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TALK ABOUT



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Charles Sturt University

Aerial Photograph Wagga Wagga Teachers College 1961

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It has been an interesting and sometimes challenging year in the chair of the WWTCAA. For some reason change never seems to leave you alone and there is the need to be updating, reviewing, revamping and modifying some method or procedure in order to be abreast of the times.

Since last February the WWCTAA has finally been recognised by CSU as WWTCAA and not just WWTAA. The importance of preserving the 'C' places a definite importance on "College" and defines our period from 1947 to 1971 as a Residential College before RCAE and CSU.

Lesley and I have indeed been fortunate in attending three reunions throughout the year. In May we attended the 1956/1957 reunion at Moss Vale and touched base with about 40 of the session graduates. Then in October we joined CSU for their 25 year reunion with a cruise on Sydney Harbour where there were a few of our ilk present. This was followed by a three day affair in Canberra with a very lively 90+ WWTC students from 1963/1964 getting involved in meet and greets, bus trips, BBQ's, dinner dances, brunches and lake cruises. Two trips to Wagga for scholarship selection and

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REPORT FROM PRESIDENT Cont'd

presentation occurred in March and May. Here Lesley and I, with Mal Hanratty and Lew Morrell met our two current scholarship holders in Kate Cowdrey-Ling and Samara Callaghan as well as their families.

What a change has occurred from our scholarship days where we were provided with a fortnightly allowance, accommodation and meals as well as a guaranteed appointment, albeit at the state's pleasure. Current students have to survive four years doing their courses without government support, seeking an income from some other enterprises, paying for board and lodgings, preparing pre packed microwave meals of pasta and driving/bussing to a campus over a meandering Murrumbidgee River. During the year the committee reviewed the Scholarship format and made recommendations to CSU relating to application and selection processes. The WWTCAA scholarship has now been extended to other rural campuses of CSU and has placed emphasis on a fourth year rural student with Maths and/or Science in line with a perceived need for improved teaching performance in these areas.

In May we met with CSU Advancement and Marketing at Bathurst to gain a better understanding of how WWTCAA operated as a part of CSU. Matters relating to the Scholarship Foun-

dation and scholarship selection were discussed and reviewed. Time was also spent on the Constitution for WWTCAA and managing the database of alumni members. The latter item has now become more centralised.

In keeping with electronic times we have been able to increase our on-line contacts with 1036 receiving *Talkabout* and other notifications through email. Our last edition saw just 501 *Talkabouts* being distributed through Australia Post. While financial membership continues to grow we wish to encourage all those people receiving *Talkabout* online to contribute to the membership of the Association. More members are now contributing payments directly to WWTCAA via direct bank deposits. The committee can be well pleased with *Talkabout* and thanks to Brian Powyer and Lindsay Brockway there have been many congratulatory messages of unrequited joy from our readers. *Talkabout* is also posted online on the CSU Alumni website.

It must be acknowledged here that there are many very generous donations from our members towards membership with even larger sums being allocated to the Scholarship Foundation and Archives. Funds were distributed by the management committee to our Education Scholarship and to Wagga Wagga Archives.

Thanks must also be extended to Lindsay Budd for his work and efforts over his tenure in producing *Talkabout* and then digitising all the copies from 1997 and making them available on disc to the CSU, Wagga Wagga Archives and WWTCAA.

At the end of 2014 I received a short notice request from CSU Wagga Wagga Division of Facilities Management to rustle up a few WWTC Alumni to attend a book launch at South Campus. Nancy Blacklow in association with CSU Facilities Management compiled *South Campus—A History*. An urgent email to those colleagues at postcode 2650 and a call to John Ferguson (1967/68) saw about 30 WWTC Alumni able to attend the launch. Ray Petts (1961/1962) delivered an emotional launch of the book as he recalled former days. The book is available through CSU.

Before concluding I would like to extend two challenges.

Can you find a fellow student of WWTC? There are still many WWTC alumni who have not been tracked. With the **70 year reunion** coming in 2017 your help can make a difference to our contact list.

Have you done your homework? Your memories, life stories, personal anecdotes and photos are what make *Talkabout* an “unrequited joy” for other members.

Bruce Forbes
President WWTCAA



EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of *Talkabout* for

2015. Our thanks to those who have shared their memories and stories with us. Apologies to those whose article is not included. I still have a small backlog

of stories that I will include in the next edition. I still need additional material for the next edition. Please put fingers to the keyboard. **Brian Powyer**

A FORTUNATE CAREER - Fred Armstrong



It is great to read through *Talkabouts* to catch up on information; and colleagues with whom I trained, taught

and served on professional committees .

The August copy included Barry Higgins, who was an important member of the Woollahra team. But also of Miles Stanmore, the boy from Hay. We first met when he was billeted at our house in Leeton when the district athletics championships were being held there in 1948, then again at the CHS state championships in Sydney that year. WWTC football team brought us together again in 1952. After this it was just the occasional re-union in Wagga Wagga. My thoughts are with his family.

