PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thanks to Chris and Jenny Blake for taking over the reins during Lesley and my four month odyssey. The trip combined a conservative grey brigade drive through Central Australia, a cruise through the remote Kimberley coastline, a challenging and rewarding adventure in a troopie around the Kimberley inland with some international youths sleeping in swags and then a return journey through some of the most drought devastated inland regions of Northern Territory and Queensland. It was fantastic!

It has been so sad to hear of the passing of some of our alumni members. It is at times like this when our members can offer support and condolences to family and friends. Connecting and reconnecting members is an important function of WWTCAA. For some, friendships and indeed partnerships have endured from College days but there are also so many who still seek to find a College mate to rekindle those times and memories at WWTC.

Les and I have just revisited the CSU Archives and spent many hours trolling through The Daily Advertiser 1965-1967. The purpose was to find relevant WWTC related articles for our pending reunion in 2016. What an experience. I believe that this was the first time I had read these papers. I found out that tenders were called to deliver coal as required to WWTC from Wagga Wagga Railway Station.
Welcome to the third and final edition of Talkabout for 2015.

Another bumper edition and as always I am sure that the articles and stories in this edition will be enjoyed by all members of the Alumni.

Apologies to those whose article has not been included. I still have a number of stories that I will include in the next edition.

Despite the backlog of articles referred to above, additional material is still needed for the next edition. So, for those who have been planning to put something together for Talkabout now is the time to sit down and put the fingers to the keyboards, don’t delay any longer.

When submitting articles please consider sending along photos as they add to the story. Whilst older photos help enrich the story more recent shots are appreciated by those reading your article.

Brian Powyer

I also came across photographs of SRC members delivering a petition to a parliamentary member identifying the “restrictive rules and regulations imposed on students”. Our visit coincided with the ongoing conversion of the expansive western playing fields of the campus into a housing development ... guess this is progress. The brick dormitories still stand with windows guarded by corrugated iron sheets.

In this edition you will find reference to a book written by Nancy Blacklow highlighting the history of South Campus (WWTC site). Copies of this booklet are available for purchase from WWCTAA. See p19 for the order form and secure your copy.

Lindsay Budd, one of our pioneers and passionate editors of Talkabout has been able to place all of the editions of Talkabout since 1997 onto the CSU website. Unfortunately, they were well and truly buried and difficult to access in any logical sequence. This has now been sorted and if you wish to gain some reading material in logical order this is the web address to use: http://alumni.csu.edu.au/stay-connected/publications/other/talkabout

Wayne Doubleday at CSU Archives is currently involved in uploading other material from WWTC housed in archives. This is work in progress but will contain much of the material which has been recently digitised by a WWTCAA grant. This can be accessed at: https:csuregarch.intersect.org.au/

Members may wish to donate some of their college memorabilia to archives. Another of our pioneers, Winifred Wilcox has just had most of the Talkabouts, which were produced over the College’s existence, digitised to be now housed in the CSU Archives. There must be lots of other College memorabilia which lies in various alumni household cupboards, boxes, suitcases and garages which would enhance the collection of WWTC at Archives. **Have you any?**

All Alumni are invited to attend any of our quarterly meetings. We are still seeking members who would like to become involved in assisting in organising the 2017, 70 Year Reunion. A member from each cohort would be great and it would ensure that there is a wide coverage of year groups and their memorabilia. **Can you help?**

Bruce Forbes
President WWTCAA
Pam James (55-56) Though there were no stories from my years (55-56) or mention of folk I know, I found it great reading this latest edition. I could relate to the Canadian references as we have a son, permanently settled in the building trade in Penticton, British Columbia, whom we have visited a number of times. It is such a beautiful and interesting part of the world. Mention was made of Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island and I remember catching the ferry there to the mainland on our first visit. Though the terrain is very different, we found Canadians very much like Australians. Thank you to all the committee and editor for the job well done.

Frances Gavel (McKeough) (49-50) I was sorry to hear of Lew’s passing. He has made a memorable contribution in many ways including his friendly manner. I remember he enjoyed the College Saturday night dances. I do enjoy Talkabout. The stories of the past take us back to youthful and sometimes simple days of pleasure and responsibility. Made a note of 2017 October for the 70th. I did attend the 50th and 60th but 2 years away when in your 80s is guesswork or wishful thinking.

Editor’s note: None of us knows about tomorrow, so looking forward to seeing you there, Frances.

June and Merv Whittaker (47-49) Thank you for including the article we sent ‘I remember Joe Lonsdale’ in this edition of Talkabout. We always look forward to receiving Talkabout. Not many of our group left now, especially among the WWII veterans. Could you send 2 more copies of this edition? We would like our 2 children to have a copy each.

Lesley Forbes
Secretary

NEWS FROM CSU—Stacey Fish

UNIVERSITY ETHOS
The University recently launched a new brand video. The premise of which is based on the philosophy of Yindyamarra Winhanganha, a Wiradjuri phrase meaning, ‘the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in’.

This sentiment is at the heart of CSU’s approach to education, and reflects the University’s ethos ‘for the public good’. As former teachers we are sure many of you share this ethos.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP
The Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Scholarship is currently open with applications closing on 29 February 2016. The WWTCAA Scholarship is open to any student who is a descendant of a graduate from the Wagga Wagga Teachers College in their final or Honours year, studying within the Faculty of Education, studying on any CSU campus. Preference will be given to students who have undertaken their senior year studies in a rural/country school, majoring in Maths or Science and students intending to seek employment in a rural school.

If you have a grandchild, son or daughter who you think may be eligible for the WWTCAA Scholarship, please encourage them to apply.

The alumni cohort, WWTCAA is a strong fundraisers and has managed to raise a valuable pool of funds that have provided assistance, support and opportunity to many education students over the years.

