



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

# TALK ABOUT



Volume 8 No 3

November 2005

## WWTC 2005 REUNION A GREAT SUCCESS

The 2005 Reunion was well attended by representatives of most sessions, from the Pioneers 47-49 to the last session 71-72 and from all accounts was very enjoyable.

The 91 who attended the Friday night early bird get together were welcomed by Michelle and Pam and were able to chat with friends while treated to a barbecue on the lawns outside the CCC.

After Registration on Saturday buses provided transport to the Botanical Gardens for an excellent lunch in the Garden Restaurant. The miniature train ride to the Museum was somewhat spoiled when the engine derailed after the points were incorrectly set. However we all arrived safely at the Museum for the opening of the WWTC Display.

The official opening was impressive, speakers were Lew Morrell, Councillor Col Kohlhagen, and Professor David Green. The quality of the display was excellent, however the quantity of memorabilia displayed was disappointing. It is to be hoped that more space will be made available and that the display will be extended in the future. It is certainly worthwhile visiting if you are in Wagga.

Pre-dinner drinks were held in Joyes Hall where Professor Green presented framed Citations to five members of the Alumni Executive.

Nearly 200 attended the Dinner in the Convention Centre and enjoyed excellent food and drink and convivial company. Professor David Green, Head of the Wagga Campus gave a very enjoyable and amusing speech reminding us that Wagga Wagga Teachers' College was the foundation of Charles Sturt University. In his response Alumni President Bob Collard expressed his wish that Charles Sturt University would continue to support the Alumni Association. He reminded us that this was a warm-up for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion which is to be held in May 2007 and appealed to all sessions to support the Reunion.

The 54-55 Session were there in force celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and they entertained us with a PowerPoint presentation with recollections of their members.

The evening concluded with a resounding rendition of "Gaudeamus", obviously well remembered by all.

***The Scholarship Fund is over \$45,000.***

# FROM THE REUNION

## THE PRESIDENT'S PARABLE

When addressing the gathering of the W.W.T.C. Reunion Dinner, the President of the W.W.T.C. Alumni, Bob Collard, stressed the importance of the W.W.T.C. founded in 1947, to Charles Sturt University and the city of Wagga Wagga. Since the inception of the W.W.T.C. Alumni in 1997 our Alumni has been seeking acknowledgement especially as we have the 2007 celebrations in focus. As part of his address, Bob presented a modern day parable and many attendees requested that it be repeated in Talkabout.

“The Parable of the Bear and the Academic.”

There was once a man trekking through a Canadian forest. He was an academic and he was an atheist.

As he walked through the forest he came upon a black grizzly bear awakening from its hibernation. The man ignored the bear and continued on his journey, enjoying the

scenery and pleased with the progress he had made.

This bear, however, showed a definite interest in our academic friend - it was curious and it was hungry.

Our bear ambled after this academic atheist, while his target continued to ignore him and so continued undisturbed on his journey.

The bear made ominous noises and finally attracted the attention of the hiker. Now our academic friend began to show an interest as the bear came closer and did not seem at all pleased.

Obviously the bear and the man had different agendas. Quickening his pace the man thought to outrun the bear. It was not to be.

Attempting distraction the man threw away his pack, but the bear had his own purpose and would not be set aside. The man tried running faster - but the bear closed the gap.

At last the man became concerned. This bear posed a threat for there were clear signs that the bear meant to satisfy his desires.

Exhausted from the pursuit the man sank to the ground.

The bear with slaving jaws and bared teeth, red angry eyes and extended claws closed in. The man in desperation called out “GOD! Save me!”

And the voice of God was heard “I cannot save you - you are not a Christian”.

”Then make me a Christian” pleaded the man. “I cannot” said God, “for I gave you free will and you chose otherwise”.

Now the bear was ready to pounce. The man’s academic mind reacted.

“Then make the bear a Christian” shouted the man.

At once there was a clap of thunder - darkness descended and when it cleared, the bear stood still - jaws closed, claws withdrawn, eyes now gentle.

Bringing its paws together in supplication and sinking to its haunches and bowing its head, in a clear voice said,

“FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE \_\_\_\_\_ !!

So as to the parable:

Problems can be resolved if there is less intellectualism and more WISDOM.



Roy Parker, Cynthia Strong (Hague), Betty Dunn (Doherty) 1951-52, ready for lunch at the Botanical Gardens



1950-51 girls: Margaret Bastick, Shirley Grant (Richards), Robin Ryan (Grant), Jeanette Jackson (Cowle), Cecile Herden (Wakeling)



Enjoying the miniature train ride to the Museum



President Bob Collard and Professor David Green at the Dinner



# MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA "EXCEL WITH HONOUR" DISPLAY OPENING



*Lew Morrell giving the address at the WWTC Display Opening.*

The Museum of the Riverina has set up a display to recognize the existence and influence of WWTC, not only on education but on all aspects of the city of Wagga Wagga.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, during the 2005 Reunion, over 100 Alumni, after lunching at the Botanical Gardens, crowded into the display area to witness the official opening.

Lew Morrell, who was one of the driving forces behind the display and has liaised with Michelle Maddison, curator of the Museum, welcomed everyone and gave the following short address.

*"Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the official opening of the W.W.T.C. Display here at the Museum of the Riverina. Today marks the culmination of a campaign that began several years ago to establish and house a permanent display in a suitable location as a memorial to Wagga Wagga Teachers' College. At first we met with little success. In 2002, during a Committee visit to the C.S.U Regional Archives in the Blakemore Building on the old College Campus, we were informed that it would be possible to put on an historical display of the history of our College for a week or so, but, as they have continual displays, a permanent display was out of the question. Whilst visiting Wagga that year, I visited the Museum of the Riverina.*

*I complimented the staff on the excellent job they were doing and suggested that there was one important aspect lacking. I explained to them that for twenty five years there had been a Teachers' College at Wagga Wagga that had supplied approximately three thousand teachers to the N.S.W. Education Department. During that twenty five years it had participated in a variety of ways in the life of the community. Its members were associated with local groups and societies concerned with education, science, art, music, drama and the like as well as service groups and churches, and with sporting and recreational pursuits. Over the years it*

*had made an impressive contribution to the life of the district and there was no mention of it in their history. The Executive Officer of the Museum, Mr Thomas Graham agreed to accept a formal approach from the Alumni Association and today you can see the results of that collaboration. We are indebted to the Wagga Wagga City Council and in particular to Michelle Maddison the Museum Curator and her staff for the work they have done. I have one regret and that is that the late John Riley is not here to see his work. John was responsible for categorizing, enlarging and filing the photographs of the College Display. To all those who have contributed items for the success of this campaign we are most grateful. From the two years training for our profession at this College in Wagga we claim that there is a part of Wagga in all of us as we all have happy memories of this fair city. I would also like to thank Michelle Fawkes of Charles Sturt University for her part in the organisation of this occasion. And now I would like to welcome Councillor Col Kolhagen to officially open the display on behalf of Council and the Museum of the Riverina."*

Councillor Col Kolhagen, an Alumnus from 1960-61, who was standing in for the Mayor, then responded and declared the Display officially open.

