

PANORAMA



A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE (1951-69)

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

Issue No. 45 SUMMER 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Panorama Readers,

Welcome to our final issue of "Panorama" for 2023.

It is hard to believe that it is twelve months since our highly successful BTCAA Reunion in Bathurst last November 2022.

Starting the year we had our AGM at the beautiful Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in March which was a face-to-face meeting and this was followed by two online Zoom Committee Meetings in April and September.

At our next AGM, to be held on Friday, March 8, 2024 (again at The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel) we plan to discuss our meeting formats for the year; online Zoom Meetings or a combination of both. This short, annual report (compulsory) meeting will be followed by lunch and a guest speaker afterwards. Further details about the luncheon are included further on in "Panorama". We do hope you are able to join us.

This year two Social Events were held, with lunches at Watsons Bay and Mosman, including ferry trips for many of us. We would love you to join us on any of our Social Outings. Please contact me if you would like to be sent an invitation to any future events.

Our Scholarship Fund is steadily moving towards our goal of \$84,000 which will enable us to make our Scholarship a perpetual one and also allow the annual value of our Scholarship to increase from \$3000 to \$5000. Thank you to all the generous Alumni who are making this possible.

Panorama is our lifeline to you. If you have any articles you would like published we would love to receive them. Memories of College days, our Reunion last year or any other stories or articles of interest.



Once again many thanks to our Editor Wayne Bensley for the excellent job he does compiling "Panorama" for us.

I would also like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and support this year. I hope you enjoy our magazine and we look forward to hearing from you, hopefully joining us at our AGM and/or Luncheon and possibly becoming a member of our Committee. It is very rewarding and a lot of fun.

I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy New Year.

--- Carole Sharp (President)

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2024 BTCAA AGM and LUNCHEON

For 2024 both of these events will be held on Friday 8th March at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in Castlereagh Street Sydney (usual place).

The annual BTCAA Luncheon usually follows on after the AGM. The AGM starts at 11.00am and goes for about an hour.

The Luncheon will start at 12.30pm with arrival from 12.15pm. The Guest speaker at this Luncheon will be Dale Dengate (BTC 1958-59). She will be giving a presentation with her esteemed colleague Dr Kerith Power about "Singing in Traditional Folk Style". A long term interest in singing folk songs, performing at folk festivals led to a project to put together a collection

of songs that women had written about their experiences of life from the 1970's through to the 1990's. This in turn led to the production of a songbook (50 women involved). It is an on-line archive, that was launched at a concert specially produced to launch the songbook.

Dale and Kerith will perform a sample of folksongs from our schooldays (found in school magazines).

It promises to be a very entertaining session so will be well worth attending.

(See details about this Luncheon on Page 4)

EDITOR'S COMMENT

This edition of 'Panorama' might possibly be the last ever printed-mailed-out edition.

The cost of printing and mailing it out has in the past has largely been covered by Membership subscriptions (\$25 per annum) and fundraising activities (no longer happening). However, both of these have fallen off dramatically over the last few years and we find that keeping it going in a mailed-out-professionally-printed-edition is now becoming unsustainable. We no longer have a sufficiently large fund to cover the costs.

The magazine will still be produced and **emailed** out to those who have provided their email addresses (as happens now). A copy will also still be posted on the **CSU website** and can be accessed there (as can previous copies from the archives there). SEE LINK BELOW. (Try it out !)

Both these ways of seeing the magazine are read-only, but can be readily made into hard copy by printing the edition on your own home printer (if you have access to one).

This decision will be reviewed at the AGM in March. If there are more member subscriptions (\$25/year see the donations page 7) it may be viable to do another copy, but it would appear to be an optimistic hope.

Details about accessing the magazine in one of the other two ways (email or website) can be seen in another box later in this magazine.

NOTE TO READERS OF MAILED EDITION:

"Panorama" Edition #45 - second for this year - can also be accessed by going online to (Google Search) -- www.alumni.csu.edu.au/publications and then click on the Publications box and then BTCAA Panorama Newsletters.

This website edition is also the email edition. Both show all the black and white pictures of the mailed-out edition in full, natural colour... with an extra page as no address page is needed.



Bathurst Teachers' College Scholarship: Impact Beyond Measure

Since the BTCAA Scholarship Fund was established in 2005, fundraising by the BTCAA has resulted in a corpus fund in the Foundation Trust which has dispersed 15 scholarships to Charles Sturt University students, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of the recipients, their families, the teaching community, and their students.

