

PANORAMA

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
ISSUE No. 22, AUTUMN 2012



INTRODUCING THE NEW PRESIDENT

At the AGM held at The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in Sydney in February, Helen Egan stepped down as President of the Alumni Association after ten years at the helm. The Committee acknowledged her outstanding contribution at the 10th Anniversary Lunch held in November but are very happy that Helen has agreed to stay on as Vice President in the committee elected at the AGM.



I have the great honour of being elected this year as the new President of the Bathurst Teachers College Alumni Association (BTCAA), taking over from Helen Egan (1951-52 cohort). I have been a member of the Association for a number of years. I am from the 1964-65 cohort of BTC and retired in 2007 after 41

years service with the NSW Department of Education and Training (now Department of Education and Communities). I have served in country and city schools and also had three years on Norfolk Island. My last decade or so of service included being Principal of Maroubra Bay, Vaucluse and Middle Harbour Public Schools.

Helen Egan has been the founding President of BTCAA since 2001. She has done a sterling job over the decade in keeping the association active and involved in a number of activities. These have included the construction of a fountain memorial

(water feature) in the Alumni Common, over-sighting of the organisation of the 50th anniversary celebration of the establishment of BTC (1951), the establishment of a BTCAA sponsored student scholarship, organisation of the 10th anniversary luncheon in NSW Parliament House (2011) and innumerable year group reunions.

Without Helen's drive, vision and effort probably none of these things would have happened. It's a fine legacy of Helen's involvement. She has the personal and interactive skills to have the dedicated support of a committee of ex-students who have helped her superbly along the way. Well done Helen!

I now have a huge act to follow, but with Helen as a mentor and the continuing support of the BTCAA committee I believe we can keep the association alive, active and relevant. I will certainly work towards this goal.

One of the pressing needs at the moment is to keep awareness of the BTCAA high. This includes activities, reunions and other information that maintains the cohesive bond of the many BTC groups from 1951 to 1969.

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Such communication is significantly helped via this *Panorama* magazine, a bi-annual publication managed by members of the BTCAA committee. Funding for this magazine is coming under increasing financial pressure so I plan to seek out ways of subtle sponsorship to build on the welcome donations ex-students of BTC already provide. I would very much appreciate any thoughts or ideas readers may have on this.

I look forward to continuing the work of the BTCAA in the area of scholarships, activities, reunions and, above all, communication and fellowship between as many of the ex BTC people as possible.

Regards

WAYNE BENSLEY



village located 10 minutes from Dubbo. It is a three teacher school with a teaching principal. I enjoyed my time at the school and have since returned to the school to do casual work. My upper primary practicum was at Wellington Public School in a year five/six classroom. I enjoyed teaching the older students and was very lucky to have a

very supportive supervising teacher. My final five weeks of internship were at Dubbo Public School in a year five/six class. I found the five weeks a great learning experience as I took sole control of the classroom for five weeks. I found the task very daunting at first but enjoyed the responsibility and felt that I grew as an educator immensely during this period. The school has also given me casual work upon completing my course. From the practicums that I have completed and working in schools on a casual basis, I have found that I particularly enjoy teaching the older years. I find the open discussions and conversations that I have with them very rewarding. I'm currently working casually at a number of schools in Dubbo and surrounding areas until a position becomes available. I'm looking forward to having my own class and having the opportunity to finally put the theory from university into practice.

I would especially like to thank the Alumni for the support that the scholarship gave me during my first year of university by helping to pay for textbooks and other vital resources required to complete my degree. I found the course very rewarding and am excited about the road ahead as an educator of young people.

EMMA DAVIS

YOUR NEW ALUMNI COMMITTEE

At the BTCAA AGM, held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel on Saturday 25th February, the new committee was elected:

President: Wayne Bensley

Vice President: Helen Egan

Secretary: Carole Sharp

Treasurer: Gail Metcalfe

'Panorama' Sub-Committee:

Carole Goodwin, Denise Cramsie, Alan Beggs

Minutes Secretary: Val Woodward

General Members:

Ken Shadbolt, Carina Doyle, Wanda Zaniewski,

Peter Connolly, Royce Levi, Greg Woods

Jennifer Hughes

2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, EMMA DAVIS, GRADUATES

As I have now completed my teaching degree, I would like to share my journey through university and to once again extend my thanks and appreciation for having received the BTC Alumni scholarship in 2008.

