

Society of Old Agriculture Fellows

OAFS

Old Agriculture Fellows
Established 2014



University House, Parkville (or wherever agreed)

2024

The First 10 Years



The Society of Old Agriculture Fellows (OAFS) is an informal group of Fellows who are known individually as OAFs. The OAFS has grown from 2002-3 meetings of a couple of retired members of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Melbourne to number 20 such retirees in 2024. It spans the Faculty's successive iterations of: the School of Agriculture; the School of Agriculture and Forestry; the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture; the Institute of Land and Food Resources; the Faculty of Land and Food Resources; the Melbourne School of Land and Environment; the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, and the School of Agricultural, Food and Ecosystem Sciences. Named for the 1930s 'Old Agriculture' building that has represented agricultural science and its diverse fields for many decades, the OAFS meets every month or so for whichever OAFs are available. Offering enjoyable fellowship for the OAFs and guests, OAFS aims to further the interests of the current School, Faculty, the University and the wide field of agriculture and its sciences through animated luncheon discussions, occasional dinners, addressing historical issues of the Faculty, sponsoring awards, proffering advice to decision-makers, and sharing information and activities.

AWARDS

Initiated by The OAfs

Initiative 1: The ICM AgriFood Award

The ICM AgriFood Award was created by the OAfs as the most significant award for innovation in the food and agriculture sciences and industries. It is implemented under the auspices of the Academy of Technological Science and Engineering (ATSE) and sponsored by ICM Agribusiness. The annual Award is made to one woman and one man, aged less than 40, who have each made significant contributions through science and technology to any aspect of the diverse agricultural and food industries. Laureates of the highly competitive award to date have been:

Dr Natalie Morgan
Dr Benjamin Holman
Dr Zoe Doubleday
Dr George Chen
Dr Anna El-Tahchy
Dr Lindsay Bell
Prof Michelle Colgrave
Dr Greg Falzon
Dr Shu Kee Lam
Dr Rebecca Darbyshire
Dr James Hunt
Dr Angela Van de Wouw
Dr Lydia Ong (pictured with a couple of OAfs)
Dr Lee Hickey (pictured with a couple of OAfs)



AWARDS

Initiated by The OAFS

Initiative 2: Travel Fellowship for Researchers

The OAFS initiated the Travel Fellowships with a depleting fund that is expected to last for several years. The fund has been mainstreamed through the School of Agricultural, Food and Ecosystem Sciences' competitive annual awards process. Awardees are selected from applications submitted by PhD candidate researchers to assist presentation of their work at an international meeting. Upon completion of their award, awardees are invited to share lunch with the OAFS to discuss their projects. Some Awardees and their topics to date have been:

Anna Kosovac, Understanding the impact of risk perception in the water industry.

Pablo Alvarez Hess, Analysis of the individual and additive effect of 3-nitrooxypropanol, nitrate, fats and rapidly fermentable starch on enteric methane abatement.

Saeedeh Taheri, Microwave-assisted technology for the processing of agricultural commodities with the specific aim of non-chemical pathogen control.

Fernanda Zamuner, Endocrine and metabolic status of dairy goats during a transition period.

AWARDS

Initiated by The OAFS

Initiative 3: The Medal of The OAFS

The OAFS Medal has been conferred on persons who have rendered exceptional service to the Faculty in the years since the formation of The OAFS. The Medal has been conferred once to date, with the recipient of this Inaugural OAFS Medal, in 2023, being the retiring Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, Professor John Fazakerley.



AWARDS

Initiated by The OAfs

Initiative 4:

The OAFish Award & The OAFish TrOAFy

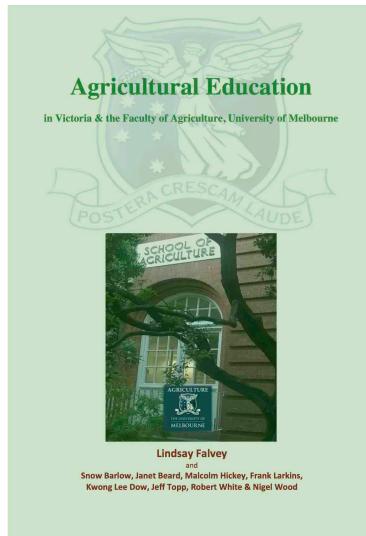
Beginning as the OAFish Award, as recorded in the minutes of the Society of Old Agriculture Fellows of 18 March 2015 and refined on 13 May 2015, the OAFish Award was conferred annually on an OAF who had done something that was not necessarily in their best interests, possibly from neglecting to acknowledge the effects of age or other limitations. It was conferred each April 1. In 2020, the Award was transformed into the OAFish TrOAFy, which is conferred on an OAF for meritorious deeds that enhance the OAfs, the Faculty or agricultural science in general. Recipients of the OAFish TrOAFy have been Emeritus Professors Bob White and Frank Larkins.



