jill were guests at the Rural Focus dinners held at the College and they very kindly donated to Robb scholarships. The family has had a good association even though Jill was Head of Mary White for many years before helping Robb out in 2001.

Frank Samuel Spilsbury 27/02/1939 - 23/05/2023. Of Armidale. Beloved husband of Jill. Loving father and father-in-law of Jon & Pauline and Pip. Adored grandfather of Huntly, Nell, Sarah, Laura and Kate. Aged 84 years. A celebration of Frank's life was held at Piddington's Crematorium Chapel, Uralla Road Armidale Friday, 2nd June 2023.



Robb Students

Savannah White

Savannah White was recently selected to represent Australia in the under 19's Futsal squad who travelled to Spain in July to play in the Costa Blanca World Cup. She played against over 20 countries in one of the fastest sports on the planet.

Savannah joined Robb College this year to study Environmental Science at UNE. Since 2017 she has been playing in the NSW State side and this is the second time she has been selected to play for Australia.

[Read more >](#)



College life in photos



Recent Events



Robb College Rural Focus Dinner

Robb recently invited Alumni & Friends of the College to attend the 20th Annual Rural Focus Dinner. The Black-tie event was held in the Robb College Dining Hall on Wednesday 12 July, with Guest Speaker and Robb alumni Troy Setter, who is now the Chief Executive Officer & Director of the Consolidated Pastoral Company.



Robb Ladies Day

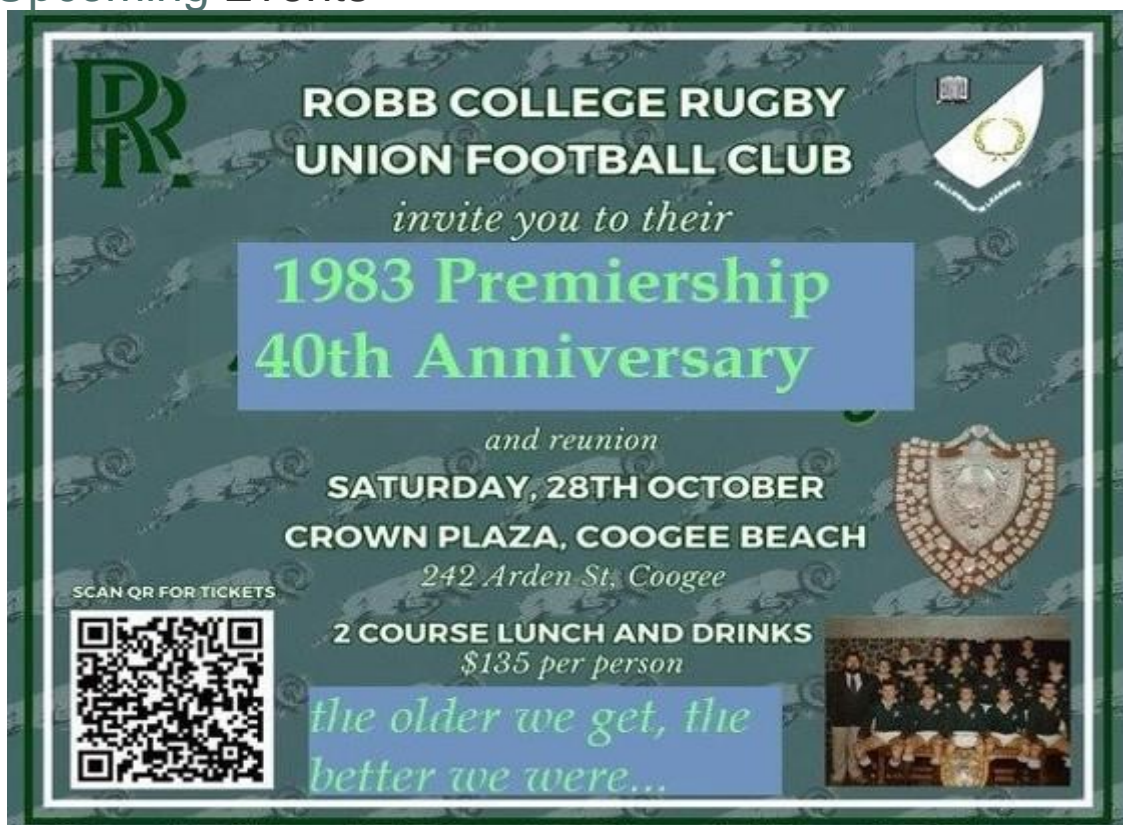
Robb recently hosted their Robb Ladies Day at Bellvue Oval to support the Robb Vs Albies Women's rugby game. On the day there were great prizes on offer from local businesses and tickets included entry to the oval, a grazing pack, drinks and access to the champagne bar. A great time was had by all!





Farm Management Evening

Scott Christian and UNE Graduate Shannon Bow from Boyce Accounting in Dubbo came and spoke to our Business, Economics and Agribusiness students. We discussed recruitment tips and tricks as well as heard about internships, undergraduate and graduate programs available at Boyce.

