



# TALK ABOUT



Volume 2 : No. 2

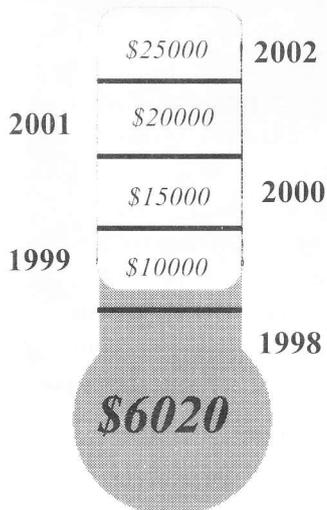
July, 1999

## Scholarship Fund Raiser

A magnificent tole craft College shield was created and crafted by Terry Higgins a 1949/50 student of W.W.T.C. He dedicated this to Norm Donnison "Craft lecturer and gentle man" and donated this as a Scholarship Fund Raiser. It was raffled at the Reunion Dinner and those in attendance rallied to the cause and \$500 was raised for our Scholarship Fund. The winner on the evening was Gwen Ferguson (Roberts) of Bayview. Gwen was the Dux of the Pioneer Session. She has kindly donated this to Charles Sturt University to be suitably inscribed and hung in a prominent place in memory of Charles Sturt University's forerunner Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.



Since the beginning of the year we have received donations from:-



- Roger Clements (49-50)
- Dorothy Tanner (Williams) (48-50)
- Dr Vic Couch
- Dawn Neil (Davis) (49-50)
- Graeme Wilson (47-49)
- Coral Hayman (Jones) (54-55)
- Tom Prendegast (57-58)
- Bob Muir (52-53)
- Don & Thel Davis (48-49)
- Reunion of WWTC - 1947-52



*Gwen Ferguson shows off the wonderful raffle prize which she has donated back to CSU*

The target for this year is to raise contributions to \$10000. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Please complete the enclosed gift form and return it with your 1999 gift to the Alumni Office at your earliest opportunity.

## Message from the President

If one needed reminding about the rare and unique qualities we share as members of the WWTC Alumni, then the speeches delivered by Dr Vic Couch and Dr Joyce Wylie at the recent reunion in Canberra would have stirred our memories and inspired us all.

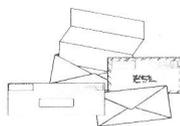
To hear what occurred in those early days from the point of view of the lecturing staff, gave us an insight that we felt privileged to share.

Elsewhere in this copy of "Talkabout" you will read about the gift prepared by Terry Higgins and raffled. This quality work was won by Gwen Roberts and donated to CSU Wagga Wagga for display as a link to the roots of CSU.

Money raised from this raffle will be paid into our Scholarship Fund, a worthy cause to perpetuate what we have achieved in the past.

## Letter from the President

By the time you receive this, the Annual Meeting of the WWTC Alumni will have been held and its committee elected and functioning.



We will be facing up to the coming year and ultimately to leaving the 1900's behind us. What of the future for WWTC Alumni?

Already we have been contemplating this problem. Bill Grant is working on a scheme, which will see the establishment of groups within the State, mainly of a social nature, which will serve to facilitate, communicate and maintain close contact. It is pleasing to note that already we are seeing "Mini Reunions" occurring in places like Cowra and Alumni members travelling to be part of social gatherings organised through our Alumni.

In later times it is envisaged that a group somewhere in the State will elect to serve as the WWTC Alumni Committee and perhaps rotate the responsibility.

The closer the bond the better – that's what it is all about. We have a precious gift. It must be preserved for as long as WWTC students exist and beyond, through our WWTC Alumni Scholarship and the quality of service we give.

