



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

# TALKABOUT



Volume 14 No 1

March 2011

## TALKABOUT HAS REACHED A CROSSROADS.

This issue of Talkabout is the first of Volume 14. It has been published three times a year for over thirteen years.

That means that the editors have put together enough information for 40 editions and have been able to maintain the interest of hundreds of ex-students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College covering the years 1947 to 1971.

In 1997 the Alumni Association resurrected the College paper, Talkabout, with the dual aim of communicating with as many Alumni as possible, and to raise money to provide a perpetual scholarship for an Education student at the Wagga Campus of CSU.

Because of the incredible detective work of Ann Smith the first aim was achieved, as the majority of ex-students have been found and added to the Talkabout mailing list, which now totals over 3,500.

The second aim has been achieved, as the Scholarship target of \$60,000 has been reached so that scholarships of up to \$6,000 can be awarded each year.

Unfortunately our appeals for contributions to pay for the printing and postage of Talkabout have largely fallen on deaf ears. In spite of having Talkabout delivered to them for 13 years, more than two thirds of those on the mailing list have made absolutely no contribution. We can only assume that those people are no longer interested in reading anything related to Wagga Wagga Teachers College, and therefore do not wish to receive any further copies.

The cost of printing and postage has increased beyond the amount we have been receiving from contributions so it has been decided that a voluntary contribution will no longer suffice.

This is the last issue which will be posted to all alumni. In future only those who pay a subscription will receive a printed copy of Talkabout.

Talkabout is uploaded to the CSU website and many alumni have indicated that they are happy to receive their copy electronically. Alumni with computers will be able to view Talkabout on line, and all those who have been regular contributors will continue to receive a printed copy.

For this year the annual subscription will remain at the suggested contribution level of \$10 with the possibility of a change in the future.

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2011.

There being no other alumni present at the meeting, the existing committee was reelected for the coming year.

In attendance was Michelle Fawkes who has now been appointed the Manager, Alumni and Philanthropy at Charles Sturt University.

She submitted a comprehensive report and the following is taken from that report.

### REPORT FROM THE MANAGER, ALUMNI AND PHILANTHROPY.

2010 saw Charles Sturt University establish an Advancement Unit within the Office of Corporate Affairs and the establishment of the Faculty Advancement Officer (FAO) role in partnership with the Faculty of Education and its alumni.

Throughout the year, the focus was on supporting the Faculty of Education to meet its objective of building strong and enduring relationships with its alumni and encouraging philanthropic support for CSU and its students from current and potential donors.

The WWTAA, through its efforts in co-ordination with the FAO, has made a considerable contribution to these goals.

On behalf of the University and the Faculty of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the President of the WWTAA, Mr Bob Collard, the Committee and the many members and donors from within the Association for their dedication to the objectives of the Association and Charles Sturt University.

### TALKABOUT

The *Talkabout* magazine in 2010 was once again of a very high

standard and is much enjoyed by its readership. *Talkabout* is an important communication tool for the WWTAA Alumni and provides a valuable means for fundraising, recalling teaching memories, advertising and reporting on reunions as well as a vital link to the University.

Charles Sturt University pays tribute to the dedicated editors, Lindsay Budd and Lew Morrell, who three times per year produce a quality magazine, continually evolving its content and methods of delivery to meet the needs and expectations of the alumni of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

### THE LEGACY OF WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

Charles Sturt University is proud to claim the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College as one of its predecessor institutions. WWTC was the first wholly residential co-educational tertiary institution on a single campus in Australia. As such, its students formed enduring bonds. The success of the WWTAA can, no doubt, be attributed to the strength of these bonds and the long lasting adherence to the College motto "Excel with Honour".

The dedicated and generous support given by the alumni of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College has enabled \$60,000.00 to be set aside to secure the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Annual Scholarship in perpetuity. The Scholarship will be offered each year in accordance with the criteria already established by the WWTAA.

Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga is privileged to have, on its north campus grounds, four tangible reminders of WWTC – the Rotunda and the statue of Myrtle both brought from the WWTC site; as well as the newly dedicated Wagga Alumni Teachers' Association Lodge

(WATAL) and a tree with the original sign marking the opening of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1947. The naming of the student residential block pays tribute to the significant and historic role that the WWTC played in the development of CSU.

Wagga Wagga Teachers' College, through its Scholarship, has established a lasting legacy for future teaching students of Charles Sturt University.

The physical reminders of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College on the Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga campus and the naming of the WATAL building pay tribute to the dedication, hard work and generosity of the Committee and members of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' Alumni Association.

### FUTURE DIRECTION OF WWTAA

The major issues identified by the WWTAA are the distribution of *Talkabout* and where to from here with fundraising, but perhaps the more pressing issue of all is the sustainability of the WWTAA.

***Talkabout* magazine** (the cost of its printing and distribution to alumni)

In June 2010, Mr Adrian Lindner advised the WWTAA that the Head of Campus Wagga Wagga Office would assist the Association for a period of 12 months with the cost of printing and distribution of hard copy *Talkabout*. This assistance is conditional on the Association notifying its alumni that they will need to supply an email address to CSU to continue to receive the magazine. There is only one more hard copy issue of *Talkabout* to be produced with Head of Campus Office assistance.

Outlined below are options for your consideration:

- print and distribute hard copy of *Talkabout* to all alumni without

email, using a provider external to CSU. The provider can enter into a 'Confidentiality Agreement' with CSU for the supply of the mailing list;

- print and distribute only to those who contribute to the Management Fund, again using a provider external to CSU; **or**
- discontinue the publication.

