REPORTS FROM THE 2013 AGM
ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

2012 has proved to be an interesting year for me as a new-era President with its activities and its special challenges. I really am only beginning to appreciate and ‘see’ just what Helen Egan has done over the past decade since this Alumni Association started in 2001. The association has been very active in the things it has initiated and achieved over that time and this is due in no small part to Helen’s leadership and the committee support she has garnered to help her. Thank you Helen.

The main purposes of the Association at the moment seem to me to be threefold. These include communication about and promotion of fellowship activities (such as year meetings and reunions); provision of a scholarship to assist a worthy student, with a family connection to a BTC graduate, in his/her studies in an educational (or other) course at a CSU campus; and some significant fund raising activities.

The success of these three purposes relies on effective communication, teamwork and a strong willingness to volunteer time and labour. The alumni of BTC seem to provide these elements in ‘bucket loads’. This is a really admirable situation for such an association to prosper as BTCAA does. However because of the ‘ageing’ (in inverted commas and certainly not derogatively) of early graduates, and a lesser involvement of later graduates there are some challenges ahead in keeping the association alive.

Early last year (8th May) a presentation of the BTCAA Scholarship was made to Kristie Caton, an education student at the Dubbo Campus of CSU. Kristie was a confident, knowledgeable and very worthy recipient. I was most privileged to represent the BTCAA at the impressive evening ceremony and to present the scholarship award to Kristie. Her connection with BTC came through her grandmother. Together with her mother there was a three generation family group at the presentation – very special indeed and a measure of the significance of the BTC connection.

Special thanks too must go to our three representatives in Bathurst who read and discussed the application of the final few screened candidates to determine the ultimate winner. Thank you to Helen Baber, Alan Smith and Rod Allen.

The ability to award this scholarship does not come to us by way of a spaceship from outer space or indeed a benevolent donor. Most of the funding comes from hard work through the hosting of an annual Open Garden in Katoomba; held officially last year from Friday 12th October through to Monday 15th October, with a couple of extra unofficial days. The garden involved belongs to Gail Metcalfe (60-61 cohort) who most generously allows the BTCAA volunteers to act as guides, gate keepers, provide morning and afternoon teas and generally assist Gail with the Open Day, this in return for the funds taken.

These takings fund the scholarship so a huge vote of thanks go to Gail and the team of volunteers who help facilitate this event. Thank you all. And who will forget the first of the Open Days (the Friday) that saw the magical spring garden covered in a record fall of snow, creating a different and equally fascinating garden for that day.

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Other activities in the year have mainly centred on meetings and reunions. The end of May saw the beginning of what will hopefully be an annual BTCAA winter luncheon in Lawson, general in the context of not being related to a particular year group. It is open to all comers who may be interested. For 2013 the date planned is 29 May. There have also been several year group get togethers such as the 64-65 cohort, the 61-62 cohort and the 57-58 cohort. The 62-63 group has recently had their big event in Bathurst. By big I mean the get-together centres on the digits 5 / 0 (not Hawaii but the number of years since starting or leaving Bathurst Teachers College). That these reunions take place is testament to the collegiality, the familial connection the ex-students have, all emanating from that Alma Mater Bathurst Teachers College.

Much of the information in this report is published in more detail in the biannual alumni magazine Panorama. This publication, put together so efficiently by a committee led by Carole Goodwin, is greatly valued by ex-students as a source of information and a kind of advance diary of the year’s activities. However it is a costly item to print and mail out (in excess of $2000) and is putting pressure on the funding the Association has or is able to raise.

Various ideas to help this magazine remain ‘alive’ have been raised and discussed in quarterly committee meetings. Two of the most significant ideas are the seeking of sponsorship from businesses and organizations in and around Bathurst and the introduction of a BTCAA membership levy of $25 per year. The first of these ideas has seen letters inviting sponsorship sent out, the second is the subject of a special motion for this AGM to consider today.

The BTCAA is a unique group covering ex-students from 1951 through to 1969. It is an active, self supporting association that serves its members well and helps the CSU community in other beneficial ways. I am proud to have been its President over the last year. I commend this President’s report to you all.

