

A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS

TALKABOUT



Volume 16 No 1

March 2013

“GOODBYE, FAREWELL AND AMEN”



Stalwarts of the Alumni Committee.

*Bob Collard, John Riley, Graeme Wilson, Nigel Tanner, Phil Bastick, Lindsay Budd
Kevin Wilcox, Winifred Wilcox, Malcolm Hanratty, Ann Smith, Lew Morrell, Dorothy Tanner.*

All good things must come to an end. This is the last edition of Talkabout that I will produce. After fifteen years of putting Talkabout together I have finally run out of puff. Editors Lew Crabtree (dec), John Riley(dec), Lew Morrell and I have put together over 40 editions. This enabled us to maintain contact with Alumni and to renew happy experiences and memories of the unique institution that was Wagga Wagga Teachers' College. Largely due to the extraordinary efforts of Ann Smith we had at one stage a mailing list of over 3,600 Alumni. Although over the years the numbers dropped off so that since the introduction of a subscription the mailing list is now only 800, these dedicated readers continue to send subscriptions and obviously look forward to the next edition. I have always been amazed that copy seemed to materialise sufficient to fill another edition. CSU has been placing Talkabout on the Alumni website since 2006 so if you want to look back at any previous copies they are readily available. It has been a wonderful journey and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Lindsay Budd.

WWTAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The AGM was held on Tuesday 12th February 2013.

Lindsay Budd had indicated that he was not going to continue to produce Talkabout. Several other committee members expressed the concern that after all these years we had been unable to attract new members to take on committee positions. The general feeling was that we cannot keep going forever.

After fifteen years we feel that we have achieved the goals that were set at the formation of the WWTC Alumni Association.

These included:

- Making contact with over 3,600 ex-students of WWTC.
- Distributing Talkabout to every student whose address we had.
- Raising over \$80,000 for the WWTC Scholarship fund.
- Providing scholarships for 24 students in the Education Faculty.
- The honorary naming of a student residential building "The WATAL", which stands for Wagga Teachers Alumni Lodge.

It was moved that all current office holders continue in their positions until the next quarterly meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2013.

At that meeting a Special Meeting will be held with the only item for discussion being the Dissolution of the Association.

The exact wording from the WWTAA Constitution is:

(a) *The Association shall be dissolved in the event of membership less than three (3) persons or upon the vote of a three-fourths majority of members present at a special meeting convened to consider such question.*

(b) *Upon a resolution being passed in accordance with paragraph (a) of this rule, all assets and funds of the Association on hand shall, after the payments of all expenses and liabilities, be handed over to the University.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2013 AGM

I write this report in the almost certain knowledge that it will be the last on behalf of the WWTAA. At our AGM this year a determination will be made as to the viability of continuing with the WWTAA. Informal discussion occurred at the last meeting of the management committee which clearly demonstrated that no "new blood" was available to carry forward the work which began in 1997.

Probably the major contributing factor in this situation was the future of *Talkabout*. Our editors have a system which is in fact the lifeblood of our alumni. Lew has suffered health and mobility problems in recent times while Lindsay, in his two important roles as editor and treasurer, would be in need of a substantial number of volunteers to be able to cope with the work involved.

Perhaps the words of Pierre Corneille, a French dramatist, are appropriate at this time:

Do your duty, and leave the outcome to the Gods.

Many of our WWTC colleagues have performed this duty without hesitation and with distinction. There will probably be one more edition of *Talkabout* in which an outline of the goals achieved by the alumni will be presented.

I personally feel that our aims and visions for the WWTC alumni have been accomplished. Most notable of these would be the recognition by CSU and the City of Wagga Wagga that the presence and success of WWTC should be acknowledged and preserved in practical ways.

On a personal note, I draw attention to the failure by those in authority to locate the gift of the 1948-50 session of the blue carved head of a boy, in memory of Merv Gray who was the first to lose his life while still a WWTC student. This gift in his memory had value, both in monetary and artistic

terms, as well as serving as the Debating Trophy for WWTC students.

Being a student and later an alumnus of WWTC (now CSU) has been, for me, a unique and enriching experience. Both Olga and I cherish the memories and friendships that we have enjoyed because destiny put us together with a select and peerless company of people.

God bless,

Bob Collard, President, WWTAA.

VALE TALKABOUT.

Unfortunately, the time to cease publication of Talkabout has come. As a member of the original editorial staff that founded Talkabout, I would like to express to Lindsay Budd, constantly working at a high standard, and to Lew Morrell, working on despite repeated health problems, a very sincere Thank You for enabling Talkabout to continue for so long.

The membership of the Alumni Committee has remained almost unchanged since its beginning, with Bob Collard always our very dedicated and capable President. We can feel very proud of our many achievements, such as the establishment of the Scholarship Fund, the writing of records and the publication of Talkabout, which allowed communication and contact, sometimes with long lost friends and colleagues. However time takes its toll.

Wagga Wagga Teachers' College was a unique institution, providing a unique experience. The students were all young and all had the same aim in life – to qualify as school teachers and work in the New South Wales Department of Education. Development of the whole person, in an intellectual, physical, social and spiritual sense was stressed, with opportunities provided for this development and with the desire to promote this all-rounded development in our future pupils.

A FINAL APPEAL TO THE EX-STUDENTS OF WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

Intellectual, physical and social development can be observed and evaluated. Spiritual development, that of the inner core, the aesthetic sense, feelings, empathy for fellows and the traditions is harder to define but develop it we did and we soared like the poets.