In support of the Association, Charles Sturt University can offer:

- free distribution to all WWTC alumni with email addresses an electronic PDF copy of the *Talkabout* magazine supplied by the Editors and place the magazine on the Alumni website; and
- incorporation of any WWTC teaching memories, reunion notices or other WWTAA information submitted to the FAO into email communications to alumni of the Faculty of Education at the Dean's discretion.

### The WWTAA (the future)

Since the inception of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association in 1997 at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of WWTC, the members of the Committee, predominately Pioneers, have devoted many hours and much energy to developing and supporting the Association and its objectives. Over the years, there have been only a small number of more recent alumni who have come forward to add their help.

Now, 14 years on, most of the original Committee still stands. I understand that many of you are wishing to stand down at this meeting and enjoy other activities in your lives.

If filling the positions of the WWTAA Management Committee is shown to be untenable, the Committee may in accordance with its Constitution take steps to dissolve the Association.

Advice on constitutional procedures pertaining to the dissolution of the Association can be provided to the WWTAA by the University's corporate governance and legal divisions if so requested.

Michelle Fawkes.

Manager, Alumni and Philanthropy  
email: mfawkes@csu.edu.au

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### YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!

I'm the life of the party..... even if it lasts until 8 P.M.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer.

I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm very good at telling stories; over and over and over and over...

I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.

I'm so cared for — long term care, eye care, private care, dental care.

I'm not really grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, Toyota commercials, barking dogs, lying politicians, and a few other things I can't seem to remember right now.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm having trouble remembering simple words like.....

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, and when did they let kids become policemen?

I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?

And, how can my kids be older than I feel sometimes?

I'm a walking storeroom of facts.....

I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life!

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# REUNION PAGE

## 1959-60 50 YEAR REUNION



2010 was the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of WWTC 1959-60 students, so a very dedicated trio; Beverley Fleming, Julianne Nevin and Barbara (Newby) Bradstock decided to try for a very special reunion.

Emails were sent to everyone registered with WWTC Alumni and response was most enthusiastic.

It was decided to hold the reunion in November over a weekend.

The venue was at Mittagong RSL which had motel accommodation on same premises. This turned out to be an excellent choice, as anyone who wished could enjoy a drink or two without having to drive afterwards. Most travelled to Mittagong on the Friday and soon after checking in, people were meeting up over lunch/coffee etc. Some people were immediately recognisable; others had changed a little over fifty years!

On Friday evening, we met up in the

RSL Lounge and in casual groups went to dinner, after which we all gravitated back to the lounge for more getting together and reminiscences, showing of photos and tales of schools, families and others not present. Some took to the dance floor, but most were content to chat the night away.

The next morning at breakfast, there was more catching up, chatting, photos and plans for the day. Different groups went to the various venues suggested by organisers: winery, Berrima, Bowral & others.

That evening there was a special dinner held in a private area so it was WWTC full on! The three organisers had decorated the venue with balloons, streamers and had a huge collection of WWTC memorabilia laid out for all to see. A sumptuous three course meal, with wines was much appreciated by all. Neville

Jennings gave a speech which covered most aspects of our WWTC life and happenings in 1959-60. We had a Trivia/Questionnaire with questions about various aspects of WWTC in our time. Answers varied from "spot on" to "just hilarious." Some teams scored themselves 35/30. A little skulduggery there!

We all sang "College of the Riverina" and "Gaudeamus". with much gusto, probably more than in 1959-60. Two lecturers attended: Betty Keech (Robertson) who was our dorm warden (Ipai) and Bob Huntsman. In retrospect, they were probably not much older than the students.

An official photographer attended and she was kept busy all night taking pictures of couples, groups and finally one of the whole gathering of more than fifty. Pictures were available then and later appeared on their website for more



# REUNION PAGE

ordering. It was a wonderful night; and to me it was like being back at college again. Much later some stalwarts retired to the lounge for more drinking and dancing.

Sunday breakfast saw all manner of contact details being exchanged, but the wonderful organisers later put together a spreadsheet of all attendees who had given contact information, which they emailed to all. Those three women left absolutely nothing to chance. They couldn't have done more.

The weekend was over far too soon and leaving was to me reminiscent of leaving WWTC in December 1960; very sad. Many of us would like to get together again before too

many more years. I think someone suggested another in five more years. I hope it eventuates. Everyone seemed so happy to renew old friendships and take that wonderful trip down memory lane.

From my perspective and from my own acquaintances that weekend a few people should be mentioned:

Barbara (Sargent) Hobbs from Ipai/Mari dorm, who still had her WWTC blazer and it still fits!

Judy (Larsen) Price who travelled from USA especially for this reunion.

My grad partner, Brian Webb who survived a massive stroke twenty years ago and who also had been

honoured with an OAM in 2003 (which he hadn't mentioned till after the weekend). A modest hero!

Janet Parkhill who is still teaching (Casual). Probably others are too, but she was the only one I knew of then.

Last but not least, the three wonderful women who made this reunion a reality. They did an amazing job and I know there was a lot going on behind the scenes to make it actually happen. I thank you three wholeheartedly and I am sure I speak for all who attended.