WAYNE BENLEY
PRESIDENT
wbensley@hotmail.com

WARREN POOLE – GUEST SPEAKER

Retired Principal, Warren Poole, is a dynamic speaker with a lively sense of humour, who chose in his address to the AGM to focus on present-day educational currents and trends. With a spouse who is also a Principal and two children who have attended CSU, he has plenty of feedback from his own family as well as from his recent activities. In 2010/11 he was part of a group in Britain from New Zealand, Australia and the UK studying Alternate Models of School Leadership. He asks: “Why are there no school leaders?” which he then answers by listing some of the problems of twenty-first century society.

There are increasing demands on school leavers, problems with a work/life balance, a growing disrespect for authority and burnout and retirement of experienced teachers able to mentor the beginning teachers. This problem was highlighted in the weekend edition of the SMH 9-10 March where the President of the NSW Teachers Federation Maurie Mulheron is quoted as saying: "In the next four or five years we're going to have the greatest number of older, experienced teachers retiring at the same time as the greatest number of young teachers are coming into the profession". In many of today's schools the focus is on management rather than leadership and there is no on-the-job help.

When still a Principal, Warren took part in the Forty-Seven School pilot project which granted autonomy to the principals involved for funding, staffing and direction for education in their school, each participant being chosen because of their school’s achievements. This sort of autonomy allowed him to employ a retired Maths teacher to teach higher-order Maths, implement a Speech Pathology program, employ a specialist swimming teacher and a teacher to act as mentor for beginning teachers. He is a firm believer in merit pay for teachers and for teacher accreditation. He is now a Professional Learning Partner where teachers can draw on the knowledge and intellectual bank of "the silver network".

Warren says that Principals now need a business background rather than being educators. In Australia the concept of Executive Head is being developed, one person to be in charge of five or six small schools. This model is being trialled in the Hunter valley. Another idea is for leadership federations which can work together using video conferencing. Other possibilities for change include multi-campus employment and chain schools with one principal in a head office responsible for a group of smaller schools with similar structures.

Challenges facing educators include the establishment of a National Curriculum with questions about what effect this will have on our schools, what the curriculum implementation process will be and whether it will be, as stated in the Melbourne Declaration of 2005, content-based, not program-based. When Warren started using terms like Quasar Readers and Augmented Reality, some of his listeners were thankful they were no longer faced with these challenges. He also talked about the effect of Social Media with students being able to access programs like The One World Classroom and The Khan Academy. In a world where students are asked to BYOD (bring your own device) and where teachers can mark the roll using facial recognition technology on their iPhones, some of us who have taught in disadvantaged areas in Sydney and the bush were left wondering if disadvantage would become even more entrenched, unless a real effort is made...
to ensure that the funding model employed takes
note of these.

Greg Woods thanked Warren for his
interesting and enthusiastic address, warmly
endorsed by all attendees.

REFLECTIONS ON SMALL
SCHOOLS
Crabbes Creek Upper, Cubbaroo, Pine
Point, Three Peaks, Daisy Plains, Rocky Creek,
Happy Jack – are any of these names familiar?
They are just some of the small schools that
opened and closed during the life of Bathurst
Teachers’ College 1951–1969. Perhaps you were
appointed to one of them.

During the life of the college almost 800
schools opened, many of them one or two teacher
schools, and approximately 170 of these schools
closed, nearly all one teacher schools. As we
know, it was a time of an expanding population
and the development of regional NSW, and
education resources were stretched. By the 1970s
the move towards greater urbanisation and
improved transport services were under way, and
more one teacher schools were being closed. The
number of these schools declined from 1,450 in
1950 to 152 in 2008.

Those of you who received your
appointment to a one or two teacher school in
your first year or so would have no difficulty
recalling your immediate reaction. Joy? Despair?
Bewilderment? There would have been many
different responses. For me, it was “Where is it?
Why me? It’s a one teacher! But I’m perfectly
happy here! I’m really an important member of this
staff! Surely they can’t send me! How do I get out
of it?”

Slowly over the next few hours I became
reconciled to having to move, and the words “to
suit the exigencies of the Department” became
painfully clear. Four days later, and with no
assistance from my employer, having hitched a lift
with a truckie for the last thirty miles, I was at my
new school meeting my fourteen students.
(Thankfully a small number, as thirty-three was still
the maximum number for a one teacher school in
1969, the year that BTC ended.)

Like others, being single, male, not having
attained a Teacher’s Certificate or not having
fulfilled country service requirements, I was a
prime target for a one teacher school. Not that
young women in similar circumstances were
exempt from being posted to small and
sometimes remote places, as many were sent to
two teacher schools, usually to teach the infants
or lower primary classes. And like the males,
some were appointed straight from college.