On the outskirts of the Wagga Wagga of that day, we lived like a family. We did not go home after a day of lectures. We spent from 7 pm to 9 pm in our lecture rooms to study and to practise our blackboard writing. We ate our meals together. On Saturday nights we danced together. On Sunday evenings we watched films together in the hall.

Long after we are all gone, there will be others who will also soar, who will value a sense of history, who will have a love of learning and the handing on of knowledge, who will not value everything by size and who will ask about the origins of Charles Sturt University. They will be able to study our records and there they will find the seed, Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

Winifred Wilcox (Walshaw) 1947-49

COMING EVENTS

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEETING

The next quarterly meeting of the Alumni Association may be the last meeting and will be held at 11 am on Tuesday 14th May 2013. The meeting will be held at: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir Street Surry Hills. Everyone welcome.

ALUMNI LUNCHEONS

The Alumni luncheons will continue to be held at the Icons Restaurant in the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, Pitt Street Sydney (near the Quay). The next luncheon will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2013.

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

The Wagga Wagga Teachers' College was the first fully residential Teachers' College in Australia. Wagga Wagga Teachers' College and Wagga Wagga Agricultural College were the forerunners of Charles Sturt University.

Charles Sturt University has grown into one of Australia's largest universities and has many campuses including one in Canada. In 1997 we formed an Alumni Association and are proud to be accepted by Charles Sturt University. We are also proud to have graduated from such an institution as Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

Times have changed. When we were training, we had full board and lodging, inhabited an independent community area, contributed to sport and business in the city of Wagga Wagga and were paid the princely sum of ten pounds every five weeks. So, one could live like a king for three days and then live like a pauper for four weeks and four days. Many of our lecturers lived with us and all had been successful classroom practitioners. As students we profited from their experiences.

Today most teacher trainees are not paid and are forced to work in order to survive and know that on graduation that they will have to pay for their training.

Our Scholarship Fund gives us \$6,000 per annum for Scholarships of which we have awarded twenty four to date.

Our Scholarships are not based entirely on academic achievement. Need plays a part in the actual selection of recipients. Also relatives of past students who attended Wagga Wagga Teachers' College receive special consideration provided that they are students at the Wagga Wagga Campus.

Charles Sturt University at the Wagga Wagga Campus nominates suitable candidates and Scholarships are awarded by our interviewing panel.

Our periodical "Talkabout" is about to disappear for the second time in its history. Apparently after the retirement of George Blakemore, the College's

founding principal, Talkabout was discontinued.

In our time, students looked forward to the weekly "Talkabout" to gather news and gossip and articles concerning College life. Most students paid threepence for three copies (one penny each). It was cheaper to have a thousand copies printed than several hundred.

With the foundation of our Alumni "Talkabout" was resurrected and became the organ by which our Alumni reconnected with our College mates.

Lew Crabtree and I were responsible for "Talkabout". I am indebted to Lindsay Budd, who joined me as Co-Editor when Lew Crabtree died. Lindsay has contributed a lot to our Alumni as Co-Editor plus his responsibility as Treasurer of our Alumni. Lindsay has done a wonderful job and for this I am most grateful. In our early days I had to type out the whole edition of "Talkabout" and Lindsay relieved me of this.

The University have suggested to all Scholarship sponsors that they might consider increasing their scholarship amounts. When our Alumni Association ceases to exist we should have over \$92,000 in assets. It would be wonderful to increase our Scholarship Fund to \$100,000, thus increasing our Scholarship to \$10,000 per year.

We have been assured by Michelle Fawkes at our last Alumni Committee Meeting that our Scholarship will continue to be awarded to final year students in Education who attend the Wagga Wagga Campus of Charles Sturt University.

Another \$7,000 or \$8,000 would increase our scholarship to \$10,000 per year.

WHAT ABOUT IT? CAN WE DO
THIS?

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR
CONTRIBUTION

Lew Morrell 1949-50

DURABLE VALUES AND MEMORIES



We were saddened by the condition of the few remaining buildings of the once vibrant Teachers College Campus. All were boarded up obviously waiting demolition – the Principal’s residence, Matron’s quarters, Art/Craft and Biology lecture block, the hall/gymnasium, the lecturers’ common room, and my old dormitory – the one closest to the gym. Winifred’s

Our younger son, Nathan, had completed his post-grad Masters Degree in Education at Charles Sturt University and we travelled to Wagga Wagga with him to be present at his Graduation Ceremony. We arrived in Wagga Wagga on the day before the ceremony so Nathan took us on a tour of the old WWTC

Campus. Our first stop was the Blakemore Building which houses CSU Archives. Archivist Dr Nancy Blacklow, who had interviewed us in our home in Oatley as part of the Pioneer Students oral history project, unfortunately was not on duty so we missed seeing her.

dormitory had been demolished long ago. Soon there will be no physical structure of the original college left. A sad thought.

