

# PANORAMA

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS  
OF BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE  
**CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY**  
ISSUE No. 27, SUMMER 2014



## THE PRESIDENT WRITES

Over the last six months or so there has been much written, debated and discussed in the various forms of media about the current state of education. Topics have included an oversupply of graduates in teaching, the excessive costs of HECS support, cuts to education funding, increasing costs of TAFE courses and shortcomings of the subject content of the national curriculum, to highlight a few.

Viewpoints on the individual areas tend to be greatly varied, usually along lines of political allegiances. Are they real problems? Are they the result of wider economic responsibility? Are they long term issues that have come full circle and are being revisited? Everyone seems to have a different perspective and this makes for stimulating discussions and general debate.

Greater awareness of issues and concerns has increased markedly with the arrival of the internet and social media and the access provided by these sources to the general populace. With so many views and perspectives, how do we get it right for the long term? It's a local, a regional, a national, a global debate. The ever-increasing and easy access to these views, issues and perspectives make decision-making incredibly hard. What exactly is the right mix for a great contemporary education system?

Recently I was privileged to attend an official unveiling of a memorabilia display at CSU on the Bathurst campus. This collection of 'artefacts' came from an era of teacher education stretching from the early 1950s to the late 1960s ... the era that saw the operation of Bathurst Teachers' College and the training of many skilled teachers who are mostly now retired. Many of the items on display reflect the individual sense of responsibility of teachers of the time. This is highlighted with examples of self-made teaching resources, the collections of background information for lesson notes and lesson content, the records of student achievements and copies of stencils and other written support material for students.

There was no internet (it only went public in 1989 and only really went mainstream in the late

1990s), no Google Search (public in 2004), no YouTube (2005) and no social media (Facebook, Twitter etc). Computers were in their infancy. Remember the Microbees, the Commodore 64, the Ataris and early Apples in schools in the mid 1980s? There were no electronic whiteboards, no smartboards, no laptops, no tablets. It was a truly different era of information accessibility and dissemination.

Yet teachers were very successful in educating all ability levels of students. They worked within a rigid curriculum outline (remember the famous 'blue bible'?), there were prescribed timings for various subject areas, there were inspections and assessments of teachers for progression through the system (remember the 'lists'?) and there were developing opportunities to provide new programs outside the curriculum guidelines.

These teachers still faced or raised issues such as a need for an updated curriculum content; they sought better funding for extra programs and student support and they sought ongoing training programs and workshops to upgrade teacher skills. They wanted the best possible education for their students. These wants are not really much different to those expressed by the teachers and education bodies of today.

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They seem to be essentially the same at the core but the degree of intensity provided by the 'information explosion' of recent times, the massively greater access to and awareness of issues and concerns through the internet and social media sources is significantly different and in many ways much more demanding. For what kind of future world do we plan the outcomes of today's schooling? We do indeed know more about schooling, teaching and education now than we ever did. The question lingers though. Was it better then or is it better now? Whatever, it is certain that the environment in which education occurs is constantly changing and becoming more unpredictable.

Let this great debate continue. We all want the best possible education system for this generation and there are a multitude of avenues to explore along this journey.

WAYNE BENSLEY  
PRESIDENT  
[wrbensley@hotmail.com](mailto:wrbensley@hotmail.com)

### THANKS FROM THE 2014 BTCAA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

*In the winter edition of "Panorama" the Scholarship winner was announced and Lanae Robinson, who is in her first year of an Animal Science course at the Wagga campus of CSU now extends her thanks.*

Thank you so very much for awarding me the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni Scholarship in 2014. This scholarship has greatly assisted me as it has enabled me to study with less financial stress and helped me pay off part of my HECS debt. It has also helped me to settle into University and to focus more on my studies which I believe is reflected in the marks I have attained for both first and second semester.