I was born in Ashfield in 1933. My father, a teacher at Haberfield and then at Enmore Activity School, was appointed as Headmaster, Lake Cargelligo where I commenced school. I

attended 'The Lake', The Rock and Cootamundra primary schools and Cootamundra and Leeton high schools; the latter being very significant as it was where I met Margaret, now my wife of nearly sixty years.

After WWTC I was appointed to Leeton Primary School (2 years), Coreinbob (1 year), Kapooka (2 years) both one teacher schools then Gurwood St Demonstration School (1 year). In 1959 Margaret and I enjoyed a year in the West Riding of Yorkshire having been invited by Mr A.B. Clegg, Chief Education Officer of the West Riding, after meeting him at Wagga Wagga while he was on a lecture tour of Australia.

On returning to Australia, 1960, I was appointed to North Sydney Demonstration School. I was fortunate to be included in the team that became Woollahra Demonstration School where I taught the OC class for 4½ years (1961-July 65) then Principal, Island Bend school P3 nearly 3 years, a wonderful experience being part of the mighty Snowy Scheme. The school was closed

and as a forced transfer, I was appointed to Uki (2 years), La Perouse P2 (2 years), then Woollahra Demonstration School P1 and Woollahra Primary School 13 years. It changed when the Teachers College transferred to Oatley Campus.

I was transferred to Tharawal Primary School P1 6 years. Took a drive to see my new school and found that it consisted of a school hall and five slabs of concrete. Opening a new school with no classrooms was an interesting twilight to an educational career. The story becomes even more interesting when after 6 years at Tharawal, another new school was added at Alford's Point, a couple of kilometres away. Two schools, one principal, one set of teachers, to be distributed appropriately by the Principal, between the schools. Two schools, two years, one retirement.

Congratulations to the new committee and a very big thank you for continuing the work of the original group.

Fred Armstrong

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DRAMATIC EVENTS AT BOGAN GATE Neville Jennings 1959-60

After reading Jim Walsh's entertaining story in the last *Talkabout*, I thought I should put pen to paper about dramatic events at Bogan Gate Public School. This was the site of my first teaching appointment from 1961 till 1963.



Upon arriving at the school I was told that my combined 4/5 composite class would be housed in the supper room of the Town Hall. This would apply only for Term One while a new building was being added at the school itself. My 46 students got to know the hall quite well. Each Friday afternoon we stacked desks into the RSL sub-branch room and brought out



the supper tables. While attending a ball one Friday evening, I was chatting to a

young lady around 2 am at the third sitting of supper when she spied some suspicious items on the roof of the room. With a degree of mortification, I realised that my students had decided to decorate the ceiling with spitballs. A budding relationship went

downhill from there on, as an item of decoration landed in her soup.

At the end of the first year, the students and I returned to the hall for the

Xmas Concert. I had taken on various roles within this four teacher school including sports master and choir conductor. In the Xmas concert we prepared a varied repertoire for the choir and decided to add "Hey Ho, nobody's at home" as the final number with a surprise ending. The plan was that the song would end with a loud "Hey". This would cause the conductor to fall off the stage with feigned surprise. It was unfortunate that someone had left a vacant chair beneath the stage as I fell backwards.

In the drama section of the concert, my class had prepared a dramatisation of the *Snow Goose* story by Paul

Gallico. I invited my Uncle Harry and Aunty May to travel from Forbes to see the performance as they were stalwarts of the Forbes Amateur Dramatic Society and had expertise in stage craft and lighting. The star of the show was the younger son of the town's Yugoslavian doctor. Igor played the key role of the disgruntled and disabled lighthouse keeper with aplomb. There was not a dry eye in the house when his character perished off the coast of Dunkirk. A snow goose was circling the boat's mast in salute. Against all odds he had rescued many



Allied soldiers and had become a hero. Igor basked in his glory.

Before the concert, Igor had shown flair in other ways. One winter's morning he came to class with a dramatic news item. "The Japanese have put a man into space." He followed this by saying "there's a nip in the air this morning" and I had to spend some time talking to the class

about inappropriate language. Igor was fascinated by Australia's venomous snakes and spiders. One day he arrived with a bottle containing what looked like a funnel web spider. I convinced him it was best to put the bottle on a mantle-piece till we could verify its identity. During the day a gust of wind blew the bottle off the mantle-piece and smashed on the ground. We spent the rest of the Maths lesson cum Nature study lesson on top of chairs and tables as Igor assured us he could recapture his "pet".

One of my assigned roles in the Bogan Gate community was cubmaster, even though my Republican tendencies were already quite apparent and my salutes to a young Queen lacked the required

fervour. Igor joined the cubs and became quite keen about exploring the local countryside. One day his brother recounted a hike that they undertook on their own. When they saw a snake entering its hole head first, Igor remembered a bushman's tale that you could grab the snake by its tail and swing it around your head before cracking it like a whip to kill it. Igor duly pulled the snake out of its hole and began swinging it around his neck. He then called out to his brother and the other cubs: "What do I do now?" Radovan replied: "Keep swinging" as he and the others ran to a safe distance.