Stacey Fish

ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

Dr Geoff Munns and Dr Denis Mootz taken at Denis’s graduation (Doctorate) in December 2014.

Dr Munns was one of Denis's supervisors! The friendship has been maintained since they roomed together in 1966!

Sue Mootz
I always enjoy reading the accounts of ex-students of their years at and after WWTC but I was particularly interested in two in the April Talkabout.

Hugh Varnes was a year behind me but we were good friends though we lost touch over the years.

Irene Gruber was the mother of our daughter-in-law, Janet, and although I know most of her story, some of the account given by Janet’s father, Ian, was new to me.

Peter and I have just returned from ten wonderful days in California. Peter had been principal of a large English medium boarding school in India for almost seven years.

I was in the 1954-55 session. Peter was a Maths teacher at Wagga High School and we married in January 1956. When we left for India in June 1957 I was six months pregnant and was the first woman to be released from her bond because we were going to help an underdeveloped country. Actually I didn’t do much teaching there because we had four children during our years there but I did help out when staff were sick.

We believe that Peter was the first Principal in India to introduce co-education. Previously, the girls were educated at Wynberg and the senior boys at Allen and the two schools are about 500 metres apart. We had 300 boarders and about 50 day scholars in Mussoorie, a hill station in Northern India. Co-education worked very well and the school flourished.

We were also the first school to take Tibetan children. When the Dalai Lama escaped from Tibet in 1959, he came across the mountains to Mussoorie and established a refugee camp there. We took six children to start with and ended up with 64, when we were forced to come home due to Peter having a serious car accident. The fees for the Tibetan children and needy Anglo-Indian children were paid by the Christian Children’s Fund of America.

We had practically lost touch with the School over the years so we were very surprised to receive a phone call about a year ago from an ex-student in America who somehow gained our address and phone number, asking us to come over for a reunion of ex-students now living in America. We thought it an impossible dream but it eventuated and we had the most amazing time – 21 of us including spouses. Most of the men, now in their late sixties and early seventies are married to American wives, as was our host, Surj (Surjit Singh Bains) who was school captain in 1959 and a fine athlete. One of his records has never been broken. The ex-students are still so respectful. We tried to get them to call us Peter and Helen but it was always ‘Mr Kidd’ or ‘Sir’ and ‘Mrs Kidd’. They have all done well in America becoming engineers, teachers, nurses and one heart specialist etc.

My pen has been running on because we are still up in the air about the whole experience – as Peter said to Surj when he left, the most wonderful ten days of our lives apart from our honeymoon.

The school, Wynberg-Allen continues to flourish with over a thousand students enrolled. The school celebrated its 127th Anniversary this year.

Peter is almost 88 now and I am 80 – though I find it hard to believe!

Helen Kidd (Yabsley)

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**WWTC DIGITALISATION PROJECT - Wayne Doublejoy**

The following is an update of where the CSU Regional Archives (CSURA) staff were up to in relation to the WWTC Digitisation Project, so kindly funded by the WWTCAA in 2015.

At last count, we have now digitised 134 documents, 142 editions of Talkabout from 1947 to 1971 and 2,300 photos, negatives and slides. I believe this is an excellent result.

The next step in the process is to get the digitised items up on our website. We have decided to use software called “Omeka” to do this because of the sharpness it gives to images. Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in CSURA.

Wayne Doubleday
Manager
CSU Regional Archives & University Art Collection
WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP APPRECIATION - Jayde Hounsell

My name is Jayde Hounsell and I was lucky enough to be one of the scholarship recipients for the WWTCAA this year. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of the WWTCAA for their overwhelming generosity.

This scholarship will provide me with financial assistance as I complete my internship at Rand Public School throughout the duration of term 3. It will allow me to focus solely on developing my skills and confidence before I embark on my teaching career in the near future.

Ever since a young age I have had a strong desire for both teaching and learning which has been the motivation behind my university studies. Over the four years I have spent studying at Charles Sturt University the learning has been invaluable and the experience enjoyable. I believe the biggest struggle of university today is maintaining a healthy balance between study, employment, sport and leisure.

Growing up in the rural community of Lockhart I am passionate about teaching in a rural school and ensuring that students are exposed to the same educational benefits and resources as students in metropolitan areas.

I believe my time at university has contributed to my capability to teach and inspire the future generations of our society and I cannot wait to start this next chapter of my life.

Again, many thanks.

Jayde Hounsell

WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP APPRECIATION - Samara Callaghan

It has been around 6 months since I was fortunate enough to receive the Wagga Wagga Teachers’ College Alumni scholarship from Charles Sturt University in 2014. I graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies) M. Agriculture in December of 2014.

I was fortunate enough to have already secured a 12 month temporary contract for full time work in November 2014, before I graduated. I started working at Murrumburrah High School on the first day of Term 1, 2015. I am teaching a Stage 4 Food Technology class, 3 Stage 5 Food Technology classes, 2 Stage 6 Food Technology classes and a Stage 4 Personal Development class.

Since starting as a teacher, my ideas of the profession have changed significantly for the better. My experiences so far have been nothing like what I imagined and are so much more positive than I could have hoped. Teaching is such an inclusive and supportive profession. I am learning so much from my mentors and I am very certain that I have found my true calling. I love all aspects of my job and I love seeing my students grow and improve as people.

I would like to thank the sponsors of the Wagga Wagga Teacher’s College Alumni Scholarship for providing me with the opportunity to receive this scholarship. Since receiving the scholarship, the money has paid for me to finish my final year, move back to my home town for my job, and has allowed me to put some of the money towards further education, so that I am able to retrain and become a better teacher in my chosen field.