Joan Kirkham (Robinson)

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## 1950-51 GIRLS ANNUAL REUNION



*Back: Barbara Trist (Tibbits), Narelle Griffiths, (Matthews), Ella Keesing (Redpath), Gladys Meaney-Budd (Chapman)  
Front: Pam Holman (Clayton), Decima Pickles (Wheeler), Margaret King (Wallace), Marjie Bell (Burke)*

For more than 35 years a group of girls from the 1950-51 session have been meeting for lunch once a year in Sydney. More than 20 girls from the session have attended over the years. Decima makes the booking for the first Wednesday in February

and notifies the other girls of the venue. This year the lunch was held at the Swissotel Sydney on Market Street. The day was one of the hottest on record so the numbers were down but several girls travelled a long way to be there. Ella from Mt Waverley

in Victoria, Barbara from Urunga and Margaret from Nowra. As you can imagine the conversation flowed as they caught up on their various activities over the previous year.

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# TEACHING MEMORIES

## DOUG MILL (1963-64) REMEMBERS.

It often takes a glitch in the system to motivate me into action. I received my latest edition of "Talkabout" addressed to a Mrs Geraldine Mill at my home address on a printed tag, whereas for years I have received my copy addressed correctly to Mr. Douglas Mill, No. 44253. My wife, Shanti suggested that, the den of iniquity, Wagga, had reared its head again, and there was another unknown woman in my life.

This letter is a way of saying please fix the glitch and I have no idea who this lady is and she does not live at my home.

Despite that, I have often thought of writing my memories, but things have always got in the way. Besides, unlike many of you, my teaching career lasted only one year longer than my two College years so I have more memories of College than of teaching, so not many memories at all, but they were unusual years.

So to College. I was the last entrant in 1963's intake, probably because I didn't have a half decent Leaving Certificate performance, after two tries, and I had 6 months mucking around at Uni before I got a job at Qantas. My father insisted that I become professional and the alternative was accountancy and I believed that was too boring. So I was put, along with another late starter into the room next to the bathroom of the oldest men's dorm.

It was always noisy. But we had a great bunch of guys and if there wasn't jamming, there was boxing and of course taking on the other men's dorms. Ours had three entrances which meant we were easy to attack, but we had a bit of cunning and plenty of guts.

My two extra years of age gave me a lot more learning maturity so exams

were easy and I spent most of my time playing sport — Rugby, Basketball, hando, athletics, swimming, either in the pool or the river and then girls. I'd been to a boys' school and bought up in a religious family so I had to learn about girls at College. Well that's my story.

I've said many times that they were the two best years of my life. I enjoyed the mature relationships with lecturers, playing and singing in a folk music band, running an 880 yards record time in athletics, diving from the 10 metre board at College carnivals, boxing in the Jimmy Sharman tent at the Wagga Show, kissing girls behind one of the classrooms, having table groups that got up to all sorts of tricks during meals, day trips to the snowfields, chanting the Maori Haka before rugby matches and .....

At the due time in January 1965 I received the relevant documents, with train ticket, to proceed to Warwick. What? I lived in NSW, was trained at a NSW College and expected to be sent to a NSW school. Warwick was in Queensland. But further investigation suggested there was a Warwick near Cowra, so at the appropriate time we headed off to the Central West and found a one teacher school in the middle of the Edgell farms about 12 miles out of Cowra.

We drove through miles of a variety of crops up a small rise and there on one side of the road was a tin shed community hall and on the other side of the road a one teacher school. We (being my parents and I) saw no one and drove back into Cowra where one of the local ministers had a bedroom to board in. On the Monday I ventured out to the school wondering if anyone else would turn up. It had looked so deserted, but sure enough over the next half an hour six pupils turned up, some with parents.

Apparently the previous teacher had a shrinking population and his nine pupils had shrunk to six and he had failed to advise the Inspector. So my first job for the NSW Education Department was to close the school. This took three weeks to reorganize the kids, complete some external exams back in Sydney, make arrangements with the Inspector and keep teaching until the changes were effected.

Not having previously taught at a one teacher school, in those three weeks I also had to learn how to teach six pupils in four different age groups including a 6<sup>th</sup> class and one in infants. I really only remember standing outside on playground duty waiting for a slow moving cloud to decide whether it would rain on us in this drought stricken area. It didn't. So I closed the school and went to Coonabarabran to relief teach, learning to cope with the Headmasters 6<sup>th</sup> class while in town but otherwise going to teach in places like Gunnedah, Tambar Springs, Yullemambry, Baradine and Binnaway. I played my one and only game of League in Coonabarabran.

Relief Teaching continued to be a difficult task because I would go from one teacher schools with ten pupils to individual classes of 30, often for only a day or two, each taught by wildly different methods by quite different teachers who I never met. Of course I was often told "We don't do that here", or "you're not doing it the right way".

I guess that meant pupils and I did a lot of reading and the things you do in big schools you don't do in small schools. Ringing a bell for 15 kids in the one room is for the birds. At Tambar Springs there were four or five teachers and I had to relieve there for what must have been a week although it seems much shorter.

I had to stay in the pub and not being a drinker I read the paper after school,

# TEACHING MEMORIES

walked the 100 metre length of the town and had an early pub dinner by myself in the dining room then a bit more reading and off to bed.

Well from 6:00pm onwards the pub started to swell and swell it did. My imagination suggests there could have been easily 100 people washing down the Black Plains dust of the day till 10:00pm. So finally to sleep.