Of course, a number of students had no
reluctance about small schools or faraway places.
From the beginning, the College ran a small
schools option course in the second year of
training and a number of my year went straight
from college to a one teacher posting. I wonder
when this option finished? For anyone intending
marriage a school with a residence was an
incentive, and people brought up in a small rural
setting may have wanted to avoid bigger schools
in larger centres. Some may have wanted to be
their own boss, others just the solitude – who
knows?

After the initial adjustment to being the sole
teacher in a rather different social setting, most
teachers coped well. Some enjoyed the situation
so well that they stayed beyond their mandatory
two years. Some settled into the community and
stayed for many years. Rarely, if ever, was the
community not highly supportive, especially if the
teacher made the effort to fit in. Some
communities even worked to build a residence for
teachers committed to staying on. Despite our
lack of experience, the teaching was most
rewarding. Most of us would have taught children
who were cooperative, enthusiastic, respectful
and supportive of one another. However at times,
it could be a lonely life.

What of the present? A member of the Small
Schools Committee, Mick Collins, in charge of
Boomi, a two teacher school near the Queensland
border and not far from Goondiwindi, has offered
the following information. His two teacher school
has 39 students plus a teacher’s aide who was
provided by the Department to assist a student
with a disability. If there is only one teacher, a
teacher’s aide must be employed. Today,
communication in small schools has improved
greatly. The internet provides much support,
enables teachers to connect with other teachers
and is a valuable teaching resource. Casual sick
relief causes problems, as it does in all schools,
regardless of size. Consultants are rare.

With far fewer small schools, staffing is not
the problem that it was in the days of rapid
expansion. Most of the established small schools
have a residence and teachers tend to stay for
longer periods of time. When bonding of teachers
was abolished, the Department even had to offer
incentives such as use of a car to fill schools in
remote areas. I wonder if people can recall the
The following account is by one of those Alumni who completed the Small Schools option in his second year. Barry Wooldridge BTC 58–59, has written an account which makes very enjoyable reading. Unfortunately due to space constraints it cannot be reproduced here in full but those with Internet access can read it at the link to “Panorama” on the CSU Website where Barry writes of teaching practices which will resonate with those trained at BTC.

TEACHING AT GREG GREG 1960–61

I’m not sure on which map I found Greg Greg after receiving my appointment to teach there. The notice only said Greg Greg Riverina Region. This was a huge administrative area stretching from Khancoban to Wentworth and north to Young, Temora and Griffith. Eventually I found the tiny dot which located Greg Greg south of Tumbarumba and north of the Murray.

My brother generously offered to drive me and his remarks as we headed further and further down the highway, past Goulburn, Yass and the Gundagai were of wonder and incredulity. (Even in 1960 driving so far from the city was a venture not readily undertaken and destinations more distant than Goulburn, Bathurst or Newcastle had an aura of the exotic and unknown). When we left the highway and travelled through Tumut and Batlow an increasing tone of dismay crept into his remarks. The grim silence accompanying the final section of the journey on the winding, rough dirt road from Tumbarumba through Tooma was broken by expressions of amazement on arrival at Greg Greg and finding it consisted only of the school, a solitary box kept company by a large tree in an overgrown paddock and a handful of scattered houses, the homes of the valley’s mainly dairy farmers. …

…Greg Greg provided a wonderfully gentle introduction to teaching. The children, sixteen in number, were extremely acquiescent and cooperative. I cannot recall any difficulties with their behaviour towards me or between themselves. Not that everything was always perfect. One afternoon there was a knock on the door at about 4.15pm. It was the father of four school-age children who lived across the road. His curt response was, “I suppose you’ve heard of bicycles.” When I later received
my inspection report it contained a critical reference to my lack of punctuality.

The inspector was “one of the old school” and, amongst other traits, was very fastidious about his appearance and very correct in his demeanour. At lunch time he said he would join me in my supervision of the children, implying that this was naturally a daily routine for me. He must have known that was quite unnatural, as there was no necessity to supervise such a small group of well-behaved children. To their puzzlement we joined them under the big tree. Like me, they watched engrossed as he carefully removed the lid of his lunch box and daintily unfolded the soft, white serviette in which his sandwiches were wrapped. Like me, they saw the rush of blowflies instantly descend. After all, every local farmer raised pigs, and it was summer. The look of aggrieved distaste that soured his face was something we will never forget. “Perhaps”, he said, “we could make and exception today and eat inside.” Perhaps we should never have been outside in the first place!

