

PANORAMA



A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
ISSUE No. 16, AUTUMN 2009

AGM GUEST SPEAKER

Greg Woods introduced the Guest Speaker with the following words.

One of the more notable graduates of Bathurst Teachers College is Hon David Simmons OAM, B.A., M.Ed (Hons), FAICD.

David is married to Kaye Scoble, a fellow BTC graduate from 66/67 and currently lives in Newcastle where he operates a government relations consultancy business but still remains active in the community as President of the National Heart Foundation (NSW Division).

David arrived in Bathurst from Broken Hill in 1965 and soon became active in college life by being dumped in the fish pond on his second night on campus. He is thankful that he was at least fully clothed and soon realised that this dumping was more preferable than being left at the top of Mt Panorama naked.

After graduation, David taught at Tullibigeal Central, Bletchington and Broken Hill North before changing to secondary teaching and transferring to Bathurst where he became Head Teacher Social Science. He had also completed a B.A and M.Ed with honours at UNE.

David entered Federal Parliament in 1983 as the Member for Calare after two unsuccessful attempts. He remained the

local member till 1996 when he retired from politics. During his time in Federal Parliament David held, at various times, the portfolios of Local Government, Family Support, Arts, Tourism and Territories, Defence, Science and Personnel. He had the honour of being Australian representative at the United Nations in New York for 3 months and delivered an address on the apartheid policy in South Africa.



President and Guest Speaker

Since 1996 **David Simmons** has been a Board Member of Tourism NSW, Chairman of Hunter Medical Research Institute, General Manager of Newcastle Regional Chamber of Commerce and CEO of Newcastle and Hunter Business Chamber.

In 2001 David was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the

Australian Parliament and the community of the Hunter Region.

The recent AGM of the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni Association was entertained by David's account of his time in Federal Parliament, his involvement with people such as Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, Fred Daly and John Howard as well as meetings with Prince Charles, Lady Di and President Bush. David continues to keep an active involvement with his colleagues from the Class of 65/66 at BTC - still considered the best class ever to go through BTC.

Editorial comments: Of course this honour of 'best class' was disputed by all other years present. The cavorting in the Fish Pond seemed to inspire many recollections from the dumping of various students in the pond to importing a baby crocodile and turning the waters red with Condy's Crystals. It was certainly a central meeting spot for many.[See water feature pictures]

As in Parliament, the Q & A following the speech proved to be a lively and entertaining time. David recalled some of the well known sayings of Fred Daly: One day a rooster, the next - a feather duster; and another attributed to Philip Adams: Politicians start off green, turn yellow in a crisis, and there's not a straight one to be found amongst them! Nevertheless, David said most of the politicians he had met, on both sides of Parliament, did start off hoping to improve things. However, it is this Australian sense of humour that remains important, especially when one witnesses the incredible security lineup in a USA Presidential motorcade with an ambulance always in tow. Then one appreciates the Australian attitude and culture.

When asked whether he thought the Australia Card or something similar to the one he had tried to introduce, would ever be accepted, David said although there was a need to control illegal immigration and curb social security fraud, he didn't think it would be accepted by the public.

It was unanimously agreed that the experiences David had shared with us provided an entertaining after dinner speech.

AGM REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A fortnight ago I started to write this report but the events of that week-end in Victoria made it very difficult to concentrate. Sandwiched between TV footage of traumatised families and burnt-out communities was a picture of a school teacher in front of the smouldering ruins of his school. He was grieving for his school and his pupils whose precious work had been destroyed. He was also grieving for pupils whom he would never see again.

I wondered how many of our BTC Alumni had taught in schools ravished by fires and floods.

Dorothea Mackellar's poem "My Country" depicts Australia most graphically ...
"of droughts and flooding rain."

BTCAA Scholarship.

Our first scholarship winner, Emma Davis, came from a drought-affected property 120 kms north-west of Bourke. Her story appeared in *Panorama* during the year. Thanks are due to Allan Blanch who represented us on the selection committee and also presented Emma with her cheque at the Prizes Presentation Ceremony in May. We have received letters from Emma recently regarding her progress in Education Faculty at Dubbo Campus of CSU. There are a number of applicants for the next scholarship.

Bathurst Teachers' College Commemorative Water Feature.

At BTC AA lunch in February last year our guest speaker, sculptor and CSU lecturer, Peter Wilson, gave an illustrated account of the construction of the Water Feature. Since then the tiles, most of which were decorated by Roseann Dengate and Peter Connolly have been laid. Mary Herbert [nee Mary Kennedy] generously supplied timber from her property for seats which have been constructed by Patrick Ford (Lew's son) and his team of students at Bathurst High School.