During the first semester I received three credits (Animal Behaviour and Welfare, Biology, Chemistry) and a distinction (Introduction to Animal Science). In the second semester I received two credits (Genetics, Anatomy and

Physiology), a distinction (Microbiology) and a high distinction (Statistics).

Again thank you very much for this opportunity.

Kind regards,  
LANAE ROBINSON

### APPLYING FOR A BTCAA SCHOLARSHIP

The BTCA Scholarship for 2015 is advertised to CSU students through the CSU web site [www.csu.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.csu.edu.au/scholarships). The primary criteria for the BTCA scholarship is that the student be a descendant of a BTC graduate studying in any year (preference first year), in a course within the Faculty of Education. This scholarship is a great assistance to a student paying escalating study and living expenses and helps them to achieve their education goals. However, as you can see by the course Lenae is undertaking, the criteria have been widened to include students who are descendants of BTC graduates studying in other courses. If you are aware of a descendant of a BTC graduate who is considering enrolling in a course at CSU in 2015 or who is an existing student, please encourage them to apply through the CSU web site.

### REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR EMAIL WITH CSU

For Alumni who have received this edition as a print version, please make sure your email is up to date with CSU by registering online at [www.csu.edu.au/alumni](http://www.csu.edu.au/alumni). This enables you to receive Alumni news that becomes current in between issues, such as the date for the Official Opening of the BTC Memorabilia Display, in October this year. Remember that CSU's Free Member Benefit Programme is available to you.

### ARE YOU A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF THE BTCAA ?

The annual subscription of \$25 to the BTCAA for 2015 is due in the new year. As well as including 2 print copies of the magazine, the funds contribute to the running of our association. Please use the form on page 11 to give your financial support.

### NEWS FROM THE TREASURER. PANORAMA NOVEMBER 2014

The response to our appeal for your support to produce *Panorama* and to cover the ongoing operation of BTCAA, has been satisfying, so much so that we have been able to confidently produce two issues of *Panorama* for 2014. You will see from the information below that very few of the "younger" graduates have responded to our appeal. This is disappointing. The long serving faithful Pioneers and graduates of the early years of BTC have responded generously as usual. In this electronic age many alumni like to receive information from the net but there is nothing like a good hard copy to come back to at one's leisure, so consider subscribing. There are several people who have elected to receive *Panorama* by mail and of course many who wish to receive the publication by electronic media. As with previous editions, an email

advising of the availability of *Panorama* will be sent to all alumni who have provided their email address to me. If you know a fellow alumnus who is interested in being included on our data base please encourage that person to contact me. [gailfmetcalfe@bigpond.com](mailto:gailfmetcalfe@bigpond.com).

### Let's keep the memory of BTC alive and thriving.

The number of responses from January 2014 to November 2014 from each graduating year is:

51/52	24	52/53	12	53/54	16	54/55	26	55/56	1
56/57	1	57/58	1	58/59	9	59/60	9	60/61	16
61/62	3	62/63	3	63/64	1	64/65	5	65/66	1
66/67	1	67/68	2						

GAIL METCALFE, TREASURER

## STOP PRESS

### OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE 2015 AGM IS PETER WILKINSON

Peter is recognised as having been one of Australia's most respected news journalists after over 30 years working on a variety of programs including the ABC's *This Day Tonight* and *Four Corners*, and then Channel 9's *A Current Affair* and *60 Minutes*.

Since then he has co-founded the Wilkinson Group with Claire Wilkinson after observing the early signs of the disruptive impact of the Internet on television.

This agency specialises in crisis and recovery, leadership support, change management and disruptive innovation. This has been particularly linked to the rapid change created by the social/digital revolution. He has also been involved more recently in a company set up by the University of New England to manage the disruptive changes from MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses).

Peter will no doubt be able to provide realistic and fascinating insights into some of the challenges facing educators and politicians in today's world and bring a unique outside perspective to us all.