...Though mainly uneventful, my time at Greg Greg was always interesting and enjoyable. It was the kind of first appointment (Teacher-in-Charge, the equivalent today of being in a promotions position for experienced teachers) undertaken by many teachers at that time. Most were challenging situations but provided the opportunity for the rapid development of teaching, administrative and inter-personal skills. Small schoolies regarded themselves as a distinctive echelon in the service, and many remember this part of their career as a time they would not have missed. The tales they tell each other, of events inside and outside school, might be coloured by missed, The tales they tell each other, of events part of their career as a time they would not have missed, The tales they tell each other, of events part of their career as a time they would not have missed.

BARRY WOOLDRIDGE 58/59

TEACHING AT A LOWER DIVISION SCHOOL

In January 1962, I was working for the holidays at a vacation care centre in Condobolin and anxiously awaiting notice of my first appointment. Imagine my surprise when I was advised I had an appointment to a two teacher school at Mulgoa. I had no idea where this village of Mulgoa was situated – surely it was way out west. But no, it is just south of Penrith on the way to Warragamba Dam!

As I was a day student at BTCAA and had never been away from home it was quite a wrench for me to be leaving home at the tender age of just turning 18. A visit to the school to meet the headmaster, Mr Don Peel, and his lovely wife Dorothy and their family eased my anxiety. However, I was advised that the only accommodation available was with a couple who lived on a farm about a mile from the school and who “always” boarded the teacher. A visit was arranged and I was assessed and approved as suitable. I was shown my room, an unlined sleep-out with no wardrobe or door – just a curtain. There were many rules to be followed particularly meal times and bathing arrangements. Only one bath a week was allowed (tank water you see). I had already been advised of this rule by the headmaster’s wife, who assured me that the tradition was that the teacher bathed daily at the school residence.

I was warmly welcomed to the school and quickly settled in to village life. I had a group of 30 children in four grades: kindergarten, transition, first and second grade, including one delightful young girl who was intellectually disabled. Most of the children walked to school – as did I. Apart from the diversity in age range there was a distinct diversity in ability. I developed an affinity with slow learners and devised many additional activities for them. The classroom was an older style spacious room with storeroom attached. Everything but the sports equipment and “printing” facility – a jelly pad with purple ink! Preparing stencils was sometimes a nightmare and of course time consuming. Tank water was used for drinking and hand washing. Pan toilets were “down the back”, with a separate one reserved for the teachers. During winter I was responsible for lighting the fire each morning. To encourage the children to drink the “free” milk I made warm Milo.

The headmaster and I had morning tea (supplied by his wife) together in my classroom. These sessions were mini staff meetings where we discussed teaching skills, programming and up and coming events.

In my third year at the school it was recommended by the Inspector, that I apply for a transfer to Sydney to the special school in Henry Street Strathfield. Pending a vacancy at Henry Street, I was appointed to Russell Lea Infants and thence to North Rocks School for the Deaf.

I loved my time teaching at Mulgoa and found the children and parents enthusiastic, trusting and co-operative. The parents were very interested in their children’s progress without being demanding.

One of my happy memories of my three years at Mulgoa was training five fathers and the
headmaster Don Peel, for a floor show at the annual P & C Ball. I gave no thought to being a young woman alone with six men at night prancing around learning, 1) The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, 2) The Can Can and 3) a Flamenco dance. It was great fun and a huge success each time.

Every second weekend I would travel home to Bathurst catching the last bus to Penrith at 5pm, waiting on Penrith Station for the Forbes Mail train at 9.30. The reverse on Sunday evening – the 12.00pm mail train arriving at Penrith at 5.00am and waiting for the first bus to Mulgoa at 8.00am. By August of the first year at Mulgoa I had purchased a car and freedom! No more cold nights and mornings on train stations. One wouldn’t consider doing it today, it would be too unsafe.

GAIL METCALFE (MCGILL 60/61)

REUNION REPORTS

The 1961-62 intake of BTC students held a highly successful reunion last November. Over seventy former students attended and with special guests and partners almost a hundred attended the dinner on the Saturday evening. People came from all the mainland states and two from overseas - Canada and New Zealand.