The BTCAA Scholarship gives students, regardless of personal circumstance, the opportunity to reach their full potential and alleviates some of the barriers to higher education.

The following short stories demonstrate the impact your BTCAA Scholarship has had on some of your recipients:

Emma Davis, a 2008 recipient, expresses her gratitude for the scholarship that helped her overcome the challenges of studying far from home. She now imparts knowledge as a Primary Teacher at St Joseph's Primary School in South Grafton, continuing the legacy of her grandmother, a BTC alumni.

Lara Lambkin, a 2013 recipient, embarked on a career in teaching after years of experience, armed with a psychology degree, thanks to the scholarship. Her dedication and passion as a Mathematics Teacher at Pittwater High School reflect the impact of this support. Lara's mother, Gloria Enfield (Moritz), was at BTC in 1960/61.

Georgia Westcott, a 2016 recipient, acknowledges the financial kickstart that eased her transition into teaching. She now serves as an Assistant Principal at Peak Hill Central School and pays tribute to her grandmother, Coral Barber, BTC legacy.

Iain Wood, a 2020 recipient and a divorced father of three, highlights the profound difference the scholarship made in his journey to become a teacher. His commitment, as a current third-year student, is a testament to the invaluable assistance provided by the scholarship. Iain's father, also a BTC graduate, instilled a love for teaching that continues to inspire the family.

(See website version for Pics of these great people).

The Bathurst Teachers College Alumni Scholarships have not only shaped the lives of these individuals but have also enriched the teaching profession. These, and other, recipients are carrying forward the tradition of excellence, and their heartfelt appreciation resonates with the enduring impact of this generous support.

BTCAA SCHOLARSHIP ... update

Last year (2022) at the annual AGM one of the key decisions was to continue the BTCAA Scholarship support but also to try and boost the Scholarship Fund to allow for increases in the actual scholarship value and to make the scholarship self funding (from investment return from the CSU held Scholarship Fund on our behalf).

To this end it was decided by the BTCAA Committee at the 2023 AGM to make a donation to the Fund from our general operating account whilst allowing the 'Panorama' funding to continue. This donation was for \$5000. We have received a CSU receipt and a Letter of Thanks from the CEO of the CSU Foundation trust, Sarah Ansell for our "life-impacting gift". (March 2023)

Our fundraising appeal with a goal of \$84,000 was launched in 2021 to mark the 70-year anniversary of the first intake of BTC students. Reaching this new goal and benchmark will allow the BTCAA Scholarship to increase in value from the current annual award of \$3,000 to \$5,000 and provide greater assistance to students with the increased costs of attaining an education degree.

We are thrilled to announce the current Fund balance is \$67,000. This results in an incredible \$14,000 raised since launching the appeal. Thank you for all the generous donations from our BTC alumni. Your gifts will make an immeasurable impact.

Only \$17,000 to go to reach your fundraising goal!
If you wish to donate, please refer to the details on the Giving page of Panorama or contact Stacey Fish sfish@csu.edu.au , Ph: (02) 6338 8432.



On behalf of the Advancement/Alumni Office, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the BTCAA Scholarship Fund. Your generosity changes the lives of many. May you all have a very happy and safe Christmas

season. 

--- **Stacey Fish**

*Alumni Office and Advancement Team
Charles Sturt University
Panorama Ave, Bathurst NSW 2795*

BTCAA SCHOLARSHIP 2024

The BTCAA Scholarship is currently open for [application](#). Please encourage any of your family/descendants who want to study, or who are studying, to apply with this link -- [Charles Sturt to apply](#). Applications close 5 Feb. 2024.

CSU NEWS NEW PROGRAMS

App research helps speech therapy for rural Australian children

A recent study led by a Charles Sturt University academic has examined the 'SayBananas!' app, an innovative Mario-style video game designed to provide high-dose individualized speech therapy for children with speech sound disorders (SSD) and their parents living in less populated areas of rural Australia. The study focused on usability, accessibility, and feedback from 45 rural Australian children with SSD and their parents. The research found that 'SayBananas!' effectively engages children with SSD, helping them practice individualized speech targets and improve speech accuracy. The app offers a promising solution to address the challenges of providing equitable, timely, and cost-effective access to speech pathology support for families in low-density population areas. This research serves as a precursor study for a randomised, larger controlled trial, with the authors seeking funding for further research in this area.