Best wishes

*Bob Collard*

## TALKABOUT EDITOR'S REPORT

When our Association was formed it was hoped to resurrect our old College paper "Talkabout" as a communicator to ex-students. It was envisaged that it could possibly be a quarterly publication. In 1998 there were only three issues and this was mainly due to the lack of contributions and so at this stage, it appears that three issues in 1999 will suffice. To begin with contributions recalling College days were submitted by those who were students during the early years and it was anticipated that members from following years would carry on. We are still appealing for contributions. Don't say to yourself "I should write about so and so", Get to and do it now. We eagerly await your your contributions. We are indebted to Charles Sturt University, and in particular, to Michael Fogarty and his staff of Michelle and Marion for their efforts in the publication of "Talkabout". Without the generosity of Charles Sturt University it would be extremely difficult to publish a magazine of the standard we have. For your information, the cost of production per issue is approximately \$1400 (\$400+ for printing, \$900 for postage). There were 1922 copies of the last issue sent out. Incidentally this is without any costing of staff salaries. Some advantages of having Charles Sturt University print our journal are: at this stage our Association could not afford such costs; we are assured of a quality publication

being made available to members; if any changes take place in the editorial staff, production is not threatened and we are assured of continued issues in 1999; and, Michael and his staff have compiled mailing lists which are being continually updated.

This is your second issue for 1999 and the proposed date for the third and final issue for this year is still to be finalised.

With the university budget cuts in 1999 it may become necessary for some of us to help with the more mundane tasks involved in the production line: addressing envelopes, folding and packaging for post etc. Perhaps there may be some colleagues from Bathurst who would volunteer their services if such a need arises.

After our first year Lew Crabtree and I have been encouraged by the enthusiastic comments that we have received from ex-students. We feel that the present format is suitable but we are ever open to suggestions for improvement. We look forward to receiving reports, recollections and any items of interest that our members may contribute during 1999.

Lew Morrell



## The Class of 1967-68 steps out

In April of this year, the 1967-68 WWTC class gathered for a great reunion at the CSU campus in Wagga Wagga.

Some 45 graduates and their partners gathered to enjoy one another's company and more than a few good stories about their days at College.

The group was addressed by Associate Professor Rod Francis, sub-Dean Postgraduate Studies in the School of Teacher Education at CSU Wagga. The title hides a man of much humour and his address entertained us all.

It was a great night of laughter, friendship and memories.



*Some of the 1967-68 group enjoying the reunion dinner*





*At the Reunion Dinner*

# The Pioneer



*Dr Vic Couch*



*One of the Pioneer*



*Dr Joyce Wylie enjoying the company of her past students*

Approximately 130 people gathered at the weekend. They were from the first four

The venue was rated first class by all, as the was adjacent to where the action was.

The first session was represented by 40 F them. The wooden spoon went to the '49 This was a great disappointment. Individ times and the best reply we could give w

A highlight of the weekend was that Joyce the main dinner. They released (probably experience at that time. Clearly some of

The roars of laughter that reached the va when we thought we were "suffering" we Between the audience and speakers there affection.

If you couldn't make it for 1999, do try t Specially you 49-ers! Watch these pages

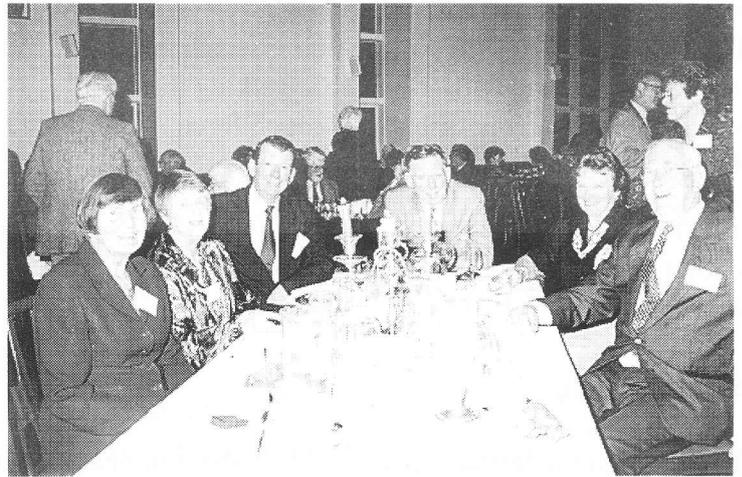
# ers' Reunion



*Dr Vic Couch, Dr Joyce Wylie and Mr Joe Lonsdale - ex-staff of WWTC during Pioneer days cutting the Reunion Cake*



*Groups - 50 years on.*



*Enjoying the Reunion Dinner*

University House ANU over the ANZAC Day sessions at WWTC.

ie accommodation for many, in University House,

ioneers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> running close behind  
 '50 group with only 15 representatives.  
 iduals from that session were asked after many  
 as "Well I know he/she is still alive".