## CONTACTS

**President:** Bob Collard MBE: 2 Louise Close, Ourimbah 2258  
Phone 02 43622764

**Secretary:** Dorothy Tanner: 282 Doncaster Ave, Kingsford 2032  
Ph 02 96633204 E-mail: netanner@optus.net.au

**Research and Records Officer:**

Ann Smith: 24 Whitworth St, Westmead 2145 Phone 02 96350449  
E-mail: annrae@bigpond.net.au

**Treasurer:** Lindsay Budd: 4 Flemington Close, Casula 2170  
Phone 02 96013003 E-mail: lbudd@bigpond.net.au

**Talkabout Editors:**

Lindsay Budd  
Lew Morrell: 25 Grandview Drive, Newport 2106  
Phone 02 99971506 E-mail: lewisomorrell@bigpond.com

**Alumni Office:** Michelle Fawkes: The Alumni Office, Charles Sturt University,  
Bathurst 2795. Phone 02 63384629. E-mail: mfawkes@csu.edu.au

# HALL OF FAME

At the 2005 Reunion members of the executive of the WWTC Alumni Association were recognised by Charles Sturt University.

A framed citation was presented to each by the Head of the Wagga Campus, Professor David Green, at an informal ceremony. Professor Green thanked the executive and expressed the appreciation of the University for their efforts in establishing and maintaining the WWTC Alumni Association.

Following is the text of the Citations:

## **Bob Collard**

Robert (Bob) Collard, MBE, has been the Chairperson of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association since its inception and has been persuaded to retain that position to the present in spite of needing to travel to meetings by train from his home at Ourimbah on the Central Coast. His energy and enthusiasm as Chairperson have inspired the Committee to plan several major civic functions as part of the College's Diamond Jubilee Reunion in 2007. Public service is a tradition in the Collard family, as evidenced by the naming of Collard Reserve at Ourimbah in honour of the community work performed by Mr R W C Collard, Bob's father. Bob is still active as an umpire for the Central Coast Cricket Association, having received the inaugural Third Grade Umpires Award in 1987.

## **Lindsay Budd**

To coin a phrase of Theodore Roosevelt, Lindsay Budd "speaks softly but carries a big stick". Lindsay has excellent computer skills which he developed from the earliest day of programmable calculators when he was a maths teacher. So proficient did he become that he had a leading role in the development and implementation of the OASIS school administration system. He has been the treasurer of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association for many years, and has administered the management fund with aplomb. These funds, amongst other things, allow the quarterly production of the Talkabout Magazine. Lindsay's mastery of desktop publishing format and his adaptation of the back page to include mailing details, thus eliminating the need for envelopes, is evidence of his value to the Association and to Charles Sturt University.

## **Lew Morrell**

Lew Morrell along with his friend Lew Crabtree were on the editorial staff of the original Talkabout magazine produced in 1950. The team made a comeback as editors when the magazine was relaunched nearly fifty years later. Sadly Lew Crabtree has passed away but Lew Morrell, with the assistance of others, continues to edit and produce a magazine relevant to the present time and the members of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association. The collection of memorabilia and recognition of the College is close to the heart of all within the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association. Lew has played a major role in having it displayed in the "Excel With Honour" exhibition in the Museum of the Riverina at Wagga Wagga. This display recognises the role that the College played in the life of the city and in the foundation of Charles Sturt University. Charles Sturt University honours Lew for his dedication and commitment to the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association.

## **Ann Smith**

Ann Smith became the Secretary of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association at its inception in 1997. It soon became evident that there was a need to track down and record all of those who had passed through the College from 1947 until 1974. Ann has become the bounty hunter of the Association, and her rewards have been several neatly-bound volumes of correspondence from alumni. The Association's records of students from the College have blossomed under her stewardship. Charles Sturt University owes her a debt of gratitude for her persistence and tenacity in locating "lost" Wagga Wagga Teachers' College students. As the Association's Research and Records Officer Ann will be forever remembered, honoured and valued by the Association and Charles Sturt University.

## **John Riley**

John, sadly, passed away on 9th August after a sudden and short illness. From the beginning John played a leading role in the work of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association. He was an active member of the Association's email group, being known as John "Raillie" because of his love of locomotives. He was involved in the organisation of the quarterly alumni lunches held at the Masonic Club and was part of the editorial team which produces the Association's magazine "Talkabout". However, John will be best remembered for his labour of love that was "*Teaching Memories*". Not content to sit back and relax in retirement, John encouraged and sometimes cajoled alumni to commit their teaching highlights and lowlights to paper. The stories and photos, which stirred the memories and hearts of so many, combined under John's skilful hand to form a wonderful volume of memories that reaches out, not just to those who attended Wagga Wagga Teachers' College but to anyone who is fortunate enough to have read it. A copy of "Teaching Memories" resides in the University Library. Charles Sturt University honours John for his dedication to the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association.

## From Ann's Mailbag



Once again another reunion has been held and the people who talk to me about it all seem to have enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately I took ill and missed the dinner completely. I also missed a chance to talk to people and find some news for the "Mailbag". I can tell you about the attendance. The numbers for the dinner were given to me by Pam and they prove quite interesting. Husbands are included in these numbers. The 54-55 group were also celebrating 50 years.

This was the group who did not have a graduation but they must be keeping their lists up to date as they had the most who attended, twenty.

The 48-50 "Freshers" and the 49-50 session were both next with nineteen each. The Pioneers and 50-51 were next. Both had fourteen.

From the other end of the attendance ladder 60-61 had a total of seventeen. After John Dawson sent emails to some of the 70-71 group, ten managed to come. Thank you John for contacting as many as possible of that session, inviting them to the reunion. Could we build up the email addresses for him as that is a quick way of contacting you. If you have not already sent him your email address then you might like to send it now - dawsons@bigpond.net.au The 60-61 group propose to have a reunion on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006 in Moruya. You can phone Ross Hosking at 0244715103 or email him at hoskornj@acr.net.au if you are interested.

Beverley Irving nee Greig 56-57 sent best wishes to everyone for a successful reunion.

A reunion is being held at Curriba School during the Easter weekend 2006. Peggy MacBeth 61-62 and Doug

Worland are trying to trace the five ex-students of WWTC who taught there.

Judy Cooper 57-58 in a thank you letter to us outlined the things being done by the executive to produce Talkabout and keep alive the spirit of WWTC.

This was rewarded at drinks before the dinner in the presentation of framed certificates to five of the executive. Among those who could not attend the reunion because they were going overseas were Colin Semmler 70-71, Graham Brown 62-63 (cycling), Rhonda Smyth nee McNicol 59-60 and Dr Adrian Hurley 61-62 with basketballers.

Col Yarham 48-50 is home again for a short break to help write eight books on Children's Health Services. His eldest grandchild deferred his Uni course and went to India where he was able to give a young person's perspective on things. An apology also came from Colleen Elson 54-55.

Ronella Stuart nee Sneddon 60-61 met up with Tony Sherlock when they were overseas.

Sonya McPhee nee Hoffman 49-50 enjoys Talkabout where she lives in Cooma. She has promised to send her College sewing to give to the Museum. Please remember to look if you have anything which reminds us of WWTC. Shirley Challinor 64-65 is going to visit the Museum when they go to Wagga. Pat Carr gave me Margaret Hindmarsh nee Bastion 56-57 address, she has moved to a retirement village in Wagga. Karen Croft 70-71 is now Karen Horey and lives in Brisbane.