I wonder to this day whether Igor, in later life, took to the stage or be-

came a zookeeper. On return trips to Bogan Gate I saw that the hall and the adjacent war memorial remained at the centre of village life along with the night tennis courts. However, I did worry about reports that many town buildings built of brick had developed cracks due to the detonation of out-of-date weaponry at the local Army Base. If the hall had been unstable at the time of our "Hey Ho" performance, my fateful fall may have had more dramatic consequences.

Neville Jennings



WAGGA IS COLD IN WINTER Libby Raynolds (Myers) 1965 -66

I know Wagga is a cold place in Winter, but I am wondering why almost all my Teachers' College memories seem to be of stifling hot bright summer days?

We started in March, soft autumn in other places, but in Wagga the hot sun beat down on us, as we slowly grew accustomed to the layout of the college, and the routines. Learning the college song in the first week is a vivid memory, and watching the college staff trail into the assembly in academic robes, is another.

Some buildings looked temporary and rather ugly, but the gardens were always beautiful, and

the sprinklers often turned on. The rose gardens at the gate were lovely, and the wisteria growing over the walkway in Spring was stunning. I've been back since, and it's sad to see the decay of what was once so lovingly cared for.

Homesickness was a problem in those early days. Mail was important. Someone from the dorm would pick up the mail, and call out as they dropped it near the front door. We'd run to see what had come – or sometimes, with sadness, to see what hadn't come.

Music came often up and down the corridor. It was the days of

the Beatles. When I hear *Anna* or *Ticket To Ride* I am transported back to those days in the dorm. Also the ringing of the phone, and the yelling down the corridor of who was wanted, is another memory.

We had to sit at designated tables in the dining room. In First Year we shared a table with Second Year Males. They seemed so much older and worldly wise. I hardly dared talk to them. At weekends we could sit where we liked. It was far more relaxed and enjoyable. We laughed a lot.

On Saturdays we'd take the bus down town, do little bits of

shopping, and look casually at the group of Aggies standing on Romanos Corner. Sometimes, we'd bravely get on the bus bound for dances at the Ag. College. It was always fun. I remember an early date with some friends and a group of Aggies. In the Intermission at the Pictures, they took us bowling. On another occasion, we were driven back to Teachers' College by someone who was very drunk. It was frightening – long before the days of random breath tests.

Sundays saw many of us jumping over the back fence. No, we weren't going to a secret date, but to go to church at Turvey Park. We'd come back, do our washing, and catch up on assignments. Yes, I think we worked hard, and especially so when preparing for exams.

Sometimes we'd go home for the weekend. Getting off the Spirit Of Progress at 3, or was it 4, on a Monday morning and waiting for a taxi is a vivid memory. Was I always in the last taxi? We'd get a few hours sleep, and then face up to the morning lectures. Then there was the weekend when I dared to miss one lecture on a Friday afternoon, and catch an earlier train home.

The punishment for this, seemed too great for the crime. I was brought before the senior staff of the College, and berated by Mr Hale. He reduced me to

tears, telling me I was a disgrace to my family and school. There was detention to follow.

At the beginning of each term we'd catch the College train, which had started in Sydney. On one occasion, the train came to a sudden stop in a very small town. Perhaps it was the beginning of Second Year? As in most of my memories, it was very hot. The train had broken down, and while repairs were being made, we wandered through this dusty town. Was it Binalong?? It seemed almost magical, to have this little piece of freedom, before we were back on the train, and towards our routines again.

Prac. teaching also stands out in my memory. Some seemed to enjoy it, but were they putting on a brave face? It could be very exhausting. A faraway prac. like Narranderra made for a very long day. When we got back, after that long bus journey, there would be lessons and aids to prepare. I worried about my lessons, and was always a little surprised if they turned out alright. Supervisors and class teachers were kind and supportive. The kitchen staff prepared packed lunches. We picked them up in brown paper bags before we got on the bus. My memory tells me the sandwiches were egg. Surely that wasn't always the case?

From the middle of Second Year

on, we became a little obsessed about Graduation. First of all we had to pass all exams, and then there was the problem of the Graduation Ball. What would we wear, and more importantly, who could we ask to partner us?

It all came to pass. In time, we all received those telegrams telling us where we were to spend the next few years of our lives. Those early teaching years weren't easy, but gradually I grew to love the profession that Wagga had given me.

I couldn't finish these few patchy reminiscences, without paying tribute to my friend and roommate, Beverley Rogerson. A gifted student, who was very unassuming about her ability, Bev was the dux of our year in 1965 and the runner up in our final year. However, she was much more than this. A selfless, kind person, with a warm, friendly vivacious personality, and wonderful sense of humour, Bev was very much loved by those who knew her. After travelling overseas in 1972, she married and settled in Keswick, in the beautiful Lake District of England. Bev enjoyed her work in the local library. Although she had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, her death at 33, came suddenly and unexpectedly. It was a huge sadness and loss, not only to her husband, but to all her family and friends back in Australia.