Throughout the four years, I have completed a number of practicums with a range of age groups and communities. As my degree is both early childhood and primary, I was able to experience the process of both types of educational settings. I completed two early childhood practicums, two primary practicums and on the completion of my course, a ten week internship. My infants' practicum was at Wongarbron Public School in a kindergarten/year one class. Wongarbron is a small

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Due to the retirement of long-serving committee member Spencer Harvey, whose efforts on behalf of the BTCAA are very much appreciated, a third member for the selection panel was needed to work with Helen Barber and Alan Smith. We are pleased to announce that Rod Allen will be taking his place. Rod, who graduated from BTC in 1960/61 and who lectured at Mitchell CAE and CSU for over 20 years, was co-ordinator of the Bachelor of Primary Education program and was also served as acting Head of School. He

was dearly loved by hundreds of students with whom he came into contact while in these posts.

UPDATE ON THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The BTCAA Scholarship fund now stands at: **\$28,625.55**. Raising funds for its continuation is an important function of BTCAA.

PHOTOS ON THE WEB

Due to space constraints, *Panorama* can only include a selection of photos of Alumni events, but it is possible to see many more by going to the Alumni website.

Go to the link in the CSU news on page 9.

The Diamond Jubilee photos, the 10th Anniversary Lunch at NSW Parliament House and the February Friendship Lunch and AGM are there.

RENEWING SPORTING TIES AT THE AGM

Two speakers were advertised for the AGM of the BTCAA, but unfortunately Margaret Allen was unable to attend. However Professor Wilf Ewens proved a major attraction to former students of BTC, Les Thompson and Rod Swindle, who had been coached by him in Rugby Union. During the lunch they spent most of the time sharing yarns of old times. Greg Woods then introduced Wilf to the rest of the gathering: a boy from Bendick Murrell near Young who finished his schooling at Parramatta High School where he played in the school cricket team with Richie Benaud. As a teenager he scored a century playing for Cumberland in Sydney 1st grade, again with Richie Benaud as a team member. Wilf was a member of the Sheffield Shield squad, captained Combined City and later Combined Country and played against touring international teams. It was his love of sport that led Wilf to become a PE consultant for the Penrith district and this later led to his appointment as a PE lecturer at BTC. Greg Woods played with Wilf in the Bathurst 1st Grade cricket team.

Wilf's talk was an anecdotal recollection of the places where he'd worked and studied and of the people he'd met throughout his career. This included a stint as National Fitness Advisor for the Western Area. He was proud of his work in helping councils develop playing fields and recreation areas. His next move was to BTC in 1961 after being head-hunted by L.J.Allen.

During his time at Bathurst Wilf enjoyed the camaraderie between staff and students which was well demonstrated at the time of the College Revue. He found that our rather formidable

Principal L.J. Allen would let down his guard a little during the lecturers' Friday afternoon 9-hole golf sessions and Wilf could even get away with calling him "boss" rather than Mr Allen in this informal situation. Wilf and his wife lived in a house at the town end of the long drive in Browning St. This had a bat and ball out the front. The ball was always being sabotaged, replaced by oranges, toilet rolls and the like, but after a few days was returned to its spot.

There were many heads nodding in agreement with Wilf when he said that we were much better prepared to become teachers in the classroom than today's students are by the current system. The mission of Teachers' Colleges was to get a person ready to teach and the whole course was designed around that. Once the Faculty of Education became incorporated into universities other pressures were brought to bear on the staff where a person has to publish or perish, with the emphasis on the theory of teaching rather than the gaining of practical experience. He feels that teaching today is just a job for many; when we went through college it was a vocation.

In his forty-year career as teacher, advisor, lecturer, Head of School and Foundation Chair at Macquarie University for Sports and Leisure Studies, Wilf found his eight years at BTC the most enjoyable, fulfilling and invigorating. He says

that he is a member of three other Alumni: the University of New England, Sydney University and the University of Oregon, but that the BTCAA has a fellowship which is not found in many other Alumni.