Landscaping will be undertaken by CSU Ground Staff with some advice from Spencer Harvey. And of course many of our Alumni have generously contributed to our



Relaxing at the AGM

Water Feature Fund so that our share of the project, \$10,000, was reached! An absolutely marvellous achievement. Thank you all.

The official “unveiling” will take place on Saturday 18th April, 2009 at 12 o'clock followed by light refreshments. Invitations to our BTCAA donors will be posted this week and a general invitation will be published in *Panorama*.

What started out as a simple repairing of the Fishpond will become a major feature of the area to be known in future as:

BTC Common.

I must pay tribute to Gail Metcalfe. Not only has she been responsible for the finance raised by our Alumni but she has kept the whole project on track with frequent visits to Bathurst and even to Parkes to collect timber for the seats. Her file of meetings, emails, bank records and other notes is several inches thick. We are all most grateful for her dedication to the Feature.

Appeals.

I particularly thank those members of BTCAA who have supported so generously our three appeals this year. I hope you will continue to support financially the Scholarship Fund and the *Panorama* Fund. The latter is the lifeblood of our organization so if everyone contributes we can keep that blood flowing !!

Committee.

Once again I have pleasure in thanking the members of the committee for their loyalty and support during the year. We meet four times a year but are in contact with one

another by email and phone. We appreciate communications from other Alumni and encourage groups planning their year or regional reunions to contact us and the Alumni Officer, Michelle Fawkes, whom we thank for her support of our activities.

Southern Region held their annual function at Bateman's Bay in July and '52-'53 session had a very successful lunch at Katoomba in November. Several reunions are planned already for 2009 at CSU Bathurst.

I hope to see many of our Alumni at the function at Bathurst Saturday 18th April. It will be an occasion for tributes to the special contribution Bathurst Teachers' College made to the foundation of Charles Sturt University which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year.

Helen Egan

BTC AA President

EDITORIAL REPORT



Sub-editors chat over a cuppa

I find it hard to believe that the current copy being assembled is the sixteenth

Panorama- and maybe the last in hard copy due to our own 'credit squeeze'.

Each year since 2002, two copies of *Panorama* have been prepared for BTC Alumni and friends. The Editorial Team continue to explore the advantages and learn about the problems of new technologies as we try to ensure better quality print and photographs reach the BTC Alumni in the shortest possible time and at the cheapest rates.

Photographs and information about the BTC Scholarship award winner, progress of the water feature and information about the artist-potter Dr Peter Wilson, tile making, various reunions, brief personal details about the BTC Alumni and obituaries have been

included in the two editions produced during 2008.

My thanks are extended to the sub-editors: Carole Goodwin and Denise Cramsie,, to Michelle Fawkes of the CSU Alumni Office and to the volunteers who assist with the mailout. Although working on *Panorama* hasn't provided the social occasions that I had planned when inviting my friends to join the team, it has kept us in touch through emails and has certainly ensured the necessity of keeping informed about changing technologies and upgrading our computer skills. We've come a long way from the spirit duplicator.

We thank our contributors as *Panorama* largely depends on reports and photos the Alumni send the Editorial Team. Our main satisfaction is hearing that readers have enjoyed receiving their *Panorama*

Roseann Dale Dengate, Carole Goodwin, Denise Cramsie [The Team]

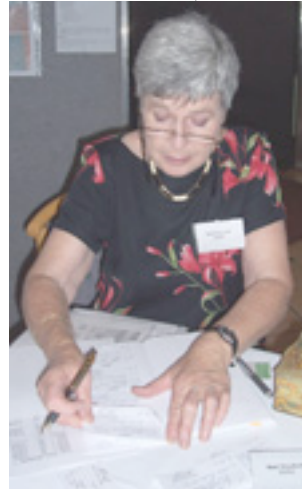


Roseann and Peter discuss pottery designs.

TREASURER'S REPORT – AGM, 2009

I present to you the income and expenditure statement of BTC Alumni Association for the calendar year 2008. As you will see from the profit and loss statement for the current year, there has been an overall loss of \$326.87. Income was \$7243.42 and expenditure \$7570.29. Yes we spent more than we received. It can be noted in the income statement that *Panorama* donations totalled \$2586 whereas expenditure was \$2589. However, the shortfall will be further

exacerbated this year as there is an outstanding account of \$2448 for the Spring Edition 2008, which is yet to be paid. There



Gail Metcalfe – Treasurer

has been an improved response from alumni to the donations to *Panorama* since the appeal in the Spring Edition, but not enough to cover that edition. You will agree that *Panorama* is an important communication tool with our colleagues and should continue to be produced. Although many people have elected to receive *Panorama* by email there are still at least 1800 copies which have to be printed and posted. The committee will endeavour to find a solution to the problem and would welcome suggestions.