Libby Reynolds

I GREW UP IN GOODNIGHT-Margaret Tosello (McDonald) 1955-57



Life before College: I grew up at Goodnight on the NSW side of the Murray River. At six I began

my school life at the one teacher school. In 1949-53 four of the one teacher schools, Goodnight, Koraleigh, Kyalite and Toolebuc were amalgamated. The individu-

al schools were actually transported to the site at Toolebuc.

My brother, Geoff and I were among those pupils who travelled

in a very reliable old bus the six miles to Toolebuc. When the bus broke down along the way we walked on to school. This school was called a Group School but when we had forty secondary pupils enrolled it was elevated to Central School status.

Geoff and I were both members of the first class of twelve which became the first secondary class and went on to be members of the first Leaving Certificate Class of 1954 with three pupils. To quote Mr Carpenter, the foundation headmaster, 1950-54, 'That first Leaving Certificate Class of 1954 did exceptionally well'. Geoff gained a Cadetship to the C.S.I.R.O. where he spent his working life in various states and towns/cities. I was granted a Commonwealth Teacher Training Scholarship to Wagga Wagga Teachers College. Both Geoff and I gained university degrees.

College:

I was the first student from Tooleybuc Central School to attend W.W.T.C. When I received details of the scholarship to W.W.T.C, I was rather overwhelmed. First of all, I needed to present myself in Sydney for a medical. My father and I drove to Tocumwal to catch a train to Sydney. Tocumwal was the nearest railway station we could get to because of floods that year. My father could always find his way around. When we got to Sydney we obviously stayed somewhere overnight. I don't remember anything much about that bit because I found this whole experience exciting and terrifying. However, we went to the medical as directed. As a result, I

went off to W.W.T.C. as a residential student. My father drove me to Wagga Wagga to enrol.

I felt very nervous to begin. We were allocated to dormitories. There was a warden who was a member of the lecturing staff. I knew no-one. Most of the other students in my dorm knew each other because they came from the same high school(s).

There were rooms to accommodate two, four or six people in each dorm. I was placed in a two roomer with a girl who was an odd number from her high school but socialised with those from her high school and certainly wasn't very interested in someone who shared her room and had gone to school at Tooleybuc Central School. Miss Kirkwood, our warden, taught us handcrafts in our curriculum. She was always very kind to me.

Many of us had scholarships. We received fifteen pounds and four shillings a month and one had to cover expenses e.g. toiletries, clothes, paper or books for note taking etc. and save enough money for fares home for holidays. I was very home sick and when I went home via train and bus at Easter I knew I wanted to be a teacher but wasn't so sure what I thought about being at College.

I was in Section 3. There were males and females in each section. There was quite a lot of interest in where I had come from and the fact the size of my class. At first I was having some difficulties adapting to being in a group of about thirty

all day, every day Monday to Friday. However it was long before I settled into routines although I always found the meals most unappetising. I found the lectures on classroom management very interesting. I can still recall Mr Walker's list of do's and don'ts. I enjoyed and learnt a great deal by attending demonstration lessons at Wagga Wagga Demonstration School.

Fairly early in the year we went in groups to surrounding schools and, under supervision, prepared and delivered lessons. My first prac teaching school was North Wagga Wagga P.S. where I conducted the lessons I had prepared with some success. Due to a burst appendix towards the end of my first year, I was unable to sit the exams and required to repeat the year. I lived out of College during my repeat year. My father paid my board. In 1956 I returned to residential college and was again in receipt of my scholarship. In my final year I became used to the life, worked hard, had made many lasting friendships, had very good results and was pleased to graduate with Mum and Dad present in W.W.T.C. hall.

My Career:

After time at Hay, Mt Pritchard East, Blaxcell St. Granville (Girls Dept.) and Fairfield



Graduation 1957

Heights public schools, I resigned to have our family in December 1964 and resumed teaching at Canley Vale Public School in 1971 where I gained List 1 in 1973 and List 2 in 1975. I became Deputy Mistress there in 1976. I transferred to Sadleir P.S. as Deputy in 1978 and gained List 3 in 1980. I took secondment as a Senior Education Officer for Staff Development in Classroom Management in the Metropolitan South West Region. I was also a member of the South West Region staff Development Team, involved in many regional and state committees during and after this time. I was appointed to Ruse P.S. a very large school, in 1983, as Deputy Principal One,

in a teaching position, on a composite Year 5/6 – a very rewarding experience. Gaining List 4 in 1984, I took up Principal Two at Marsden Road. My final position was Principal one at Bossley Park Public School.

In 1982, I graduated from Armidale College of Advanced Education with a Diploma of School Administration and in 1985, from Deakin University with a Bachelor of Education with 5 Distinctions and a credit: a long way from the one teacher school in Goodnight!

I married the love of my life, Cipriano Tosello in 1963. We had two children, Johanne born in 1965 and Bruce born in 1971.

Cipriano died from a massive heart attack in 1992. Since 2007 I have lived near, but not too near, Johanne and Michael, Bruce and Helena and my two grandsons, Sam and Max.