Helen Egan, who was teaching in Cowra in 1957 and who knew Wilf when he was the Western Area PE Advisor, proposed the vote of thanks.



(Helen is seen with Wilf in the photo above)

A NOSTALGIC ENCOUNTER

I was travelling from Orange in February, having been to my Great-Grandchildren's (twins) christening there. Passing through Bathurst thoughts of my time at BTC (1956/7) came back to me. Heading on towards Lithgow, I began to

feel a bit tired and decided I should stop for a break. The sign *Meadow Flat* came up so I decided to pull in under the shady trees near the school. I recalled doing a Prac. there in 1957 when it was a one-teacher school and I thought: "Why not go in and see what it's like now?"

I made myself known to the lass in the office – (Hayley) – and explained my connection to the little school. She very kindly showed me around. The room I'd taught in is now a lovely music room – what a wonderful array of instruments there – lucky children. There are more rooms, including a library now and an impressive outdoor undercover area. The grounds are beautifully kept and include a vegetable garden, with scarecrows.

I was intrigued by a story told to me by Hayley about an old oak tree in the grounds. She gave me a booklet, *Nutsy Nostalgia*, which tells its history. Written as if the tree is talking, it was produced by Mrs Horan (Primary Teacher 2006) and others. The illustrations included those by the pupils. I had taken a photo of the tree which didn't appear all that big (apparently it's estimated to be 150 years old) – but walking underneath I found an enormous knobbly trunk. Reading the booklet later I learned that it had been radically chopped down in the mid 1900s – nobody seems to know why – and miraculously grew again.

Hayley also gave me the booklet produced for the 150 years celebration in 2006, which means the school was 100 years old when I was there. I've enjoyed reading these booklets and really appreciate being given them.

The following Saturday I attended the AGM and Friendship Lunch for Bathurst Teachers' College and shared this story with my fellow attendees. It was my first time and I enjoyed the lunch and the companionship. Thanks to Helen Egan and the new president, Wayne Bensley. I'd like to congratulate the staff and parents of Meadow Flat Public School on having a great little school – two teachers, 48 pupils plus support staff – and wish them well in the future.



JULIE WORLDON (TWEMLow) (56/57)

PS The old classroom where I taught has an unusual curved roof and is known as *The Beehive*. It was built in 1884 and was looking run down until a Bicentennial grant enabled it to be restored and officially opened 8/8/1988. It was a costly exercise; the whole building was raised and new foundations laid. There are only four of this style of room remaining in the State and known as a Henry Parkes building. It's good to see this one preserved.

MYTH BUSTERS

1 Myth – The BTC Alumni Association Committee has a list with the names, addresses and years of attendance of all BTC students.

Wrong – Privacy laws prevent CSU giving us this information.

2. Myth – CSU compiles, prints and distributes *Panorama* to BTC Alumni.

Wrong – The Editorial Committee of BTCAA, headed by the Editor, Carole Goodwin, prepares copy the printer who (after signing a confidentiality clause) also posts the copies.

3. Myth – Costs for producing *Panorama* and other Association expenses are paid by CSU.

Wrong – The Association relies on the generosity of its members for all income,

✳ What can you do to dispel these myths? ✳

1. Complete the information form on the back page giving CSU permission to make your details available to the BTCAA Committee.

2. Support your Association with regular donations.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the passing of John, husband of our tireless treasurer, Gail Metcalfe, on 23 Jan 2012, at their Katoomba home.

John was not a member of Alumni and was an engineer by profession. However, we are grateful to him for the support he gave to Gail and the Alumni in several of our major projects. He gave valuable advice regarding the creation of the commemorative water feature and on several occasions their family home was generously offered as a meeting place for our committee members and staff from Charles Sturt University.

But most likely the lasting memory of John is of the two highly successful Open Garden events held in late September of 2010 and 2011, which raised several thousand dollars each year for our Scholarship Fund. Last year, despite being diagnosed with cancer in 2009, he assisted with the preparation of the garden's spring flowering display and took a delight in guiding visitors around, particularly in the direction of the satin bower bird's nest.

We extend our sympathy to Gail and her family.