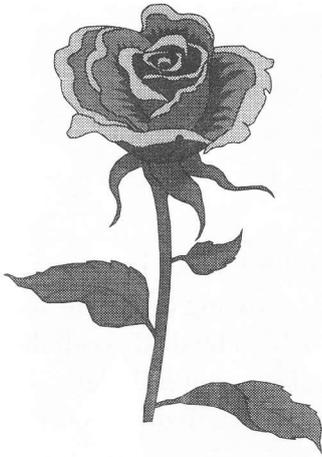
Wylie and Vic Couch attended, both addressing  
 (for the first time) publicly, insights into the staff  
 these anecdotes struck a chord.

ulted ceiling from these speeches suggested that  
 e were not alone.  
 e was a wonderful feeling of mutual respect and

o get there for the next one, if and when it is on.  
 and remember, time is running out.

L.J.C. '49-'50





## In Memoriam

William (Bill) Charles O'Sullivan (WT470097)

Bill died on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1999. A good contingent of WWTC ex-students attended his funeral.

As a Pioneer, Bill was known to all his colleagues as a man with a strong sense of humour, dedicated to his family. He had an intense commitment to the WWTC Alumni and enjoyed all aspects of his social life. He was a foundation member of the group who meet every three months at the Teachers' Club in Sydney.

In recent years his health had deteriorated considerably, but not his sense of fun. He will be missed.

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## Where are they Now?

**Russ Seton (June '50 to Dec '51)** writes to us from Rankin Park to give us a pen sketch of his teaching life and his life after teaching. From a small school he was sent to Junee Central for six years. Having decided teaching was not for him, he sought and gained employment with the NSW Police Force. Here he subsequently applied for the Police Radio and Communications Branch remaining there at Newcastle until forced to retire in 1985 with an illness which limits his ability to walk and then only with a walking frame. Russ rather wryly recounts that "not much force" was needed to get him to retire.

Anyone wishing to contact Russ, his particulars are:-  
10 Hutcheson Ave, Rankin Park NSW 2287  
Phone: 02 4957 4351

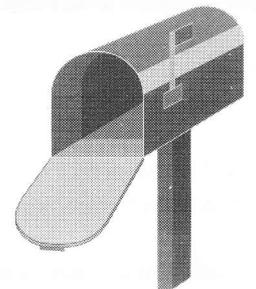
## Lost Alumni now Found

**Beth Seton 1949-50** now Mrs E A McDonald,  
95 Palm Avenue, Leeton NSW 2705

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Editor, Talkabout,  
25 Grandview Drive,  
Newport 2106

## Letter to the Editor



Dear Mr. Morrell,

A flick through the last few issues of Talkabout indicated that reunions have been all the go for sessions up to about 1959 (all now retired with a bit of time on their hands?). A few later sessions (66/67, 67/68 and 74?) have also made the effort to get together.

But what happened to the students of 1960 to 1965? Were their years marked by unpleasant memories of indifferent staff, poor food, low allowances or excessive paternalism? Or is it simply a matter of their now being at the "heights of their careers" with no time for such frivolity?

Yours sincerely,

Bill Semple  
PO Box 1668  
ORANGE NSW 2800

PS

I have addressed this to you because contact addresses were few and far between in the last issue.

Is the "John Sutton" mentioned in a number of issues of *Talkabout* the same person as Captain John Sutton, Army Educational Corps, Holsworthy in the early 1970s?

I have an old album of photos taken at WWTC In 1963/64. You're welcome to borrow it if you think it may contain something you can use.

## FUTURE TEACHING MEMORIES

With the assistance of Charles Sturt University, John Riley is still hopeful of being able to produce a balanced collection of teaching memories for distribution in book form.



Some amusing episodes from small school teaching - parents, pupils, etc. would be especially appreciated, but anything else you would care to share before John "closes the books" mid year would also be acceptable - Travel; Inspector Visits; Accommodation Problems; etc.

## TELLING TALES OUT OF SCHOOL

John Riley has recently received a number of anecdotes to add to our collection of TEACHING MEMORIES. The following are acknowledged:-

PHIL BASTICK (1950-1951) made a number of contributions, including details of his first appointment - to Rennie - and the troubles he had to find his way

there. And of course he had to arrive amid celebrations for a local AFL victory. Does anyone have any idea where Rennie is? Here is a hint - it is situated on the Victorian railway line linking Oaklands in the Riverina with Yarrawonga in Victoria.