BTC ALUMNI CONTACTS 2023

President: Carole Sharp (1960-61) –
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FRIENDSHIP/FELLOWSHIP

Invitation to all BTCAA Committee,
BTC Alumni and friends

**BTCAA AGM &
LUNCHEON**

on Friday 8th March 2024
Guest Speaker

Dale Dengate

(BTC 1958-59)

with **Dr Kerith Power**

performing folk songs from our school days - from school magazines

The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

169-171 Castlereagh Street, SYDNEY

(between Park and Market Sts ... closer to Park St)

AGM 11.00am to 12 noon

Luncheon 12.30 – 3.00pm

(Arrival from 12.15pm)

Cost: \$75 p.p. (2 course meal, tea/coffee
(Drinks from a PAYG Bar in Room)

Please advise attendance by sending the slip below to:

Mr Greg Woods (Treasurer BTCAA)

260 Greville Avenue

SANCTUARY POINT NSW 2540

(to arrive by Wednesday 28th February 2024)

I advise attendance and payment preference (@\$75.00 pp) for _____ person/s to attend the BTCAA luncheon as detailed above from 12.30pm on Friday 8th March 2024

Please tick method of payment below:

Cash

(Payment on entry to event)

Direct Bank Deposit

(see details below)

BTCAA Bank Account Details:

Comm. Bank BSB 062-300 A/c # 10133521

(Please include your name as the Reference when depositing directly to the BTCAA Account)

NAME: _____ BTC Years _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE CONTACT _____

Receipt can be collected at the door on the day of the Luncheon.

Please advise of any dietary requirements/ allergy issues below:

RECOUNTS OF EARLY TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Bathurst Teachers' College (BTC) took in its first students, male and female, on a two year training course in 1951. The graduating students were posted to their first appointments in 1953. These teachers signed on for a 3 year bond to remain in the profession for this minimum time, a kind of pay-back for the training (free of charge) given.

Many different experiences resulted from these early BTC trained teachers. How do they compare with the experiences of early teachers in today's time and world?? Here are a couple of them.

They are excerpts from a book edited by Royce Levi (BTC 1951-52) entitled "TALES FROM CLASSROOMS PAST AND OTHER PLACES Reminiscences of the Staff and Students of Bathurst Teachers College 1951-52 ... The Pioneers" (2011).

Carina Doyle "Carina's Journey"

"When I was a student at BTC, I elected to train as a primary teacher. ... (Yrs 3-6..) I could easily envisage myself with a class of 8-12 year olds and I really looked forward to my teaching career.

Of course we had a three year bond with the Dept. Of Education, and to break this bond would have cost me 3000 pounds. Naturally, we all did as we were told and went where the Department decided that we were needed. There was a tremendous shortage of teachers after World War II, and there was also a baby boom so that classes were often enormous.

I was quite excited to be appointed to St Ives Public School, but was apprehensive when I was told that I would teaching Kindergarten, as I was the only one who could play the piano. My classroom was large (it is now a restaurant) but I did not expect to receive fifty-nine children that first day. At least I had a piano, but only enough furniture for forty children." "I remember that first week well. We had lots of dancing, singing and stories until I was able to work out a programme. I quite enjoyed that class, and I worked out a rotation system chart each day for the desk sitters and the mat sitters. The children became quite expert at reading the daily chart."

Compare this with today's world HECS debt, shortage of teachers, teaching out of trained area, oversize classes.

Barry McConville "A Whole New Life"

"A whistle blast echoing across the almost deserted platforms of Central Station, a lurch from the carriages locking in to the surge of power from the straining locomotive and the North Coast Mail, was impatient to begin its long journey into the night. The two suitcases, one weighed down with the few accumulated text books that were to become the basis for a professional library, the second hurriedly packed with new gear purchased on a limited budget but thought to be appropriate for a young country teacher to wear.

Like many other hopeful graduates, I had nominated a North Coast appointment as my first choice hardly expecting such a reality would be offered. Yet here I was outward bound on a 22 hour journey heading for a two teacher school at a place called Terranora. Details of appointment were always scanty, mine being... 'Take a train to Murwillumbah, pick up a service car (bus) at the station headed for Tumbulgum and arrange for transport locally to get to the school.'