Margaret Tosello



Margaret and Cipriano

WHO KNOWS WHAT LIES AHEAD Hugh Varnes 1955-56

Dear Friends,
From 1992 – 2002 I taught ESL Classes in a large Business College in Darlinghurst, Sydney. The students were all professional people from many countries who were visiting Australia for varying lengths of time in order to do courses in English which would improve their fluency in the language. Many were wanting to read textbooks, which would appear in English well before being translated into their own languages. These teaching years brought me into contact with many fascinating people.

Retiring in 2002 I was able, during the next nine years, to teach in various places in Sydney where there were free classes for immigrants and overseas university students. Once again I met wonderful people.

However, in 2011 a friend invited me to accompany him on a one month holiday to India visiting the state of Rajasthan extensively but also the city of Agra (to see the Taj Mahal) and the state of Goa. We rode on camels in Rajasthan and on elephants in the city of Jaipur (called the pink city). I found this holiday so exhilarating that I resolved to return to India alone the following year, where, during fifteen weeks, I was able to travel right around the whole country by train (also crossing the interior twice). I always stayed in budget hotels and enjoyed the great local food. I commenced my journey in Kolkata (Calcutta) traveling north to Darjeeling and Kalimpong and on into Nepal, charmed by Kathmandu and other areas also. Then I travelled right down the eastern coast of India by first visiting Varanasi (Banaras) and Jabalpur, then

Bhubaneshwar, Vishakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Chennai (Madras), Puducherry (Pondicherry), Vellore, and Rameswaram. Next I went to Tirunelveli in order to visit the famous Dohnavur Fellowship Mission of Miss Amy Carmichael. After that I went to Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) the capital of the state of Kerala on the western coast and commenced my journey north through Fort Cochin, Coimbatore, Ootacumund, Mysore, Bangalore, Mangalore, the state of Goa, then Pune, Mumbai (Bombay) and Daman (a former Portuguese colony), through the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, and right up to the state of Kashmir but also visiting such places as the Punjab, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Shimla and Dehra Dun before returning to New Dehli to take the flight back to Sydney. I made sure that I went on an elephant safari in

Nepal and on a camel safari in the desert of Rajasthan as well. I don't have an adequate vocabulary to describe how amazing it was to travel around such a fabulous country which has so many different languages and cultures. But I especially loved the people.

Later in 2012, one of my former students kindly arranged for me to teach (voluntarily) for two months in two large schools in Jambi in Sumatra, Indonesia. Next I was overjoyed to be able to return to teach (voluntarily) in a school in Chhapara, Madhya Pradesh, India, for three months early in 2013. However, in July, 2013, some other friends invited me to teach in a

Bible College in Mwingi, in Kenya, where I was able to spend five very happy months. Wonderfully another opportunity came my way early this year through another friend, to spend three months teaching (voluntarily) in a language school in the city of Hanzhong, in the Shaanxi province of China. Once more that was an amazing experience.

In every one of these places I have met the most heart warming people and been touched by their gracious hospitality.

You may wonder what lies ahead. Well of course none of us knows the future but I plan to re-visit the school (St Andrew's

College) in Lima, Peru, in which I taught in 1966-67. My ex-wife and I travelled to Peru in 1965 and as next year, 2015, is the 50th anniversary of that journey I hope to travel there in February. We actually lived in Peru for nearly ten years and our two sons were born there. Both of my sons have paid visits at different times to the land of their birth and they are now encouraging me to also make the journey. I am looking forward to it very much. I must say that each of these journeys has helped fill my years of retirement with interest and great memories and it has been gratifying to be able to help and encourage a few other folk here and there along the way.

I'M HOME SOMETIMES - Wendy Hyett 1967-68

I enjoyed a very diverse teaching career, working in more than 30 schools in positions including classroom teacher, Itinerant Support Teacher Behaviour K-10, Student Welfare K-12, LOTE – Bahasa Indonesia, Executive Teacher and Assistant Principal. Some of my ex-students became famous and others sadly increased their notoriety when they became adults!

I have been fortunate in developing long lasting friendships with many people from a wide area of NSW. A large part of my

career was in Western Region, where I covered thousands of kilometres, experienced amazing events and met amazing people.

Like many teachers, I have travelled widely, both in Australia and overseas. I have been involved in many community organisations including sport, Surf Lifesaving and Girl Guides. Each year, I assist with the organisation of the horse section at Wagga Wagga Show.

Most important of all are the two children who were entrusted

to me when their mother was diagnosed with cancer. I am their 'Aunty Wendy' and now 'Aunty Wendy' to their children.

In 1990, I was appointed to Sussex Inlet Public School. It was lovely to settle in a town that has 'sand, salt water and southerlies'. (Bushfires are the only negative aspect.) I retired in 2004 and my permanent residence is in Sussex Inlet – I'm home sometimes!

Wendy Hyett 1967-68

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Mr Chris Madden AO (66-67)



was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his

distinguished service to tertiary education, to the strengthening of collaborative international education partnerships and cultural cooperation, and as an educator, role model and mentor.

Chris was the founding director/vice-president for Asia-Pacific Association for International Education, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) of Griffith University and is currently the chair of the International Education

Advisory Council.