Robin Cantrill 50-51 busies himself in many occupations since he retired fourteen years ago. I sent Michelle Corin, daughter of Isobel Corin nee Pople 54-55 a copy of Talkabout where her mother's life was featured. Dele Riley 69-70 did not stay in teaching. She would like to meet her room mate Noeline Robyn Simmons.

Margaret nee Mullins 61-62 and husband Jim enjoy a wonderful life on the mid North Coast. Cynthia Armstrong 51-52 finds it so much nicer on the coast than in the Riverina. Ruth McFadden nee Johnston 47-49 has just written a book about the road to Cooma. Tell us more Ruth.

Thank you to Noel Haberecht for help given re addresses. Geoff O'Brien 48-50 is still battling Parkinsons. "A fair bit

of the pleasure of retirement is taken away by the problems".

We are still looking for information on quite a number of people. Here is a list of thirteen out of 31 from 70-71 who were successful in a two year trained course in January 1972:

CALL Elizabeth Ann, COOPER Peter John, GRINTER Jill Rosalie, HOGAN Stephen Edward, MATRLIAN Bruna Maria, PAYNE Susan Louise, PRICE Ann Elizabeth, SHARMAN Ian Donald, SKUJA John Boris, TUK Margaret Leila, WHEELER Marilyn Yvonne, WINNELL Sandra Gay.

Their names have never been entered on the Data Base. Are they married or left the state?

Thank you to Gretel Ayre who is looking in the National Library for others.

Thank you to Michelle, Pam and Narelle for their care and concern when I was taken to Wagga Base Hospital on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Also to Graeme Wilson who brought me to Wagga and cared for me that same day.

*Ann Smith*

### In Memoriam

Morris Griffith 53-54, September 2005  
Nell Mitchison 47-49, 30th May 2005  
Guy Pickering 59-60  
Marian Prosser (Coddington) 48-50  
Ida (Beth) Blunt (Myers) 51-52  
Win McGoggan (Sewell) 48-50, September, 2005

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Lindsay,  
As promised at the recent WWTC reunion, am enclosing a cheque for \$100 as payment for all the "Talkabouts" I've received over the years and for which I've never paid. The articles are interesting to read - takes one back many many years to when life was free! (and restricted) but the product that came off the WWTC production line was a good one and children in NSW Government Schools did well with our help. Thank you for producing Talkabout. Go well, God bless Elizabeth Punton (1948-50).



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2005 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.



*Liana Croker, Kate Williams, Don Hyde, Hayley Williams*

Of the students who applied for the Scholarship there were three outstanding candidates. They were Liana Croker, Kate Williams and Hayley Ruffles. The interviewing panel could not decide on one winner so each has been awarded a Scholarship of \$1,500 for their final year in Education. Councillor Don Hyde (49-50) represented the Alumni at the Presentation. When the W.W.T.C. Alumni Scholarship was founded we were hoping we would reach the goal of \$25,000. In a few short years we have raised over \$45,395.20 and a target of \$50,000 should be reached by the end of 2006. This magnificent sum has not been raised by large donations but mainly by regular annual donations. Congratulations to our donors and may the fund continue to grow and so help our future teachers.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF EXTERNAL STUDIES BY JOHN PIGRAM 1950-51

Dear Ann,

I wrote this back in 1978 for a silver jubilee review of External Studies at New England. It might ring bells for Alumni who like me left WWTC with a Teachers Certificate and found that didn't open many doors. So, I went back to the study externally.

Cheers,  
John Pigram.

### Geograffiti:

Thoughts From the Diary of A1730

"Wagga T.C.?? Well, we'll take what we can get, although of course, non-graduates don't really have the knowledge and experience for secondary teaching. Persevere with the G.A.s and P.E. and we might be able to find you a bit of first year Social Studies next year".

\*\*\*\*\*

Do it externally? Sounds kinky — might keep me out of the pub I suppose.

\*\*\*\*\*

Geography 1? No way, not me, failed it at the Leaving. OK, if you say so — should be able to handle a few maps and graphs, and a bunch of Poms who know nothing about this country. At least there's no compulsory school. A wipeout! They shouldn't put the results in the Herald. Told you I was a mug to take Geography 1 — prejudiced against colonials anyway. One consolation — won't have to go up for the Geography II January school. Hang on — Pass with Merit! Didn't think to look up there — must be a misprint. How far is it to Armidale? Never make that in a day — what's the name of that pub in Singleton?

\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to glorious New England! Looks like the place is closed down for the weekend — at least Bruyns is serving. Mary White College — women only. Wonder who keeps this bed warm? "Beware of Beverly Bromide" — who's she?

\*\*\*\*\*

"Lead a seminar" — what's that? "Resources are not — they become" — sounds like the clue for 24 down in the crossword. Booloominbah's a bit like a rabbit warren, only we're the bunnies. Staff look well fed and watered — bet that shape cost him a bob or two.

\*\*\*\*\*

A plane table? Well, I suppose it's one without a tablecloth. Ellis says our map cuts right across where Dixson Library is going to be. I'll never see it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Armidale flies are friendly. Thank God for the rain. A pub break? Why not? Thought someone said this place was cold. Must have meant Grafton — the beer, stupid.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another Pass with Merit — Economics as well. This is becoming a habit. Another couple more and 1 qualify for 3-year salary. They can't say my motives for study aren't pure.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Do you think you could handle the Geography Leaving class?" (Maybe I should sit for the exam again myself.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Life's hell on a Geography field school — never draw a sober breath. Why anyone wants to live on these Taree islands beats me — flat, hot, and full of cow dung, mozzies and flies. Need to watch for snakes (and bulls) if you were taken short out here. At 2 m.p.h. the bonnet of a Austin A40 is certainly built for a bit of mobile field mapping. Beer and chops over the coals — hardly a ploughman's lunch. No one has been near that oyster lease for years — as big as your hand! Might need them tonight, these internals have got to be good for something.

\*\*\*\*\*

Spot on with the exam. form guide — wish the race tips were as good. The cup of tea from the old parson helps a bit — not too worried about the clock either.

\*\*\*\*\*

Enough Geography and Economics up now to qualify for promotion. What did I do before I took this on?

\*\*\*\*\*

Five years and goodbye Armidale. Never again north of the Hunter — except perhaps next April for grad. Wonder should I order a gown (What's a hood), or one of those mortar board things? No! Pessimists get the nicest surprises.

\*\*\*\*\*

Me do Honours?? Turn it up! Anyway subject masters can't be spared. What's a cotton plant look like?

\*\*\*\*\*

A Ph.D.?? I know my place — still those lovely red gowns ... Study leave bonds don't worry me . . . much.

\*\*\*\*\*

Licensed to lecture! School teaching was never like this — no uniforms, no coats, no ties, no shoes, no shirts, no bras — Long hair — jeans, jeans, jeans! (No uniforms??).

\*\*\*\*\*

Deadlines from External Studies — piles of "yellow perils". Field schools. (Why pick Tweed Heads? Why not?)... The treadmill grinds on. Semester break? What semester break?