*To ensure your place at this exciting event, turn to page 10 for the application form.*

opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the event. Col Sharp (Head of Campus) spoke about the importance of the connections between BTC and Charles Sturt University. Col made the point that teacher education has a proud tradition in Bathurst through the Bathurst Teachers' College, the Mitchell College of Advanced Education, and now Charles Sturt University. Professor Toni Downes, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, officially launched the cabinet. Professor Downes asked Helen Egan to join her in untying a ribbon to mark the launch. Wayne Bensley (BTCAA President) ended proceedings with a response on behalf of the Alumni. Wayne thanked CSU for building the connections with BTC Alumni.

Jane Mitchell and Wayne Bensley have coordinated the collection of BTC memorabilia for the cabinet. Since the call went out for memorabilia Jane and Wayne have been contacted by a number of Alumni who have had items from BTC days stored in cupboards, garages and suitcases. Some of the items that have been donated include: all exam papers from 1952 and 1953; handmade teaching resources (including reading dominoes and maths dominoes); craft books, art books, BTC choral recordings, BTC blazer, handmade BTC scarf, program notes for drama productions, sewing samples, observation notes from demonstration lessons, teaching programs, and a 1964 newspaper article reporting on the BTC graduation and an address by L.J. Allen.

All items donated are recorded and carefully stored either in the cabinet or in a cupboard that is part of the cabinet. The record of items donated will also be sent to CSU archives.

If you have any BTC items that you would like to donate to the display please contact Jane Mitchell who works in the School of Teacher Education. Jane's contact details are: phone 02 6338 4807; Email: [jmitchell@csu.edu.au](mailto:jmitchell@csu.edu.au)

If you are in Bathurst, or visiting Bathurst, and would like to see the cabinet, please contact Jane and she would be happy to meet you and show you the display of BTC memorabilia.

### BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE MEMORABILIA CABINET

A Memorabilia Cabinet has been established to honour the work of staff and students of the Bathurst Teachers' College. The cabinet provides a permanent record of teacher education in the 1950s and 1960s in Bathurst. The cabinet is located in the foyer of the Heffron Building at Charles Sturt University.

An official 'launch' of the cabinet took place on Thursday 23 October 2014. The launch was attended by 15 BTC Alumni and a number of CSU staff. Jane Mitchell (School of Teacher Education)





Above: Helen Egan, former President of the BTCAA assists Professor Toni Downes, Dean of the Faculty of Education untie the ribbon after the official 'launch' of the Memorabilia Cabinet in the Heffron Building of the CSU campus.

Below: President Wayne Bensley responds, watched on by Associate Professor, Jane Mitchell, whose energy and drive initiated the project.



Many alumni would have recently read in the press of an oversupply of teaching graduates in NSW. Is this true? The following article first appeared in the CSUNews and is reprinted here with permission.

## NSW teaching graduates: oversupply or maldistribution?

Research by a Charles Sturt University (CSU) PhD student suggests NSW has a maldistribution of teachers, not an oversupply.

Mr James Deehan, PhD candidate and primary science lecturer at the CSU [School of Teacher Education](#) in Bathurst, said the use of 'oversupply' is unhelpful when intended to simplify what is an incredibly complex issue in NSW education.

"The current debate appears to wrongly categorise an abundance of qualified teachers on the NSW [Department of Education and Communities](#) (DEC) Employment List as an 'oversupply'," he said.

"But there are two important elements that become apparent when the information is analysed; firstly, the demand for and supply of available teachers is uneven across the regions of NSW. The employment list could be said to reflect a 'beach' over 'bush' location preference by teachers that is not aligned to the need for teachers in the regions of 'Isolated NSW' and 'Inland NSW.'

"The second point is that both the projected retirement of teachers of the 'baby boomer' generation and of population growth are likely to lead to more available teaching jobs.

"Inland NSW, which has 11 per cent of the total teacher workforce, has nearly double the permanent teaching workforce of Isolated NSW (6 per cent).