To extend the story, in the late 1980's the family was driving down the inland highways from Lismore to Cowra and I decided to pass Tambar Springs. Well, nothing had changed. No new houses, the same general store, service station and pub, all without a repaint and the brick school on the hill looked not a day older.

While in Cowra we drove out to Warwick and lo and behold the school building had gone. We asked a local who advised that the farmers next door had bought the building and moved it onto their property and there it was. The verandah and hat and bag pegs were still in place but the room had become a home for the chooks.

Funny that in my musings I only remember three personalities — the Bank Manager's daughter, the wool classer's family that I stayed with and a farmers family whose son was in 6<sup>th</sup> class at Coona and they invited me out to the property to play tennis, stay overnight and go shooting kangaroos.

I remember going shooting with the town boys and that scared me a lot. The risks they took. One afternoon, I shot a Kangaroo in the hip, had no more ammunition so had to run after him to finish him off with a blow to the head. To this day I remember those eyes looking at me. I have never shot anything since.

It was drought time and the vast Pilliga Scrub caught fire and burned for weeks. I am an asthmatic and the smoke got to me so I was relieved to

go back to Sydney to Auburn West Primary School. Teaching took on new meanings — having to prepare a program, meetings in the staff room, signing in, playground roster, six bells a day, other teachers to socialize with.

One teacher schools and relief teaching was a lonely job. We could use the cane and did. The kids were a motley lot, from the very best to the very worst. There was little to get them on side — batball in the playground for money seemed the best. We swung the bat and paid up if they caught us. 20 kids running for the same ball didn't provide many catches. Obviously in those days there were no optional extras both for them and us.

I was at Auburn for the rest of my two and a half years of teaching and I drove from Turramurra across town with the traffic and then later from North Sydney but it was good to be back in the bustle of life. I took up again the Rugby that I had abandoned and played for Northern Suburbs and they also referred to me as the "young Doug Mill" as they had in college although I was older than many.

It just so happens that this month I'm going to a celebratory lunch for John Thornett, my first North's captain. I understand that so will Jim Lenehan and Beres Elwood who I recall playing against in Wagga.

I enjoyed teaching in Sydney and being part of a regular school. I told the kids the most outrageous stories (all harmless) and was assessed by the Inspector to be easy to get on with but I should learn to talk less and let the pupils put their point of view.

One drawback was that in the third year I was teaching a 5A class next door to the Deputy Principal who, with an extra 15 years service, was teaching the 5B and was in charge of certain rosters. I couldn't see myself lasting that long for just that.

At the end of three years I was given my Teacher's Certificate and sent to the one teacher school at Bungarby (yes, another place never heard of) because they wanted people like me in places like that.

The closest I got to Bungarby was the Education Department in the city where I told them that they were ruining my Rugby ambitions, so they offered Wollongong. But I was stubborn and holding out for Sydney. Well we both said that a "gun was being held to our head" And we didn't part friends.

So my teaching career ended in 1967. Since then I've worked in Travel Agencies and Travel Wholesale Companies, in the building industry as a sales rep and then as a Franchise Manager.

I was retrenched and worked in Fiji for two years as Public Relations for a resort complex and salesman for a millionaire's island paradise. I left that to be the Sales Manager of a Textile Knitting Mill and finally another move to Sales Manager in a Solar Company.

Thirty years on and I'm still in Solar and Insulation with my own business for the last 27 years. So I do have some stickability and currently I'm writing nasty letters to Government Departments and Auditors General trying to find out why they are trying to ruin my business.

I would like to say good day to all my friends, not seen for many years in the 1963 to 1964 years of WWTC and say that I often think of you and the great times I had.

Doug Mill (1963-64),  
Managing Director,  
The Demand Group.

[www.demandgroup.com.au](http://www.demandgroup.com.au)

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# Those Were The Days

DAME MARY GILMORE 1865-1962



In October 1956 the opening took place of the wrought iron gates to the Wagga Wagga Teachers College. The gates were donated by students as a gift in honour of Mary Gilmore. They capture the spirit of the evening or dancing star of “Jiembra”, the Wiradjuri name bestowed upon Mary as a child whilst she lived and played with them on the Murrumbidgee and Houghlagan’s Creek area.

**Mary Jean Cameron** was born on 16 August 1865 at Cotta Walla near Goulburn, New South Wales. When she was one year old her parents, decided to move to Wagga Wagga.

Her father became a carpenter, building homesteads on properties in Wagga, Coolamon, Junee, Temora and West Wyalong for the next 10 years. This itinerant existence allowed Mary only a spasmodic formal education; however she did

receive some on their frequent returns to Wagga.

Her father purchased land and built his own house at Brucedale on the Junee Road, where they had a permanent home. She was then to attend Wagga Wagga Public School for two and a half years. At 14, in preparation to become a teacher, she worked as an assistant at her Uncle’s school at Yerong Creek.

After completing her teaching exams in 1882, she accepted a position as a teacher at Wagga Wagga Public School where she worked until December 1885. After a short teaching spell at Illabo she took up a teaching position at Silverton near the mining town of Broken Hill. There Gilmore developed her socialist views and began writing poetry.

She went with other socialist idealists to Paraguay in 1896, where

they had established a communal settlement called *New Australia* two years earlier. There she married William Gilmore in 1897. By 1902 the socialist experiment had clearly failed and the Gilmores returned to Australia, where they took up farming near Casterton, Victoria.

