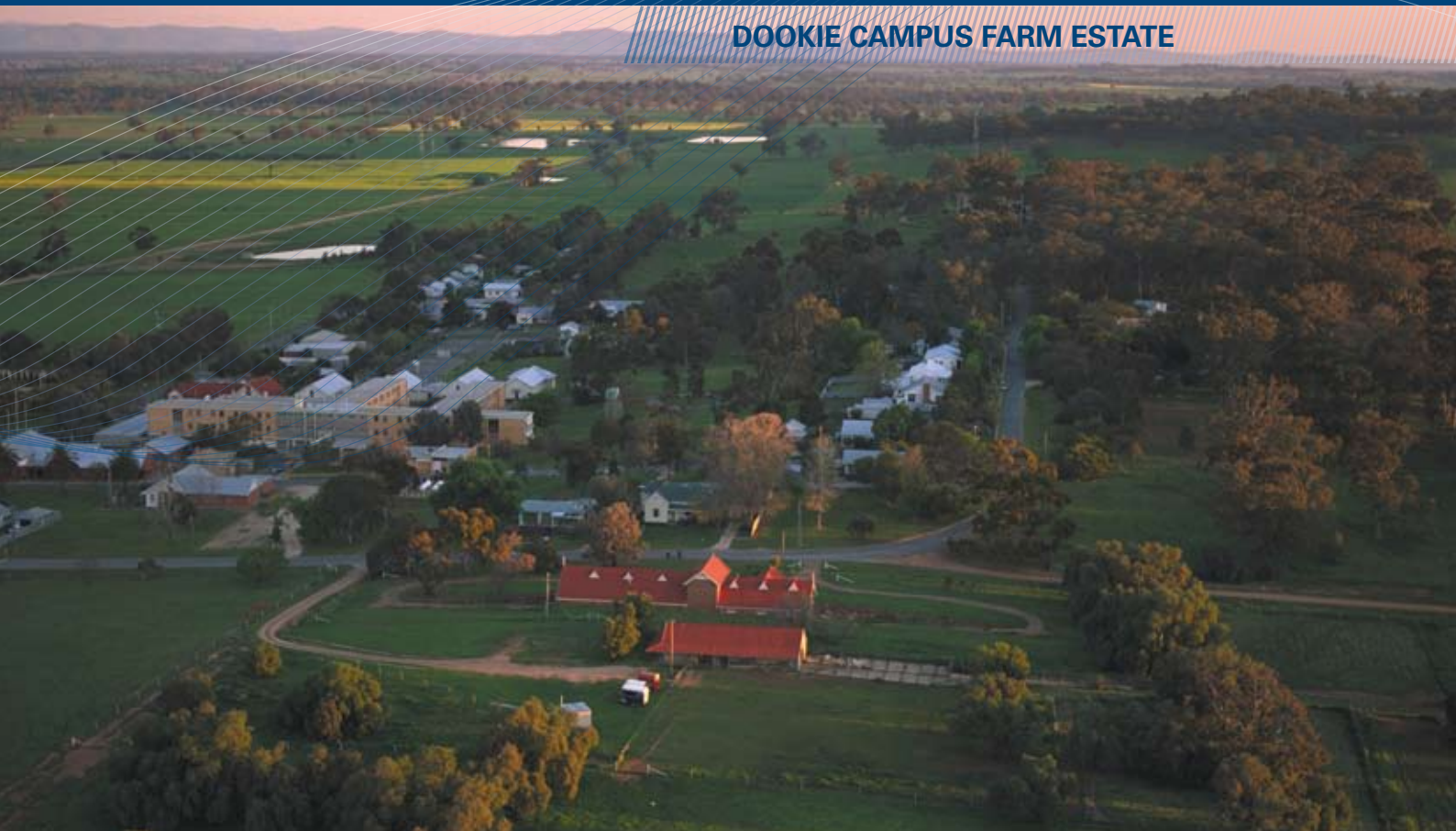




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DOOKIE CAMPUS FARM ESTATE



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The Dookie Campus farm enterprises have a multifaceted and integral role in the teaching, research and extension programs delivered at Dookie Campus. Managed as viable financial operations, each farm enterprise provides students and researchers with access to agricultural production systems representative of the various industries and commodities from today's land, food and fibre industries.