The organising committee of Graham Hayton (Chair), Megan Weston (Davis), Judy Cant (Westcott), Barry Cant, Les Scarborough and Barry Lovegrove met a number of times in Sydney and Bathurst during the eighteen months leading up to the reunion. Graham undertook the massive task of locating colleagues, many of whom had not been heard of for half a century. Thanks to Graham’s tenacity, co-operation from BTC Alumni Association, committee members and those who had news of others, all but about 15 of our intake of 150 were contacted. Most had email addresses, which made communication efficient and inexpensive.

The weekend began with a barbecue at the CSU’s James Hardie Room on Friday 16th November. Barry Cant welcomed everyone and outlined the weekend’s activities. It was a very enjoyable evening renewing old friendships, catching up on the last 50 years and sharing many happy memories. Di Robberds (Geddes) entertained us with a poem she had written as her memoir. On Saturday morning we were taken on a guided tour of the CSU campus including a visit to the late L.J. Allen’s residence, Women’s dormitories and the old assembly hall. Saturday afternoon’s free time provided opportunities for small groups to gather (sport, dormitories, fellowship groups etc.) and catch up.

Saturday night’s reunion dinner was the highlight of the weekend. Special guest speakers were Associate Professor Jane Mitchell, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Education CSU and Dr Wilfred Ewens, a PE lecturer who began at CSU the same year we did. Chair Graham Hayton welcomed everyone and handed over to MCs Megan Davis and Barry Lovegrove for the evening. Michael Parkin presented a most entertaining address on behalf of ex-students aided by a "belle" of St
Agnes who gave us an insight into life at "Aggies" in the early sixties.

Our weekend concluded with a short memorial service followed by brunch on Sunday morning. At the service, led by Pastor Les Scarborough and Reverend Rhana Wright (Jones) the names were mentioned of those colleagues who had passed away. We were delighted that Jean Lloyd, widow of our SRC President, Ken Lloyd, was able to attend the dinner and service. Jean lives in Goulburn where Ken was Principal before his death. After brunch, Judy Cant thanked everyone for their attendance and suggested that an annual reunion lunch be held each November. This suggestion was received with enthusiasm.

Many of us stayed at the university motel which was comfortable, well priced and extremely convenient.

We must take this opportunity to thank the CSU catering staff for their co-operation and for providing such wonderful facilities at reasonable prices, thus ensuring the success of the reunion. Thanks also to the BTC Alumni Association for their assistance in contacting ex-students and lecturers.

An amount of $564.74 was left after all expenses were met. At a final committee meeting in February it was decided to allocate this money to the Alumni Association. It was also agreed to conduct a reunion lunch in Sydney in mid-November. Details will be provided by email or post later in the year.

** MEGAN WESTON (NEE DAVIS 61/62)

*Below is the poem that Di Robberds contributed to the evening; it will revive memories in all Alumni, regardless of the years attended.*

**REMEMBERING BTC**

After finishing my Leaving it was as clear as it could be That school teaching would be a good career for me. I'd already ruled out nursing – too much blood and lots of gore, And as a humble secretary I knew I'd end up poor.

The choice was somewhat limited in 1961 So there wasn't too much soul searching to be done. So off I went to Bathurst with my hormones all a flutter, To become God's gift to teaching – and earn my bread and butter.

***

Our spartan little dorm room was as snug as it could be, Not much room for possessions when you put in beds for three. The hanging space was limited, but we had one massive drawer, And a cupboard up the top you could reach – if six foot four.

One small wooden desk and hanging bookshelves for our stuff, No such thing as heating – Bathurst bred 'em tough! The plush communal shower block was half a mile away And a hive of activity at any time of day.

***

Here we entered vestal virgins, we were as green as we could be, But we had our zealous wardens to guard our virginity. Had we all lived in a convent we could not have been more pure, That was of course provided that you got inside the door

Before it was locked to keep out all those lusty men, Eleven pm weeknights and Sunday nights at ten! Women outnumbered men to the tune of three to one

So no need to guess who had the lion's share of fun!

***

You really had to be a smoker to prove that you were cool, To admit you couldn't do it made you look a dreadful fool.

And you didn't have to go outside to do it in the fog, You could smoke in your cozy bedroom getting kippered in the smog,

And the blokes worked on their drinking to perfect the gentle art, But it didn't take too many ales before they fell apart.

One innocent did a chunder on Archie Miller's mat, And even after fifty years he hasn't lived down that!

***

The food in the spacious dining room was as crook as it could be, The cause of constipation and bouts of dysentery.