Gilmore’s first volume of poetry was published in 1910, and for the ensuing half-century she was regarded as one of Australia’s most popular and widely read poets.

In spite of her somewhat controversial politics, Gilmore accepted appointment as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1937, becoming **Dame Mary Gilmore**.

She was the first person to be granted this award for services to literature.



# Those Were The Days

During World War II she wrote stirring patriotic verse such as *No Foe Shall Gather Our Harvest*.

In her later years, Gilmore, separated from her husband, moved to Sydney, and enjoyed her growing status as a national literary icon. Before 1940 she published six volumes of verse and three editions of prose. After the war Gilmore published volumes of memoirs and reminiscences of colonial Australia and the literary giants of 1890s Sydney, thus contributing much material to the mythologising of that period. Dame Mary Gilmore died in 1962, aged 97, and was accorded the first state funeral accorded to a writer since the death of Henry Lawson in 1922.

*The following excerpts are taken from Mary McPherson's book "It Happened at School".*

When she became a well known writer she had some correspondence with the editor of the Department's School Magazine about the use of some of her work and also making suggestions for education in general.

The following extracts from her letters are reminiscences about her time as a teacher. They also demonstrate the healthy state of her ego as in fact she, like many of her fellow pupil-teachers, failed to gain promotion at one of her examination and gave up being a pupil-teacher, instead taking an appointment to a small school, Beaconsfield (later Quandary) Provisional near Temora in 1886. She was then appointed to Illabo Public School in 1887.

To Mr Hicks, 16 July 1931:

*Are you a son of Inspector [David S.] Hicks who used to be at Wagga*

*Wagga? If so you will probably have your father's piercing eye. I was put into the teaching Dept as P.T. [pupil-teacher] owing to his report on me as a scholar in the old Wagga Wagga School. He gave me my initial report on which I was allowed to sit for the entrance Exam. I admired (and feared) him greatly, feared because he was so stern, admired & trusted because he was so just. However, Gerald O'Byrne was my father & my mother in the Dept. A kinder man never lived.*

To Mr Hicks, 2 July 1936:

*Miss Everitt told someone not long ago that your father (or was it your grandfather?) Insp. Hicks said I was the most brilliant pupil teacher he had ever passed. It was nice to have it come back to me after all these years. Miss [Mary] Everitt was my first head mistress as an official pupil-teacher at Wagga Wagga & afterwards had the Training College. [i.e., Hurlstone Training School].*

To Mr Hicks, 28 July 1936:

*Mrs K. Lindsay told me that John Masefield (& his wife) visiting friends of his & Mrs Lindsay's here, spoke in special praise of my work & said that of living Australian poets 'Paterson & Mary Gilmore were the only two at all well known in England'.*

To the Editor, 5 February 1956:

*In my young, & in my Teaching days, school reading was so serious. It had a moral in my first books, sometimes printed, sometimes not. But how obvious.*

*I, as a young teacher, soon saw the need of a widening for the child's mind! In a little railway school I had (Illabo near Wagga) over 60 years*

*ago, on Friday last half hour I used to read children who had never seen a story book, "Robinson Crusoe", "Uncle Tom's Cabin" & the like with a watcher at the door in case an inspector or someone came along & reported me - . How different now!*

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## In Memoriam

*Years go by, memories stay  
As near and dear as yesterday.*

Don Wyburd 1948-50 November 2010  
Maurice E. Hale 1961-71 November 2010  
Jean Walsh (Flower) 1948-50 January 2008  
Judith Malcolm (Perryman) 1957-58 July 2010  
John Pigram 1950-51 January 2011  
Ruth Chiswell (Kerr) 1950-51 August 2010.

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## COMING EVENTS

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The next quarterly meeting of the Alumni Association will be held at 11 am on: Tuesday 10th May, 2011. The meeting will be held at: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre. 37 Reservoir Street Surry Hills. All welcome.

### WWTC ALUMNI LUNCHEONS

The next Alumni luncheon will be held at the Icons Restaurant in the Marriott Hotel, Pitt Street Sydney (near the Quay) on Tuesday 17th May, 2011.

For bookings contact Lindsay Budd on 9601 3003 a week before.

# A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

## DON WIBURD OAM (1948-50)



St Stanislaus' College headmaster John Edwards said Mr Wiburd was part of the lives of generations of young men being educated in Bathurst.

"He was very involved with Fr Doug Akehurst coaching Stannies' sports teams," Mr Edwards said.

"The Wiburd Shield [schools rugby] competition was named in his honour and he always took an interest in the competition it generated between schools."

All Saints' College headmaster Dr Peter Miller was amazed by how Mr Wiburd was forever spending his spare time coaching, encouraging and inspiring youth to play sport.

"A real treasure in so many lives for so many years," Dr Miller said.

Don served youth cricket in the Bathurst region for more than 50 years. He was Chairman of the Country Schools' Cricket Association until his passing and founder of that school group in 1991.

It is due to Don's vision and drive that all Country Schoolboy cricketers have had the opportunity to play at the highest level they are capable of. He was also Convenor of the Douglas Shield, which is a Statewide Country Schools' Knock Out competition which he instigated in 1991.

Prior to 1991 Don was the Secretary of the Western Associated Schools from 1962 to 1976 and again from 1978 to 1991. As Secretary, he was responsible for organising sports such as cricket, rugby and athletics. He also coached Junior Cricket teams at Scots College (1954 to 1976), St Stanislaus College (1977 to 1990) and at All Saints College (1991 to 1996).