A HIGH ACHIEVER FROM THE FAR WEST



On 30 Dec 2011 a tribute to the life of John Carroll appeared in the "Timelines" section of the Sydney Morning Herald, the writer being Malcolm Brown. Two things in the tribute are of particular interest; one is the extensive list of his achievements in the field of drama

and communications education, the other is that he trained as a primary teacher at Bathurst Teachers' College in 1961/62. He grew up in Broken Hill.

Malcolm Brown's tribute is too detailed to reproduce in full, but here is a brief summary.

•After college, John taught in primary schools, including Broken Hill. He completed an Arts Degree at the University of New England externally, and transferred to secondary schools as an English teacher. In the late 1960's he met

Julie Martello, a pre-school kindergarten teacher, and they remained partners until his death.

•In 1973 he joined the staff of Mitchell CAE, Bathurst.

•He completed a master's degree in education and later a doctorate at Newcastle University in Britain. Professor John O'Toole, honorary professorial fellow at the University of Melbourne, described John as being "in many ways the senior drama scholar/practitioner in Australia." In attaining his master's degree and PhD. he worked with Dorothy Heathcote, a world-renowned drama teacher and academic.

•On his return to Bathurst he was the co-ordinator of the bachelor of communication course in theatre and drama from 1987 until 1996. He went on to head CSU's school of communication.

•In 1996 he led a postgraduate course committee to redesign the Australian Film Television and Radio School's curriculum. In 1998 he worked in a similar role with the National Film and Television Institute of India and in 2004 reviewed communication courses at the Higher Colleges of Technology in the United Arab Emirates.

•With the rapid changes of technology, John used online and digital technology to enhance the scope of drama education. He wrote extensively on drama education and belonged to a number of international journal advisory boards.

•He was a founding member of the National Drama in Education Organisation, now Drama Australia, spoke at national and state conferences and served for four years on the NSW Board of Studies drama examinations committee.

•In his private life, he has been described as energetic, passionate about travel, motor bikes, fine cars, wine and "real ale." His intellectual interests ranged from film and speculative fiction to technology and cosmology. He remained active almost to the end of his life on 27 October 2011.

One of his students, Andrew Denton, said this: "Even through the mists of time, I can still see the sparkle of John's intellect. He was the kind of lecturer students wanted to learn for, because his enthusiasm for what he was teaching was infectious."

ALAN BEGGS

VALE JOHN SEBERRY

John Leo Seberry (1933 – 2011) was one of the original intake at BTC, but left teaching to take up a career in the Justice Department where, as a magistrate, he displayed intelligence and integrity. His career took him, his wife Maureen and their four children to many places around the state, but he did not forget his earlier association with BTC and attended college reunions. He was involved in numerous community organisations and had a passion for his garden.

REUNION NOTICES

Inaugural Blue Mountains Reunion

As there are quite a few Alumni living in the Blue Mountains, we are having a reunion open to all comers on Wednesday 16th May to be held at the Lawson Hotel, which is right opposite the railway station. We are meeting at 11.30am. Please contact either Gail Metcalfe on gailmetcalfe@bigpond.com or Carole Goodwin on carole9999@virginbroadband.com.au if you would like to attend, by 9th May. Sydneysiders and those west of the Divide are also welcome.

Southern Reunion

The next get-together for the southern group will be on Wednesday 25th July 2012 It will be in Queanbeyan and be lunch, 12 noon for 12.30, at Benedict House, Isabella St, opposite the public school. The venue has a connection to former Prime Minister Ben Chifley and its own ambience. Inquiries Reg Halliburton 02 6297 1859

Photo of 2011 reunion with names:

Back Row (L – R): Di Wendler; Max Wykes; Lorraine Armstrong; Leon Brett; Robyn Brett; Nancy Booth; Isobel Wykes; Marguerite Davis; June Thompson; Bob Thompson; Colin Davis

Front Row (L – R): Bill Thompson; Reg Halliburton; Danny Mahar; Helen Cody; Bev Thompson; Gwen Blunden; Graham Blunden

BTC 56/57 55-year Reunion

A 55-year reunion is planned for Bathurst on Monday/Tuesday 19-20th November. Plans include

a welcome barbecue on Monday evening and a dinner on Tuesday evening. Expressions of interest are needed by mid-May.