"Yet, Isolated NSW has a casual employment list with 4,000 additional teachers and is experiencing a growth rate in supply of teachers ten times higher than Inland NSW. In the last two years, the casual list for Inland NSW has grown by only 217."

Mr Deehan says the 'oversupply' of teachers in NSW will not continue to exist in perpetuity.

"Even if the baby boomers remain employed as teachers for longer, the retirement of this generation is an unavoidable reality," he said. "Thus, retirement and population growth will contribute to an increased availability of permanent teaching jobs. The uneven distribution of the casual teaching workforce means that areas such as Inland NSW continue to have high demand for teachers despite the larger trends to the contrary."

Mr Deehan suggests that this means that course structure and student intake of tertiary institutions need to be informed by local contexts.

"Perhaps the conversation should shift to the distribution and dispersal of teachers across the state," he said.

"Inland NSW universities like Charles Sturt University have a critical role to play in addressing imbalances to the teaching population.

"The issues of 'oversupply or undersupply' and 'correct and incorrect' are not important here. We must strive to address the problems with teacher employment through deep consideration



and thoughtful adjustments at the tertiary level, rather than risking the unforeseen damage – such as a future shortage of teachers - that can result from blanket solutions."

Mr Deehan has recently presented his analysis, '[Teachers Galore? A brief analysis of the 'oversupply](#)

[of teachers' in NSW'](#) on [The National Forum](#) website's [Online Opinion](#).

## CATCHING UP IN 2014 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

On the weekend of 14th–16th February 2014, sixty-five ex-students from the Bathurst Teachers College graduation class of 1964 gathered at Bathurst for their sixth and final reunion, the fiftieth. The weekend commenced with an informal get-together at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Bathurst, fondly remembered by the male cohort. Unfortunately women students in those days were forbidden to enter licensed premises. Students had come from interstate and from as far as the USA. For many it was their first reunion

and they managed to make contact once again with friends from our youth. Most of us were only seventeen when we commenced College and nineteen when we graduated as teachers.

Saturday saw many join the campus tour, a very different one to the one we attended in 63-64. In the evening we had our official dinner in the James Hardie room at the Professional Development Centre and to say it was enjoyed by all would be an understatement. As you'll see from the happy faces we all had a wonderful time enhanced by memories from Owen Bruce, our speaker and one of the ex-students. This was followed up by trivia prepared and delivered by Ainsworth McDonald. Of course the trivia related to experiences from our two years spent at college, quite amazing really that many people still remembered incidents from so far back.

We have all enjoyed and appreciated our relationship with Bathurst Teachers College, Mitchell College of Advanced Education and the current Charles Sturt University. Even though our big reunions are over we will continue with our annual get-togethers the first Saturday in February at the Kirribilli club in Sydney.

MARY LAWSON (NEE WHITNALL)



**STANDING:** Gloria Maybury, Kay Trippett, Ian Tink, Diane Jones, Sue Andrews, Cecily Muldoon, Jenny Tuckett, Vince Coyte, Keith Roberts, Gwenda Norrie, Carole Urch, Peter Geldart, Tom Partridge, Heather Martin, Phil Hartin, Margaret Bale, Robyn De Coque, Margo Van't Spyken, Kevin Flynn, Lorraine Starr, Graham Dash, Ken Hogan, Lauren Treanor, Roseanne Steggles, Anne Grey, Joy Thompson, John Murphy, Peter Bethell, Glenyce Coates, Maureen Byrne, Colin Muir, Jim White, Jenny Caro, Ainsworth McDonald, Heather Jarvis, Leonie Fisk, Oliver Fiala, Gael O'Shannessy

**SEATED:** Diane Huddleston, Mary Whitnall, Carol Cannon, Jenny Moffitt, Chris Warrell, Heather Pringle, Wendy Burton, Iringo Sumegi, Sue Capon, Mary Shanahan, Marie Carey, Kathryn Devine, Lyn Tyack, Louise Sweeney