Coincidentally this story of Phil's has links with two contributions received the following day from John Pankhurst (1954-1955) in which he deals with the link between National Service and his College career. John, incidentally, was the first to contribute to our collection of nearly 50 stories to date with one about a "humane" inspector of schools.

The other recent contributor, June Hadley (Robson), outlined her impressions of College from the point of view of a "fresher". These appeared in a letter written to a former school friend at Christmas, 1948.

**PLEASE SEND TO - JOHN RILEY, 2 Woorak Crescent, MIRANDA, NSW, 2228**  
Phone: (02) 9525 5304

## A WTC GET-TOGETHER ON THE OCEAN WAVES ~ OR ON BOARD A "VINTAGE" TRAIN HAULED BY FAMOUS STEAM LOCOMOTIVE 3801?

**WHEN?      November 1999**

Every year the Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS), in conjunction with 3801 Limited, arranges a tour to Port Kembla as part of that town's Harbourfest. Making use of the ocean-going ferry, Collaroy, the tour leaves Sydney in the morning, and after passing through the heads proceeds south past Sydney's eastern and southern suburbs, Royal National Park and the coastal suburbs of Wollongong before pulling into Port Kembla harbour. Along the way an interesting commentary keeps passengers posted as to the position of the ferry. On arrival at Port Kembla, for a couple of hours, tourists may take part in the Harbourfest celebrations before joining the train pulled by streamlined steam locomotive 3801 mid afternoon. The train follows the beautiful Illawarra coastline as far as Stanwell Park, before proceeding through Royal National Park to Sutherland and on to the City.

With plenty of room to move around on board Collaroy, this is an ideal way for College alumni to get together. A

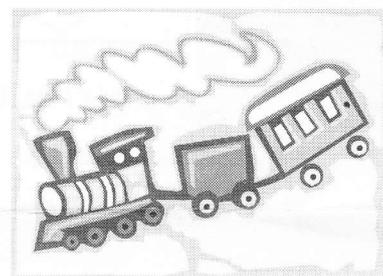
carriage can be reserved for the return trip by train if sufficient numbers can commit themselves to joining in.

While the ARHS cannot make final arrangements till later in the year (September/October), the tour normally takes place about the third weekend in November.

**FARES.** Approximately \$70 for seniors.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST** - For further details and to indicate interest in such a get-together, please phone or write to:

JOHN RILEY  
2 WOORAK CRESCENT  
MIRANDA NSW 2228  
PHONE (02) 9525 5304





## Sydney Luncheon/Meetings for WWTC Alumni

Future dates for 1999 are:

~~Thursday 16th~~  
Wednesday 18 August

Friday 26 November

Time: 11.40 am for 12 midday

Venue: Masonic Club, 169 - 171 Castlereagh St  
(between Park & Market Sts)

Contact: June Hadley (02) 9875 3949  
John Riley (02) 9525 5304

Bookings essential - cost approx. \$20.00

For all your Reunion enquiries or  
anything else please call:

The Alumni Office

(02) 633 84629

## WTC 1955-56 Annual Luncheon

Date: October 9th, 1999  
Venue: The Grandview Hotel,  
Wentworth Falls  
Contact: Peter Sparkes  
Phone 02 47588154

## RCAE 1973 & 1974 (incl. WWTC 1971-72-73)

Date: July, 2000  
Venue: Wagga Wagga  
Contact: Beverley Raward  
02 66550592  
or Pam Crook  
03 98980709  
or Ian "Hoppy" Hopwood  
08 8962143

## Contributions towards expenses gratefully received

A small contribution is needed from Alumni to help the Management Committee meet its running expenses. Five dollars has been suggested but "every little helps". Please complete the form below and send to:-

Treasurer: Mr Lindsay Budd, 4 Flemington Close, CASULA NSW 2170

Phone: 02 9601 3003



Attached is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray costs incurred by The Management Committee of Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (nee) \_\_\_\_\_  
Include maiden name where applicable

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

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

College Sessions: 19 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_\_