Chris recently retired as Pro Vice Chancellor (International) at Griffith University. He has now taken a position as Strategic Advisor to Griffith for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, which allows him to combine his two passions of education and sport. Chris' new position involves developing strategies in order for the University to assist the State, Government and Local Council Commonwealth Games Committee in the running of the 2018 games.

Bill Murray OAM 61-62 It has been an amazing journey for me. I left College with a failure in Maurice Hale's subject.



Since then I have clawed my way back from the abyss and have done the things I love.

I have found enjoyment in coming up with new ideas that change the way we do things in society to help make a difference, particularly for those in desperate need of assistance. Most of my work has been out-

side Education, as you say, because I have found it an extraordinary experience to have worked with people of many diverse skills, backgrounds and talents who do remarkable things.

To be honoured with the Order of Australia is something I never planned for and to be recognised for what I love to do is a most humbling experience.

See Bill's life story in the next edition of *Talkabout*.

IN MEMORIAM

KEITH DUNN (1948-50), passed away on 19 August 2014, aged 83 after a long battle with ill health. He was involved in his local community of Wangi Wangi in the Masonic

Lodge and with Lions. He and his wife, Pauline had been married for 58 years.

BIELER DESMOND. (47/49) Late of Bowral, formerly of

Cooma, Newcastle and Lithgow. Beloved husband of Isabella (deceased). Passed Away on 21st November 2014.

VALE— Alan Maxwell (Jan 1947-Feb 2015)

Alan attended Waitara Primary School, then Normanhurst Boys High where he was state champion hurdler.

While at Teachers College (1966-67) he competed in the Australian Teachers College and Universities Tenpin Bowling Championships which was sponsored by AMF and his team won.

At college, he was Social Committee president in 1967 organising the Grad Ball for the 1966 graduates and many other social activities. He met Lesley Ward

at Teachers College and married in 1970.

He gained his Bachelor Degree from Macquarie University studying part time..

After teaching at Avalon, Lethbridge Park, Hornsby South, he was appointed Executive Teacher at Guildford West, then Assistant Principal at Mt River-view in 1980.

He was appointed teaching principal at Comleroy Road PS, but had to move on as numbers increased and the school was re-

classified, much to the disappointment of the school community there.

He was then appointed as deputy principal at Lethbridge Park in 1988, with many parents of the current kids remembering Alan from when they were at the school in his first year there. After further studies at Macquarie University he was awarded his Masters Degree in 1990. At this time, while at Lethbridge Park, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He was appointed Principal of St Marys North Primary School

in 1991 where he continued to inspire the teachers and students until he was medically retired in 1994. He continued to mentor and assist teachers while they prepared for promotions, with many successful after his encouragement. He also worked as a tutor in the School of Education at UWS Nepean.

From then until his passing, he was an alpaca farmer, interspersed with travels to many places including South East

Asia, Vanuatu, Samoa, Europe and Canada.

At home, Alan was a fix-it man, with a shed that many would envy.

He faced his disease bravely and with continued determination, even completing the 'City to Surf' event the year after his diagnosis, never losing his warmth, generous spirit and sense of humour.

He is survived by his loving wife, Lesley, children Andrew, Emma, Fiona, Harvey and grandkids Natasha, Danika, Charlotte and Bradley.



Alan and wife Lesley

DAD'S VERSE: A SON'S TRIBUTE Edwin Raskall 1947-48

My father, Edwin Ernest Arnold Raskall, passed on the 30th January 2015. He was 86.

As a member of the WWTC Pioneers 47-48 he always had fond memories of Wagga Wagga Teachers College.

I have attached a poem written about dad's legacy or verse. I am an English teacher (currently Deputy Principal at Randwick Girls' High School). I obviously followed dad into teaching.

After watching *Dead Poets Society*, starring the late Robin Williams, I was inspired to write the attached piece. In the film, Williams (playing Mr Keating), takes his class to the foyer and inspires them to look at the faces of ex-students, long deceased. He challenges them to think about their legacy. After thinking about dad's legacy, other than his 4 boys, I penned the attached.

Lance Raskall

DAD'S VERSE

A long time after dad is gone
His verse in poetry, not in song,
Will be the students in his care
That he has taught both here and there.
The girls and boys in school and class
Just recently and in the past,
Who have listened, heard and understood
Have finished school and turned out 'good'.
The ones he's saved along the way
To stay at school another day,
The ones who passed with flying colours
To go to Uni, then there's others.
Who struggled through their schooling years
With growing pains that led to tears,
With pressures in and out their mind
Why can't teenagers all be kind?
To see the learning taking place
The 'lightbulb' moment on their face,
That's what his life was all about
He did it quietly, no need to shout
For at the end no accolade
Just a 'thank you' and 'well played'
He loved his job and it's no curse
And that my friends, is my dad's verse

4th February 2015

A TREASURED LIFE Irene Gruber (Kind) 1948-50

IRENE GRUBER (Kind) passed on to the better place on 17th February 2014.