Other Initiatives of The OAFS

History Book on Agricultural Education

Involving all OAFs at the time, the 231-page hardback book was entitled, **Agricultural Education: in Victoria & the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Melbourne**. The book chronicles the history of agricultural education in Victoria from the 1870s until 2014. It integrates other institutional contributors including: the colleges of the VCAH – Burnley, Dookie, Gilbert Chandler, Glenormiston, Longeranong and McMillan; La Trobe University School of Agriculture, and Marcus Oldham College. The book follows the chronology through Deans of the Faculty with the impacts of other institutions detailed within relevant eras.



Other Initiatives of The OAFS

Other Publications

Individual OAJs continue with their professional and personal interests in retirement from the Faculty. Some continue to offer their experience and some publish articles ranging from magazine essays to scientific works, including books.

No complete list of all such publications exists, the closest approximation being that presented on the relevant page of The OAJS's website, oafs.live. More than 50 publications are listed on the website, a screenshot of which is presented below.

From: oafs.live



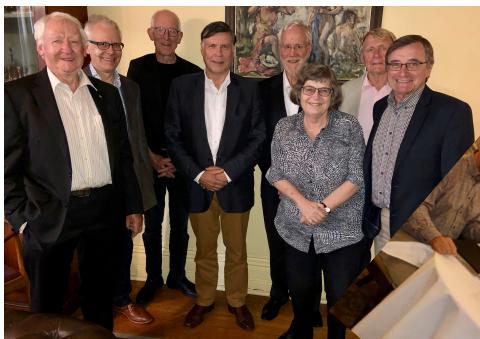
Sociable OAFs

Meetings, anniversaries, awards, field visits and general interaction over the first ten years of The OAFS has been sociable in nature. It aims to be pleasantly convivial and genial rather than clubby.















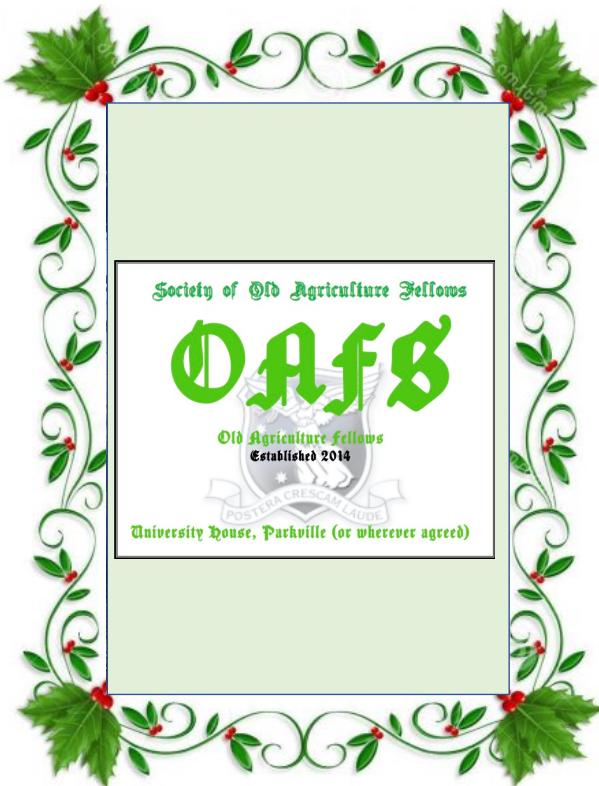












*May 2023 be a
great year for all
OAFs and for
agriculture in the
University*





The 'Old Agriculture' building after which The Society of Old Agriculture Fellows is named.

OAFs may come and go, but 'Old Agriculture' will go on and on ...



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

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