Dear Dr. Pigram,  
As Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Arts would you please consider granting me exemption from attendance at the May Residential School for Esperanto IV? I am sure that you people at New England cannot appreciate the difficult circumstances under which external students live and work — the loneliness, the insecurity, the pressure of trying to cope with a job, isolation, and study. The thought of another trip to Armidale is too much. Please put yourself in my place.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss E. Everage  
Stony Crossing  
Via Pookataroo

# POTTED BIOGRAPHIES



## **AUDREY SCHAECKEN (SEAR) 1948-50**

I worked in an office, which I left to go to Wagga Teachers College. There I trained to be an infants teacher. I taught in Canley Vale. From there I moved to Corrimal for my country service. Altogether I taught for 28 years. In 1955 two girl friends and myself left for Britain and the continent by ship. I taught in suburbs of London, for one year. My friends and I travelled over the British Isles, Scandinavia and most of Europe. After 2 years we came home again.

In 1961 I married a Dutchman. He built our home. We have 2 adult children and 2 grandchildren. As a family we holidayed at various beaches. My husband and I went for a South Pacific cruise. We also went to Asia and the Barrier Reef. Once retired, we toured Europe in a coach.

I look back with gratitude to my two years in Wagga and am happy to see friends at reunions.

## **MARGARET WATTS (BROADRIBB) (1949-50)**

Taught at French's Forest, Hay, Castle Hill, Belrose.

Married Dean Watts in 1958. Four children, one boy three girls. Returned to teaching in 1967 after several years of Canteens, Libraries and Mothers' Clubs.

Taught at Rooty Hill, West Pennant Hills, Warrawee.

Deputy at Neutral Bay, West Pennant Hills. Infants' Mistress at Mt. Colah. Retired at 55.

After six months at home did casual work on North Shore and then at P.L.C. Croydon for five years.

Went to T.A.F.E. and completed course in Advanced Creative commercial Needlework — a wonderful course which has since been discontinued.

I now spend time gardening, Craft groups, grandmother duties, etc and always busy.

We enjoy our beach get away - when we have time.

## **LEWIS MORRELL (1949-50)**

4 years T.I.C. 1951-54: Eringanerin (Gilgandra), Mundiwa Nth. Deniliquin. 4 years Sec Assist 1955-58 Deniliquin H. S, G.A. P.E. and Art teacher. C. List. 3 years Assist 1959-61 Deniliquin Primary School. 2 years Assistant Principal 1962-63 Deniliquin South Primary School. 2 years Principal 3 1964-65 Mathoura Primary School. 9 years Deputy Principal 2 Quakers Hill East 1966-67, Blacktown North 1968-70, Shelley Primary School 1971-74. 3 years Deputy Principal 1 Cabramatta Primary School 1975-77. 9 years Principal 2 Winston Heights 1978-79, Merrylands 1980-84, Girraween 1985-86. Was retired on medical grounds in May 1986.

Married Pat (High School Teacher) in 1955 and have five children (two boys and three girls). We have nine grandchildren - eldest is a grandson, then a garden of seven granddaughters and then the youngest is a grandson. We have many interests: my main ones: W.W.T.C. Alumni Committee and Editor of Talkabout.

President of the Hay War Memorial High School Ex-Students' Association Inc.

## **LESLEY MAXWELL (1967-68) ALAN MAXWELL (1966-67)**

Lesley Maxwell (Ward) married Alan Maxwell (1966-67) who taught at Avalon, Lethbridge Park, Guildford West (AP), Comleroy Rd (P).

Lethbridge Park (DP) and medically retired with Parkinson's from St Marys North as Principal in 1994.

Lesley began at Bourke St, Waitara, West Pymble, 12 years absence childrearing then Windsor South, Tregear (ET), Wilmot (AP), Tregear (DP and then Acting Principal).

Retired in 2002 to pursue alpaca breeding with Alan on our 29 acres at Grose Vale and to have more time to enjoy our first grandchild, Natasha.

## **ROBERT JACKSON (1966-67)**

Completed College in 1967 and was appointed to Binya PS. This was followed by Leeton and Myall Park. Then followed three years in Balranald before a posting to Goulburn South. I spent time doing CMF training as well as renewing my involvement with swimming – through NSW Swimming Association. At Goulburn South I met my wife, Judy, and together we were on the School Centenary Committee. From Goulburn South I moved to Bradfordville with a short interruption at Breadalbane and a period of time in Europe.

I was active in PSSA with swimming and athletics before taking on Basketball conversion at Regional and State level. I have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

## **DR RHONDA FORREST (1970-71)**

After going to Wagga High School and then Wagga Teachers College I was a little anxious about leaving the town I knew so well and heading for Ainslie Primary School in the centre of Canberra.

Well, since then changes have become part of my life history and I have moved and travelled extensively around the world. I continued upgrading my qualifications at a number of institutions culminating in my doctorate only a few years ago.

So now I am a lecturer and Program Co-ordinator in Early childhood Education with my research being in the area of leadership. Finally I know how to write essays and I can see why I largely received only passes when I was at Teachers College.

My other main interest is in industrial relations and as President of the University of New England branch of the National Tertiary Education Union I spend as much time negotiating with management for fair pay and conditions as I do lecturing.

My passion for both is building. I am a long way from the nervous 20 year old girl driving to Canberra to start teaching so long ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

# COLLEGE MEMORIES



## JAMIE MARTIN 1969-70-71 REFLECTIONS OF W.W.T.C.

1969 went down as a year of infamy for several of us. The major culprit was a Maths course that had no relevance to any Maths being taught at that time in primary schools. About 6 of us failed the final and then the post exam in January. We were allowed to repeat but had to redo all subjects. Music also brought several boys undone, mainly the playing of the ubiquitous recorder. These fellows also had to repeat.

1969, 70, 71 was a terrific time to be at W.W.T.C. Aside from repeating, the mateship was remarkable and although I have lost contact with 99% of my fellow students of that era, the larks and pranks are still very clear in my mind.

College Reviews were big deals at that time. There were some remarkable performances by such talents as Johnny Hale, Allan Baptist, Peter Bowden and Tony Dillon. Johnny Hale brought the house down with his make-believe bagpipe impressions while a real musician in the form of Allan Baptist wowed them with his brilliant guitar solos.

Our rivalry with the Aggies (Wagga Agricultural College), is also a clear memory. Football matches were often spiteful affairs. We had this mindset that the Aggie boys had more money than us and were able to woo the W.W.T.C. girls with their cars and cash. This rivalry continued throughout my years at college. An attempt at reconciliation was tried. One of our blokes, "Trapper

Tom", took advantage of a massive mice plague during that time and caught, skinned and cured several hundred pelts. He made a rudimentary coat out of them and presented it to one of the leading Aggies. It didn't bring much peace though and our footy games still needed a transfusion cart on the sidelines.

Prac. teaching was also a big affair. I remember travelling every day for 5 weeks on a bus to Gundagai Public in 1969. About 40 of us were on the bus and we'd drop off people all along the way at the small schools that littered the Highways and Byways at that time. The poor blokes that got off 1st about 7.30am were also the last to be picked up at 5.30pm that afternoon. My first ever class was a 6th Grade at Gundagai and my supervising lecturer was a wonderful old gentleman named Greg Worthington. He lectured P.E. and spoke sparingly and quietly. He gave me many handy tips. The teacher was a fellow called Mick Hogan who was a knock-about sort of bloke who basically just let me get on with it. Anyway the country kids were great and I still remember some of the surnames that were in that class (Kynochs and Elphicks are a couple).