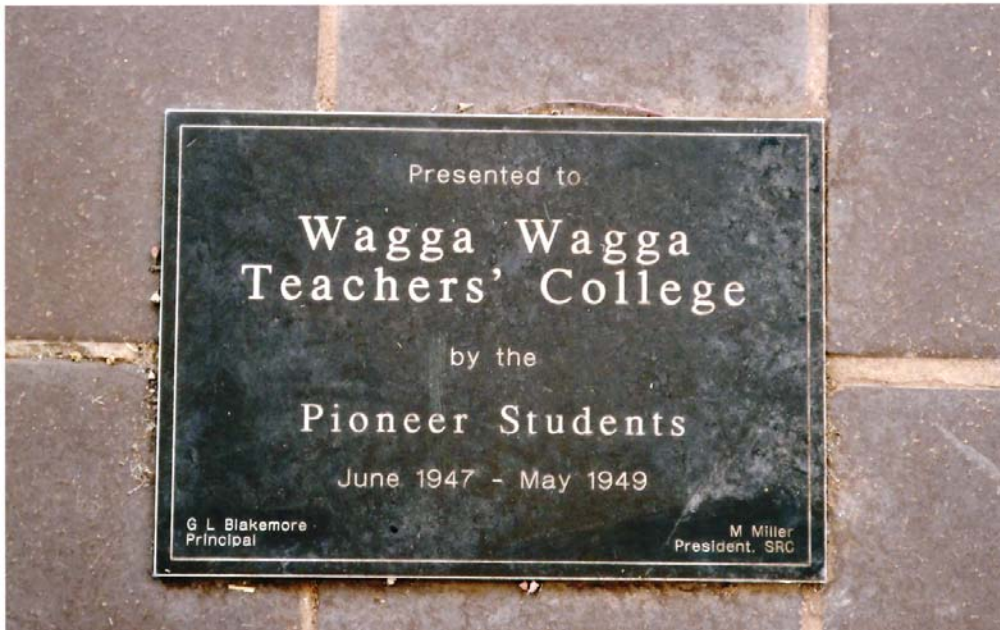
Our next step was CSU campus where we drove past Joyes Hall on the way to the relocated Band Rotunda. It was a joy to see it in its ideal position, our son

was impressed by the acoustics from within, and above all, for us, to see at last the Pioneers’ brass plaque firmly embedded in the centre of the floor.

Nathan was quite impressed by the CSU winery and with wines we tasted. As on our other visits we ordered wine for delivery to be sipped while reminiscing in the comfort of our home.



Kevin and Winifred in the Rotunda



The Plaque in the Rotunda

smaller, and the hotel had more shade trees in the streets.

Our next move was the drive to Kangiara. Property names brought back memories of the owners and their children. From previous visits Winifred and I knew the school building was no longer there. The school ground has now become a well kept nature reserve. Having seen no one, we were leaving when a car

passed us and turned into the driveway of a house adjacent to the school site. We followed and the lady who stepped out of the car was my first student, who recognised us even though we had not been to the area for many years.

During the conversation I became aware that, of those at the school from 1949 to 1951, this former pupil and I were the only ones still living.

Continuing our trip homeward Nathan again detoured at Goulburn through Taralga to the area south of Oberon. It was in this area at places such as

Shooters Hill, Edith, Norway and Essington Park that the original Wilcox family settled when they arrived from Cornwall in 1839.

Over time we have talked at length about WWTC and our meeting on that first day in June 1947. It was a gratifying experience to be able to share with Nathan in Wagga Wagga many place and items of interest that have been our treasured memories for 65 years.

Winifred and Kevin Wilcox.



Nathan Wilcox with the WWTC Badge

The graduation ceremony in Joyes Hall was most impressive and we were very proud of our son's achievements. He was very pleased to be photographed in front of the original WWTC badge in the foyer of Joyes Hall. The buildings and many of their occupants at the old campus are already gone, as happens with material things and people, but here was tangible evidence of the continuation of the aims and values of those early days.

During the trip home, Nathan suggested a detour to Bowning,

where at the beginning of each school term, having arrived at the railway station at 3 am on the SW Mail train, I was permitted to use the emergency stretcher in the signal Box until the arrival of the Station Master at 6.30 am to start his tour of duty. Each time he woke me in time to catch the mail car from Bowning to Kangiara Public School, my first appointment in May 1949. There were naturally quite a few changes since then. That mail route no longer exists, the railway station is much

WWTC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Wagga Wagga Teachers College Scholarship was established in May 2002.

The first Scholarship was awarded to Ingrid Jones. Members of the Alumni Committee travelled to Wagga and were present at the Scholarship presentation.

It was a memorable occasion and we all felt a sense of pride that the ex-students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College had been able to raise sufficient money for the award of a scholarship.

The Scholarship Fund continued to increase, and at the end of 2012 the amount in the Foundation had grown to over \$80,000.

Scholarships have been awarded every year and up to the end of 2012, 24 Education students have received Scholarships.

The Scholarship recipients are as follows:

2002: Ingrid Jones

2003: Blair O'Meara

2004: Cheryl Ann Fuller and Kristil-Rae Mobbs

2005: Liana Croker, Kate Williams and Hayley Ruffles

2006: Rheanna McWaters

2007: Ann Harris and Carolyn Scott

2008: Alicia McNab, Amy Worsfold, Sheree Chadderton.

2009: Glen Bobbin, Brooke Daniher, Kylie Reardon

2010: Adriana Cartwright, Laurebn Irvine, Samantha Clark

2011: Caleb Willis, Tamara Hope, Lisa Hulands

2012: Hayley Dwyer, Luke Richardson.



John Riley, Dr Henry Gardiner, Roy Parker, Lew Morrell, Lindsay Budd, Bob Collard, Gladys Meaney-Budd, Ann Smith, Ingrid Jones, Margaret Gardiner, Olga Collard.



Caleb Willis, Tamara Hope, Lisa Hulands - 2011 winners with Lew Morrell.

SOME INTERESTING APPOINTMENTS



A Typical Small School

We were bonded to the Department of Education and had to serve wherever we were sent. Some interesting appointments resulted.

Weilmoringle: Brian Pettit (1959-60). His first teaching assignment was a pioneering experience on the sheep station at Weilmoringle, north of Brewarrina. He was the only passenger on a single carriage that left Byrock one fateful day in January 1961. His first task was to build the school.