Upcoming Events



ROBB COLLEGE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB
invite you to their
1983 Premiership 40th Anniversary
and reunion
SATURDAY, 28TH OCTOBER
CROWN PLAZA, COOGEE BEACH
242 Arden St, Coogee
SCAN QR FOR TICKETS

2 COURSE LUNCH AND DRINKS
\$135 per person
the older we get, the better we were...


1983 Robb Rugby Premiers - 40th Anniversary Reunion

Back in the early 80's, on a cold day at Armidale Showgrounds, the mighty Robb College - led by Dave Pratten - had a fine victory over the tough boys of Armidale City lead by Greg Cornelsen and John Hipwell.

While hard to believe it's 40 years since that fine victory, it's time to remember how good we were and catch up with friends from the 70's and 80's! *"the older we get, the better we were"*

Date: 28th October 2023, at 12.30 pm

Venue: Crown Plaza, Coogee Beach, 242 Arden St, Coogee

Lunch: \$135 (2 course lunch and 3 hr drinks package)

Accommodation available at the Crown Plaza, an IHG hotel (Book online and join free the One rewards club for a 10% discount)

Limited tickets available so book well in advance.

[Buy your tickets here >](#)



Are you going to AgQuip?

Please join us at the UNE stand for a free UNE Alumni and Industry BBQ lunch of sausages prepared by the UNE Meat Science team.

UNE Vice-Chancellor and CEO, Professor Chris Moran and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Chris Armstrong will join us between 1:00pm and 2:00pm for a casual meet and greet.

EVENT DETAILS:

WHEN: Wednesday 23 August, 1pm to 2pm

WHERE: Site Number E/26-27, AgQuip, Gunnedah

We look forward to seeing you there!



Alumni Weekends

There have been four Robb Alumni group reunions return to Armidale in the last 2 years. Last weekend saw 23 Robbers from the 2003 start year attend. "There were a few from the years above and below as well. The 2003 intake Robb Reunion was an outstanding success, and testament to the cohort's collegiate nature and strong, life-long friendships. The weekend was paced over three-days, and provided a range of opportunities for Robbers to chat, reminisce, laugh, sing, and dance. A key highlight of the weekend was remembering where we'd come from, sharing where we were at, and the affirmation of our friendships for the future. There are calls for future reunions, which may be suitable in 2028 or 2033". Please contact the Robb Alumni via the College office to help arrange your catch-up. We can advise with accommodation, transport, logistics, venues and College visits. We can also help promote and circulate your event to Robb Alumni. Contact details: <https://robbcollege.com/new-events>

Robb Charity



Robb College Scholarship Appeal

Appeal to raise balance of \$150,000 by 2024 to double our scholarships. Commencing in 2019 the Robb Foundation launched this appeal to establish a new pathway of residential Scholarships. The first two pathways were commenced in 2020 to commemorate the 60th Year for Robb College. We wish to commence four pathways in 2024.

[More information >](#)



Cowboy Hats for Kate

Supporting
Brain Cancer
Research



2023 Charity - Cowboy Hats for Kate

Robb College is proudly supporting "Cowboy Hats for Kate" as their 2023 charity. Funds raised are dedicated to finding a discovery to aid the treatment of brain cancer.

[Find out more >](#)

University News



Launch of first national map of Australia's protected cropping structures

The horticulture sector will now be better equipped to forecast yields, manage logistics, and respond to natural disasters and biosecurity threats, thanks to the launch of Australia's first map of protected cropping structures.

[Read more >](#)



UNE crowned meat judging champions

The 2023 Intercollegiate Meat Judging Association (ICMJ) National Competition has wrapped up in Wagga Wagga with Jonty Hemmingway from UNE taking out the title of Australian meat judging champion individual.

[Read more >](#)



UNE works with Rural Aid to help farming families reboot

The "people side of drought" is front and centre for a Rural Aid-supported initiative helping farming families reboot not just their businesses, but themselves.

[Read more >](#)

Supporting UNE



A celebration of generosity and goodwill

Generous supporters of UNE students gathered in historic Booloominbah last Friday for our annual scholarships luncheon.

Almost 100 special guests, donors and trustees, as well as on-campus scholarship recipients enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share stories – of why they are compelled to support UNE education and the profound difference such gifts can make.

Each year UNE distributes some 300 donor-funded scholarships valued at \$1.5 million. Their primary aim is to ensure UNE education is affordable to those of limited means, to support First Nations students and to recognise students who have achieved academic excellence. New Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Moran, Chancellor James Harris and Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall were among the invited guests celebrating UNE's scholarship program.

Many of our scholarships are a result of long-standing industry partnerships and generous bequests from alumni who are invested in regional tertiary education. Thank you to the generous donors and their trust and foundation representatives who, each year, help give our students every chance of success.

You, too, can contribute to UNE's scholarship fund. [Find out more here >](#)

[Give to UNE >](#)



Join our Graduates' Walk

A Graduates' Walk paver is an opportunity to celebrate your success whilst giving back to your university and supporting student scholarships.

[Graduates' Walk >](#)

University Events



The University of New England (UNE) will host a free online discussion alongside the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to unpack the latest research into how to improve crop yields that are limited by soil constraints.

EVENT DETAILS:

WHEN: Friday 11 August, 12pm to 1:30pm

WHERE: Online. Zoom link will be emailed prior to the event. Please register [here](#) to receive the link.

WHO: Grain growers and consultants across Queensland and New South Wales who are impacted by soil constraints and would like to improve yields.



UNE EVENTS CALENDAR

[View all upcoming UNE Events here](#)

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The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, programs and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.

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