**FRONT:** Ken Salter, Owen Bruce, Robyn Black, John Hetherington, Denis Fardy, Noel Stonham, Rick Riddle, Jim Huckerby, Bernie Power



## THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING LAKE

Solutions to the mystery of the frequently disappearing Lake George, near Bungendore, were very few and far between on Wednesday 30th July 2014 when members of BTCAA (Southern) held their annual get-together lunch at the Lake George Hotel in Bungendore. One suggestion was that someone had pulled the plug the same way someone had pulled the plug making the hole in Joe Hockey's budget. You may have heard said Treasurer labelled the nearby wind turbines as "utterly offensive" and "a blight on the landscape". Local members suggested he stay at home or travel by plane rather than by road, to avoid the sight. Another suggested the methane gas from nearby cattle increased the evaporation rate or again, that it drained into an unknown lake in China. No other plausible explanations were offered. So the mystery remains but there was no mystery about the gathering of alumni members.

Being our tenth anniversary celebration decorations included a photo display of all previous get-togethers, from 2004 Gundaroo to 2013 Bomaderry, from the coast to the tablelands. Cutting the appropriately decorated anniversary cake was performed by Helen Cody and Tony Corp, both 60/61, as the most recent graduates from College.

Other party goers were: Judy Corp 60/1, Julie Worldon 56/7, George 56/7 and Betty 57/8 Windsor, Leon and Robyn Brett 56/7, Isobel Wykes 56/7, Danny Mahar 56/7, Gordon 56/7 and Dianne Stewart, Dia 56/7 and Wolf Wendler, Tony Hepworth 56/7, Clare Cavenagh (Peard) 53/4, Enid Rose 53/4, Michael 57/8 and Kitty Wood, Scott and Helen Chadwick both 57/8, Reg 52/3 and Jan Halliburton. Clare, the Chadwicks and the Woods were welcomed as new members to our southern get-togethers. Seven apologies were received and we were saddened to hear of the death of Nancy Booth (Carr 56/7) from cancer.

A strange wooden object was offered as a prize in a guessing competition, the competition being to guess what the object was or for what to use it. Brains were racked – an ash tray for cigarettes in long holders or on the back of a motorbike, a draining board for asparagus, a cutting board for a French loaf provided you spoke French? Enid Rose thought that whatever it was it would make a wonderful gift. So guess who won the prize?

Following George Windsor's talk on his passion for the performing arts in the Shoalhaven area last year Tony Hepworth talked of his passion

for helping to save the orang-utans of Borneo. Having watched a number of programmes on the endangered orang-utans he decided to do something rather than just think about it. Retirement presented the ideal opportunity to make his move so off he went to the sanctuary near Sandakan, Borneo. After several trips abroad he has become a devoted enthusiast for their preservation and frequently helps out at the sanctuary. From the slides he presented and the talk he gave, especially of the animals' personalities, we discovered his passion for these creatures. His presentation inspired much sympathy for the orang-utans from his audience. He will be off again in the next twelve months.

Next year's gathering will be lunch at the Narooma Golf Club on a headland opposite the NPS on Wednesday 29th July 2015, as usual, the last Wednesday of July. Julie Worldon and Bill Thompson will be the organizers of this event. Bill's contact: billnjune@shoalhaven.net.au phone 4421 4780; Julie: phone 0488 536 360 Kianga (Narooma); otherwise Reg Halliburton, jan.reg@bigpond.net.au phone 6297 1859.