During our repeat year, 1970, half a dozen of us decided we needed to augment our meagre incomes. Somehow we scraped together enough money to buy 6 .22 rifles. Now in today's age, what about owning a rifle – going into a shop – buying one and then getting onto a bus to bring it back to college – my, how times have changed!!!

Anyway, we had a Townie mate whose father owned a property about 20 miles south of Wagga. He was having terrible trouble with rabbits, so every Saturday morning we'd pile into a borrowed car and go off and shoot us a boot-full of bunnies. Back about 11, we'd skin and gut them and then race around the butcher shops, getting 60 cents a pair. Some Saturdays, we'd make about \$10 each which was terrific because middies of beer were only 12 cents each in those days.

The lecturers by and large were great people. Brian Fone, Peter Keeble, Gordon Young, Owen Barry and Brian Cambourne are some that I can remember. Brian Fone in particular was

quite a brilliant bloke. He taught drama at college and I've never forgotten the confidence he placed in me by casting me in several major college productions. I sometimes had to learn hundreds and hundreds of lines but the effort was worth it because all of us would do anything for Brian. Mike Reilly, Barbara Donaldson and Susie Call are a few names from that drama period.

Gordon Young lectured us in History. He was a fascinating bloke. A committed Christian, he never let a chance go by without inserting a biblical reference somewhere. If you could refute him or point out an error, he would stop mid-sentence and simply write VY. The VY meant Victory over Young and then he would just resume his lecture as if nothing had happened. I had a special friendship with a lecturer called Brian Cambourne at that time. Brian lectured us in Reading Theory. Brian is now the world renowned Doctor Cambourne and the last I heard, he was a Professor at Wollongong University.

There were some real characters at college at that time. Remember, the Vietnam War was raging and people our age were living in a world of uncertainty. The Cold War was at its zenith and Flower Power was a potent philosophy. I remember Murray 'Rugged' Peters, "Dad" Neich, Peter Scotchmer, Allan Ruskin, Alan Symes, Ian Pinkerton and Bob Lamaro. You could write a book on any one of them. Bob Lamaro stands out. He was an absolute giant of a man with swarthy good looks. When Bob ran the football, we all ran behind him like the Tribes of Israel behind Moses at the parting of the Red Sea. When he graduated, he captained the Western Suburbs 1st Grade Rugby Union team in the Sydney competition. He was a handy bloke to be mates with, although one night, a few of us went shooting at a mate's farm. Anyway, we all started telling ghost stories and he got as frightened as the rest of us, although he claimed the beer we had at the Mangoplah Pub had weakened him somewhat.

Girlfriends were pretty important to us. In those days, there were very strict rules about fraternisation. About 60 metres south of the college dining hall



# COLLEGE MEMORIES

was an invisible, but very real barrier we called “The Milky Way”. We would walk our girls to that line after evening meals. Sweet words of nothing were spoken, a quick cuddle and the girls would retreat to their dormitories. It was a Scholarship Busting / Expulsion Crime if you were caught crossing that line. Most of our romancing was done on the walk home from the Turvey Tavern.

Speaking of the Turvey Tavern, it was definitely our preferred watering hole. Thursday and Friday nights were generally our biggest nights. Most Saturday mornings, quite a few of us would go down to the Johnny McArthur Pub in Wagga’s main street for a couple of beers. The League’s Club also got a fair patronising. Many Sydney blokes had a Rugby League background and enjoyed the ambience of a ‘Pokey Palace’. One mate, Henry Northey, was the best of the Leaguies. Henry, after graduating, went on to have a distinguished career with the North Sydney Bears. He won the U/23 Sydney Player of the Year and played many 1st Grade games during the 70’s.

Clandestine activities were plenty. Poker games could be found most nights in the men’s dormitories. Small stuff but it was prudent not to get caught by the ‘Lecturers in Residence’. Water fights fought at roof level were another crazy, dangerous diversion.

A place called ‘The Gully’ was a secret destination for many of us on Saturday nights. By then, we had generally run out of any worthwhile money so about 6 to 8 of us would pool what we had left and buy a dozen bottles of beer. The Gully is no longer there, as housing estates on the western side of the railway line have completely filled the area, which in 1970, was just bush and shallow ravines.

Rugby League and Rugby Union were the big sports for us. The college coach, a bloke called Johnny Gurd was our main mentor. John lectured us in Phys Ed and was a champion bloke. He has been a trainer with St George during their glory days and knew a thing or two about preparing young men for body contact sport. We all idolised Gurdy and would play our hearts out for him. I’ve already mentioned Bob Lamaro and Henry Northey as great players, but there were others who were pretty handy. A good mate called Bobby Hogan was a tough little bloke who, upon graduating, had a distinguished career with Thirroul in the Wollongong District. Johnny Hale was a hard-headed tight head forward until he was severely injured in a road accident during a college vacation. John never played again and the last I heard, he was in a promotions position in Waitara somewhere.

It’s funny now, reflecting back 35 years. Most of my mates who remained in teaching have gone on to become leaders in the Department. Although I’ve lost contact, I know that several of the ‘Infamous Repeats’ are Principals of large Primary Schools — there could be more now. As for me — how ironic, a failure at College in Primary School Maths — now teaches Maths and has done so for more than 20 years at high school level.

My career is drawing to a close and I have opted for early retirement at 55 (not far away). I want to pursue other goals in my life. I’ve been married to Lyn for nearly 30 years, a girl I met in Bathurst, and have 2 fine sons and 1 granddaughter.

The memories I have of W.W.T.C. are wonderful ones. I consider the 3 years I spent there were among the best of my life. I know some friends from that era are no longer with us. Barb Donaldson and a special pal, Dee Kemp have passed on. Many others gave teaching away to try other careers.

All I know is that if I have been a reasonable teacher, I can thank W.W.T.C. because they always taught us “How” to teach, not “What” to teach.

Jamie Martin (1969-70-71)



*This photo is from John Riley’s collection. The view is looking towards the front gate with the Admin Block on the left and the Art/Craft building on the right. This is what it looked like 20 years before Jamie Martin was there.*

# TEACHING MEMORIES

## RHONA REMEMBERS

I have been inspired to put pen to paper as a follow on from the Museum of the Riverina's Wagga Wagga Teachers' College "Excel With Honour" Display.

The display features material from Ex-Students of W.W.T.C. As it happens, I am a hoarder and was able to donate some "relics" to the display in the form of my Graduation Ball frock, my hand made white satin mortar-board cap and various items of sewing and craft samples and my Geography assignment. The mortar-board cap and sewing samples were made under the expert tuition of Miss Ruby Riach, the Craft samples under the guidance of Mr Cosier and Mr Donnison, and the Geography assignment under the careful scrutiny of Mr Brock Rowe (Deputy Principal). In those days sexism was strong and the girls had to make an extra cap for the boys!