Samara Callaghan

PRIMARY ETHICS - Paul Sowter

For those who still miss the classroom (even occasionally) this is your chance! Primary Ethics.

This marvellous organisation is meeting the needs of the growing number of non-scripture kids. I am impressed with the satisfying philosophy behind it, fostering the spirit of enquiry.

It is so nice once a week (or more if you do other schools) to enjoy the company of young people for half an hour. I currently have two classes.

The need is there. Check it out: Primary Ethics. We would love to hear from you.

Paul Sowter (1955-56)
Some self-indulgent reminiscing about a one-teacher school from deep in the memory bank of Col Kohlhagen [1960-61]

I first asked this question late on a Friday afternoon towards the end of January, 1962, when my much anticipated first appointment notice arrived with details of my first teaching position at Coads Tank Public School.

As I will now explain, I should have known the answer but my brain had shut down in the muddle created by the excitement of finally receiving an appointment and the disappointment of not receiving the appointment that I expected.

First to set the scene. I was part of a small group of locals in the 1960 college intake who lived in Wagga, including Ros Bastian, Ros McGilvray, Rex Wilson, Gary Flanagan and the late Howard Jones. I guess I may have missed out on some of the collegiality of living on campus but being a townie had its advantages, including not being bound by some of the regimentation that came with campus life, regular access to the family car and being able to indulge in my passion for playing Aussie Rules.

I had been at college for only a couple of weeks when I was summoned to the Principal’s Office. George Muir was an upfront character who loved his Rugby Union. He proceeded to make it clear to me that a report in the local paper, stating that I was likely to play senior football with a local Farrer League Club in the coming season was technically breaking the terms of my scholarship, and he strongly “suggested” I should be playing Union with the College. He said he would attempt to find me a place on campus, and that would be that.

At training the next night I broke the news to the Club President. Without asking me, he subsequently made a couple of phone calls, including one to the Local Member. A week or so later I received a short note from the Principal advising me that no accommodation was available on campus and I was therefore a “free agent”.

At the end of second year, the Corowa Football Club approached me with an offer that sounded too good to be true. The Club would guarantee me an appointment to Corowa Public School, plus help with board and lodging, if I would sign up to play with that club. Corowa played in the strong Ovens and Murray Competition, and the chance to play in the best competition in country Victoria and to teach at a school in a reasonably sized large country town was very appealing. It was suggested to me that the club had a contact or two that “could assist”, possibly another friendly Local Member!!

My cousin’s wife had attended a one-teacher school near the village of Coreen, which was 40km north of Corowa on the Urana-Corowa Road, which is now called the Federation Way. The tiny village was a couple of hours south-west of Wagga Wagga and consisted of a pub, two churches, a public hall, a small post office-cum-manual telephone exchange and a sportsground where the local bush footy club played. She often joked that I should be sent to

Col Kohlhagen

Coads Tank School and my trusty FC Holden Ute
her old school, Coads Tank, which was 6 km along the Coreen-Sangar Siding Road. She reckoned the locals needed a teacher like me to boost their footy team. At the time, her three brothers were still playing there.

However, nothing registered when the dreaded Head Office letter arrived with a distinctly “Western Division” ring to it. I panicked and spent a frantic weekend trying to find just where Coads Tank was located. When a separate Regional Office letter arrived early on the following Monday morning with travel instructions and accommodation advice, all was revealed and I was suddenly presented with a huge dilemma of my own making.

The Corowa Football Club had come close to keeping its end of the bargain, but I was smart enough to realise that if I wanted to enjoy a happy start to my teaching career, my playing future was with the locals in the minor competition. However, I was able to compromise as under VCFL Rules I played a few games at the start of the season with Corowa on permit before the local competition started. It proved a wise decision as Coreen made the Grand Final that year and I collected a couple of Best and Fairest Awards. I’m not ashamed to admit that some of my early shortcomings in the classroom may have been overlooked because I was the first teacher in the fifty-year history of this school to come from an Aussie Rules background.

Coads Tank proved to be a wonderfully challenging but very rewarding start to my teaching career. Both my parents had received all their education in one-teacher schools, and I had spent the first two years of my schooling in one, so I was familiar with the concept.

Coads Tank was a school in the middle of wheat paddocks, with no telephone but it did have tank water and pit toilets, typical of the era. I began with 11 kids on the roll and with the help of the staff at Daysdale, a nearby two teacher school, one of whom was another 60-61 WWTC graduate, Helen Dunlop (nee Ferguson), I survived a shaky start and eventually found my way.

Having scrimped and saved enough to buy my first car, I returned after the Easter break, the proud owner of my first set of wheels. It was not a Vauxhall, Ford Consul, Volkswagen nor Morris Major, popular teachers’ cars of the day, but a second-hand Holden FC Ute. My absorption into this wheat-farming community was almost complete!!

Looking back, I must have done something right as I attempted to educate my young charges. By the end of my second year a couple of families that had left the school under the previous administration had returned, and some borderline enrolments chose Coads Tank over nearby schools. The enrolment had suddenly doubled to 22. Sadly the school was to close in 1969, only six years after I left. This was the fate of many small schools across much of rural NSW in a period of changing demographics and farming practices.

Over the years I kept in touch with many of the families involved at the school and the football club, and still carry many fond memories of those halcyon days.
Many years later on my way through the area as part of a Review of Rural Education commissioned by the Riverina Regional Director, I just had to stop for a quick look at what had once been a lovely school.

As one of its Centenary of Federation projects, the Corowa Shire Council, undertook to locate the site of every school that operated within the shire borders. During 2001 a commemorative plaque was placed at each site. I was invited to unveil the Coads Tank plaque showing it was open in its own right from 1912-1969, with a couple of short periods it shared as a half-time school with Emu Park and Wheatlands.