## STILL MEETING AT EPPING

The Bathurst Teachers College cohort of 1957 - 8 met at the Epping Club on 18 November 2014. As usual, it was on the third Tuesday of November. It was a lovely sunny day, but a smaller

than usual group showed up – about 18 old timers who have been meeting like this for many years, virtually without any organisation because it has been set up to run at the same time and place each year. We heard that some of our number were not present because of illness which is to be expected at our stage of life. We're mostly in our seventies. The following is a list of those who attended: Margaret Hogan, Alan Russell, Peter and Margery Foss, Hal Wood, Bernie Stapleton, Sally Audet, Warren Fairfax, Ruth Gerzabek, Peter O'Connor, Barbara Balekna, Gundel Cremer, Margaret Hudson, John McNeil, Ross Wickham, Peter McKeowen, Geoff Brownlow and Brian.

I'm sorry if I've left anyone out.

Ruth impressed us by pulling out a folder full of memorabilia from college life which we looked at with glee. Ross also handed around some pictures of his much treasured grandchildren. We hope to meet again next year to reminisce and catch up with family news and hear a few more jokes to keep our hearts light and boost our spirits.

*Enjoying the annual get-together*



Top: L - R Sally Audet, Warren Fairfax, Ruth Gerzabek,  
Rear - Peter O'Connor



Bottom: L – Hal Wood and R – contributor BERNIE STAPLETON

## **EARLY REUNIONS FOR 2015**

### **REUNION BTC PIONEERS 51-52**

### **64th Anniversary Reunion in Canberra**

### **11/12/13 March 2015**

Ralph (9743 4117) Julia (9858 1816)

## **50 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 65/66**

The Class of 65/66 is celebrating 50 years since they commenced their teacher training at BTC. The celebrations will be held in Bathurst on 27/28 Feb and 1st March 2015. Please register your attendance by contacting Greg Woods by email at [woods.greg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:woods.greg@yahoo.com.au) or mobile 0409 457 523 by 30th January 2015.

Partners invited.

Planned for the same weekend in Bathurst but on a much smaller scale is:

## **REUNION OF GRADUATES OF BTC**

### **'58, '59, '60**

### **from**

**Friday 27th February to Sunday 1st March**

**YOUR CHANCE FOR A PERSONAL TOUR OF THE  
MEMORIAL CABINET AND ALLEN HOUSE WITH  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JANE MITCHELL**

## **Organise your friends to join you in Bathurst**

Contact one of the following for further details  
Denise Cramsie: [dlcramsie@netspace.net.au](mailto:dlcramsie@netspace.net.au)  
Roseann Dale Dengate: [r\\_dengate@ozemail.com.au](mailto:r_dengate@ozemail.com.au)  
Carole Goodwin Mob. 0428 895 895

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **NEIL von SCHILL, 1947-2014**

Neil Von Schill was born in Dubbo in 1947, the son of Carl and Jean Von Schill. Carl was a Dubbo identity and an Australian serviceman who spent three years as a Japanese prisoner of war.

When Neil was three he contracted polio which left him with a wasted left leg requiring callipers. It was a disease that was to return to have a major impact on his adult life.

Neil, Von to all his mates, attended Bathurst Teachers College from 1965 to 1966. He was a popular and well respected student. Von immersed himself fully in college life and was a valued member of the Photography Club. Despite

his disability Von had an active sporting career and was an enthusiastic member of the college hockey team, participating in local competitions and intercollegiates.

On graduating, Von was appointed to Nyngan Intermediate High School as a classroom teacher. In 1970 he moved to Corinella Public School as Teacher in Charge. After completing a degree at UNE by external study, Von's next appointment was as Assistant Principal at Hay Primary School. Von claimed that on this appointment he became the state's first male Infants Mistress. This claim has not yet been successfully challenged! While in Hay, Von married Gail Clifton and adopted her daughter Beverly.

From Hay, Von moved to become Assistant Principal at Broken Hill North Primary. Broken Hill in these years had a large population of young teachers and a strong social and sporting life. Von very much enjoyed these years and was active in the Teachers' Federation.

In 1985 he moved to Culcairn Public School as principal and remained here until he retired in 1995 when his polio returned. So cruelly, having survived polio in his early years and triumphed over it in many ways, he yet again had to battle its impact later in life.