She was born on 23 November 1929, the second child of a family of nine, all born at Carcoar NSW. She spent her primary schooling at Carcoar, then two years at Carcoar Convent School, before travelling by bus to Cowra High School, which meant leaving home at 7am and arriving home again at 5.30pm. At Cowra she excelled at sport and academically and eventually became School Captain.

She was accepted into Wagga Wagga Teacher's College's second intake on a scholarship, in 1948 and again excelled at sport, particularly hockey. She graduated in 1950. When the graduating students spread a map of NSW out and discussed where they would like to be appointed she said, "I'll go anywhere except Sydney or Carcoar" (her home town). Her first appointment? Sydney! Then Carcoar! She taught all the Infant Classes there, in a two teacher school. On her first day there, she announced that outside the gate the students could call her what they liked, but inside she was Miss Kind! Hence, she continued to be "Ike" out-

side, and even her siblings called her Miss Kind in class.

After a transfer to Cowra Migrant Centre, then came a time at Cowra Primary. Then we met! Just before she left by steamer to teach at a Mission Station in the Australian Territory of New Guinea in 1955, I presented her with an engagement ring plus a wedding ring, as we planned to marry the following year and there were



We then travelled over to the isolated North Baliem Valley of Dutch New Guinea. Irene and I were some of the first "white" people the Dani tribe had ever seen. Irene was soon more fluent in the language than I, even though I had been there a year longer. She taught the first "class" of Danis. Some days there would be 20, and the next day perhaps 12, but different kids!



no shops in the Highlands where she would be working, teaching the local Enga people in their own language. I left six months later for Dutch New Guinea, but called in on Irene on the way, then returned the following year for our wedding at Irene's station – Baiyer River, then we honeymooned at Wau. WOW!

My work was mostly building airstrips and houses, and medical work. We gave thousands of injections for "yaws" - like leprosy – far more contagious but far easier to cure. Irene also taught English to trainee teachers from the coastal region.

When we returned home, we farmed at Canowindra for 50 years. **Ian Gruber**



TREASURER'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The Association's accounts for 2014 have been audited and found correct.

The past Financial Year for the Association has been very encouraging and the Committee has been continually surprised by the ongoing generosity of members. Such generosity enabled the Association to increase its available funds by \$6,893. Contributions, which included membership fees and donations to the Scholarship Fund, Alumni projects and to our general account, totalled \$10,803. The Committee wishes to express their appreciation to the eighty members who donated varying amounts above their annual subscription. The 1960-62 Reunion Group contributed \$1,151. This included \$500, which was sent to the Charles Sturt Foundation for our Scholarship Fund. Lesley Forbes has been able to source a new printer for *Talkabout* which has resulted in a greatly reduced amount (\$750) for printing the 2014 editions. Postage (\$647), Pioneers' Lunch (\$598) and stationery (\$302)

were other areas of major expenditure. Electronic distribution of *Talkabout* has also reduced the amount spent on printing and postage. *Talkabout* printing and postage (\$2,470) for the December 2013 edition was paid in the 2014 financial Year.

During 2014, fifty six members donated \$4065 direct to the Charles Sturt Foundation to support the Scholarship Fund. Such direct donations do not show up in our accounting procedures, although we are advised of those members who contribute by this method. The committee expresses their appreciation to the following members for their very generous contribution to the Scholarship Fund: J. Cassidy, E. Forrest, E. Panton, D. Farmer and A. Foggett.

During 2014, electronic access to our bank account was enabled. This allows members to make direct credits to our account and accounting processes easier. Currently approximately

30% of our members contribute by this method. A revised contribution slip ensures that members' donations are allocated to the correct fund.

The action of sending all contributions, including those to CSU, and correspondence to Lesley Forbes our Secretary and Membership Registrar ensures that membership details are accurate. Lesley then sends the contribution slips and cheques to me for banking. Lesley's diligence in this area and her personal contact with members has resulted in increased membership. The Annual General Meeting makes decisions on the amounts to be sent to the Scholarship Fund, Alumni Projects and support for Reunions, taking into account the amounts specified by contributors throughout the year. During 2014, \$1170 was contributed through our accounts for the Scholarship Fund, \$395 for Alumni Projects and \$2375 was donated to our General Fund.

Lindsay Brockway
Treasurer

RECOMMENDATIONS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The Annual General Meeting agreed to keep 2015 membership fees the same as for 2014, that is, \$10 for Electronic Membership and \$20 for Standard Membership.

The General Meeting, after receiving and adopting the Financial Reports, approved the following recommendations:

- That \$3000 be sent to CSU for the Scholarship Fund. At

the time of the meetings the Scholarship Fund had a balance of over \$90,000.

- That \$5000 be sent to Wagga Wagga Archives to digitise records held of Wagga Wagga Teachers College. This was the figure suggested by Archives to complete this project. The committee was pleased to be able to fully fund this activity.