The Dookie Campus farms have four broad roles:

- Operate commercially
- Support the educational goals of the University
- Provide a laboratory for research and
- Facilitate outreach and knowledge transfer

Total farm area is 2247 hectares (5600 acres). This area includes the main farming enterprises, the Dookie Bushland Reserve and the Historic Dookie Campus Winery. Each enterprise is managed according to the principals of sustainable farming systems whilst maintaining maximum results and benefits.

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BROADACRE FARM

The Broadacre enterprise is the largest farm enterprise, utilising approximately 1500 hectares. Broadacre includes cropping, beef and sheep operations as well as dry feed if seasonal conditions permit (when around 600 round bales of hay are cut). Pasture consists of a mixture of native annual and perennial grasses and lucerne.

CROPPING

Approximately 700 ha of cereal and oilseed crops are planted each year utilizing either direct drilling or a minimum tillage program. These crops include wheat, triticale, canola and barley. All crops are either direct drilled or sown in a minimum tillage program. Wheat crops yield an average of 4.8 tonne per hectare, canola averages 2.2 tonne per hectare and barley 3.5 tonne per hectare.



BEEF CATTLE

The beef cattle enterprise is a self-replacing Angus herd that are either sold as feedlot feeder steers to the domestic market or kept as replacement heifers. All cows are joined to trait-recorded Angus Bulls. The herd currently consists of 40 breeder cows, 29 replacement heifers and five bulls.

SHEEP

The self-replacing Merino flock is managed to achieve 5,000 sheep with 19 micron wool. Lambing is in early spring, with all sheep shorn in March. Lambs wool yields an average of 16.3 micron. Merino ewes are also crossed with terminal rams for the prime lambs market.

DOOKIE CAMPUS DAIRY

Situated between the Midland Highway and the Broken River the Dookie Campus dairy herd consists of 180 stud-registered Holstein Cows grazing on 45 ha of irrigated rye grass and clover pasture. Eighty hectares of dryland pasture is utilised for calves, heifers and dry cows. Milk production last season (2005/2006) exceeded 1.2 million litres or over 6800 litres per cow with 4.07 % fat and 3.34 % protein production.

VINEYARD

Located on the southern slopes of Mount Major, the 22-hectare enterprise is a mature vineyard with the majority of the plantings over 20 years old. The vineyard is comprised of Semillon, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Tarrango and Shiraz grapes. Grapes are sold commercially with a proportion utilized to make wines on site in the Campus' own winery.

WINERY

Built in 1896 the Historic Dookie Campus Winery is a fully commercial enterprise, responsible for producing the University's own wines under the "Dookie 360 degrees" label. All wines are produced from grapes grown in the University's own Mt Major vineyard. The winery is also a winemaking facility utilised by boutique wine makers and by students undertaking undergraduate and postgraduate training in wine technology and viticulture.

ORCHARD

The orchard is located on the southern slopes of Mount Major. The 7.7-hectare site includes apricots, peaches, plums and Pink Lady apples which are sold to local packers and processors. The Orchard of the 21st Century block was established in 2001 with support and funding from local industry, Agriculture Advancing Australia Farm Innovation Program (AFFA) and the ILFR Trust. The site demonstrates state-of-the-art production systems and irrigation technology including the \$4.5 million Science, Technology and Innovation research project.

DOOKIE BUSHLAND RESERVE

The Dookie Bushland Reserve is a nationally significant area of 270 ha, comprised of mainly white box and grey box grassy woodland. It is rare to find these vegetation types in South Eastern Australia, particularly of this size and quality. Whilst these vegetation types were once very common across the Riverine Plains of Northern Victoria and Southern New South Wales, more than 98% of the original distribution has been cleared or modified for agriculture.

Dookie Bushland Reserve provides an excellent medium for education programs and natural resource management research. The reserve facilitates a practical insight into natural resource management issues including fuel reduction, pest, animal and plant management along with vegetation and fauna surveys. Highly valued for its impressive array of native flora and fauna (including many threatened species) providing excellent diversity and species habitats, the Bushland Reserve is listed as an indicative site on the Register of the National Estate.