Neil became very active in helping his fellow polio sufferers and played significant roles with Polio NSW and the Physical Disability Council of NSW. He was also instrumental in national conferences and lobbying. His tremendous efforts were recognised when he was elected as a Life Member of Polio NSW

Unfortunately, in December 2011 Von suffered a series of debilitating strokes that involved many months in hospital and long hours of rehabilitation. He suffered additional setbacks that eventually confined him to hospital. He was always delighted when mates from Bathurst rang or called in to see him. Despite his deteriorating health he was always cheerful and looked to the future. Neil Von Schill passed away in Albury on 16th May 2014. He is survived by his wife Gail, daughter Beverly and siblings Graham, Christine and Diane and their families

CONTRIBUTED BY PAUL DICKENSON, STEPHEN FORD, TED CAMPBELL, GREG WOODS AND MALCOLM BROWN

### **Brian Michael GAFFNEY**

**BTC 1954-55**

Family, friends, colleagues, and former students of Brian Michael Gaffney gathered at Alstonville Catholic Church on Thursday 11 June in a celebration of his life. They acknowledged his many contributions to both his profession and more generally to the communities in which he had lived. Surrounded by his wife, Ann, and family

Brian had passed away peacefully at his home in Alstonville after a relatively short illness.

Born in rural NSW, Brian was ever a 'country boy.' He, his brother, and three sisters spent their early years on the family's property in the Mudgee/Rylestone district and his primary schooling was at small schools in the same area. His secondary schooling was completed at St Joseph's College, Sydney where he enjoyed a distinguished sporting career captaining both the 1st Rugby XV and the athletics teams. He completed his Leaving Certificate in 1953 and subsequently enrolled at BTC.

Following his graduation from BTC in 1955 his first appointment was to Three Peaks – a now closed, small, rural school in Western NSW. This was the start of a remarkable professional teaching career spanning more than three decades. Brian taught in NSW and Canada in situations ranging from rural one-teacher schools to city OA classrooms. He was appointed to a lecturing position at Wollongong Teachers' College. In 1975, while still lecturing at Wollongong, Brian completed his M.Ed. at Sydney University. He finished his teaching career at Southern Cross University.

In 1984 Brian, along with his family, moved to Alstonville where he and Ann established a palm nursery. Their hard work saw their 'tree change' develop into a successful operation, however, despite this success, Brian was soon back guiding and encouraging students in Southern Cross University's Learning Support Centre. Throughout his career he was a staunch advocate of student focussed teaching and learning and encouraged students to develop fully their talents and skills. He devoted his own considerable skills and energies to ensuring those under his charge received the very best he could offer. Brian will be remembered by those who knew him well for his friendship, his generosity, his humour, his insight, his 'inability to bear fools gladly,' his principles and his steadfastness in adhering to them. He was a man who not only "talked the talk", he also "walked the walk."

Among those who attended the Service celebrating his life and the impact he had on so many students over the years were a number of those he had taught as primary students from the 1960s and 1970s. They had travelled considerable distances to pay their respects to Brian. As I reflected on how very special this was I realised that I will remember him not only because he was my good friend, but also because he was what the great majority of teachers aspire to but not all achieve, that most special of all teachers, ... one who made a difference.

Rest in Peace Brian.

KEN STAFFORD  
BTC 1954-55



### Vale: DAVID PAIN

I met David Pain in the early 80's when we taught together at Kareela Primary School in the Sutherland Shire.

David and I were both serving Deputies sharing an office and I witnessed firsthand the enormous rapport he had with children, staff and parents, his excellent organisational skills and his total commitment to quality education.

Over the years our families have remained close friends and it is with great sadness that I learnt of his sudden death.

My deep sympathy goes to Helen, Elissa and Andrew and their immediate and extended families.