Details from Danny Mahar 11 John St, Gwynneville 2500

ph: 4228 5260 email: danny.mahar@bigpond.com

Class of '67 – November in Bathurst .

For expressions of interest, please contact Val Woodward: vwoodwardbbps@yahoo.com.au or mobile no. 041 3456 410

50th Reunion 1964-65

Plans and organisation for a 50th reunion in 2014 of the 1964-65 BTC cohort are now under way. Tracking down as many collegians as possible is the primary task at this stage (so far over 100!). If you did attend BTC in the 1964-65 years, or know someone who did, the organisers of the planned reunion would love to hear from you. Please contact David Bales on (02) 4328-1638 or via email at sdbales@gmail.com.



REDEFINING “OLD AGE”

In the hour between the AGM business and the Guest Speaker **Wilf Ewens**, Robyn Wright [nee Allen] 1958-59 suggested inviting those present to mention a few of the activities which have kept them busy over the previous twelve months. In past years, we have discussed memories of our time at College and our first years of teaching. In fact, many of these have been printed in previous

editions of *Panorama*, and Royce Levi has written books and edited memories of early teaching experience. Almost every year from 1951 to 1969 was represented and some were still involved in teaching or associated activities both in NSW and overseas. Some like Robyn were involved in helping new arrivals including refugees to adjust to life in Australia, by learning English or improving their language skills.

Peter Connolly started the ball rolling for the Pioneers with mention of numerous activities which indicate he is still sharing his artistic and musical skills with those in his retirement village and the wider community. Although Helen Egan is retiring as President of the BTC Alumni, she will not be left with too many spare moments as she is well known for her organisation of creative writing competitions in the Mosman District schools, encouraging young achievers, finding judges and arranging awards, as well as fund raising for the Flying Doctor Service and supporting other worthy causes. Other Pioneers mentioned such a range of activities that it is impossible to mention all, but society has been enriched by the voluntary and part time jobs that people still do within their community as well as overseas. From each year, individuals told of engagement with the community in giving and receiving, from studying at the University of the Third Age as well as giving courses there.

Some of the valuable time was spent re-engaging with family: from caring for older relatives to enjoying exploring the world with grandchildren. As I read the Death Notices for the Radio for Print Handicapped – 2RPH – it is obvious that more people are reaching over 100 years than ever before; indeed the Queen must be kept quite busy sending congratulatory messages to those who have reached a century – not that even the BTC Alumni pioneers have achieved that yet.

Many of us support the Arts and sporting events in our areas as well as still participating at a more leisurely pace. The guest speaker represented the athletic pursuits encouraged at College and many still try to keep fit with a regime of exercise as well as still training teams or supporting in other ways, such as teaching swimming and water safety. Although none of us would challenge the times achieved by the young Olympians, many of us still put the skills learnt on the playing fields of Bathurst to good use. And Archie Millar would be proud to see that a number of us still gain great pleasure from theatrical productions. Although Rodney Wells might not be surprised to learn that a number are still involved in choral performances, he might be surprised that some, including Carole Goodwin play in recorder groups that make the instrument a delight to hear. So many and varied were the activities in which ex-BTC Alumni

participated, that we could have filled more than an hour.

After listening to over thirty people who left Bathurst Teachers' College more than forty three years ago, I feel convinced we are redefining old age and certainly seeing retirement age as the potential for a

new career. Not only the variety, but the range of activities show that the pedagogical skills learnt at Bathurst have continued to blossom in such a way that even L.J.Allen would have been impressed.



Dale shares her story at the AGM

DALE DENGATE.

“THE STORY OF THREE COLLEGES”

by Theo Barker

Free

to Alumni

Simply write your name and postal address and include \$10 for package and posting to Helen Egan, 8 Gladstone Ave Mosman 2088.

The book gives an interesting account of the Experiment Farm, Bathurst Teachers' College and Mitchell College of Advanced Education from 1895-1987 written by well-known historian and lecturer Theo Barker.