Within a 15-20 minute drive of the Coads Tank School, all of these small schools had operated at various times starting with Hopefield (1875), Redlands (1878), Quat Quatta North (1881), Lowesdale (1882), Mahonga South (1883), Martindale (1883), Daysdale (1886), Plentyana (1900), Coreen (1905), Wheatlands (1908), Burajaa North (1908), Emu Park (1911), Quat Quatta (1914), Quat Quatta East (1936) and Coreen Vale (1940). Only Lowesdale is currently operating.

Some of these indigenous names have a lovely euphonious ring to them. However, the origin of the name “Coads Tank”, is almost certainly attributed to a tank sinking contractor, William Coade, a native of Cornwall who emigrated to Victoria from England and established a dam sinking business. In the early 1870s he plied his trade across the border on some of the large pastoral holdings as he travelled from Victoria through western NSW. He was eventually to settle near Longreach in Queensland where he advertised in 1895 that his business had 200 horses and 13 McCaughrey Scoops. NSW Station owners, and later settlers who took up dry land blocks under the Robertson Closer Settlement Acts, needed permanent stock water supplies and this was the service provided by William Coade and his ilk.

Old survey maps suggest that sometime before 1891, most likely in the early 1870s, Coade sank an earthen dam on Coreen Station. This later became a dedicated Crown Water Reserve about 2 km north-west of the site later chosen for a school which was to bear his name, minus the “e”. It was placed strategically to trap and hold water which would flow along the Wangamong Creek bed in wet years.

The dam, and nearby sheep dip, became a community asset for many years together with a road and school, all of which bore the name Coads Tank.

During the Spring NSW Vacation in 1955 a 16 year old teenage Girl and her family visited Minnamurra Falls near Kiama. On the same day a 17 year old teenage Boy and his family also visited the same picnic area. They both, independently, went walking along the track to the falls and returned to find their parents having afternoon tea while talking to each other and sharing small talk. The Boy and the Girl didn't acknowledge each other as they had other thoughts about other people.

The Boy and the Girl both sat for their Leaving Certificate, passed, and were rewarded with

**A BOY MEETS A GIRL: Roy Strange and Jan (Rennie)**

Unveiling the Coads Tank Plaque 2001

Col Kolhagen
a Scholarship to attend Wagga Teachers' College in 1956. Great excitement ensued with both families! Interestingly, the shock and anxiety must have affected The Boy in some way as by the time he reached college he had lost most of his curly hair! And this was the time when Bald Ig-gles jokes were all the rage! Absolutely no-one said a thing about it to him!

At the beginning of March, 1956, they commenced their studies and were eagerly looking forward to Easter, three weeks hence, to reunite with family and friends to share their stories of college life and their new found lifestyle away from their homes and parents. The Boy and his mate decided they could save some train fare money by hitchhiking to Sydney. With no difficulty they were soon at Gumly Gumly and almost immediately a car pulled over for them. After introductions they discovered The Girl was a college student and had pleaded with her father to give the college boys a lift as far as Yass. Before saying goodbye to the boys at Yass the girl's parents shouted tea for them. After returning from the holiday break neither The Boy nor The Girl saw each other again.

Leaving Yass the boys were picked up by some shearers in a 1938 Buick and found themselves sharing the back seat with the dogs, chains, bags and wool packs. When the friendly shearers offered the boys a swig or three from their bottle of rum they declined the offer and having observed the erratic style of driving they elected to get out at Gunning - now midnight - and catch the mail train to Sydney! They saved half the fare and 10 minutes as the special college train was following close behind!

After Easter, college life settled into the routine we all remember well - lectures from 9 to 5 every day with demonstrations, practice teaching, studying, sports and lots of personal freedom at weekends. But best of all was being in the company of several hundred other teenagers with a boy/girl ratio of 4 girls for every boy. Life for the boys was busy!

Later in the year our two hitchhiking boys were walking along the Back Path from Bakers' Shop to their dorms when their way was blocked by an ambulance and a college girl on a stretcher being given two aspros by the Matron to ease the pain of the badly dislocated knee!

The Boy said to his mate “I wonder who she is?”
His mate replied "It is the Girl who gave us a lift to Yass last Easter"
Our Boy passed on by with a friendly wish to Our Girl for a quick recovery. On her return to college some days later The Girl was wearing a plaster caste from hip to ankle - and it stayed on for several months which was pretty much how things were done in those days.

The Boy, for some reason or other, found The Girl one evening studying in the library (what else could she do?) and he struck up a conversation with her about her family's kindness to the hitch-hikers. They talked for a while and The Boy took the fateful step and asked The Girl if he could take her out at the weekend for a meal and movie. The Girl said yes and she said it was just to relieve the boredom!

This new friendship developed - as these things do - and later they discovered they were both visiting Minnamurra a year ago and could remember passing each other along the track in the forest! The Girl could even remember The Boy was wearing a particular style of jumper - Fair Isle. Later in the year The Boy had his appendix removed and The Girl kept double lecture notes and rode her pushbike down for ten days to visit him in Wagga Base Hospital and explain the lectures. The following year The Boy had to do Nashos and once again The Girl kept duplicate notes for him. The Boy used to hire a 1951 Humber Super Snipe to take her out for picnics and look at the stars through the sunroof at the Wodonga Drive-In Theatre.

Two particularly funny episodes happened in their times together at W.W.T.C. and they both still remember them from different perspectives! The Boy made a not so funny comment about The Girl's artwork painting of Little Boy and she promptly ups-ended the big bowl of chips over his head at the dining table! During Biology Lectures the Theme of Sex Education had been drawn out over too many lectures until finally The Girl was heard by everyone to say “At least I will recognise those little tadpoles when I see them.” Great merriment ensued together with much more ribald ribbing - all in fun of course.