Don Wiburd was the only child of plumber Les and Elsie Wiburd. He grew up in Rocket Street, South Bathurst. His father died in a building accident when he was about five but Don and his mother resided in the family home for 31 years.

He attended the old Bathurst Public School in Howick Street, now the Australian Fossil and Minerals Museum, and the South Bathurst Public School before going to Bathurst High School and on to the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1948-1950.

His first teaching appointments were one-teacher schools at Gunningbland South, Driftway and Daiseybank as well as the Bathurst Migrant Camp in 1952. He then ventured into the halls of Bathurst Colleges at Scots in 1953 as a Geography teacher.

The Scots School headmaster Tim Richards said Don had been involved with the school for 23 years and was

instrumental in establishing the Western Associated Schools Sports Association.

In 1996, Don received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his work in the promotion of school sports events and fixtures. He had been Western Associated Schools Sports Association secretary from 1960, Country School Rugby Union Association secretary from 1976 and Country School Cricket Association since 1991.

"Mr Wiburd was a unique teacher in Bathurst because he taught or was involved in sports at all three of the big boys' schools during his career, and he was still involved right up until his death," Mr Richards said yesterday.

St Stanislaus' College headmaster John Edwards said Mr Wiburd was part of the lives of generations of young men being educated in Bathurst.

"He was very involved with Fr Doug Akehurst coaching Stannies' sports.



# A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

He founded the NSW Country Schools Rugby Union with the staging of the initial Country Schools Championships in 1977, and remained as the Association's Secretary until 2006.

His influence on the NSW Country Rugby Schoolboy landscape can't be measured, and there are many players who have progressed to higher representative honours who came under the watchful eye of Don Wiburd.

NSW Country Rugby Union President Bruce Worboys said "Don Wiburd was a wonderful contributor to rural and regional sport, particularly Rugby and Cricket". "He was one of nature's true gentlemen and will be sadly missed by those who had the pleasure of associating with him".

*The following tribute to Don was submitted by two of his friends from College, Brian Webb and Kevin Wilcox.*

## DON WIBURD OAM A LIFE EXTRAORDINAIRE.

The Wiburd and Webb families lived close to one another in Rocket Street, South Bathurst. Don started school the year after I did (Brian), at South Bathurst Public School. Don was not an ordinary little boy; even then he was quite different in many ways.

His mother, widowed when Don was five, saw to it that he was always neat and clean; even at the end of the day there were no dirty, skinned knees, no shirt hanging out and no unkempt hair.

Don appeared not to like to play; later on my friends and I thought it was because of his mother. At school (infants and primary) he would sit and watch, rather than play, and he

didn't run around, harum-scarum, like the rest of us.

He didn't own a bike. We certainly didn't see him riding one on the road or footpath like the other boys in the neighbourhood.

Sometimes he would appear in my parents' general store up on the corner, always very quiet, with impeccable manners. That quietness and manners were with him throughout his lifetime; "the ultimate gentleman" as recalled by a Bathurst friend.

He didn't play sport. I never saw him wearing shorts; and when he followed Kevin, Don Boyle and myself to Wagga Wagga Teachers College, his participation in college sport was non-existent. The library and books were his loves, and helping other people.

So, a few years later, when I learnt of what Don was up to: coaching cricket and rugby in the Bathurst area; administering sport and conducting competitions; it was with total disbelief! Surely, I thought, that's not the Don Wiburd I've known for so long. For the life of me, I couldn't imagine Don, perhaps, running up and down the sideline, shouting instructions or standing in front of a wicket, demonstrating a stroke.

But, it was. Questions filled my head; where did he, if he had never played cricket or rugby, or never had an interest in sport, get the skills to pass on to so many students with whom he came into contact. —"A real treasure in so many lives for so many years (about 60)", Dr Miller said. "A selfless man from another time," said another.

And so, before a crowded Cathedral, this "naively, old-fashioned man; this tireless and benevolent man; this man of integrity and generosity; this man from another time, but for all times, "was honoured by so many pupils, former pupils and friends

## JOHN JOSEPH JAMES PIGRAM 1950-51.



*The following is taken from the eulogy delivered at John's funeral in St Mary and St Joseph's Cathedral, Armidale by his eldest son, Paul. Ed.*

Professor John Pigram, was born in May 1933 in Cootamundra to a sheep grazing family. He was one of three children. They lived at the edge of town and maintained their farm further out on the Berthong Road.

He was educated at the De La Salle School at Cootamundra, at Thornleigh and at Oakhill College for a period and then Cootamundra High School for the Leaving Certificate.

He attended Wagga Teachers College in 1950 and completed a primary teaching qualification in only 18 months and was teaching school at the age of 18.

He spent 4 years as a relief teacher in south west NSW. He worked in many mostly small schools in places such as Wagga, South Wagga and Lake Albert, Bulgary, Yarragundry, Berrigan, Finley, Tumbarumba, and Oberne.



# A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Cootamundra, Temora, Walleroobie, Nangus, Ariah Park, South Gundaga and Stockinbingal.

He would board with one of the local families, travelling home at weekends often by goods train in the guards van or locomotive courtesy of a long list of cousins and mates working on the railways and then on the bike out to home.

He was posted to Cootamundra High School in 1956 as a "GA" teacher. In 1959 he enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts as an external student at the University of New England (UNE). He majored in Geography and Economics, studying at night, and graduating in April 1964, at the age of 30.