On a more positive note the donations received by BTCAA over the past three years for the Commemorative Water Feature have reached \$9720 with an additional \$2660 being sent by donors directly to the Alumni Office. A total of \$12,380 has been received (\$3485 in 2008 alone). A splendid effort from so few people – some 177 donors – many of whom donated more than once. A special thank you to all concerned. Most of this money has already been allocated to the project with the remainder set aside for the final costs before the official opening. I will expand on the details of the CWF in a later report.

Once again I would like to thank Mr. Ron Jones from Nationwide Accounting who audits the books in an honorary position. Thank you to the committee members for their support, encouragement and fellowship.

Thank you also to Michelle Fawkes, Alumni Officer, for her on-going commitment to the BTCAA.



Michelle and Alan – working together

ALUMNI REPORT Michelle Fawkes
Alumni Relations Office

2008 was as usual a very busy year for the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni Association (BTCAA).

The Editorial Team for *Panorama*, Roseann, Carole and Denise, has done a wonderful job in preparing the magazine. Each time it goes out it receives very positive feedback and I can assure you that it is appreciated by all alumni. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the alumni and the University to thank them very much for their work and the not inconsiderable commitment of their time.

The Scholarship Fund continues to grow. The Fund now stands at \$16,970.80. 2008 saw the awarding for the BTCAA Scholarship for the first time to Emma Davis from Dubbo who is studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) degree. It is always very exciting to be able to assist a young person reach their goals. BTCAA can be proud of your achievement.

Funding is still required to help the Association continue to support our young students in their educational aspirations.

The Commemorative Water Feature (known as the "Fishpond Project"] has also been a

very dominant part of the year. As you should all be aware by now, the official unveiling will take place on Saturday 18 April at 12.00 noon. An invitation to all BTC Alumni is contained in this *Panorama*. I encourage as many BTC alumni as possible to attend this special occasion.

On behalf of Charles Sturt University, I would like to thank all of the alumni who have supported this initiative. Plaques are being prepared which will acknowledge all donors to the project. If you still wish to donate to this project, please do so as soon as possible so that your name can be included on the plaque.

2009 marks the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of Charles Sturt University and provides an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as an institution.

While we are 20 years a University, our history of engagement in professional education and state of the art, relevant research spans more than 100 years with the establishment in 1895 of the Bathurst Experimental Farm.

The first 15 years of our history as a University was a period of remarkable achievement, bringing together two distinct and successful institutions, distributed over a vast geographic area.

Over the last five years, we have focussed on consolidating that achievement and have realised our ambition of being a National University, located in Inland Australia, but serving the broader professional needs of our national economy at every level.

The University would like to acknowledge the support and dedication of the members of the BTC Alumni Association and as its representative, I would like to thank everyone involved with the BTCAA for their tireless support of Alumni activities throughout last year and I look forward to a continued strong relationship between the University and the BTCAA throughout 2009.

THE WATER FEATURE REPORT

Gail Metcalfe

Chair - CWF sub-committee



It is with a great deal of relief and pleasure that I can report that the Commemorative Water Feature (CWF) is nearing completion and that a date for the official unveiling has been set for Saturday 18th April 2009.

The support of those generous Alumni who have contributed to the CWF appeal has made it possible for us to have reached and exceeded our fund raising target and has enabled us to proceed with each step of the project. \$12380 made up of \$9720 received by BTCAA and \$2660 received by CSU Foundation. Due to some misunderstanding, there have been some problems with the agreed contribution by the university. The situation was further exacerbated by the appointment of another Head of Campus late last year and the necessity to familiarise him with the project. However, Professor Colin Sharp is supportive of the project and has agreed to implement many of our requests.

During the year many of our members have been involved in assisting with the project. Inscribing the tiles – some 200 – was undertaken by Dr Peter Wilson, Peter Connolly and Roseann Dale Dengate with minimal assistance from Helen Egan and me. Both trips to Bathurst were most enjoyable and we had a great deal of fun. The tiles look marvellous now they are in position. A special thank you goes to Spencer Harvey and Alan Blanch who have kindly attended meetings in Bathurst and contributed with their advice and expertise.