They kept their MinnaMurra meeting secret from their parents until Graduation Day 1957 - but the moment the parents saw each other they too remembered their picnic meeting at Minna Murra in 1955.
Following Graduation their first appointments were 320 miles apart with no transport available. The path of true love always has an unexpected detour and for most of that year their lives took different directions. That was until The Boy bought himself a new VW and The Girl said she would like to see him again! On that first reunion visit The Girl was driving and she lost concentration on a gravel corner and drove his new VW over the bank and into the creek and not a cross word was said! True Love! No damage to the car but an ego was dented!

They married in August, 1960 and went on their Honeymoon to Tasmania still driving a VW.

Not knowing if they would even be together in Term 3 they had been to see the Chief Inspector of Staffing at Head Office in Bridge Street in downtown Sydney in the previous May vacation - with no idea that an appointment would be needed AND a letter of reference from their own School Inspectors! He laughed when they told him they had arranged for the purchase of a new house and would like to go to the Central Coast district. The Chief Inspector told them that everyone in the state wanted to do the same! Little did they know that priority transfer was being given to married teachers who had accommodation, as the area was severely short of suitable teacher housing. They spent the next 9 years enjoying what was then a virtual Tourist Haven.

After leaving the Central Coast for promotion they were at the Snowy Mountains Authority school at Khancoban when they were advised the Director General of Education was soon to retire and would be visiting for a conducted tour of the Scheme and the school. Lo and Behold it was that Chief Inspector they had met those years ago and he remembered their interview with him back in 1960. He said he was pleased he had been of some assistance to them! Who said "The Department" was impersonal? They also hosted a Royal Visit by H.R.H The Princess Anne for the new "Street Walk" style visit.

Further promotion followed to Cabramatta West and integrating the first Boat People from Timor with the other 49 languages and 1200 pupils. In the mid 70's they returned to the Central Coast and stayed until 1985. They then took three years without pay and moved to Central Victoria to live in an old church. They retired in 1993, sold the church and moved to Wodonga where they now live in a small Boutique Retirement Village.

They now own a 1951 Humber Super Snipe - the same as the one in which they courted - and spend much of their time traveling around the countryside in it. History repeating itself?

The Boy and The Girl are Roy Strange and Jan (Rennie) - 55 years married this year

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP - Norm Stanton

Left to right, back: Jeff Roberts, David Lappan, Geoff Hutchinson, Chris Lennon, Bruce Lucas, Paul Travers, Norm Stanton, John Malone.

Front L to R: Lou Jack, Cookie Lucas (nee Masters), Sandy McGregor (nee Milne), Terry McGregor.

Members of the 1964-65 WWTC session recently met in the Southern Highlands for a weekend to mark 50 years since their graduation.

On Friday night there was a meet and greet at Mittagong RSL Club. The following day most enjoyed a walk along the river at Berrima before lunch at Jean and Norm Stanton’s,
then met for dinner at the Esco Pazo in Mittagong. After a recovery walk in Bowral on Sunday morning, the weekend concluded with lunch at David and Berneice Lappan’s Bowral home.

The group included Lou Jack, John Malone, Paul Travers (and wife Marg from 65/66), Norm Stanton, David Lappan, Bruce and Cookie (nee Masters) Lucas, Chris Lennon, Terry and Sandy (nee Milne) McGregor, Keith Jenkins (not in photo), Jeff Roberts and Geoff Hutchinson. Dennis Forsythe, Warwick Teasdale and John Roberts were all keen but had other commitments.

Over the weekend the scrapbooks were out, Chris Lennon looked resplendent in his college blazer (although he claimed it had shrunk!) and tales of dormitory escapades, deeds on the rugby field and academic underachievement were enjoyed and in some cases embellished.

It was agreed that rather than risk waiting another ten years the group would try to send a sizeable delegation to the 2017 70th anniversary celebrations. Any interested 64/65ers contact normnanton@hotmail.com

Norm Stanton

The 50th Reunion celebrations in October 2014 were a huge success. But it was not until Oct/Nov 2015 that the group felt they had “concluded business” and were ready to report back. Canberra was the city of choice for the ninety folk who attended in October 2014. A fitting celebration as we looked back on 50 years since graduating from Wagga Wagga Teachers College in 1964. Activities included a welcome drink at the Forest Hotel on the Friday night, a bus tour of parts of Canberra, a barbecue by the lake, a Sunday lunch at Sue and Gerard King’s place and a cruise on Lake Burley Griffin on Sunday evening. The official dinner on Saturday night at the Hellenic Club was a high-light.

At the dinner, there were an appropriate number of speeches (few) and Dino Forsythe (with support from Grahame Keast) gave one of his “Ken Howard” race call impersonations. Our guest of honour, Colin Sale, who had lectured to many of the ex-students in the early sixties, addressed the gathering. Colin participated in other activities over the weekend which gave a number of us the chance to chat personally about the “good old days”.

The committee of Sue (Upton) King, Marion (Smith) Giddy, Bernie Fitzpatrick, Janice (Kerin) Fitzpatrick, Grahame Keast and Fay (Bailey) Keast had been planning the weekend for some time.

The follow-up event was recently held (Oct/Nov 2015) at the Alpine Retreat Hotel in Warburton, near Melbourne. Col Doherty, who owns the picturesque pub, put out the invitation, and some forty people accepted the challenge. Golf, bike riding,
punting, hiking, shopping, eating, barbecuing were all on the agenda along with the now traditional “Ken Howard” race call by Dino. The venue and time were excellent choices as we also put on our glad rags for our Melbourne Cup luncheon. The 1963-64 session have been meeting about twice each year for quite a number of years. Every winter, the core group of about 25 meet at Marion’s for a weekend of fun and frolic. Sue King and Marion Giddy have been the movers and shakers (and entertainers) in every way. They visited Warburton some months earlier, consulted with local Col Doherty, and planned the appropriate activities and entertainment.