He wrote about his experiences in "The Weilmoringle Kid". Years later he returned to Weilmoringle and a sequel, "When the Curlew Cries" was the result.

Cummeragunja: Robert Smyth (1960-61). "I received my first appointment as Teacher-in-Charge of an all-aboriginal school to a place I had never heard of! It wasn't on any maps we had and the only instructions for getting there, as we didn't have cars in those days, were to catch the Murray Valley Coach from Albury to Echuca, then catch the mail truck to Cummeragunja!"

Balladoran Public School. Merve Armstrong (1950-51) and then Barry Cohen (1955-56). 30 miles north of Dubbo.

Reids Flat: Bill Brien (1950-51). A small school about 50 miles from Cowra. The mailman said to me, "I don't know where you're going to stay because Mrs Elvins who boarded the last teacher swore she'd never have another teacher as long as she lived!"

Cooplacurripa: Dave Benson (1962-63). Between Mount George west of Wingham and Nowendoc, well inland and on the road to Walcha.

Kenibri: Christel Wangmann (Cox) (1948-50) Her first appointment was to a small school in the Piliga scrub.

Tibooburra: George Blakemore taught there in 1921, Bill Bennett (1950-51), Jim and Jill Cleary (1954-55).

Mt. Seaview Timbers Pty. Ltd: Hugh Varnes (1955-56). "In 1957, my first appointment was to Mt. Seaview Timbers Pty. Ltd., yes, that's correct, not to a town or village, but to a timber mill. The actual Mt. Seaview was at least 20 miles away as the crow flies and there was no settlement there at that time. The mill, which cut coachwood to be used as rifle butts at Lithgow Small Arms Factory, was situated between Yarras and Yarrowich on the then unsealed Oxley Highway. This was 60 miles west of Wauchope and 27 miles from the nearest school and post office at Yarras."

Stony Crossing: Geoff O'Brien (1949-50). First appointment T.I.C. Stony Crossing (Travel Instructions "Train from Greenthorpe to Albury, Murray Valley Coach to Swan Hill, Mail Truck to Stony Crossing"). "It was the most god forsaken place in the middle of a drought and a rabbit plague. I spent three years there."

Roto: Mick Rowlands (1950-51). Mick's first appointment was to the one-teacher school at Roto, in the west

of NSW where he spent a couple of years in difficult teaching and living conditions.

Wallangra Public School: John Shields (1953-54). In the Inverell district.

Wakool: Alan Lake (1959-60) I went to Central and I bought my ticket – rail via Melbourne, Bendigo and finally Echuca to Wakool which was indeed on a Victorian Line within NSW. I looked at Railway maps and there it was, between Echuca and Moulamein.

Edith Public School: Graeme Wilson (1947-49). Between Oberon and Jenolan Caves.

Rennie Provisional School: Phil Bastick (1950-51) Somewhere out the other side of Corowa.

Bongongolong: Arthur King (1950-51). Near Gundagai. "The inspector told me to walk into the playground on the first morning with half a dozen canes and make sure you use them in the first week!"

Brooman Provisional School: Bill Atkinson (1958-59). On the upper reaches of the Clyde river, not far from the base of Pigeon House Mountain.

Crooble Public School: Ray Osmotherly (1959-60). On the Boggabilla line some 60 km north of Moree.

Windellama Public School: John Moon (1951-52). Located about 30 km south of Goulburn.

Greta Migrant Camp No 2: Judith Hiatt (Hanns) (1948-50). On the staff were Pioneers Jack Collins, Harry Gibbs and Des Beiler.

Norfolk Island: John Woodger (1950-51). John was appointed in 1962 to start the Wyndham Scheme in Norfolk Island and spent three happy years there.

Eurunderee Public School: Mick Rowlands (1950-51). Near Mudgee. Henry Lawson went to school there.

HALL OF FAME



Lew Crabtree.

Lew Crabtree was to his colleagues kind and understanding, a splendid conversationalist with a delightful sense of humour.

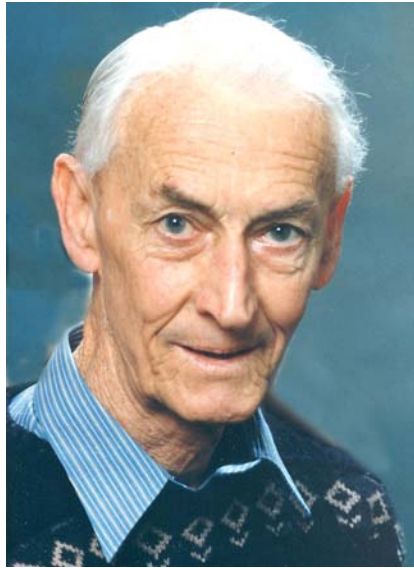
As an ex-serviceman in 1949 he was six or seven years older than the majority of the teacher-trainee students who all looked up to him as a wise mentor and guide.

At college it was amazing, he appeared as a more mature person, you would take him for a lecturer rather than a student and for the next fifty or so years, while the rest of us aged, he hardly changed in appearance.

Often when ex-students met over the years, their opening remarks were always “Lew Crabtree, you haven’t changed a bit!”

Lew had been a member of the Management Committee since its inception in 1997. He, together with Lew Morrell and Lindsay Budd, created and developed the alumni paper, “Talkabout” and many of the witticisms that appeared in its pages can be sourced back to Lew Crabtree.

He had a commitment that was inspirational and together with a quiet sagacity contributed to the many and often lengthy debates that have taken place at our meetings.



John Riley.

John played a leading role in the work of the Wagga Wagga Teachers’ College Alumni Association.