In 1964 he married Jenny Galloway who had been appointed to Cootamundra High School in 1962 to teach English and History as her first appointment.

They moved to Sydney to take up new teaching appointments. John was commerce master at the new Gynea High School.

He was invited to do an Honours Year in Geography at UNE in 1967 and so the family including the firstborn, Paul, moved to Armidale. He graduated with first class honours and then embarked on a PhD entitled: "An assessment of the water resources of the Liverpool Plains", graduating in 1971.

He was appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Geography at UNE in 1970. He established a successful academic profile and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1974.

He was frequently involved with external students. UNE was, at the time, way ahead of the competition in distance education. Each semester he recorded lectures and commentaries for the externals. Boxes of audio tapes were shipped out across Australia. He took a particular interest in the welfare of the externals, with a first hand understanding of the challenges facing the distant student frequently with competing life interests.

In 1981 the family (all six of them) had the opportunity to visit Iowa City, and later Ireland and England for about 6 months.

John worked at the University of Iowa, teaching a climatology course.

Later, in 1985, the family spent 6 months in Kitchener/Waterloo in Canada. John was a Visiting Professor at both the University of Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier University.

He taught a range of courses in Geography during his teaching years, in particular:

- 2nd yr Environmental Planning and Resource Management (EPRM)
- 3rd yr Leisure and Recreation.

In another direction, he was instrumental in the formation of St Albert's College at UNE. He was a member of the College's Senior Common Room, and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at St Albert's.

In 1987, John with Warren Musgrave and John Burton received a grant of \$750,000 from the Australian Government to establish the Centre for Water Policy Research at UNE. He was Executive Director and Director of the Centre until 2001.

The Water Centre undoubtedly embodied his most significant international academic achievements and brought him great satisfaction.

He became a leading international figure in water resources. He travelled frequently, visiting every continent excepting the Antarctic. He established a wonderful network of international colleagues.

He was a founding member of the Board of Governors of the World Water Council.

He was President of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) 2001-2003.

He chaired the organising committee for the 10th World Water Congress of the IWRA in Melbourne (2000).

In 2001 he was appointed Fellow of the International Water Resources Association and in 2006 received the Distinguished Service Award of the Association.

In 2008, he was selected for the most prestigious Ven Te Chow Memorial Lecture Award of the International Water Resources Association.

He enjoyed a 40 year career in research, teaching and academic leadership. He received many major research grants from agencies such as:

- Australian Research Council
- Land and Water Resources R&D Corporation
- Murray-Darling Basin Commission
- EPA
- Greenhouse Information Program
- US National Science Foundation

# A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

World Water Council

He was a Charter Member of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism. He was twice nominated for the Stockholm Water Prize.

He supervised 31 PhD students and 21 Masters students, many of whom have gone on to be leaders in their field in their own right.

He completed around 150 international publications including 7 books and numerous journal articles.

Just 3 weeks ago he received a copy of the new Chinese translation of his book "Outdoor Recreation Management" written with John Jenkins.

He made more than 70 presentations to international meetings.

He was a frequent and sought after advisor to governments, industry groups and corporations in Australia and abroad.

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## MAURICE E HALE

Maurie Hale was the Principal of WWTC from 1961 to its closure in 1971.

Maurice Hale was educated at Fort Street B. H. and Sydney Boys H.S. He took up a scholarship to Sydney Teachers College and then took BA and MA degrees at the University of Sydney.

He began his teaching career at Glebe Primary School and followed with appointments to Croydon Park and Homebush. He then qualified as a School Counsellor and took a position at Broken Hill.

He was appointed to Balmain Teachers College when it opened in 1946 and later spent some time as a lecturer at Sydney Teachers College and was a Senior Lecturer at Wagga Teachers College in 1954 -55. He was appointed to Bathurst Teachers College as Vice Principal in 1956

and in 1961 he was appointed Principal at WWTC. He remained Principal until the College closed in 1971.

In 1972-73 he worked in Head Office (Department of Education) and in 1973 became Principal of Wollongong Teachers College., and later Director of the Wollongong Institute of Education. He retired in 1978.

He and his wife lived on the South Coast (Austinmer) prior to moving to Dubbo in 2007 to be near to their only daughter (Val Roberts) as their health was not good . They needed assisted care and moved to live in Holy Spirit Retirement Complex in Dubbo.

Maurie passed away in November, 2010.

The following is taken from a letter that Maurie wrote to the 1963-64 session on the occasion of their 40<sup>th</sup> year reunion.

*Dear students of the 1963/64 session, W.W.T.C.*

*Congratulations on having a reunion!*

*As you look back now and re-live your 2 years in training, can you see what was happening at Wagga Wagga in its framework. The first teachers' college for N.S.W., taking the place of the PUPIL-TEACHER SYSTEM, was Sydney T.C., built by Alexander Mackie as a copy of Moray House, Scotland, where the students were day people, as indeed were ours at Balmain, Alexander Mackie, Westmead and Wollongong Colleges.*

*But when Armidale was set up, as a result of political pressures, residential provision was required to get numbers. Wagga followed, then Bathurst (pressures again) and all 3 were residential and co-educational.*

*George Blakemore, founding principal, "activity George" his*

*colleagues called him, worked out the rules with the students I have been told. Bathurst was set up as a modified copy by Lionel Allen, who had been George's Vice Principal. Objectives were the same viz. 1st rate preparation for teaching children, following a set syllabus, and similar in style to David Stowe, the Scotsman pioneer of teacher training at Jordan Hill (where I've seen his statue).*