Memories came flooding back when one sees the green blazer and other memorabilia. (In fact memories of those days, 1953-54 are more vivid than those of this year!) Is there anyone else out there with similar experiences?

As students of W.W.T.C. I feel that we were very privileged to have packed so much learning and social experiences into two short years. Students today just roll their eyes in amazement when told of lectures, five days per week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the expected requirement to work in the Library four nights a week. I feel grateful that this was the routine as we only had two years in which to change from being a student to a teacher, and, in my case at age sixteen and out teaching at age eighteen.

The gap between being a student teacher and a "real" teacher was truly amazing.

In November 1954 I was Practice Teaching at Lockhart and travelling on the "Stewed-ant's bus, and then, two months later I was a "real" teacher fulfilling my first appointment at Aria Park Central School. I was fortunate to have a Year 1 class as I had specialised in Infants' Teaching. However, Aria Park, being a Central School, my job entailed leading the secondary choir and Music lessons. My eldest pupil, a 3rd Year boy was sixteen and I was eighteen!

Conditions were fairly average but the atmosphere of the school was very warm and friendly. It was just as well as the classroom (a small school re-located) was not warm! In those days it was a three term year. The Dept. of Public works removed the old wood heater in the May school holidays and replaced it the September holidays! Teacher and pupils had to leave their overcoats on for all of Term 2.

In my second year we had the benefit of a wood heater. The Year 6 boys had to bring us wood. However, it was often wet and the fire ritual was of more concern than lesson preparation and presentation!

My original Year 1 timetable is on display.

In those days pupil expectations were simple. The school socials were held in the Kindergarten room with music supplied by yours truly on the piano (no disco, no band, no flashing lights).

Another stand out memory is the difference between well equipped schools, libraries and teachers' resources which are now mandatory and the resources with which I was equipped. One had to supply all pictures, Social Studies materials, craft samples, teaching resource books and, horror of horrors, one's jelly pad instead of a duplicator. Pencils were in short supply so one did not use the pencil sharpener on the table as it chewed up pencils. Instead I had a razor blade and sharpened all pencils by hand! Of course in those days there was no such thing as a school secretary or a teachers' aide.

However despite all these setbacks teaching was very enjoyable with delightful, unspoilt pupils, eager to learn and please. We were a very happy Kinder to 3rd Year (Year 9) school.

My second school, 1957-1959 was Cootamundra Infants. School buildings were in short supply and my first term was spent with 49 (Regulations wouldn't allow 50) Kindergarten pupils in a weather shed. In Term 2 we obtained a small school relocated as a classroom at the far end of the playground. Equipment consisted of a blackboard, tables and chairs. We did share the other two Kindergarten classes' material on a limited basis.

In 1960-61 I was very privileged to teach at Turvey Park Infants Demonstration School. The contrast between my other two schools was marked. Equipment was plentiful and the rooms very spacious. (Had to allow extra space for 30 students to observe.)

I really felt I had "come of age" after five years of teaching as I was now being consulted by my former lecturers as we planned Demonstration Lessons for the students.

Demonstration Lessons were held twice a week followed by constructive criticism with a lecturer and students. I must say that I hope the students learned as much as I did from this experience.

In 1962-63 I was appointed to Leeton Infants. My name was now Rhona Morton, as Les and I were married in Wagga in December '61.

I was again in a portable building but conditions were good with a very supportive Mothers' Club.

In 1964-65 life changed dramatically. I was appointed as assistant teacher at Argoon Public School. We had been successful in a ballot for a Coleambally farm in 1962. We moved to Coleambally in 1964. The school had opened in April of 1963 in an old station kitchen. My room was the cottage.

The P.& C. members knocked a wall down with chain saws to make a room. At this stage there was no town and the school was amongst the farms — no electricity, no phone, no fences and an old rainwater tank. In 1964 numbers had grown and a two room portable building (ex-Narrandera High School) was brought into the town site (2½ miles away). At this stage a third teacher was appointed and I stayed behind in the cottage with Kindergarten and 1st Class. The name of the school was changed in 1965 to Coleambally North. This was the forerunner to Coleambally Central. In the early days the old cottage was the centre of social life with all meetings and also church services held there. An organ (pump) was donated for church services so this was a bonus for singing and music classes.

Argoon and then Coleambally North was my last appointment. I retired at the end of 1965 and spent the next years teaching my own four children all of whom attended Coleambally Central School for the whole of their schooling.

I look back with thankfulness for my years at W.W.T.C. and the lessons I learnt and hopefully passed on to my pupils in my eleven years in the classroom.

Rhona Morton (Southwell) 1953-54

## COMING EVENTS

### Alumni Association Meetings:

at Teachers Credit Union  
Homebush  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.  
AGM will be held on:  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2006

### WWTC Alumni Luncheon:

The next luncheon will be held  
at the Masonic Club  
Castlereigh Street, Sydney  
on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.

Ring Ann Smith (9635 0449)  
or Lindsay Budd (9601 3003)  
for bookings.

# LETTERS PAGE

## A LONG-AWAITED GRADUATION!

Dear 'Talkabout' Committee,

I was intrigued to read Philip Porter's letter in your July edition regarding the "extraordinary conservatism and narrow mindedness" of WWTC in the sixties. His term 'Christian chauvinism' is a little strong, methinks, as I cling to the notion that most Christians are tolerant, compassionate and non-judgemental. I think 'Wowser oligarchy' might be closer to the mark when I consider our experience and I regret, for Philip's sake, that our glorious martyrdom of 1961 did not make his life any easier in 1968/69.

Our 'martyrdom' was associated with the tradition in tertiary institutions of wassailing after Rugby games and final examinations and, truth be told, on other occasions as well. Now it did not matter that beery activity after such events had been practised enthusiastically since the Middle Ages in Europe and embraced by all colleges and universities in the Antipodes as well. WWTC remained a prim outpost of sobriety. Students from other colleges, whom we met at inter-collegiate contests, found this custom rather quaint to say the least but, in fact, it was 'a custom more honour'd in the breach than the observance'.

In fact, it was a rule. Students at WWTC were not allowed to drink on licensed premises nor were they allowed to bring alcoholic beverages into the College environment. Most students in second year were well over the legal age of eighteen but this law of the land was irrelevant to our leaders. Many lecturers were aware that many students (not just the Rugby players) imbibed occasionally but most turned a blind eye. The attitude of the oligarchy, however, remained an unknown in this scheme of things.

This attitude became clear after the football grand final. We had about 100 members in our Rugby Club and most of those were players. Consequently, we had two very strong reserve grade sides. They met in the grand final so there was quite a gathering at the post match wassail. One of the group was singing in the chorus of the G&S performance that night. His drinking did not affect the performance but a student wowser noted his beery breath and dobed the unfortunate in. We thought safety in numbers was advisable so about forty other men confessed to drinking as well. Surely forty-one people would not be expelled!

We were amazed to be fined ten shillings (we expected five quid). We were equally amazed to be told that it was extremely unusual for men of our age to drink beer after a football grand final. So

much for the life experiences of our mentors! However, we were warned to keep abstemious from then on or risk being expelled. Exam time was imminent so we had no difficulty in toeing the line.