FROM CHALKBOARD TO INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD

“From the humble jelly pad and the whiff of the spirit duplicator, we can recall it all.” With these words Dale Dengate, former editor of *Panorama*, began her final report to an AGM, listing the many changes that have occurred during our teaching careers. When we began, “chalk and talk” was a

major part of our day. Now the chalk has been put away; the board has changed from black to green to white and teachers use a marker pen. Not only that, the whiteboard is interactive so that it can become an audio-visual teaching aid. It has a touch-sensitive screen that connects to the teacher's computer with a projector. How has this affected the way things are done in the classroom?

The Hype

According to the manufacturers, the interactive whiteboard provides a vast array of tools such as pens, highlighters, shape constructors, timers, screen shades and image capture devices. Alongside the tools available, many manufacturers provide teaching content as well as electronic classroom materials. The latter commonly consist of a range of backgrounds such as squared paper for use in mathematics or manuscript paper for use in music lessons, a wide range of educational clipart, interactive objects such as electronic protractors or stopwatches, educational games and multimedia samples. Commercial suppliers as well as schools, are at various stages of development with creating online user communities and groups allowing users to share and swap lesson materials they have created.

Report from Users

The Practising Teacher

"I really like mine and use it every day. I use the laptop to connect with my program of work activities which I have saved to my thumb drives. As long as you have the right software version the board works well and I would be lost without it for Cambridge Maths and Hot Math programs. In language you can link appropriate websites to your activities so that they become interactive and the children love it. We play Maths games and language games, we go to authors' websites and watch NASA video.

I connect my iPad 2 to the board and we watch iView programs, shows I have selected to enhance the curriculum."

The Pupil

"My teacher uses the IWB every day. We can watch programs like *Behind the News* on it, and it's really helpful for Interactive Maths. We can play games and watch movies on it in wet weather. It is used for displaying digital school projects. Special software can identify handwritten text and convert it to print or cursive. My teacher also uses it for demonstrating Web.2 tools such as widgets on a blog. We can even have song requests from YouTube for the class discos. Think of it as a giant touch-screen computer monitor."

Its Use In TAFE

The smart board is also utilised in Adult Education by our TAFE Colleges. Kay Summers, Head Teacher of Business Studies at Granville College, is most enthusiastic about the successful use of the smart board in her department.

She has found that the tool encourages collaborative learning and assists the teacher to create interactive lessons for adult learners, many of whom are from non-English speaking backgrounds. Her staff find it particularly useful for those students with limited writing skills but who respond well to physical activities. Using the smart board, the teacher can create activities that allow students to come to the front of the class to answer questions. Answers written on the smart board can be saved or emailed or sent by SMS to students. The smart board can also be used to show videos and as it has sound, provides another dimension to learning.

With around 65% of all Sydney South West TAFE students enrolled in Business Studies from a Non-English Speaking background, the smart board is being used to advantage in teaching basic writing skills. These students enjoy the interactive approach and are encouraged to overcome their inhibitions to writing. As well, since many TAFE classes are structured to run for two hours or more, the smart board offers welcome variety.

Conclusion

The days of the chalkboard are gone forever and so too is the use of all previous audio-visual aids: the strip film, slide and film projectors and the TV screen. The IWB, once mastered, will provide the classroom teacher with a whole new range of tools to help their students and give many opportunities for whole-class, group and collaborative learning.

Thanks to classroom teacher, Lyn Ellison, (Leonay PS); Primary School pupil, William Goodwin (Faulconbridge PS); and Alan Beggs (recently retired TAFE teacher) for assistance in compiling this report.

FEEDBACK ON PANORAMA 21

Dear Editor of *Panorama*,

I found a lot that was of interest to me in your recent *Panorama*. I enjoyed the article by Grahame Howard and his time at Moree East, as I had taught in the primary school at Moree. Jack McDonogh is well remembered as I struggled to weave a scarf. The scholarship winner came from Wellington, my home town. Well done Jaydam Tierney.

However best of all was seeing the students from 53/54 who meet in Sydney and keep in touch. Thank you, Eril Jeffries,
Sincerely,

MARION ILES (DUTTON)

The editors of Panorama welcome any contributions by Alumni. If you have a story to tell or want to plan a year reunion, just email Carole Goodwin: carole9999@virginbroadband.com.au



NEWS FROM

CSU'S NEW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

In January this year, Charles Sturt University's (CSU) Murray School of Education, based in Albury, and the School of Education in Wagga Wagga merged to form a new larger and expanded School of Education. The amalgamation of two schools within CSU's Faculty of Education will offer students in the Border and Riverina regions more options and strengthen the University's ability to meet the needs of education providers in regional Australia.