The group have gathered at Armidale, Bathurst, Orange, Sussex Inlet, Mudgee, Canberra, Lake Macquarie, Wollongong, Kenthurst and now Warburton, Vic. The next gathering will most likely be at Kenthurst in July or August 2016. And who knows where to after that? Graham Keast

4 Grahams - Keast, O'Brien, Roberts and Wright

Robert Cureton, Doug Walker and Keith Lambert

“South Campus: A History” by Nancy Blacklow

Funded by CSU and facilitated by CSU Regional Archives and Wagga Wagga Teachers College Pioneers oral histories

Cost $20.00 (including postage)

See p19 of this edition of Talkabout for the order form.

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WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP APPRECIATION - Ryan Heffer

To all who are associated with the Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Association I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for the blessing that this scholarship is and will be in this my last year of university. The scholarship has allowed me to undertake practical placement by covering costs associated with travel and accommodation. I also intend to buy resources with it including textbooks. It truly is wonderful to not have to stress about money while on placement.

As I write this I have just finished my first placement in my B.Sc/B.Teaching degree. I was working at Finley High School (approx. half an hour from both Deniliquen and Jerilderie) which has a strong science department (and the best agriculture facilities I have seen for a school of its size). Prac is where the rubber meets the road in terms of applying the ideas and strategies that I have covered so far in my degree. I am realising that university can only prepare you to a certain degree with tools, knowledge and skills - the rest is learned through trial and error and figuring out the personali-
ties that make up my classes. I am also beginning to understand some of the demands and pressures that are placed on teachers.

During the interview process for the scholarship I had the opportunity to ask questions about the change in the nature of education as well as the interviewer’s honest opinions, as seasoned teachers, of education in today’s society. I was able to integrate this into my teaching philosophy which is to instil a sense of wonder for the world and an ability to critically think through claims made in today’s society, particularly when so many biased arguments and opinions can be spread through social media.

I have always had a curiosity for the world around me and an attitude of “what happens when I…” This has allowed me to better understand and appreciate my surrounds, as well as getting me into trouble from my parents as I increased their stress levels with my experiments.

In conclusion, thank you once again for this support. It will help me to gain skills to be the best teacher I can be. I am looking forward to my next placement and the opportunities that it will bring for me to further my skills and understanding of the complex nature of schools.

Ryan Heffer

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**BIO—ROB HUGHES**

Do you want to know what’s happened since I first began to teach?
I’ll dig down in my memory bank to see what I can reach.
It all started in Bombala back in 1965,
many pleasant schools came after that to keep the dream alive.

Mt Druitt was a highlight, that was where I met my wife,
who for more than forty years has been a beacon in my life.
Lakemba, Penshurst West, on to Padstow Park, and then
a big step up the ladder at Panania North School Dem.

Three years as a consultant in the Region at St George.
That took a lot of effort as ahead I strove to forge.
New English was my subject as I struggled in the midst
of syllabus revival. It was there I won Third List.

DP out at Ingleburn, Sackville Street’s the name,
Then sixteen years at Peakhurst as a leader in the game.
List Four, P1 at Holsworthy, eleven hundred kids,
and a staff all made in heaven – wouldn’t have missed that school for quids.

Alongside Education, I’ve had a thrilling ride
as professional musician, earning income on the side.
A muso’s life’s exciting, playing dives and places grand.
This for me began in Wagga in the ‘Lucas Old Time Band’.

Retirement is a lot of fun. I’ll not be a white elephant;
eight years as outback touring guide; right now, a civil celebrant.
Who knows what’s in the future? You may guess but you can’t know it,
I’m testing out my mettle now- a budding new bush poet?

We have four happy grandchildren, who keep us wide awake
when they join us for sleepovers while their parents take a break.
For our further entertainment, if there’s time for more exertion,
we enjoy some time together on a van or boat excursion.

As I reminisce on my career of more than fifty years,
I recall so many happy times, and not too many tears.
You dare to hope in younger days, “Do dreams ever come true?”
My experience of life gives an assurance… yes, they do!

© Rob Hughes 2014

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**SAD LOSS OF GOOD FRIENDS - Paul Gallagher**

I write to express my sadness on learning of the passing of three fellow students, Pam Martin (Georgeson), Roger Clements and Lew Morrell, from 1949–50 group.

I remember all three with respect daily basis over the two years. and affection and considerable Lou Crabtree was another resi-nostalgia. Roger and Lew were in dent of Hut 8(1949-50) who has the room next to that of Jim Ha-gan and myself in Hut 8 and con-tact with them was therefore on a

Paul Gallagher 1949-50
Lewis Morrell
24th April 1930 - 1st July 2015

Lew’s Teaching Career: (Taken from Potted Biographies in an earlier Talkabout)

- Assistant 1959-61 Deniliquin Primary School.
- Assistant Principal 1962-63 Deniliquin South Primary School.
- Principal 3 1964-65 Mathoura Primary School.
- Deputy Principal Quakers Hill East 1966-67, Blacktown North 1968-70, Shelley Primary School 1971-74
- Deputy Principal 1 Cabramatta Primary School 1975-77.
- Retired on medical grounds in May 1986.

Married Pat (High School Teacher) in 1955 and had five children (two boys and three girls). There are nine grandchil-
dren.

Lew had many interests, the main ones: being on the W.W.T.C. Alumni Committee and Editor of Talkabout. President of the Hay War Memorial High School Ex - Students Association.