He was an active member of the Association’s email group, being known as John “Raillie” because of his love of locomotives.

He was involved in the organisation of the quarterly alumni lunches held at the Masonic Club and was part of the editorial team which produces the Association’s magazine “Talkabout”.

However, John will be best remembered for his labour of love that was “*Teaching Memories*”. Not content to sit back and relax in retirement, John encouraged and sometimes cajoled alumni to commit their teaching highlights and lowlights to paper.

The stories and photos, which stirred the memories and hearts of so many, combined under John’s skilful hand to form a wonderful volume of memories that reaches out, not just to those who attended Wagga Wagga Teachers’ College, but to anyone who is fortunate enough to have read it.

A copy of “Teaching Memories” resides in the University Library.



Bob Collard

Robert (Bob) Collard, MBE, has been the President of the Wagga Wagga Teachers’ College Alumni Association since its inception and has been persuaded to retain that position to the present in spite of needing to travel to meetings by train from his home at Ourimbah on the Central Coast.

His energy and enthusiasm as Chairperson have inspired the Committee to plan several major civic functions as part of the College’s Diamond Jubilee Reunion in 2007.

Public service is a tradition in the Collard family, as evidenced by the naming of Collard Reserve at Ourimbah in honour of the community work performed by Mr R W C Collard, Bob’s father.

Bob is still active as an umpire for the Central Coast Cricket Association, having received the inaugural Third Grade Umpires Award in 1987.

HALL OF FAME



Ann Smith received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Chancellor Lawrie Willet AO.

Ann Smith

(Taken from the citation to Ann delivered by Lawrie Willet at the 60th Reunion in 2007)

Ann Smith was among the first group of students to attend Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1948. She graduated as an Infants teacher in 1950 with her first appointment to Guildford Public School.

This appointment was followed by positions at Darcy Road, The Meadows, Oxley Park, Parramatta West, Ringrose and Windermere Schools. Ann's successful career spanned 36 and a half years; 23 years of which encompassed the responsibility of a Mistress or Deputy Principal. A highlight was her role in the setting up of the Metropolitan West Publications Unit.

Over the last ten years, the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association has played a major part in her life. At the inaugural AGM, Ann was elected as Secretary, a role which involved not just the usual Minute taking but also tracing missing alumni. It soon became evident that this required a full-time effort and the position of Research and Records Officer was created. Ann was elected into this new role and held it for many years.

Ann became the bounty hunter of the Association. She took to her mission of tracking and recording all those who

had passed through the College from 1947 until 1972 with the passion of a true believer.

The Association's records of students from the College blossomed under her stewardship. Ann has located more than 2800 alumni. This has been a true demonstration of the "spirit" of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

Ann's dedication and her ability to infect all of those around her with her passion, has helped to strengthen the ties which bind together all Wagga Wagga Teachers' College alumni.

The success of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association in raising over \$60,000 for Scholarships can in part be attributed to Ann's dedication.

There have been 10 Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association Scholarships awarded over the past five years with a combined value of \$20,000. Each Scholarship has helped to enable a young student to achieve their goal to be a teacher.

In 2001, Charles Sturt University initiated the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award is presented to an alumnus whose dedication to, and affinity for, their profession has shone throughout their career.

Ann Smith epitomises the values and principles that this award represents.



Dawn Stewart (Andrews)
1950-51

Dawn Stewart, the little barefoot kid, wrote about growing up on a property Back-o'-Bourke.

The stories have provided a wonderful insight into what it was like growing up out in the "Backblocks".

Stories included: my games, my tuckbox, my wartime memories, my Grandma, The Enngonia School Centenary.

We are fortunate that Dawn has allowed us to publish her stories and let us eavesdrop on her childhood world.

Alumni Yahoo Group

Many hundreds of reminiscences can be found on the Alumni Yahoo Group website.

The group is one of the Yahoo Groups and can only be accessed by members.

To join go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and follow the instructions to get a Yahoo ID.

Then log in to the website <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waggatc-alumni/>.

The link can also be found on the Talkabout page of the CSU Alumni Publications:
<http://alumni.csu.edu.au/publications>

A VISIT TO THE ARCHIVES



In the archives we were given a run-down on policy by the Director, Don Boadle, before being given a tour of the place. We were then allowed to browse through various priceless documents including books of CUTTINGS, photographs, REGISTERS, etc.

It was interesting to examine the photographic record of students in years after the earliest and to see among them some of the members of this group. It was even possible to examine (should one wish) one's EXAMINATION RECORD.

Apart from photos of college in its various stages of construction, the item I found most interesting was the large book of CUTTINGS, in which amongst other fascinating items were the Principal's agenda for the earliest of College assemblies. In a program of the dramatic performance "Hay fever", the name of one Charlie Ferris was seen to feature prominently. Someone could surely write a book on those early years of the college using these primary sources!

Another gem was the collection of college CALENDARS, complete except for the first in 1947. A reading of the Cuttings shows why – there WAS none – it was like Topsy! Seen in that section were the earliest Rules & Regulations which appeared religiously in every year's calendar.

We were treated royally by the staff at the Archives, and were given photocopies of material that we asked for.

Anyone is able to view the material in the Archives, Mon-Fri, but they would have to pay for any photocopying.

John Riley 1948-50

The Collection of the Regional Archives was first formed in 1973, and was managed as the "Riverina Special Collection" in the Library of the former Riverina College of Advanced Education in Wagga Wagga. This Collection, which comprised of regional archival and non-archival material, was initiated and largely driven by local historian and academic, Dr Keith Swan, to complement regional research and teaching.

later. His contribution to the tertiary education sector was recognised in the 1974 New Year Honours (BEM) and a lecture theatre dedicated in his name on Charles Sturt University's Riverina campus. Whilst working as a professional historian and academic, Dr Swan re-established the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society in 1962. He subsequently served as President and initiated the Society's archival collection.