So we'd rush off to the matron for the aspro-gargle cure, Then back to Fred's canteen to eat a little more, And fend off anorexia with all those tasty pies,

And in no time at all you could double your dress size! If you hadn't any money you could put it on the tick But the monthly bill from Fred's canteen could make a grown man sick.

***

The highlight of the year was Swimming Camp at Broken Bay, And getting lots of medals was the order of the day.

It was easy doing water skills – the water dark and thick, But it was a little tricky diving through it for a brick.

We were made to go on bush walks in the stinking summer heat Just surviving that long route march was quite a feat.

One girl was bitten by a red back spider on the toe And the gastric epidemic added flavour to the show.

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The place you did your courting was down the college drive You had to take a blanket if you wanted to survive And not die of hypothermia or get frozen to a tree. Yes, young lovers had to be as hardy as could be! The intrepid chose the haystacks at the Experimental Farm, And the blokes worked on their drinking to perfect the gentle art, But it didn't take too many ales before they fell apart.

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***
But we fitted in an education tending lectures every day, 
And practice teaching twice a year was where we really 
learnt our stuff, 
Before a class of forty kids it was very hard to bluff. 
Doing lesson notes and teaching aids you’d stay up 
half the night, 
And in the crowded dormitory tensions could be tight, 
Not to mention coughs and sneezes acquired on the 
way, 
We learnt teaching’s not a glamour job you’d take on 
for the pay. 

***

If you had a bit of snazzy clothing, it always did the 
ronda 
And when it came to sharing our kindness knew no 
bounds. 
If you would share your best new shirt, why not your 
boyfriend too? 
How far you took the principle was entirely up to you! 
Yet in spite of close confinement we got along just fine, 
And those close associations have stood the test of 
time. 
As we now approach bewilderment it’s good to gather 
here 
To indulge in reminiscence, lots of laughter and good 
cheer. 

DI ROBERDS (NEE GEDDES)

SOUTHERN REGION GET-TOGETHER 2013

The Annual Get-together for the Southern Region 
will be held on 31st July, 2013 at Coolangatta 
Village Restaurant. For further details, contact the 
organiser, Bill Thompson on Tel: 4421 4780 or 
e-mail Rex Halliburton: jan.reg@bigpond.net.au

B.T.C 64/65 SESSION

All who attended B.T.C for all or part of the 
64/65 session are invited to join the 50th 
Anniversary reunion to be held in Bathurst on the 
weekend of 28, 29 and 30th March 2014. Whether 
you started and left a few weeks in 1964 or 
started before us and repeated to join us, all are 
welcome. Just be able to remember the important 
educational role that college played in everyone’s 
life i.e. the apples from the Ag farm, racing down 
the drive, green tins , etc.

These people cannot be located. Any help 
you can provide to find them would be 
appreciated.

Patricia Margaret CROWE, Carolyn Ann 
DEIN (from Orange) Suzanne Colleen DRAINE, 
Robert Lester FROST, (was in Darwin in 1980, not 
now in electoral roll), David ( Bert) Albert Victor 
GLOVER (from Katoomba, married and living in 
Ontario) Carolyn Joan GRIFFIN, Catharina 
AUGUSTSA (from Mudgee, married – name now unknown, in Qld) Therese Marie HENRY (married name THORNE was 
teaching in Canberra), Sandra Rae IRELAND, 
Margaret Ann McLEAN, Anthony John WARD 
(might be in Northern beaches, might have been a 
lecturer unlike most BTC males who tried to be 
lechers, not in electoral roll at present nor in White 
pages in Northern beaches)

Please contact David Bales to be kept up 
to date with plans as they develop or to join one of 
the informal luncheons that are held every few 
months 
DAVID BALES 0407 284 546 
sdbales@gmail.com 
70 Malison St 
Wyoming 2250

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 
1962-1963 Session

As advised last issue, this event will be held 
on the weekend of Friday 31 January – Sunday 
2 February 2014, at Bathurst on the Charles Sturt 
University Campus.

It is most important that both the CSU 
Alumni and the Organising Committee has up to 
date contact information, which should be advised 
to Bruce Fairhall (bruce@fairhall.id.au) and to the 
Alumni (http://www.csu.edu.au/contacts/alumni-
registration) so we can contact our colleagues 
with full details.

The weekend will be similar to previous 
gatherings with an informal Friday evening, 
programmed events on Saturday, a formal dinner 
on Saturday night and some informal times to 
share on the Sunday.