*All the 10 colleges in N.S.W. ultimately followed Mackie and Stowe's influence, regarding an option study purely for itself for the tertiary development of the trainees who were young and from secondary education. The professional aspect required subject teaching, demonstration lessons and supervised, helpful practice teaching. Of course the 10 colleges varied according to details of this programme.*

*As you all probably are aware I was appointed by the governor of N.S.W., to take charge of W.W.T.C. coming from a background of achievement academically and in teaching at Sydney College and University, teaching primary and secondary children, working for 5 years in Research Branch, lecturing at Balmain, Sydney, Bathurst and Wagga (2 years as the senior lecturer in 1955-6) and vice-principalship at Bathurst.*

*I considered the rules, published in the calendar of the college, as basic and with the help of Wade, Swan and others, modified both the study side and the running of the houses by student committees toward the end of the 1960s decade.*

*The college was replaced by the Riverina College, as part of the framework imposed all over Australia and following the U.K. A new man (Cliff Blake) was appointed in charge.*

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# NEWS FROM CSU

## Sod turned for early education at CSU

Charles Sturt University (CSU) aims to provide the highest quality in early childhood education and care in its proposed facility to be established at Thurgoona in 2012.

The start of the new building will be celebrated by CSU staff and project partners with the turning of the first sod at 5.30pm on Tuesday 8 March at the building site inside the main entrance of CSU on Elizabeth Mitchell Drive, Thurgoona.



"We believe this facility will be a centre of early childhood excellence in collaboration with Woodstock Support, and be available for the children of University staff and students and community members," says Head of CSU's [Murray School of Education](#), Associate Professor Louise Hard.

"With the move of the Murray Children's Centre from its existing Olive Street site in central Albury to Thurgoona, we have incorporated new services into the design of the building, which will be located near the entrance of [Charles Sturt University](#)."

As part of the Centre development, CSU is offering the service in conjunction with the Woodstock Support Early Childhood Intervention Service, which provides early intervention services to infants and young children who have development delays or disabilities.

Woodstock Support chief executive officer Mr Nigel Stone said the partnership with CSU enables the organisation to continue providing high quality education and therapy services to children with disabilities in the Border region. "At the same time, the new centre will allow our families to have access to mainstream services, while increasing community education and awareness about children with disabilities, and their families," he said.

The proposed centre will also provide important learning opportunities for early childhood education students from CSU's Faculty of Education, as well as contributing to research undertaken by CSU staff and students which will ultimately provide long term benefits back to the community.

The new building, designed by NBRS + Partners, will have four wings to house areas for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and staff, with a common entrance and central multipurpose and dining area linked to the four wings.

New Head of Campus at CSU in Albury-Wodonga, Ms Sue Moloney, describes the design as a 'pinwheel' that "allows visitors to enter at one point and branch into four routes that entices visitors down the corridors with attractive vistas to outside areas.

"Curved walls between the wings add a sense of movement, variation and fun, with lounge areas allowing parents some privacy to watch, breastfeed or comfort children, or talk with other parents or staff.

"The central area is the focal point of the building, which allows children of all ages and abilities to share meals and experiences with each other and their siblings."

The building design embraces the environmentally sustainable principles showcased throughout the campus, with features such as underfloor heating, solar-panelled roofing for air-conditioning offices, rain water collected for watering surrounding gardens, 'grey water' used for flushing toilets, and maximising areas of recycled glass to minimise artificial lighting.

"Children will interact with these features which will illustrate the simple use of the ecologically sustainable development that surrounds them," Ms Moloney said.

## New MoU for health and welfare

A new agreement will be signed between Charles Sturt University (CSU) and Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn on Monday 21 March. The purpose of the agreement is to further develop the relationship between the higher education institution and the welfare agency

over the next five years. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlines a number of ways the two organisations can foster future cooperation.

These include initiatives such

as adjunct academic appointments; reciprocal ethics committee arrangements; and expanding workplace learning opportunities for CSU students with Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn in areas such as social work, allied health and nursing. Course Director from the [School of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) at CSU in Wagga Wagga Dr Bill Anscombe said, "As Charles Sturt University is one of the leading providers of social work, nursing and allied health education in Australia, the new broad ranging Memorandum of Understanding will give us more opportunities to ensure our students are "work ready". The MoU will be signed by the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Ross Chambers and Bishop Stuart Robinson from the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn at 12 midday on Monday 21 March. The ceremony will take place in the Chancellor's Room in the Convention Centre, building 230, near car park 16, Jingellic Place at CSU in Wagga Wagga.

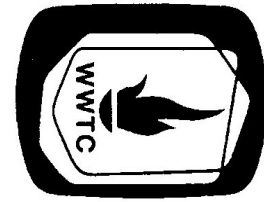
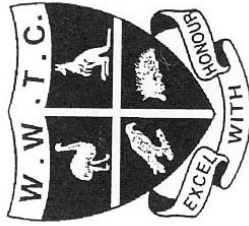


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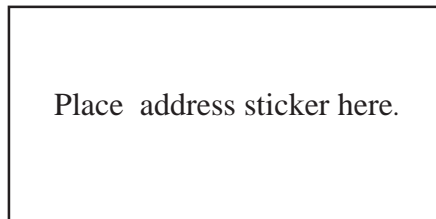


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