The following account was written by John Riley after a reunion at Wagga.

The morning after the Reunion dinner the Alumni Committee was given the opportunity to visit the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives (formerly Riverina Archives) in the Blakemore Building at Old Campus, to ascertain the situation concerning archival material about the college and what facility there is there to store memorabilia.

Before entering the archives, some of us went in search of the devastation Bill Atkinson had told us about recently; it was not hard to find - where the admin and dining room once stood is a fenced-off blank (except for weeds) space – a CONSTRUCTION AREA.

Apparently white ants were the cause of the removal of the old buildings.



Dr Swan began his teaching career in this region in 1950 at the newly established Wagga Wagga Teachers' College. Following the formation of the Riverina College of Advanced Education, Dr Swan was appointed senior lecturer in history in 1972, and became Acting Dean of the School of Business and Liberal Studies one year

Those Were The Days

The following excerpts were compiled and edited by John Riley.

A common theme for comment in Talkabout in early days was the use of the recorder flute in music lectures. Lecturer Cornell brought out a box of these for distribution and use for playing folk airs from a set collection. Those not especially enthusiastic on the practice could hide their lack of skill when the section played, but when individual performances were called for at exam time, the truth came out. Yours truly managed to learn set pieces, but when it came to the UNSEENS!!! Here are some of the comments found in early times.

Off the Record

Oh for a gramophone! Oh for a record! Oh for a bonfire of broken recorder flutes!

Never before have I heard so many versions of "The Lost Note" – pardon, I mean "The Lost Chord". I see beautiful young ladies frantically running up and down our 6 inch by 6 inch corridors mournfully asking all those not already dead, "Have you seen my note? I just blew this (confounded thing) and the note came out the wrong end. You'll return it if you find it, won't you?"

My delicate ears are assailed by the volumes of monstrous windjamming that goes on morning, noon and night. All the wind possible is jammed into the poor little insignificant flute!!

Don't be surprised if I exert my superiority with a super atomic bomb. I must outdo the noise somehow.

B.E.S., 3/8/48

.....

Sir,
During a recent visit to the garden city of the south, I was privileged to tour the campus of your celebrated College. Hailing from Italy where music is not rare or fettered within the record, I was charmed to hear music everywhere. I thought it must surely be the Pipes of Pan in this Arcadian setting, but, on enquiry, I found that the majority of the students are flautists. This was a

wonderful discovery. The Music Department must be commended for its initiative and enthusiasm.

It is to be hoped that this ideal may be perpetuated and that lecturers and students will never become accustomed to the music they cannot help hearing. What I really mean is that they must never let such experiences become stale, but on each outburst, find delight in the subtle uncertainties of this instrument.

Yours, etc.,

Antonio Magnafigio-11/4/49

.....

..... I am told on good authority that these students invariably take with them wherever they go a new-fangled musical instrument known as a marauder toot, which they play at all hours and even to the children. As I object to jazz music of any kind and as I do not wish the children in my school to be contaminated in this way, I would prefer not to have to meet such ex-students rather than to have to tell them (kindly but sternly) to keep the marauder toot at the bottom of the suitcase where it rightly belongs.

From Matilda Snifwell – 11/4/49

.....

Sir,

It is indeed time a concerted attack was made upon a pernicious influence that threatens the stability of our community life. I refer to a thin ectoplasmic wailing that haunts the air after nightfall, a ghostly caterwauling, an inharmonious, nerve-wracking thread of sound - in short, Sir, the recorder flute. I think it high time a stand was made against the Music Department of this establishment, a department which seems to be actuated by an insane desire to wreck the seraphic calm of the campus, the deep peace of the dormitories.

The recorder flute itself is an instrument which is in shape questionable, in origin doubtful, and in performance blasphemous. It is an outrage against Nature and against God.

Yours, etc.,

"PRO BONO PUBLICO" –11/4/49

.....

Dear Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Miss Cornell to the serious risk of infection which every second year student takes twice each week. I am referring, Sir, to that potential spreader of disease, the recorder flute. I have no objection to blowing into the fool thing and producing a hideous wail or an ear-splitting squeal, provided I am given a flute for my own, sole, personal use. As an alternative I would suggest sterilising the foul mouthpiece and using an instrument similar to a pipe cleaner for removing the drool, spittle and remains of numerous breakfasts from the piece with the holes in it. Perhaps this would ruin its alleged tone. If this is the case I'll have one for my private use, please.

Why do I not buy one? For the same reason I do not buy a white elephant.

Yours, etc.,

"CONTAMINATED" - 20/9/49

.....

In Memoriam

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

Frances Yvonne (Fay) Bevan (Foord)
1954-55 March 2012

Donald Christie 1953-54 Aug 2009

Fay Lee (Barnes) lecturer 1947-50
March 2012

Judith Malcolm (Perryman) 1957-58
July 2010

Brian Charles Webb 1947-49
October 2012.

Those Were The Days

COLLEGE ANECDOTES FROM DR VIC COUCH

Our highly respected former lecturer in Education, Dr Victor Couch, kindly recorded on tape a number of humorous experiences from his five years at Wagga Teachers' College. Taken from Teaching Memories.

The Gem of Them All

I had been invited by Norm Donnison and the students to attend the football "do" at the end of the season - to honour the team for its successes and Norm for his great work in coaching the team. I was asked to say a few words. As it was an all-male affair, I thought it would be appropriate to tell the story about termites in the Northern Territory.