The Alumni Committee is constantly surprised by the generosity of its members. Such generosity has enabled the continuing support of the Scholarship Fund and Special Projects and ensures the viability of the Association. The Alumni Association Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the following members, who have contributed substantial amounts in 2014 through to March 2015:

Donations (from p13)

60 - 62 Reunion Group

S. Barnes-Cook

S. Black

C. & J. Blake

T. Brewster

D. Farmer

A. Foggett

G. & E. Forrest

A. Goninon

M. Goulder

R. Grace

R. Griffiths

M. Hanratty

M. Hanratty

R. Haskew

J. Johnson

M. Johnson

B. Kreger

B. Lawrence

H. Lohse

J. Lonsdale (Pioneer Bursar)

L. Luke

N. Maurer

N. McAlpine

M. McDonald

J. Mueller

P. Nethery

B. Punton

N. McAlpine

D. Pope

R. Robinson

G. Say

T. & B. Somerville

B. Talbot

B. Thorley

S. Truin

Dr. J. Turbill

G. Wilson (47-49)

S. Waugh

J. Weedon

CAN YOU HELP - LOST CONTACT

We have lost contact with **Ron and Mavis Baird** (53-54), last residing in Annandale and **Monica Spartalis** (54-55), last address in Forestville. Also **Helen Bradley** (1960-61) forwarded her membership without a including her address. If you are able to assist please contact WWTCAA Secretary bruceles@bigpond.com or phone 0408587065 .

REUNION ROUNDUP

Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College

50 Year Reunion Years 1965-66; 1966-67; 1967-68

A fifty year re-union is proposed for Sunday 15 May to Wednesday 18 May 2016 to be held in Wagga Wagga.

We need:

- Volunteers to join the organising committee – much organisation can be done by email
- Suggestions for interesting activities
- Collection of memorabilia
- **Most of all, please register your interest in being there** by contacting:

Bruce and Lesley Forbes
Unit 5/185 Albany St
Point Frederick NSW 2250
Ph: 0243225650
Mob: 0408587065
Email: bruceles@bigpond.com

Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College

60 Year Reunion Years 1956-57

All ex-students and partners from 1956-1957 session are invited to attend the 60th Anniversary Reunion in 2016.

**Dormie House, Moss Vale
Tuesday 8th - Wednesday 9th March**

For Registration and Bookings

Contact: Gwen Ravell
Phone: 0242294706
Address: 27/41 Smith St. Wollongong 2500

**All Welcome
60 Year Reunion
Years 1956-57**



The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2015 TO SECURE THE FUTURE



IMPORTANT NOTICE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

To ensure the continued financial viability of the Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association the following membership contributions and services will apply from 1 January 2015.

a) Electronic Membership:

Receive all information and three (3) copies of *Talkabout* electronically. \$10.00 p.a.

b) Standard Membership

Receive all information and three (3) printed copies of *Talkabout* via standard mail \$20.00 p.a.

In addition to either Electronic or Standard Membership members may choose to make additional contributions from the options below.

c) Additional Contributions

- i. general donation to the Alumni for ongoing projects e.g. digitalise archives from \$10.00
- ii. specific donation to the WWTCAA Scholarship Fund from \$10.00

Opposite is a contribution slip for 2015.

WWTCAA CONTRIBUTIONS 2015

Surname _____

Former Name _____

Given Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Years at College _____ to _____

Home Phone _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

CONTRIBUTIONS

Electronic Membership (\$10) _____

Standard Membership (\$20) _____

Donation to Alumni Projects _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund _____

General Donation _____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION 2015 _____

Make cheques payable to:

WWTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Send Your Contribution To:

Secretary WWTCAA

Unit 5/185 Albany Street

Point Frederick NSW 2250

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

To credit of
WWTC ALUMNI ASSOC

Commonwealth Bank Casula NSW

BSB: 06 2329 A/C No: 10073789

Reference : Member's First Initial, Surname and first year at college e.g. BForbes65

Please send a Remittance Advice to:

email: bruceles@bigpond.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

TALKABOUT
(Including Photos)

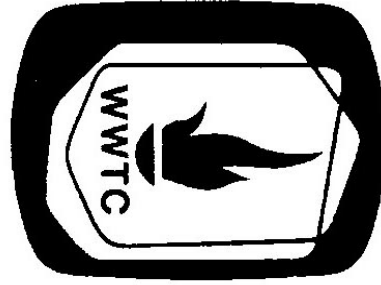
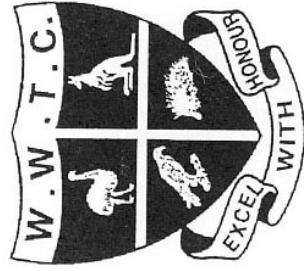
Please email contributions for Talkabout to

bruceles@bigpond.com

Or mail to

Secretary WWTCAA
Unit 5/185 Albany Street
Point Frederick NSW 2250

April 2015
Volume 18 No 1



April 2015
Volume 18 No 1

If undeliverable please return to:

The Secretary WWTCAA
Unit 5/185 Albany St
Point Frederick NSW 2250

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PAID
AUSTRALIA

Change of Address

If your address details are incorrect please email
bruceles@bigpond.com

Or

The Secretary WWTCAA
Unit 5/185 Albany St
Point Frederick NSW 2250