Real Teaching in an Island Paradise

Each year, early childhood and primary education students from CSU can spend up to three weeks in Vanuatu in the tropical Pacific Islands completing teaching experience in a truly multicultural setting.

Ms Sam Whitehouse, a student from the University's Faculty of Education was one of 13 CSU students and two staff who worked in three very different schools in and around Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu in November 2011.



"Education in Vanuatu is not compulsory. Students sit a national exam every year to decide whether or not they are allowed to continue. Schools are not funded by the government so parents must pay."

Her first experience was at the Port Vila Central School. "We were introduced to ni-Vanuatu culture and experienced teaching Island style when we commenced our practicum. The second and third weeks were contrasts in teaching styles and resources, starting at the Port Vila International

School, where students attended classes from pre-school to Year 10. Teaching in the international school was no different to teaching in a private school in NSW." Ms Whitehouse said.

This enhanced student learning teacher education project is one that the Faculty of Education is seeking to raise money for. If you are interested in donating, please contact the Advancement Unit; sfish@csu.edu.au or 02 6338 4267.

News from Alumni

The Advancement Unit continues to develop its campaign to encourage Alumni to register and build the accuracy of our records. Many of you have already registered online, however if you haven't, please do at www.csu.edu.au/alumni. While you are there, you can also log on to <http://www.facebook.com/charlessturtalumni?sk=photos> to view some BTCA photos included in the Alumni photo album, including those from the AGM 2012 and BTCA dinner.

Alumni Facebook Time Line

A recent update to Facebook has given us the unique opportunity of telling Charles Sturt University's story through major events in its history. The Advancement Unit and CSU Archives are calling for any photos of "Milestone Moments" (*i.e. Opening of facilities, major events, not social events*), from the BTC community to be included in the Alumni Facebook Time Line. You can view the way the time line is shaping up at facebook.com/charlessturtalumni and click on the years on the right hand side of the page. If you think you have any photos appropriate please forward these (VIA EMAIL ONLY), to icarroll@csu.edu.au with a subject line: ALUMNI FACEBOOK TIMELINE.

Share your Story

New developments on the website now allow you to share your career journey and we would love to hear from you. You may even get the opportunity for your story to be shared in the form of an Alumni Spotlight feature on the website. To share your story, visit the website and read a spotlight article or two by clicking on the main banner stories. After seeing the kind of content we are after go to the "Share your Story" web-form found at:

<http://alumni.csu.edu.au/about-csu-alumni/share-your-story> fill in the details. This exercise will capture your life experience so that it can be shared with CSU graduates of the future.

STACEY FISH

A LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP BEGINS AT BTC

A friendship which began in 1952 is alive and flourishing today with the women in the same position in both photos, taken 60 years apart.

Rear (standing) Left to Right Shirley Ford (Shirley Hayes) Beatrice Bathgate (Betty Black)

Front (seated) Left to Right Pat Wozencraft (Paddy Grady) Marlene O'Connor (Toddy Langford) Ellen Johnson (Nellie Sheehan)



In March this year, five alumni of BTC 1952-53 gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their arrival at Bathurst Teachers College. Ellen Johnson (Nellie Sheehan from Mudgee), Pat Wozencraft (Paddy Grady from Black Springs), Shirley Ford (Shirley Hayes from Mudgee), Beatrice Bathgate (Betty Black from Forbes) and Marlene O'Connor (Toddy Langford from Forbes) have maintained their close friendship since graduating from BTC.

Paddy's husband Bill and Betty's husband Bruce attended the March reunion. Sadly Shirley's husband, Harley "Tinny", a 1951/2 BTC graduate, Toddy's husband, Bren, a fellow 1952/3 alumnus and Nellie's husband, Kevin have died. Two very interested bystanders were Lou Ford (BTC 1951/2) and his wife Pauline who is Paddy's sister. Toddy's daughter, Siobhan, also attended and was very interested in witnessing the conviviality and hearing of the joy these girls experienced not only at BTC but also from their times in teaching.

