



PROF. BERNARD MICHAEL BINDON

19/8/40-26/3/22

F.S.R.B., B.Rur.Sc., (UNE. 1962; M.Rur.Sc (UNE,1966); Ph.D. (Syd, 1970), D.Rur.Sc., (h.c. UNE 05), F.A.S.A.P, (2000); F.A.A.ABG (2005); F.S.R.B (2011).

Bernie Bindon, Scholar, Scientist, Sportsman, and family man died on 26th of March 2022 in Brisbane. His funeral, held on the 3/4/22, was attended by colleagues and friends from UNE, Robb College, the CSIRO and a multiplicity of agricultural and research organizations. Bernie has been acclaimed 'as an eminent and internationally renowned reproductive biologist' (4 p.1).

Bernie completed a B. Rur.Sc at UNE 1958-61 living in Linden Hall, Alluna D, St Cuthberts then moving into the new Robb College in 1960. Bernie was in the first intake of students and a member of the first Robb College Club committee (today's JCR) as the Social Officer and involved with the Robb College building committee to help design facilities for the new Robb College. Bernie captained the first Robb Rugby team in 1961 and was part of the team's 51st (year) reunion in 2012. Bernie married his wife Robin in 1963.

Bernie's academic excellence led to research that had significant impact on the sheep and cattle industries in Australia and internationally. Members of his various research teams included Laurie Piper and Mike Hilliard, both ex-students of Robb, with former UNE professors Cummins and McClymont providing strong influences, in knowledge and direction, for his future scholastic and research work.

Bernie's research, both theoretical and practical, encompassed a wide range of Animal Science disciplines, resulting in important applications to the sheep and cattle industries. His areas of research included reproductive physiology, genetics, nutrition, and meat science. Bernie worked in teams with Australian and International researchers their efforts resulting in practical applications to husbandry practices in Australia and internationally. Bernie collaborated with research scientists in Morocco, France, Malaysia, and the Middle East. His contribution to livestock Industries in Australia were enormous leading major advancements and to a range Honours and Awards.

Bernie worked first with the CSIRO in Brisbane after graduation and later in Armidale and North Ryde. In 1989 the CSIRO recognised his talents by promotion to Assistant Chief of the CSIRO Division of Animal Science based in Armidale. Bernie's Management and research capabilities were seminal in his appointment as the first Director of the Cattle and Beef Industry CRC in 1992 based at UNE; a position he managed with immense success establishing the CRC as a fundamental and valuable research group.

Two of Bernie's, and his teams major practical research projects, were the Booroola Merino and the Cattle Twinning projects. Both projects achieved major advances in agricultural practices in Australia and great interest internationally.

Bernie was an excellent Rugby player being selected in the NSW side in his last undergraduate year at UNE, playing centre or five-eighth, he went on to play again for NSW and, later, for Queensland. When in his 60s Bernie played Rugby for a Walcha team in a Seniors a regional competition.

In an email written 3/9/12, in relation to his attendance at the Robb 51st Anniversary Reunion, Bernie wrote:

G'Day Robb College,

This is to confirm that Bernie Bindon, Laurie Piper and Geoff Miller, all members of Robb's first Rugby side in NERU competition back in 1961 will be returning for the 51st reunion on September 29. We intend to take part in the old people v current players, and all three of us have been in solid training... at this stage this means that we have changed to Filter Cigarettes! As captain of Robb's 1961 side, I will be taking all kick-offs, penalty kicks and line out calls, not to mention all arguments with the referee and, of course first swig of the Port Bottle at half-time. We three also wear purple shorts, meaning that we are NOT to be tackled or otherwise to be interfered with during the game. Our MAFIA mates will be on the sidelines to deal with youthful offenders on the spot (5

Bernie was a character, a friend to many, and an important researcher and supporter of the Australian cattle and sheep industries, his many talents, through research and management of organizations and his leadership talents have led to practical advancements for all cattle and sheep farm enterprises in Australia.

References used for this article

1. Entwistle K.W., 'Bernard Michael Bindon, reproductive physiologist, animal scientist, research leader,' *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* 46(2), March 06.
2. Burrows, H., 'Vale, Bernie Bindon.' Blog.une.edu.au/pulse news, March 2022.
3. Society for reproductive Biology. 'Bernard Michael Bindon, web page 2022.
4. Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics March 2022.
5. Bindon, B. 'email to g druit, 3/9/12.

Glenn Druitt

Following are recollections from Laurie Piper, First President of Robb College 1961 - a co-student, co-researcher, and a great friend of Bernie Bindon

Vale Bernie Bindon 1940-2022 – Recollections by Laurie Piper

I first met Bernie Bindon when we enrolled at UNE in 1958 in the third intake of the new Rural Science 4-year degree course which was the brainchild of Professor Bill McClymont. The graduates of this course would be schooled in the biological, social, and economic aspects of agricultural production (otherwise known as the Bio-Socio-Economic whole).

In 1958 many of the new students including Bernie and myself were accommodated in university owned houses in Armidale. It was also in 1958 that Bernie met his life-long love and future wife Robin. In second year, we were both in Alluna (aka the Bottom Huts). For third year we were meant to move into the new Robb College, but construction delays meant that we did not move into South Court until the beginning of second term.

One of the first items on the agenda was to elect a Robb College Junior Common Room Committee. I was elected as President and Bernie was the Committee member in charge of social activities. We spent most of 1960 developing and initiating various College social and sporting activities. When the dreaded Stuvac week arrived, frantic last-minute cramming was the order of the day. One of our good Rural Science mates, Dick Constable, decided on a novel approach to cramming. He carefully

laid out his lecture notes on the floor of all four of the upstairs corridors and then did a quick run through those notes on the night before the first exam. It was not a winning strategy.

In 1961 the University and the Teacher's College agreed to each field two teams in the New England Rugby Competition. Robb and Wright Colleges each fielded a team. Bernie and I were charged with the task of designing the Robb College Rugby strip and after much consultation with female colleagues we came up with a design in two colours with various hoops and V's. We proudly presented these to the College Master, Ben Meredith, who looked them over and then said "yes, plain green will be fine."

After graduating at the end of 1961, Bernie and I went our separate ways. Bernie went to UNSW, and I started work with CSIRO at the National Sheep Breeding Station, Gilruth Plains, Cunnamulla, Queensland. Bernie then joined CSIRO in Brisbane in 1963 to work with Don Lamond. We both worked for CSIRO for a few years and then both enrolled in PhD programs. Bernie at the University of Sydney and me at the University of Edinburgh.

When I was finishing my PhD in Edinburgh, my CSIRO Division Chief, Jim Rendel paid a visit the University. I asked him what he wanted me to do when I returned to the Division and he said "I have just appointed this young chap from Sydney University, Bernie Bindon. He's a very bright reproductive physiologist/endocrinologist and he's going to work on elucidating the basis of increased reproduction rate in sheep. Do you think you could work with him"? I said, "I think I can manage that." Thus began 20 years (1972-1992) of working extremely hard in a very productive partnership on the genetics, physiology, and endocrinology of increased reproduction rate in sheep and to a lesser extent in cattle.

Much has been written about Bernie's stellar career as a distinguished research scientist, research manager and CRC Director. Those achievements have been well documented by others both before and since his passing. It only remains for me to say that it was a privilege to know him as a true friend, to play rugby with him, to work with him in research and research management and in our farming endeavours in Armidale. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



See full Tribute article on Bernie by UNE here:

<https://blog.une.edu.au/pulsenews/2022/03/31/vale-bernie-bindon/>