Tumbulgum was a cane growing area along the Tweed River on the road going to Coolangatta. There was a pub, a store on the other side of the river, a school and a vehicular punt to cross to the northern side of the river. The bus stopped at the pub, so I dragged my bags inside. As it happened, the head teacher of the school to which I had been appointed and his wife, both lived in the pub during the week and organised for me to have a room on the upper floor. This was most convenient as he would be able to drive me to the school each day in his car, up the hills to Terranora."

Having done the general primary course in college, I found the challenge of facing a lower division was a little daunting: multiple classes and 5 to 8 year olds. A very thoughtful teacher at the Tumbulgum school invited me round to his school, where he was busy preparing the term's program. He introduced me to an official Program Register and sat me down to decipher its demands. Apart from practice teaching, students had little if any departmental procedures, so that first appointment delivered administrative concerns as well as face-to-face classroom issues".

Compare with today's starting teachers Much better transport, libraries, computers (and Google/program websites), but still large classes and need for collegiality and support.



Royce Levi

“After graduating from College we were required to teach for three years as probationary teachers to gain the award of a Teacher’s Certificate. In each of those years, a school inspector visited our classrooms and examined our work ... our records, our children’s books, and importantly our teaching presence”.

“In those days, primary program record books, supplied by the Government Printer, had much space to fill, as we were generalist teachers with many subject responsibilities. My visitor spent much time reading my program, and I am sure most questions he asked of the pupils related to its contents.”

“We were required to prepare programs six weeks in advance. Notes in red were also required, to signify work not taught and to explain why. We also kept daybooks containing descriptions and records of all lessons taught.”

Compare with more modern practices for advancement or promotion (again from a much more experienced and reflective Royce) ...

“The new system promotes a strange belief that the interview and the glossy CV are valid and reliable ways to place the destinies of our children in the administrative hands of interview successful candidates where is the evidence of classroom understanding and competence? Where is the evidence of mastery of human relationships? How can you discover all the complexities of the classroom in the cocoon of a meeting?”

Leon Lentfer and his Memories

“To any young teacher, I want to say that you will never know the extent to which you can add to and influence some people’s lives. But rest assured, you can and will make a difference. Look for the positives of each child and of your own achievements. Do not forget your responsibility to children but maintain a proper balance between this and your personal life.

This aspect of teaching has not changed at all over the years. See Page 2 and look what is said by Stacey Fish (Advancement Officer CSU).



CSU: Another New Program

CTAP: Collaborative Teachers Aide Pathway

As a way to try to help resolve the current teacher shortage CSU is running a pathway training program to allow current Teacher’s Aides/Assistants, School Learning Support Officers (SLSO’s) and Aboriginal Education Officers (AEO’s) to update their qualifications and use their experience to become fully qualified teachers.

Students complete a CSU Bachelor of Educational Studies plus a Master of Teaching (Primary or Secondary) in as little as two to three years (depending on credits). Some students are able to enrol directly into the postgraduate teaching degrees.

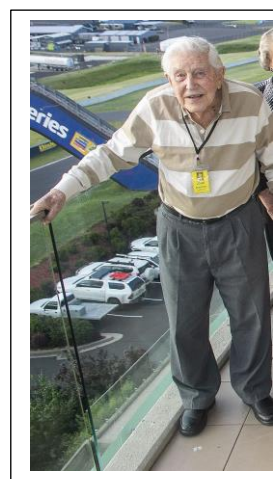
This program started in 2022 and there are 440 students from across Australia studying while they work as support staff in public and private schools. Some 360 of these students come from NSW (with 50-60% from DoE schools) with some 60% studying part time.

Support scholarships are available to help the students with equipment, leave for Practice Teaching, and other essentials. These Scholarships can be up to \$3000 over 3 years.

Do you know of any such people in your family or schools in your area who might be interested? The age groups involved so far range from 17 to 68 years old with the average around 35 years. For more details contact Stacey Fish at CSU Bathurst.

(See Alumni Contacts box on page 3)

VALE.... John Bradshaw (Pioneer)



On 7 August 2023 a loved and respected Pioneer passed away. John Bradshaw was a distinguished teacher and sportsman who with his wife Wendy brought much joy to many BTC reunions.