At the March gathering at Paddy's home in Cronulla the girls thought that their continuing association and their past teaching experiences may be of some small interest to the readers of Panorama. They also wondered if other groups of alumni of the early years of BTC still gather regularly.

Nellie, Shirley, Betty and Toddy all shared the one room in their accommodation with Paddy a couple of rooms down the hall. So the bonding of the four began then and indeed was in part a continuation of earlier friendship with Betty and Toddy being in the same classes at Forbes Infants, Primary and High schools while Nellie and Shirley were together at Mudgee Convent.

Chatting to one another (and there is always much of that) at Paddy's in March the girls recalled their

first appointments. Common themes were large classes and pupils without shoes.

Shirley's first appointment was at Greystanes with a K-1 of 50 children, Betty's was at Bogan Gate on a K-1-2 with 45, Nellie at Villawood East on a kindergarten with 75, Tod at Bankstown with (wait for it) 90 and Paddy at Mount Victoria on a K-1-2 with 48. Talk about being thrown in at the deep end. Subsequent appointments included:

For Shirley: *Mudgee, Holbrook and Caringbah*

For Betty: *Forbes then London, Canada, North Narrabeen, Woollahra, Vaucluse and Double Bay.*

For Toddy: *Birrong, Sutherland, Jannali and Caringbah.*

For Nellie: *Dundas Valley, Ryde, Lindfield and 20 years of permanent casual work*

For Paddy: *Penrith, New Guinea, Millthorpe, Peakhurst, Padstow, Oberon and Principal at Hurlstone Park.*

So a wide variety of regions was well served by these BTC graduates.

Two of the girls married other teachers: Shirley & Harley and Tod & Bren. Nellie married a banker (CBA), Paddy a furniture businessman and Betty a pharmacist.

Romances flourished at the College and the heart beats faster and smiles appear when talk gets around to the tree-lined drive up to the College and to their respective partners at the Graduation Ball. They still remember the gowns they wore.

Many of their stories cannot be repeated for this journal – decency prevails and embarrassment

avoided. Such as the lectures and books on Sex and Propagation which widened their eyes and their knowledge and explained the birds and bees in such clear and explicit ways as never before to these naïve and innocent young girls. No, you don't get pregnant by sitting on the toilet!!

Discipline as dispensed by some Principals would not be tolerated today. The liberal use of the cane and rulers and embarrassing transgressors in front of the class was common to older teachers but anathema to these girls.

As young women, careers and commitments took them far afield but they always managed to keep

in touch, to meet up when they could and to attend the respective weddings. In later years they have all settled around Sydney; at Springwood, Double Bay, Mosman, Caringbah and Cronulla, so it became easier to arrange meetings.

This March get-together being the 60th anniversary of their arrival at BTC was but one of regular 3-4 monthly meetings they have had for many years and there is no sign of their great friendship, begun so many years ago, diminishing.

BRUCE BATHGATE

TRAVEL WITH ODYSSEY

Thinking of an overseas trip? As part of the Alumni member Benefit program the travel comp[any, *Odyssey* provides tours to CSU alumni as part of the member Benefit Program. If you are interested in further details, of their 2012 departures, you can you can email info@odysseytravel.com.au or call 1300 888 225

BTC Alumni Association Fund

As mentioned on page 4 of this magazine, in order to continue to publish *Panorama* and to carry on the other programs of the BTCAA we need members to assist financially and hope you will consider making a donation using the adjacent form.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE for all alumni:

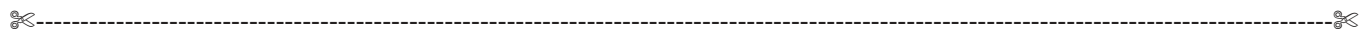
If you have not yet returned the form below to CSU we would ask you to do this as soon as possible. Please post to: The Alumni Office, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst 2795

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 contribution for 2011 is: \$ _____*

Please tick method of payment
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BTCAA Bank Account Details:
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I do/do not wish my contact details, at present retained by CSU, to be made available to the BTCAA Committee, if required, for distribution of *Panorama* and other notices.

Signed: _____

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