We had 183 people to locate, and only have 
THREE yet to be found. Please advise me if you 
have any information/clues at all of the 
whereabouts/family/friends of: Janet (Mandy) 
Parkin; Ngaire Pownall and Aline Johnston (Ter 
Horst?). Surely someone can help ... 

Hopefully you will be able to join your fellow 
BTC 1962/3 Session members to rekindle old 
friendships and catch up on the past years. Spouses and partners will of course be very 
welcome!

The next notice you receive will be a 
Registration form outlining what is proposed over 
those three days, with predicted costs for the 
events planned. There will also be notices in 
Panorama. 
BRUCE FAIRHALL 
For the Organising Committee

PIONEERS REUNION 2014

Following a successful reunion in May this 
year, the Pioneers have decided on a repeat 
performance early in 2014 to be held in 
Coonabarabran. Further details will be in the next 
issue of Panorama.

IN MEMORIAM

Allan James Stent 1938 – 2012
Allan James Stent, universally known as 
“Jim”, passed away on 27 August 2012 at the age 
of seventy-four years after a long battle with
multiple myeloma and the kidney failure it had caused six years before.

After a brief period of studying Electrical Engineering, Jim transferred to Bathurst Teachers College in 1957 and trained in Primary Teaching, after which he was appointed to Brewarrina where his first job entailed teaching a combined Year 2/3 class of 38 pupils. His second appointment was Zig Zag Primary in the foothills of the Mountains in the Lithgow district. Then in 1962 Jim was seconded to Lithgow High to fill a Mathematics vacancy, having done a Maths Option in his Primary training. He had found his niche, and to ensure his future in the Secondary system, Jim studied through UNE to graduate in Arts with a major in Mathematics. While he was at Lithgow High, he met Margaret, a graduate of Sydney Teachers College and they married in 1964.

In 1968 Jim was chosen to undertake a twelve month’s Exchange teaching in Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds, a beautiful area of the United Kingdom. This was followed in 1972 by three years in Malaysia at the RAAF school, where their son, Andrew, was born. On returning to Australia Jim was appointed to Canowindra High where he served as Head Teacher Maths for the next thirty years, retiring in 1995. There is no doubt the Department of Education had been good to him.

Jim is survived by his wife Margaret and his children Amanda and Andrew as well as their partners and two grandsons, Benjamin and Joshua.

Joan Ross (nee Cox)

Joan was born on 20th January 1935 in Wellington NSW to Claude and Linda Cox, becoming a little sister to Kevin. The Cox family lived on the property Sommercroft in Neurea outside Wellington that bred sheep and raised crops.

On reaching school age, Joan attended a one teacher school at Neurea where she completed her primary school education. She then moved into Wellington to stay with her Aunty Dot and attended St Marys Convent for her secondary education and received her Intermediate Certificate, after which she attended Wellington Intermediate High School and gained her Leaving Certificate.

Having decided to pursue a teaching career, Joan was accepted into Bathurst Teachers’ College. During the October long weekend in 1953 she was invited along with two of her college friends on an outing to Lake Canobolas near Orange where she met a young farmer – Hugh Ross. This started a romance that spanned nearly sixty years.

When Joan completed her teaching qualification, she was appointed to Wellington Primary School where she was obliged to complete three years of teaching to meet her bond requirements, During this time she also attained her Justice of the Peace qualification.

Hugh and Joan were married at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church on 5th April 1958 which was Easter Saturday. As a married woman Joan was unable to transfer to Bathurst schools and had to resign her teaching position. A honeymoon to Lord Howe Island followed. The young couple settled on the property The Springs just outside of Bathurst where they built the family home. Two children followed, Malcolm in 1959 and Alison in 1963.

Life was full and varied, raising the children and having a strong interest and participation in their school activities, along with recreational pursuits such as crafts and tennis, and the maintenance of the property’s books. One of the highlights of the years of farm life was the awarding of the Central West Farmer of the Year award in 1974 to Hugh and Joan and their property partners, Hugh’s brother Cam and wife Jill. One of the prizes awarded was a cruise and as Joan got terribly seasick, Cam and Jill took the cruise and Hugh, Joan, Malcolm and Alison travelled to the Singapore and Hong Kong regions.