CAROLE SHARP (ROTH) 60-61

### KEEPING ON LEARNING WITH THE U<sub>3</sub>A

With the end of full-time employment, many Alumni have found the opportunity to pursue other learning opportunities with the University of the Third Age, studying subjects as varied as Astronomy, Philosophy, Mah Jong and Spanish Conversation. Others have used their skills to become the tutors, sharing the knowledge gained through their own careers to teach others.

The first University of the Third Age was founded in Toulouse, France in 1972 to improve the quality of life for older people by bringing them into contact with academic programs run by the university. The idea spread rapidly in France, with many universities either absorbing older people into existing academic programs or setting up courses especially for the third age. The success of the French experience has led to the rapid spread of U3As to many other countries, particularly in continental Europe. An international association of U3A was established by 1975. It now has about 100 member organisations.

In July 1981, the U3A concept was introduced to Britain through a group based at Cambridge University. In contrast to the French practice, the British U3As quickly evolved away from the model based on the pre-packaged courses provided by the universities. Instead they adopted the idea of a self-help or mutual aid university – a kind of intellectual democracy in which there would be no distinction between teachers and the taught. There would be only members of U3A who would be encouraged to participate, either by teaching, learning or assisting with the planning and administration. This self-help approach reduces the need for dependence on outside resources.

The broad acceptance of the term "University" harks back to the original concept of a "community of scholars" in the medieval sense. In this environment, learning is an end in itself.

Individuals learn what they like, at a pace they prefer. No qualifications are required to enter, neither are any qualifications awarded. In the later part of 1984 the first Australian U3As were established. U3As are voluntary self-help organisations. They tap a great reservoir of knowledge, skills and experience which is often undervalued and overlooked. All the teaching, planning and administration of a U3A is carried out by its members. Thus there is no need to rely on the establishment (or the initiation) of some education institution before U3As can be set up. This distinguishes U3As from the traditional approaches to the educational provisions in our society, although in some instances, help has been given in their launching.

Each U3A is autonomous. Classes are planned jointly by the tutors and students in response to members' interests. A tutor in one class is likely to become a student in another. The backgrounds of tutors vary greatly but all enjoy sharing with others interests which they pursued for many years. Sometimes a group may invite a visitor speaker or activity leader, but all such contributions, like those of the U3A members themselves, are voluntary. Areas of study are negotiated to meet the needs of the learning groups. A course may be short or long, depending on the requirements of the subject and the interests of the group. Groups may be of any size according to needs. Teaching may be done by one individual or a team. Styles vary – highly participatory to conventional lecture techniques. U3A policy is to engage the help of as many members as possible to establish and keep operating the various areas of administration which are needed. Annual membership subscriptions are kept as low as possible.

As an example of commitment to the ideals,

Freda Whitlam, sister of our former Prime Minister, and already into her nineties, reluctantly decided at the beginning of 2014 that she could no longer take her Latin class in the Nepean - Blue Mountains branch of the U3A. Pictured here are two members of a 2013 trip to SW France, the place



where it all began, by a U3A group from the Sapphire Coast in southern NSW. The French on the sign reads: *Club du 3ème âge*.

# FRIENDSHIP

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones

## LUNCH

Saturday 21 February 2015

*The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel*

169 - 171 Castlereagh St, Sydney  
(between Park and Market Sts – closer to Park St)

11am – 3pm

Brief AGM prior to lunch

Peter Wilkinson – much respected former journalist and  
co-founder of the Wilkinson Group

\$55 p.p.

Please send payment with the slip below to:

*Mrs Gail Metcalfe (Treasurer), 14 Banksia Park Rd, Katoomba 2780*

*To arrive by: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015*

I enclose payment of \$55pp for \_\_\_\_\_ person/s to attend the BTCAA Lunch on Saturday 21 February 2015.

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 and year when depositing directly to the BTCAA Bank Account

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ BTC Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I require a receipt Yes / No (Please circle) Include stamped addressed envelope if receipt required.

Please advise of any dietary requirements.

