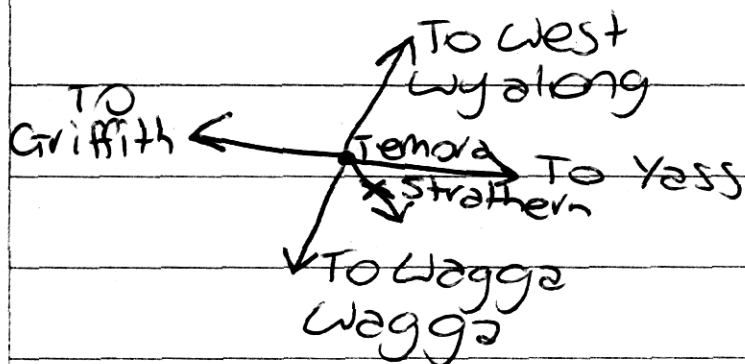




The economic enterprise studied was a wheat farming unit called 'Strathern' owned by Mr & Mrs Tony & Bev Sinclair.

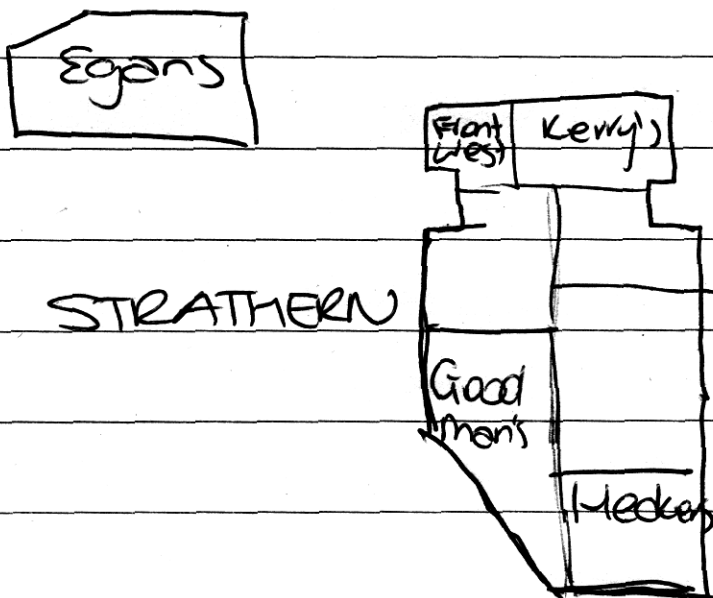
Strathern is located in South-East, rural NSW, approximately 13 km from the small township of Temora, as seen in the following diagram.



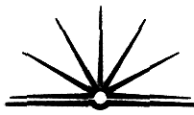
Strathern began in ~~1887~~ 1887, where Tony Sinclair's grandfather owned the farm. As Tony grew up, he learned the tricks of the trade of farming. The farm began at 2½ thousand acres in size, and gradually increased to 3½ thousand acres. Over time, as Tony grew

older, he reduced the size of the farm, back to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  thousand acres. The farm has developed, through the purchase of neighboring farms, which makes it the economic enterprise it is today.

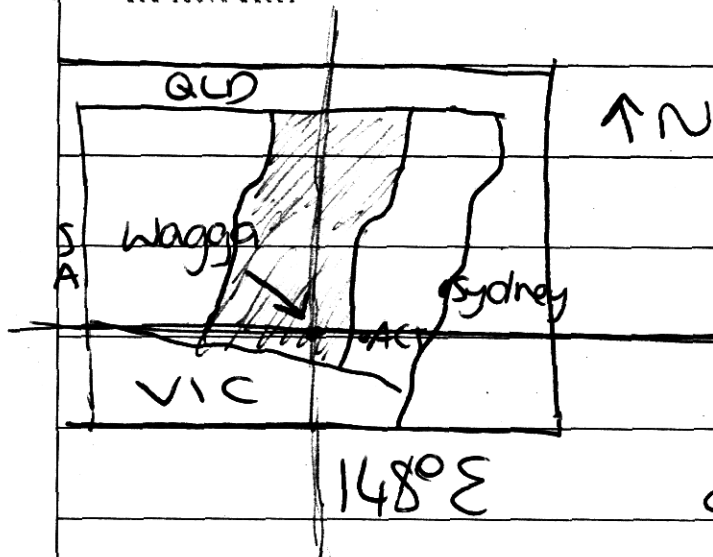
Each paddock, purchased over time off the selling neighbours, was named after the family it was purchased from, as seen in the following diagram



Strathern is ~~to~~ part of the 'Sheep Wheat Zone' of NSW.



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Wheat is a  
cool season

35°S crop, having  
two major types:  
winter & spring wheats.

It is grown in temperate latitudes  
of 30-60°N & 25-40°S of  
the equator.

The location of Strathern is determined  
by many factors. These including:  
- The biophysical environment.

The gradient of farms is important  
as it is a major determining factor  
of the ability of machinery to  
harvest the crop. Strathern is  
quite flat, which is good, rather  
than it being steep & undulating.

The amount of sunlight & rainfall  
received is also a determining  
factor. At current, Australia is

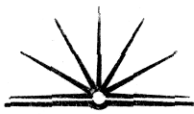


experiencing a major drought. However, Mr Sinclair believes a drought gives the soil a new lease of life & leads to increased yields in the following year.

The principle of 'economic rent' is also another important factor.

This is the viability of land for agriculture.

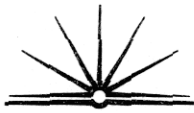
The location of particular crops has been made a possibility through the technique of 'crop rotation'. Mr Sinclair, with the assistance in modern farming technologies (such as tractors & boom sprays) allows for him to have a crop with 1 year canola, 2 years wheat, 1 year lupins (legumes). Such a technique enables the soil to regain it's



quality, and hence release  $\&$  nitrogen. Lightning is also ~~also~~ something that releases nitrogen into the soil.

Alley farming is an ecological technique applied by many farmers (especially in <sup>the</sup> china plains). This is the process of planting rows of trees between crops. This is a very ecological sustainable practice, as it gives a variety of biodiversity a chance of life.

Another ecologically sustainable farming practice is that of minimum or no tillage farming. Such a practice is promoted at field days & through competitions & simply involves farming / harvesting that can be carried out in the minimum time & reduces the 'compaction factor' and



therefore assists the environment.

Both Tony & Bev & their son Andrew are involved with the local LandCare group. The group consists of ~~local~~ neighbouring farms, who consider the environment (ecological sustainability) and are involved in such things as tree planting in the area.

Through these examples, it is evident that there are many determining factors for wheat farming, with regard to location, as well as this, there are ecological dimensions considered by the Sinclairs.

Such a consideration enables the biophysical environment to be sustained & managed in an effective & efficient way.