In 1980, after enduring too many Bathurst winters and the unpredictability of farm life and with the children’s education completed, the couple decided to move to Maroochydore, Queensland. The family had taken yearly holidays to the Sunshine Coast since the late 1960s and had begun to invest in property in the developing area. Malcolm had already located to the coast and Alison moved to the area in 1985. Various business interests and the conscientious management of business records, including Biloela Caravan Park for approximately nine years kept Joan busy, along with and enduring interest in crafts, social justice issues
and politics. She was an integral support to Alison, Matthew and Jessica and was instrumental in the grandchildren's upbringing. In 1991 she was thrilled to welcome her daughter-in-law Helen to the family.

In the mid 2000s Hugh and Joan moved to Bundaberg, in part to be closer to business interests in the area and to return to a slower paced, country environment. They built in Sugarland Gardens and established a network of friends and varied interests.

Although Joan's passing was unexpected and too early, comfort is found in the support of her family and friends.

Elizabeth Laing (1953/54)

In the year of the centenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains, it is interesting that Joan was a descendant of William Cox, builder of the first road to Bathurst.

The latest figures on the Scholarship Fund show that contributions stand at $29,820.55, with some recent donations yet to be added. This amount is made up of 866 gifts, with the average gift being $43.47 and the number of donors totalling 332.

AND THE WINNER IS...

This year's BTCAA Scholarship winner has already been selected and Gail Metcalfe, our Alumni Treasurer, will be at the ceremony to present the award on Friday 31st May to:

Lara Lambkin

Lara qualified as a Maths Teacher with a Dip. Ed. and is currently competing her last subject for the Graduate Diploma of Psychology via Bathurst Campus of CSU (distance education) while continuing to teach full-time and be involved in bringing up a young family. Her mother, Gloria Moritz was a student at Bathurst in 1960/61. The Committee is delighted to have such a talented candidate.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Information about reunions as well as correspondence and feature articles are supplied by you, the members of BTCAA, so if you have a contribution you would like to make to “Panorama” please contact one of the editorial team: Carole Goodwin: carole9999@virginbroadband.com.au

Denise Cramsie: dlcramsie@netspace.net.au

Alan Beggs: alanbarb1@optusnet.com.au

or write to

Stacey Fish, The Advancement Unit
Charles Sturt University, Panorama Ave,
Bathurst, NSW, 2795.
The cost of producing and distributing ‘Panorama’, as well as the operation of BTCAA, relies on the support of the alumni. Please make your donation to the Association. The annual Membership fee of $25 includes 2 print copies of ‘Panorama’.

The Bathurst Teachers’ College
Alumni Association Scholarship Appeal
KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE TO SECURE THE FUTURE

BTCAA Scholarship Fund
This scholarship, tenable annually at any CSU campus is available to a member of the BTC family – see criteria and how to apply on the CSU website. To date, Alumni have raised $29,820

I want to support the BTCAA Scholarship Appeal (all gifts over $2.00 are tax deductible)
Please send to: Charles Sturt Foundation Charles Sturt University, Panorama Ave, Bathurst, NSW, 2795.
My gift for the Scholarship Fund is: $___________
(check/money order enclosed)
Please find enclosed my cheque for $___________
OR please debit my credit card for $___________

Card Type: Mastercard or Visa
Name on Card: ________________________________
Expiry on Card: ________________________________
Surname: ____________________________________
Given Name: _________________________________
Year Group: ____________________
Address: ______________________________________
Postcode: ________________
Home phone: _________________________________
Mobile: _____________________________________
Email: _____________________________________

BTCAA Alumni Association Fund
The costs of producing and posting Panorama and the running of the BTCAA need to be provided by the members. Please make your donation to this fund. Membership includes two copies of Panorama for the annual fee of $25.

I wish to assist the financial viability of the BTCAA
Please send to: BTCAA c/- Gail Metcalfe
14 Banksia Park Road, Katoomba NSW 2780
My annual Membership Fee of $25 is enclosed.
Please tick method of payment
Cheque □ Money Order □ Direct Bank Deposit □

BTCAA Bank Account Details:
Commonwealth Bank BSB 062300 A/c No. 1013 3521
Please include your name when depositing directly to the BTCAA Bank Account.
Please include a stamped self addressed envelope if you require a receipt
Surname: ____________________________________
Former Surname: ______________________________
Given Name: _________________________________
Year Group: ____________________
Address: ______________________________________
Postcode: ________________
Home phone: _________________________________
Mobile: _____________________________________
Email: _____________________________________

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER
Several Alumni have already sent $25 since January this year and this will be regarded as your Annual Subscription for 2013.