After the exams fifteen of us went to a private keg party (remember those?). A few of us came home a little the worse for wear but there was no bad behaviour. Straight to bed was the only attractive option. However, one of our number had failed his examinations and the few that had failed were finding out this fact, word of mouth, from a lecturer that night. Our friend's state of intoxication was reported by the lecturer and, once more, the group owned up to protect the solitary offender who had not behaved badly. This time we were told to leave.

When one of our fellows mentioned tentatively that we had broken no laws because we had not been drinking at licensed premises and had not brought alcoholic beverages back to the College we were told "Yes you did bring alcoholic beverages back to the College—they were in your systems!" So we were 'sent down', not because of bad behaviour but because of two voluntary confessions and a bit of sophistry that would have had George Orwell lunging for his notebook.

One of our group was allowed to remain because he had not been at the football celebration and thus had strayed just the once (officially). Needless to say, other College students were having drinkies all over the place and good luck to them!

In recent times, some of our 'Thirteen Martyrs' have met at golf gatherings. We have enjoyed each other's company and we have been cheered to find that others of the group, too, had quite successful and useful careers. However, missing our graduation night and disappointing our escorts for that night (and, of course, our parents) still rankles. So we have decided to hold our own 'graduation' night and we would love to have as many of our contemporaries and their partners as possible to witness our 'closure' and join in our celebrations. Alcoholic beverages will be available.

Following are the relevant details:

The Thirteen: **Ken Eggleton, Mick Gow, Don Hammond, Billy Hauville, Ross Hosking, Kev Leys, Mark McCulla, Geoff Peters, Ralph Sadler, Allan Slater, John Tierney, Dick Winnett, Ray Writer.** (Sadly, Ken, Don and Dick are no longer with us. Any partner, friend or close relative of theirs is very welcome to attend.)

Some of the escorts: **Ros Bastian, Wendy Bryant, Dianne Charlier, Joan Crakanthorp, Jan Everett, Dianne Humphries, Ronnie Kelly, Janet Leigh, Joan Sutherland.** (Maiden names).

Students of 1960-61 and their present-day partners should they wish to attend.

The above are invited to contact Ross Hosking at 93 Elizabeth Drive Broulee 2537, telephone 02 44715103, e-mail hoskornj@acr.net.au .(E-mailing is preferred).

You will be sent details of entertainment, possible accommodation and golfing information.

Broulee and surrounds is the playground of Canberra. There aren't many more congenial places in Australia in February. Canberra has gone back to work so beaches, restaurants, pubs, golf courses, bush walks and so on are all there just for you. Make a week of it.

Ross Hosking (1960-61)

Dear Anne,

Thank you for the copy of "Talkabout" which I received this week. I wonder who knew my address, for you to be able to track me down? I am happy to receive future copies via my email, if that is possible.

I regret that I will be unable to attend the Reunion in September, but maybe I will make it to the next one.

Now for some information on my life since graduating from Wagga Wagga Teacher's College at the end of 1962.

I taught at Gunning Central School for just one term, before being transferred to Wollongong to Lindsay Park Primary, where I stayed for three years. I was then transferred to Warilla primary school where I stayed for four years and gained my first promotion, before moving to Ainslie North in Canberra. I worked there for three years, before resigning to marry.

I moved to Yass for several years, where my two sons were born, before we moved to Wagga Wagga, where we lived for eighteen years. When my sons were both in school I went back to work as a Relief teacher for many years, and also became a Cub Scout Leader with the group where my sons were members.

In 1993, I moved with my husband Jim, back to Yass as he transferred with his work. My two sons were in University so it left time for me to follow some of my hobbies, the most time consuming one being tracing my family tree. After ten years in Yass, Jim retired and we moved to the Mid-north Coast, where we are enjoying a wonderful life.

I look forward to reading your magazine in the future, and hope one day to see mention of people I went through college with, and have never met again.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Thompson (Mullins) 1961-62



# LETTERS PAGE

Dear Ann

Thank you for the email re Curriba Reunion.

Our plans are moving slowly. We are going ahead with the Curriba reunion and have now received replies from a large number of people who have indicated that they are interested in returning for a get together. The reunion shall most certainly be Saturday 15 April or Sunday 16 April 2006, (Easter weekend). We have not decided the actual day as yet, (most likely to be the Saturday).

A meeting has been arranged for 20 October to finalise this matter and draw up the program and for this event. We hope to have a ceremony and a recognition/rememberance plaque of some kind erected, in the morning at the old school site, then we propose to move into the township of Tullibigeal for a luncheon, re acquaintance, get together and a display of memorabilia and photos and (if we can obtain permission) visit the Curriba school building which is still being used at the Tullibigeal Central school. We are putting together a small booklet with the school history, information, photos, stories, etc gathered from research, students, teachers and associates. (Co-operation has been very good and this is already being typed up). Would love to hear from anyone who could contribute something.

We would be most grateful to you for writing it in "Ann's Mailbag" and greatly appreciate your help.

I will update you with our final decision for the date and all the information as soon as I can after the meeting.

Thank you again.

Ellen Worland (Doug's wife) on behalf of Doug and Peggy.

Dear Ann

Thanks for your prompt response to my email.

In regard to our reunion in Wagga - Yes, we organised it ourselves. From memory we have organised all our reunions ourselves. This was our sixth reunion. It was on 5th, 6th and 7th April. We thought this one might be our last but the general consensus was that another be arranged in two years time.

We inspected the old college grounds and were surprised to see how much remained of the old buildings and their poor state of repair, especially the assembly hall. We visited the modern Archives building. The staff there were friendly and extremely helpful.

Amazingly, we spent around two hours there looking through old Talkabouts, Wagga newspapers of our years there, old play and musical programmes, college memorabilia etc. They even produced a book of individual "mugshots" taken on our last day of college with our immature signatures underneath. In the end we had to drag most of the people away.

We visited the museum near the Botanical Gardens where there were a modicum of old college artifacts. Lunch followed in the Botanical Gardens. We enjoyed two dinners, one at the Commercial Club another at the Riverine Club. We visited Sturt University and tried the wine and cheese at their cellar door. We had lunch at the Palm and Pawn Hotel at North Wagga, a hotel where some of us imbibed in our college days. We thought it was far enough away from the college to avoid lecturer detection and being "sent down" for illegal drinking.

As a grand finale, we attended a Prom Night in the Lagoon Gardens featuring the Kapooka Army Band and a noted Jazz singer. As you can see we enjoyed a full and interesting programme.

Best Wishes

Tony Davis (1952-53)

## IN MEMORIAM

### BARRY DESMOND JACKSON (1948-50)

Barry Jackson was in the "Freshers" session, 1948-50, those who came fresh upon the heels of the Pioneers.

Big in stature, big in personality, big in generosity, and possessed of a lively intellect, Barry also had a wonderful sense of humour. It was considered by many who knew him well that he was endowed with two outstanding natural talents: for rugby league and for acting. In fact if he had decided to follow an

acting career, he would very likely have become a celebrity in the entertainment industry.

Arguably the best footballer of his time at College, Barry went on to play rugby league for NSW Northern Division against France in 1951 and later, played for three seasons with North Sydney, being twice voted Man-of-the-Match. During this time, on one occasion he was also on stand-by call-up for the NSW State side.