The Wet Season was approaching and the termites had decided it was time to make a mound out of buffalo dung. They were making heavy weather of it because the dung, being too moist, tended to keep sliding downhill all the time.

So the foreman termite assembled all his workers and began gesticulating with his antennae. A termite from another colony was watching this performance. Intrigued, he walked over to the foreman and asked, "What's all that about?"

The foreman replied, "I'm not sure I'm getting my message through to them. The signal I'm giving is 'Stop that BULLSHIT; stop that BULLSHIT'."

I thought that would be the end of it, but when assembly came the following Tuesday and George stood up to speak, every man and woman student had their antennae up.

George was flabbergasted and, of course, so was I. He could not understand what had brought on this remarkable reaction. I felt I had to tell him for his peace of mind that I had told the story, but not with any special intent.

Indeed, as I assured him, at my first lecture after the football get-together, a few of my students had their antennae up also!

In Loco Parentis

Because Ian Renwick and I lectured in Psychology, George

sometimes sought reassurance from us. He was concerned that, although he thought he was trying to do his best for his students, no matter what he did they criticised him.

He often pointed out in his addresses that he was "*in loco parentis*", and I assured him, "That's right, George, but you've got to remember that you're the father figure for both the men and the women students. You are getting the same sort of reaction from the students as any father would get from his late teenage son or daughter, but here it's magnified a hundred fold.

"And of course the relationship with the women students is a more delicate one, but nonetheless it's the relationship between father and daughter. With a daughter it's much more complex, because a daughter at one stage of development idolises her father, while at a later stage she hates him. And it's an extraordinarily complex situation."

At the next College assembly George stood up to propound on the matter. His outline of his role with the men went over all right. When he started to address the women he got a bit mixed up and said, "I'm responsible for the condition of every woman in the place."

The Old Bags

This incident occurred very early in the life of the College. The College's assembly hall had inherited all its curtains from the old RAAF hospital days. They looked for all the world as though they were sugar bags dyed. So George decided there would have to be new curtains.

It so happened on a particular day we assembled on stage with staff members on the right hand side and on the other side a couple of members of the Infants Staff from Gurwood Street Dem. School. George was outlining what he was going to do.

He said, "We're going to get rid of those drapes." Then, pointing in the direction of the women, he continued, "and we'll get rid of these old bags too."

Out of the Mouths of Babes

The next occurred very early in the piece. My family and I lived in Brookong Avenue. This meant that when the bus came down from the College, we would join it at Burns' corner store to go down to the town. My daughter Jeanette at that stage was not quite two years of age. She was in the habit of wandering down the aisle of the bus, mixing with the student passengers and listening to what they had to say. As the bus came to one of its stops, she suddenly called out at the top of her voice, "Daddy, *they're* talking about George too."

I thought to myself, "Out of the mouths of babes."

My Pillion Ride

Norm Donnison and I did the Henty run for practice teaching, spending a day in turn at Uranquinty, The Rock, Yerong Creek and Henty, etc. We thought we made an effective supervising team.

On this particular day Evelyn (my wife) was not well and I spent some time tending to her needs. I could have phoned College and said I could not make it, but I decided to do my best to get there. I rode up to College, but found the bus had already left.

One of the students (probably Mervyn Whittaker) had a motor bike, and George commissioned him to take me to Uranquinty on the pillion. I'll never forget that ride as long as I live! Not used to being a pillion rider, and being rather too ample to be comfortably seated on one, we set off with myself clutching a briefcase and hanging on like grim death.

Merv rode hell for leather, trying to catch the bus before it reached Uranquinty. We did not succeed.

All I can say is, I was very thankful we did not have an accident.

Continuing Biology

As you all know, Arthur Cornell was the senior lecturer in Biology and Marjorie Reidman his junior staff member. In due course Arthur began courting Marjorie and finally they

REUNION PAGE

decided to marry, I believe during the long vacation.

At the final staff meeting for the year, George got to his feet and said how pleased he was that Arthur and Marjorie were going to be married - then they would be able to continue their biology experiments.

Power Failures

Arch Miller, one of our lecturers in English was a most likeable person with a sardonic wit. He could come up with some very short one-liners.

It must have been in 1949 when coal strikes in New South Wales were causing periodic black-outs throughout the state, sometimes causing problems for staff.

One day Arch had just warmed up to his lecture when there was a knock at the door and a male student stuck his head inside. He said, "Mr Miller, there's a power shortage, you know."

"Oh!" said Arch, "you run on electricity, do you?"

The Power of Bluff?

My last little story perhaps illustrates the power of bluff. One of the football team's important matches was against Tumberumba. I travelled down with coach Norm Donnison and the team.

Evidently a lot of money had been wagered on the result of the match, though I do not know who was backing the College team. Apparently the locals lost a lot of money.

At the conclusion of the game we were in the tin shed standing in for a Visitors Dressing Room. Norm was inside discussing the match with the team, when along came three or four angry looking locals wanting to get at our team. I happened to be standing at the doorway.

When they demanded entry I, with the greatest bluff in the world said, "Well, you'll have to do it over my dead body."

Fortunately they did not take me literally.

FIFTY YEAR RE-UNION

Graduate Students of WWTC 1966-1968

Thank you to those fellow alumni who have expressed their interest for the fifty year re-union of **WWTC graduates of 1966, 1967 and 1968**, the last years of the Leaving Certificate students.

Replies have indicated a preference for this re-union being held in Wagga Wagga in 2016. The date is yet to be decided.