I made two trips to Mary and Dan Herbert's property at Bedgerebong near Forbes to choose timber for the seats. Beautiful river red gum timber was delivered to Patrick Ford at Bathurst High School for the students to construct into seats. I can assure you that these seats are solid and will withstand any student frivolity and exuberance. We are most grateful to Mary & Dan, Patrick Ford, Brian Walsh and the Industrial Arts students for their contribution to the project.

The precious bronze cast sculpture, designed by Peter Wilson, has been completed and will be installed a week before the official opening. At that stage landscaping, a watering system and signage will be finished. Relocation of paths and services have been completed by ground staff.

The opening ceremony will be quite significant as several official functions will be performed on the 18th April. These will be unveiling of the Commemorative Water Feature, Proclamation of the Bathurst Teachers' College Common, Planting of a claret ash in memory of Lionel J Allen, tree planting by Peter Wilson, and Helen Egan President BTCAA along with a tree planting to mark the 25th Anniversary of the naming of the Ponton Theatre. A very busy schedule!

Once again a special thanks to those – some 177 out of 2000 alumni – who have donated so generously to the project. Your support has reignited pride in and an interest in the history of Bathurst Teachers' College.



Helen Constable's photos of Fishpond, 1956

CHARLES STURT

U N I V E R S I T Y

Vice-Chancellor and President

Professor Ian Goulter

**Invites you
to join us to celebrate**

**The Official Unveiling of the Bathurst Teachers' College
Commemorative Water Feature**

The Proclamation of the Common

**A Tree Planting in memory of Lionel J Allen
and**

**A Tree Planting to mark the 25th Anniversary
of the naming of the Ponton Theatre**

Saturday 18 April 2009

12.00 noon

followed by light refreshments

RSVP by 3 April 2009 to:

Ms Michelle Fawkes

Charles Sturt University

Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795

Email: mfawkes@csu.edu.au

Telephone: 02 6338 4629

Fax: 02 6338 4766

Memories captured on tiles

Dorothy Thomas wrote on her return from overseas: I hope I am not too late to secure a tile as I have such wonderful memories of my B.T.C. days. It is difficult to think of one image to sum it up, but maybe my love of hockey or just something about memories would be my choice.

Dorothy can be assured that suitable images are in place in the tiles.

OBITUARY

Sadly **Graham Bosley** [BTC 1958-59] died last year, as did Maryanne Frisken, who had dedicated much of her life to the welfare of children as did most who trained at Bathurst. **Maryanne Stroud** was born in Dubbo, 1938 and trained at B.T.C in 1956-57. She began teaching kindergarten in rural NSW. and married Bob Fisken, another teacher, at Cobar in 1959. Bob became a Baptist minister and together they moved to St Marys where Maryanne pioneered family care centres. She began care centres for children before and after school and provided help for many families in Western Sydney. This care for the welfare and education of children was extended from Australia to the Pacific Islands and Africa.

BTCAA REUNION REPORTS

Pioneers 2 BTC 1952/53

Not Just Another Reunion

by Ruth Dyer-Doyle

Sunday, 16th November, 2008.

“Stay and watch my 70year old husband behaving as though he’s 17? No thank you!” And off went one of the wives to enjoy the delights of a beautiful downtown Katoomba Sunday. Meanwhile 43 of the faithful gathered for reunion rites at the picturesquely situated Mountain Heritage Hotel, a short walk from Katoomba station. It didn’t say that it was up hill and down dale. But the stunning views of the Grose Valley through the picture windows, the ambient surroundings and exuberant bonhomie of our alumni combined to make this reunion an occasion to remember.

Many of our attendees had come from all corners of NSW; from interstate, we welcomed Dorothy Vicary/Swan from Queensland and Rodney Davis from Western Australia.

On entering our function room we were all supplied with a red CSU promotion’s bag and our BTC name tag, organized for us by Michelle Fawkes and her hard working team in the CSU Alumni Office. After the “welcome” tea and coffee ice breaker for the early arrivals, it was time to pick up on those enduring relationships begun 55 years ago, helped along by surreptitious glances at those vital name tags. The mantelpieces over the big open fire places soon filled with treasured mounted photos of sports teams, scenes from productions of Gilbert and Sullivan, couples dressed in finery to attend those de rigueur social events, the College Balls; and the tell tale ubiquitous year photos.

Promptly at 1300, the 43 of us were called to order by our Committee Co ordinator and MC, Ken Shadbolt. Proceedings began with a welcome address followed by numerous apologies. A reality check was struck by the observance of a minute’s silence to remember our 14 deceased colleagues.