Taken from the eulogy Lindsay Budd gave at Lew’s funeral.

I would like to speak about the work Lew did with the WWTC Alumni Association.

I met Lew 65 years ago when I went to Wagga Teachers College in 1950. I was only 17 He was in second year and three years older than me and I thought he was quite grown up.

We sat at the same table in the dining room and he kind of took me under his wing. He fancied himself as a boxer and he said to me, “If you have any trouble with anyone just let me know and I will knock their block off.” Fortunately I didn’t have any trouble.

Lew was editor of the College magazine, Talkabout, and with his friend Lew Crabtree they often wrote articles under the pseudonym of Lautrec - because they were two Lews.

After College we went our separate ways and I did not see him again for 35 years. Then one day I met him at the Liverpool Golf Course where we were playing in a teacher’s golf day. We were both Principals then towards the end of our career so we had a lot of catching up to do. I did not see him again until we met 12 years later at the 50 Year College Reunion in Wagga in 1997. It was at that Reunion that the WWTC Alumni Association was formed and Lew and I were co-opted to the Management Committee.

The purpose of the Association was to connect and communicate with all the people who had attended WWTC and to raise money for a scholarship as a memorial to the College. Lew Crabtree also came on the committee and the College magazine Talkabout was resurrected with the two Lews as editors. Thanks to the tireless work of Ann Smith, our Secretary, who found the whereabouts of hundreds of ex-students, our mailing list reached three and a half thousand.

In 2001 Lew Crabtree died and I replaced him as editor. Lew and I continued to produce three editions of Talkabout a year for the next 12 years. We worked closely together, communicating by phone and email as well as at the quarterly committee meetings and the quarterly Alumni lunch-eons.

I would ring Lew and ask, “What are we putting on the front page this time?” After a discussion we would make a decision and Lew would write the article and send it to me. Early on his computer skills were not that great and I would hold my breath hoping that he had attached the article to his email. Sometimes I would get a letter saying, “My computer is off the air so I am sending this by snail mail”.

In 2013 we decided that we had had enough and were happy to
The funeral of Phillip Hitchcock (1966/67) took place at Bundanoon on Wednesday 11th November.

It was a well attended celebration/commemoration of his life as a dedicated teacher in NSW education and as a well loved family father and grandfather.

He served most of his career at Moss Vale Primary School. Many of his former pupils were in attendance as testimony to his contributions to his profession. His former principal spoke highly of his many attributes as a work colleague and his dedication to his pupils and the school community. Phillip retired in 2008.

His daughter spoke of his fond memories of being a resident in the college dormitories. Phillip was a country cook during this period and formed the basis of many family gatherings.

Phillip died suddenly of a heart attack on November 3rd 2015. He is survived by his wife, Karen, son Morgan and daughters, Lauren and Rebecca as well as two grandsons.

Dr Nicholas James Bricknell, B.Ed, Dip Phys Ed, M.Ed, PhD, a pioneer College student, passed away on 27 September, 2015 of terminal cancer which had only been diagnosed 8 weeks before. His funeral service was held at Mt Gravatt Cemetery and Crematorium.

Both Nick and his wife, Shirley (deceased) had interesting and productive careers, including studying for several post graduate qualifications. In Nick’s early married life he joined his older brother as a professional fisherman and also spent some time as a swimming coach.

Nick returned to teaching by working in Papua-New Guinea where he was involved in administration and inspection of schools, some of which could only be reached by way of log canoes and journeying through waist high kunai and monolith ranges. In the 70s they lived and taught in China, Cambodia and in the Solomon Islands. Shirley in this time gained her BA in Asian Studies, with a major in Chinese Language.

After retirement, they returned to Brisbane amongst their family. Nick recently attended one of our Quarterly meetings, catching up with some of his pioneer friends. A detailed report on Nick’s time in China is in November, 2006 Talkabout.

Graeme Wilson 1947-49

Dr Nicholas James Bricknell

Only this morning 1/10/15, I received an email relating the sad news that my colleague and friend, Nick Bricknell, had died.

Nick was one of the first people I met at College in June 1947 and we had been in contact over the years since. During holidays I regularly visited him in Kogarah, where he lived with his sister, Hazel, and brother, Arthur.

When Nick was teaching in China he wrote to let me know his whereabouts. I addressed my reply to "Sir Reginald James Bricknell P.Q.O.O.B.. Later Nick told me he had difficulty claiming the letter, as the Chinese Government was confused over his true identity.

Shirley's death was a blow to us all, as she and Nick had visited
us in our home at Burleigh Heads just previously.

The last time we saw Nick was when he and Geoff Spiller (now deceased) had lunch with us here at Banora Point. In fact I spoke to Nick on the phone quite recently. I never guessed he was so ill.

I shall miss Nick, my valued friend and all my other friends from Hut 18.


Marlene Briggs (Christie) 1956-57 Marlene was one of those super-capable women who could turn her hand to whatever was asked of her. This could be as a daughter, a wife, a mother, a friend, a cook, a gardener, and in later years a tractor driver on the irrigation farm near Whitton in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of NSW.

But Marlene’s love of children went hand-in-hand with her love of teaching at which she excelled throughout many years of her life.

Marlene’s initiation into formal education was at the small, two-teacher school among the orange orchards at Stanbridge in the MIA.

Her first teaching appointment coincidentally was to Lower Division at this very same school – thus creating a small measure of local history.

Relocation to Wagga Wagga with her husband Peter and small son Ashley, several years down the track, found Marlene employed at Gurwood Street Public School (renowned for its demonstration lessons provided to WWTC students) and then at South Wagga Wagga Public School where she was awarded a well-deserved promotion.