Interested persons please contact Bruce and Lesley Forbes
email: bruceles@bigpond.com
ph: 0243225650
mob: 0408587065.

The Alumni Association has supplied a database. However, there are many names missing. To assist in compiling a comprehensive list we appeal to Alumni members to make contact with and inform relevant ex students of the re-union.

CONTACTS

President: Bob Collard MBE: 2 Louise Close, Ourimbah 2258
Phone 02 4362 2764

Secretary: Dorothy Tanner: 282 Doncaster Ave, Kingsford 2032
Ph 02 9663 3204 email: netanner@optusnet.com.au

Research and Records Officer :
Gerard Say: Unit 3, 822 Pacific Highway, Chatswood 2067
Phone 02 9412 3267 email: gsay@bigpond.net.au

Treasurer: Lindsay Budd: 4 Flemington Close, Casula 2170
Phone 02 9601 3003 email: lbudd@bigpond.net.au

Talkabout Editors:
Lindsay Budd: 4 Flemington Close, Casula 2170
Lew Morrell: 25 Grandview Drive, Newport 2106
Phone 02 9997 1506 email: lewismorrell@gmail.com

Faculty Advancement Officer: Stacey Fish
The University Advancement Unit,
Charles Sturt University, Bathurst NSW 2795
Phone 02 6338 4832. (Preferably Monday and Wednesday)
email: sfish@csu.edu.au

NEWS FROM CSU

As this is the last report from Charles Sturt University, I would like to express on behalf of the University our gratitude to the Wagga Wagga Teachers' Alumni Association (WWTAA) for its work and for allowing the University the privilege of working with the Association over the last fifteen years. Being able to include CSU news in your excellent Talkabout publication has helped to engage WWTAA members with the University and allowed them to become involved in the life of the University.

With the thought that WWTAA may be dissolving, the University would like to thank the Association, its Committee and its members for the support and valuable input they have contributed over the years to both the Association and the University. Their contribution to engagement between WWTC Alumni and CSU is to be commended as is the forethought and determination to establish the WWTAA scholarship. Fundraising efforts and the establishment of the WWTAA Scholarship will ensure that the name of the Association will continue to be recognised and acknowledged and that the "Spirit of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College" will live on.

Although the WWTAA may be dissolving, CSU Advancement Unit will remain the facilitator for contact between Alumni. Please continue to update the office with new email and postal details and remember that CSU's *Free Member Benefit Programme* is available to you. To register online, visit www.csu.edu.au/alumni. The University will continue to engage through CSU Facebook and a regular Alumni newsletter.

Additionally, please remember to continue to forward any information about successful alumni or those undertaking something notable for possible inclusion on the web site. Don't forget to keep sending photos in for sharing on the Alumni timeline on the CSU Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/charlessturtalumni>. Here WWTC photographs have been placed according to the timeline for alumni to look at and remember College days. Forward your own photographs from WWTC (be it social or noteworthy occasions), for inclusion via email: sfish@csu.edu.au

Please also note that the Advancement Unit is always available to help facilitate your reunions. You can contact Stacey Fish via sfish@csu.edu.au or (02) 6338 4832 with any enquiries and remember to look at the CSU web site for guidelines on how to plan a reunion www.csu.edu.au/alumni. Let Stacey know about any upcoming reunions so they can be placed on the CSU Alumni website and Facebook pages. (*Note: Stacey is in the office on a Monday and Wednesday.*)

It would be terribly remiss, not to mention Mr Lindsay Budd for his tireless and tremendous work as Editor of Talkabout. The biggest congratulations of all must go out for Lindsay's efforts, and also to all those who have assisted with contributions; *Lew Morrell particularly needs a special mention for his work in previous years as a second Editor*. Together, they have made each issue worth the anticipation of its arrival and an invaluable tool of communication for WWTC Alumni. It has also been a highly valued vehicle for fundraising, news notification and engagement link to the University. A publication of this standard is not an easy task to put together, however the efforts in doing so are greatly appreciated and recognised by both the University and WWTAA. Thank you again to Lindsay for his commitment and hard work to produce such a significant publication.

Past issues of Talkabout, dating back to 2006, are available to view (with coloured photographs), via the CSU Alumni web site: <http://alumni.csu.edu.au/csu-alumni-chapters/alumni-publications/89-talkabout>.

Finally, the WWTC Scholarship continues as an ongoing effort for fundraising. As mentioned, this Scholarship is a lasting legacy of the WWTC and provides a significant opportunity and support to a Charles Sturt University student starting out in their career. Please continue to send your regular donations via the CSU web site and complete the online donation form at <http://alumni.csu.edu.au/get-involved/supporting-csu>. Alternatively, continue to send your cheques to the CSU Foundation Trust via Charles Sturt University, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst, NSW 2795.

The WWTAA funds raised to date are \$82,512.80. Since the start of fundraising, there have been 2,344 gifts (donations) received from 793 donors, with the average gift being \$35.20. This is an outstanding achievement and all donors should be very proud of their contribution to "Keeping the Spirit" of WWTC alive. Congratulations!

The spirit of the WWTC is unsurpassed amongst CSU Alumni and its antecedent institutions and all of the WWTAA are to be congratulated.

Stacey Fish.
Faculty Advancement Officer.

March 2013
Volume 16 No 1



March 2013
Volume 16 No 1

If undeliverable please return to:
The University Advancement Unit
Charles Sturt University
Bathurst NSW 2795 Australia



Change of Address

If your address details are incorrect please email
advancement@csu.edu.au

or

The Advancement Unit
Charles Sturt University
Bathurst NSW 2795 Australia
02 6338 4680