John’s lifetime was a memorable one. He loved children with their “pliable minds” as he put it, and was a dedicated

teacher. He spent many joyous years in that profession. One of his former pupils sang a beautiful song at his funeral

See back also on Page 2 for a short history for each of these past BTCAA Scholarship Winners



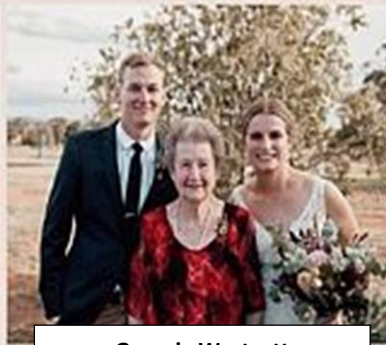
Emma Davis
2008 Recipient

Primary Teacher, St Joseph's
Primary School, South



Lara Lambkin
2013 Recipient

Mathematics Teacher
Pittwater High School



Georgia Westcott
2015 Recipient

Primary Teacher, Assistant Principal
Curriculum and Instruction –
Peak Hill Central School



Iain Wood
2000 Recipient

Current third year student
Bachelor of Education – (K-12)

On earlier pages of this magazine there are some recounts of first teaching experiences of BTC graduates. It seems appropriate to embellish these experiences with some outside comments seen very recently in the Column 8 section of the "Sydney Morning Herald". These have come up after varying comments over a week or so made about unusual food fillings and/or food dishes

"Just wondering if (C8) Barry Wooldridge of Harden is the very same Barry Wooldridge who spent two years in Bathurst, like a few other C8 contributors, trying to survive on B.T.C. cuisine?" enquires Joy Cooksey of Harrington. Friday 24 November 2023

A plea from Wendy Crewe of Lane Cove North: "Would you please put me out of my misery and explain what B.T.C. food is, please? An online search reveals many restaurants called B.T.C. with one possible explanation being Best Teriyaki Chicken, but I don't think that's it (is it?). Would appreciate your esteemed advice." Monday 27 Nov. 23

"Yes Joy Cooksey (nee Marshall), I attended Bathurst Teachers' College in 1958/59," confirms Barry Wooldridge of Harden. "I was a youthful 17, still growing, always hungry. While many students approached the institutional cuisine with trepidation, I consumed the meals with enthusiasm. While some were surviving, I was thriving." Tues 28 Nov.

Janetta Gilbert of Kirrawee agrees that B.T.C. food (C8) "definitely wasn't 'haute cuisine' and the dreaded 'green boxes' were even worse. But we're still writing about it, so we've survived into a glorious old age in spite of it." Monday 27th Nov. 2023

Items from readers who attended Bathurst Teachers' College (C8) are taking on Tied Test proportions. One reader, Rod Allan of Kelso, has fond memories of his time at B.T.C. and found the food generally palatable. "There was, however, one exception: a regular mid-week evening of mince, onions and tomatoes labelled by students as 'Train Smash'."

A (meal) fellow student, Katrina Avery of Fullerton Cove, described as "Not our favourite meal, but well remembered."

Thursday 30 November 23

"These people are whingeing about B.T.C. need to recall their good fortune" reckons Kent Mayo of Uralla. "I was a student there in 1964-65. We were all on government scholarships, provided with free tuition, accommodation and three meals a day. OK, it wasn't five star, but nor were the public schools to which we were randomly appointed, anywhere from Bellevue Hill to Broken Hill. It was a good system, worth revisiting." Thurs. 30 November 2023

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Column

8

Generous appreciation goes to the SMH for permission to

use these comment clips

VALE:

John Bradshaw

-- Dear friend, We have noticed Your final hour has come - And you are pretending to leave us - You thought you could do that- Just fade away Into the vast plains of forgetfulness - Come on now - You, a much loved teacher - And distinguished sportsman - Should know better than that - Why You will be with us constantly - As the years pass - When summer turns into winter and football begins - When naive students need wisdom to guide them - When children play games amidst laughter - When colleagues reminisce - When friends share examples of your tender-heartedness - Or when Auld Lang Syne is eloquently sung - Therefore Heed this now - With no more of your diversions - You cannot slip away from us - But will be with us constantly - As the world demands we value you correctly - As a consequence - Get this into your head - Note that these words are not idle gossip - Or unsubstantiated assertions - By ingenious busybodies - They are the truth - As verified by a host of your comrades - So end the mythology - And admit that you will walk beside us from now - Until the end of our time.

.....Royce Levi for the 1951-1952 Pioneers