Early in his teaching career, Barry resigned from the Service but after a time working in various occupations, he returned to teaching, completed a BA degree, and worked as a teacher Librarian in secondary schools.

As a teacher, he was highly regarded by his students, as nothing at any time was too much for a student to ask of him. This generosity of spirit and his likeable personality made him universally popular.

When he married his wife, Shirley, a nursing sister, he found a loving soul-mate who shared that same warmth and generosity of spirit.

While he was still teaching in Sydney, Barry and Shirley bought a waterfront cottage at Gerroa on the NSW South Coast. Eventually he secured an appointment to a local high school in the area and it was in Gerroa that they finally settled and spent a very happy retirement.

Here they became very involved in the local community and earned the extreme respect of their neighbours for the unstinting way in which they both made themselves available to help others.

Barry is, and will continue to be, missed by all the friends that they have made locally as well as those of us who have been privileged to have had ongoing contact with himself and Shirley for over more than half a century.

After a long illness, Barry passed away peacefully at home on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2005. To Shirley, Jennifer and Andrew, we offer our sincere sympathy and the hope that they will use their strength in adversity to cope with their grievous loss.

Nick Bricknell (47-49)  
and Geoff Spiller (48-50)

# IN MEMORIAM

Many people, when they die, have few to mourn their passing — some unfortunately die alone, others are mourned only by their immediate family. Not so with John Riley, who, when he passed away on Tuesday, 9th August, 2005 following a massive stroke on the previous Friday, was given a final farewell at the Anglican Church, GyMEA and the Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland by a substantial number of persons — family, relatives, family that is the Alumni of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College, friends that were his professional contacts, and associates of the N.S.W. Railway Historical Society for which he had a passion and in which he was a very active participant.

John Francis Riley was born at Camden, New South Wales on 29th March, 1929 but grew up in Queensland, and had his primary and secondary education in that state.

Later John's parents moved to Sydney and John, with twin brother George, younger brother Max, and sister Pam lived with them at Mortdale. When in Sydney John found employment with the Adelaide Steamship Company for two years before applying for a N.S.W. Department of Education Teachers' College Scholarship, was accepted and offered a placement in the second session of the fledgling Wagga Wagga Teachers' College commencing June, 1948.

The 150 students per session were organised alphabetically into five sections of thirty and so Riley, Robinson and Ryan (Kevin) were brought closely together. We three took our first two weeks of teaching practice in December, 1948 at the Gurwood Street Demonstration School on a 5th Class, and our second on the upper division of the then two teacher school at Lake Albert in May, 1949.

In our second year at College both John and I chose to take the General Primary course but for practice teaching went our separate ways.

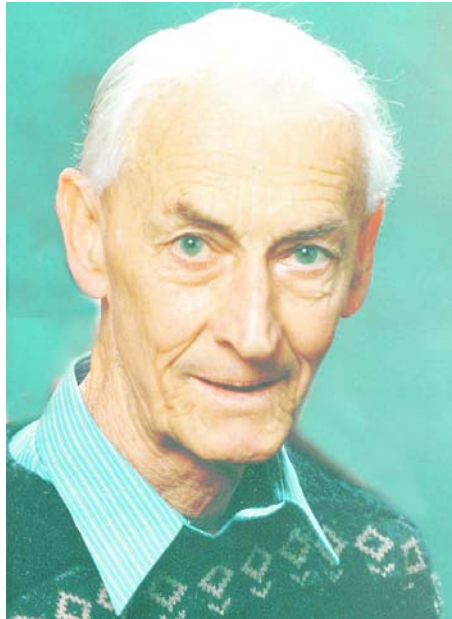
Whilst at College John participated well in extra curricular sporting activities. He was a member of the College Firsts Hockey Team and Captain of the Table Tennis Team.

After graduating from College in May, 1950, my next association with John was when we both attended evening lectures at the University of Sydney for a Bachelor of Arts degree. I learned from him then that he had not taken up a teaching appointment immediately on leaving College as he had been afflicted by a mild case of poliomyelitis.

His first appointment, twelve months after leaving College, was to Mortdale Public School and whilst there lived with his parents in Mortdale.

At University John and I worked together on our Psychology assignments. On completing his Bachelor of Arts degree John applied for transfer to secondary teaching

## JOHN FRANCIS RILEY 1929 - 2005



and was appointed to Kyogle High School in the north of the state. Some years later he was transferred to Scone High School and on gaining promotion there was appointed English Master at Woollooware High School in Sydney.

It was as a result of his appointment to this school that I again made contact with John Riley as my children were receiving their secondary education there at this time. We would meet after school hours once a week and play Squash. John, being a bachelor at this time, would be treated with an evening meal at my Cronulla home.

The next stage of John's professional career took him to Jannali Boys' High School as Deputy Principal and it was there that it was his good fortune to meet Joan, a widow, working as a Clerical Assistant. They married and settled into the Miranda home John had purchased on his return to Sydney.

The final stage of John's professional career was at Holsworthy High School to which school he was appointed foundation Principal. John retired from this school in 1986 on medical grounds as his heart was beginning to give him and his doctor cause for concern.

John had his first bypass operation shortly before retiring and a second in early retirement. He was not able to have a third operation but his heart was kept functioning by medication until his death. John not only had to suffer heart problems but was also a diabetic for many years. However being the disciplined person that he was in all aspects of his life he adapted to a rigid medical regime and, with the help of Joan, was able to keep this affliction under control.

After retirement at the age of 57 years John, physically weakened but mentally strong, participated actively in life. He became thoroughly computer literate and put his expertise in this area to extensive use in his two great interests - The W.W.T.C. Alumni and the N.S.W. Railway Historical Society.

The latter interest saw him as vital "cog" in the activities of that institution both at the administration level and as a participant in the many railway excursions organised by its members which took both he and Joan all over N. S.W. and other States and Territories. On each and every occasion John would take detailed notes and photographs, and on returning to his computer and printer would produce the most interesting records of these events.

The last excursion John and Joan experienced together was in April of this year which took them from Adelaide to Darwin on the Ghan and whilst at the "Top End" they visited the Leitchfield National Park in the Northern Territory. John's account of this excursion, a prime example of his journalism, may be published in future editions of Talkabout.

However it is as a member of the W.W.T.C. Alumni that John is best remembered by us. John was an avid participant in all activities of the Alumni since its inception. He was an executive member of the Alumni and always attended its quarterly administrative meetings and reunions, and encouraged others to join them.

Amongst his many contributions to the Alumni was his production of "Teaching Memories" - this publication would never have been created without John's drive for contributions to it. John was also involved in the establishment of the W.W.T.C. Display in the Museum of the Riverina in Wagga Wagga which, together with all other aspects of his involvement in the affairs of the Alumni, was acknowledged by Professor Ian Goulter, Vice-Chancellor of C.S.U., in a letter of condolence to his widow, Joan.

At John's funeral service members of Joan's family spoke most affectionately of their adopted relative, a representative of the N.S.W. Railway Historical Society also spoke most appropriately, but the highlight of the eulogies was that presented by Bob Collard, President of the Alumni, who spoke most eloquently of John's worth on behalf of all of us.

GOODBYE JOHN ! — you will be sorely missed.

Bruce Robinson (1948-50)