In 1964, Marlene’s second child, Christina was born in Wagga Wagga. Marlene continued to teach until relocating back to the MIA where a rice farm was purchased near Whitton. At this stage Marlene formally resigned from teaching to work side-by-side with Peter in order to knock this somewhat neglected piece of land into a profitable venture.

However, pressure was placed on Marlene to take up casual teaching and she became a permanent casual teacher never knowing from day to day which school in the local area would call her to fill a role, sometimes for a day, other times for several weeks or even for a full term.

During this period, Ashley and Christina married and with families permanently settled in Wagga Wagga, it became an obvious choice for Marlene and Peter, following the sale of their farm, to return to Wagga Wagga in their retirement in 2004.

It seemed all their dreams had come true but sadly, after about four years, a third persona by the name of Doctor Alzheimer moved in with them and took over their lives.

Sadly, Marlene passed away three days before her 77th birthday in April 2015 but almost up until that day, her favourite saying was ‘Live for the day, for tomorrow you might die’.

Robert (Bob) Brownlie 1950-51

After leaving College, Bob spent 2 years teaching in a one class primary school. He then decided he could find a satisfying career as an Education Officer in New Guinea, so in preparation he completed a course of study in Sydney.

In the mid to late 50s Bob began his interesting and very rewarding work in Papua New Guinea where he achieved so much in the area of Education.

“There is this young man who walked all of New Britain and established 8 Boarding Schools. A rare achievement” said the local paper in Port Moresby.

In 1957 Bob went home on leave to Cowra, where he met his future wife Gretchen. After a whirlwind courtship, culminating in their nuptials held in Cowra Church of England, the couple were stationed at Kandria, New Britain. Later they moved to Rabaul New Britain (twice), Kairuka Papua, Poppendetta Papua. Bob was promoted to District Education Officer.

Bob was passionate about his work and it should come as no surprise that it always took priority in his life. He was well liked by parents, teachers and students.

In 1974 PNG gained its independence. Bob’s job finished and he got busy organising the teachers to look after his beloved schools. Several teachers gained positions as ministers in the new government.

Gretchen and their three children moved to Brisbane. After some months Bob gained a position with the Queensland Education Department as Acting Registrar.
of Kelvin Grove Teachers’ College. Various positions followed at Queensland University. Bob retired at 65, however he retained a part-time position with ATEM (Association for Tertiary Education Management).

Sadly he suffered a debilitating back problem and so his health became a priority. After two spine operations, Parkinson’s disease followed.

Bob spent seven years at home until eventually a place was found at a Nursing Home in Hillcrest Queensland.

Bob passed away on 13th December, 2014 with Gretchen at his side. He is survived by his wife and three adult children.

Keith Crittenden 1956-57
It is with much sadness that I inform you of the death of another loved member of our 1956/57 session at WWTC.

Keith Crittenden died on Wednesday, 16th September. He had been ill for many months and was lovingly cared for by his wife Irene who he courted in Wagga and so have been together for 58 years.

Kevin Street, Bob Carberry and Keith were regulars at our bi-annual reunions and were all good friends. They will be sadly missed at our reunion next year.

Aileen Dawn Stewart 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.

We are fortunate that Dawn has allowed us to publish her stories and let us eavesdrop on her childhood world. The stories were published in Talkabout as follows:
- March 2003: My Grandma.
- March 2004: My Games
- July 2004: My Tucker Box
- March 2006: My Wartime Memories.
- November 2006: My Roamin’ in the Gloamin’.

Aileen Dawn Stewart 1950-51 (daughter)

Cheryl McHugh 1966-67
Cheryl McHugh passed away in Moama in March after suffering with ovarian cancer. A home town girl, having grown up on a property at Bunnaloo, Cheryl began teaching in Cessnock and after a brief time teaching in UK, returned to a teaching position at Moama where she taught for 35 years. Dedicated to her profession and a trained Reading Recovery teacher, she was much loved by her staff and those many students who were lucky enough to have been in her care. Cheryl is survived by her son, Robert, mother Pat, brother Wayne and sister June.

Darcy Michael Tosh 1953-54
Late of Baulkham Hills. Passed away peacefully 21st November 2015, aged 79 years. Missed by all family and friends.

Lindsay Budd
**Dr William (Bill) Grant 48-50** Passed away on 16th November 2015 aged 85 years. Late of Beecroft. Beloved husband of Shirley, loving father of Peter and Kerrie, Stuart and Michelle, and Fiona and Philip. Loved brother of Marion and Barbara (deceased). Cherished Grandpa of Ashley, Courtney, Mitchell, Cooper, Riley, Holly, Georgie, Brooke, Samantha, Benjamin and Lisa.

Bill was one of the original vice-presidents of the WWTCAA and was on the committee for a few years.  

*Lindsay Budd*

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**BOOK ORDER FORM**

Orders for *South Campus: A History* by Nancy Blacklow can be ordered using the order form (opp) or by direct contact (phone/email) with the Secretary. If payment is by electronic transfer please include “NameBook” e.g. “ForbesBook” as reference and then email Secretary.

**NB: South Campus was the site of WWTC.**

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**REUNION ROUNDPUP**

**Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College**

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

**Wagga Wagga**  
Sunday 15 May to Wednesday 18 May 2016

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

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**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

Please register as soon as possible  
Bring any memorabilia of the era and  
A photo of yourself taken at College

**Roy and Jan (Rennie) Strange** are preparing evening’s activities - ideas/suggestion wanted.  
Email: 1951humber@gmail.com

**For Registration and Bookings**  
**Contact:** Gwen Ravell  
**Phone:** 02 4229 4706  
**Address:** 27/41 Smith St. Wollongong 2500

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**South Campus: A History**  
(South Campus was the site of WWTC)

Cost $20.00 (including postage)

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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 2016.

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 2016.

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