Then followed a delicious, and very generous, three course buffet.

Our CSU representative speaker, Carol Burgess, Lecturer in Teacher Education addressed us. She updated us on the current alumni projects. She gave an interesting update on current trends in early childhood education generously conducting a lively and stimulating plenary session.

Attired in his historic trade mark boater and calling for immediate attention with his not to be ignored hooter, Reg Halliburton took over the MC and Quiz Master role and the “Do you remember when.?” session. Most of us were unable to answer the set questions on College Rules. Were we aware of the required distance to be kept between partners walking as couples after dinner? What distance??? Close quarters appeared to be the only observed distance that I saw. We were regaled with vignettes which were an education in themselves on how to

survive a residential college experience under the ever watchful vigilance of our wardens, so aptly named. Then there were the stories of early appointments, many in one teacher schools. Our speakers included the opener, from our committee co-coordinator, David Bowmer, up dating us on the Teacher Education BTC Scholarship winner, Emma Davis and her grandmother, Helen Ferguson/Bouveret BTC 51-52; other speakers included Tom Hart, Kevin Burrows and Judith Amey/Gaff.

When the official proceedings broke up at 1600, the reminiscences continued in small intimate groups, reliving and reviving the happy shared memories that are special to those of us who had the camaraderie brought about through having our teacher training delivered in a live-in country college.



Women from '63-'64

The 6th of February saw about forty graduates of Bathurst Teachers' College (1963-64), plus a few partners, descend on the Bathurst Campus of Charles Sturt University for their forty-fifth reunion. Many had come from interstate and one graduate from Canada. This was our sixth reunion and by the reluctance of even us "oldies" to go to bed in the early hours of Sunday, a great success. Many of us kicked off the weekend at the Knickerbocker Hotel, a pub that held many fond memories for the males in the group. Of course in the sixties we females were forbidden to enter such premises.

Saturday saw us catching up with old room mates, swapping stories, visiting Ben Chifley's house and rediscovering those little "practice" teaching towns such as Millthorpe, Carcoar and Blayney. Everyone scrubbed up pretty well for the official dinner on Saturday night on the campus. The years seemed to slip away as we recalled past incidents from our college days. As always all sections were represented but section 636 managed, as it has done in the past, to have the most. There was one ex student, however, who kept popping up in all the photos. He claimed to have forgotten what section he was in!

We woke to the sobering news of the Victorian bush fires on Sunday, but most managed to attend the breakfast when we bid each other goodbye promising to catch up again at the annual get-together in Sydney. This is held from noon on the first Saturday in February at the Kirribilli Club. Contact for this annual event is :
Mary Lawson (Whitnall)

maryvlawson@iprimus.com.au



Men from '63-'64

Get Connected to CSU Alumni

Charles Sturt University has launched a Alumni Website

Everything you need to keep you connected with the University and Alumni can be found at

www.csu.edu.au/alumni

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY , 2009



Paul Dickinson, Ian Harpley, Greg Woods and Richard Hoskins at the AGM

The 1957-58 Unofficial Regular Reunion.
If you can't make the Bathurst Reunion join us at the same place: Epping Club.
Same date: Third Tuesday of November, 2009-02-26 Same Time: 11-12.
No need to ring the Club.
Just meet at the bar. Denis Burke.



Pat and Peter Connolly discuss reunions

Pioneers : 18-19 th April, 2009. Reunion coincides with BTC Water Feature Unveiling.

If you are a past student from **1963-64** and couldn't manage to make the 45th reunion think about joining us on February 6th 2010 at Kirribilli and start gearing up for the 50th reunion. Contact Mary at:
ph: 02 95704818 mobile: 0414379076

maryvlawson@iprimus.com.au



*Dressed ready to party in 1959.
Are you all ready to party again?
Welcome to the 2009 Reunion*

BTC 1958-59,
invite 1957-58, 1959-60 to join
50th Anniversary Celebrations
to be held at Bathurst

Dates : Friday 30th, Sat 31st October and Sunday 1st November, 2009

Program:

Friday 30/10/09 after 6 pm at the Knickerbocker hotel

Saturday 11AM Register at Centre for Professional Development [CPD] -inspect water feature and tiles. Dinner at 7pm.

Sunday Ecumenical Service in cowshed and departure breakfast at CPD.

Registration forms and details will be sent.
Contact Michelle Fawkes BTC Alumni Office 6338 4629



Carole Consatable, Daphne and Dudley Roth. All smiles at BTC AA AGM

