



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

# TALK ABOUT



Volume 7: No 2

July 2004

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Our Scholarship has taken a new form for this year.

There were four applicants and two outstanding students could not be separated in scholastic attainments, practice teaching qualities and personality. What a quandary! The two candidates : Cheryl Ann Fuller and Kristil-Rae Mobbs are both students in their final year of Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Honours) studies.

Our available finances for this year amounted to \$4,000, so, after a discussion with the interview panel and members of the Committee, it was decided to award a Scholarship of \$2,000 to each of these candidates. We are confident that these students will be worthy recipients of our Scholarships.



*Cheryl Fuller*



*Kristil Mobbs*

It should give a warm glow to all the generous donors to our Scholarship Fund to know that they have made possible such encouragement to our future teachers.

***The Scholarship Fund is over \$38,000.***

# IN MEMORIAM

## *Rest in Peace*

These are the names of people who have died, details of which have been sent to me since the March Talkabout was printed.

Ann Smith

**John Henry Bourke** (1949-50)  
on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

Johnny Bouke was a student in the 1949/50 session. He came from a footballing family, his father Arthur Bourke was selected as a Kangaroo but decided to forego the tour to marry Helen Waring, the sister of the international rugby league star Benny Waring.

Arthur was an architect who designed Bunnerong Powerhouse. Helen Waring was Miss Bondi in 1929. As Arthur's widow she trained the Gundagai Rugby League team in its success in the Maher Cup competition.

Johnny started teaching as a small schoolie at Boomanoomona and then Mayrung. He was transferred from Mayrung to Balranald Central where his skills in Mathematics saw him utilised in teaching secondary mathematics. From Balranald he was transferred to Muswellbrook High School as a G.A. teacher and after further studies he became a very successful teacher of Year 12 Maths students.

He had taught at Muswellbrook for twenty years when he was offered a Special Master's position at Broken Hill High School where he resided for the next eight years.

By the end of that period his health had deteriorated and he was transferred to North Lakes High School at San Remo with the hope of regaining his health.

He was only there for three months when he was medically retired.

He had many interests.

He coached schoolboy football as well as being a referee for Rugby League.

His favourite team was the Manly Sea Eagles. He was a "learn to swim" instructor, a director of Muswellbrook Workers Club and the Western Division examiner for Still Water Life Saving, John is survived by his wife Lillian and three children John, Ross, and Wendy.

**Edith Pearl Hawker (nee Morton)**  
(1948-50) in September 2003

Edith Hawker (nee Morton) was a valued member of the 1948-50 session. Bob Collard remembers her as a dedicated, sincere Christian lady who never compromised her values or her integrity. She dined at our table in first year and when she knew it was Bob's birthday she produced a cake for the occasion, a gesture of her kindness and concern for others. Her teaching career was brief and her health did not always be as she would have hoped. When Ann Smith tracked her down she was delighted and looked forward to attending the reunion in Bathurst, albeit in a wheel chair. Unfortunately she passed away a short time before the reunion.

**Terrance Gerard Higgins** (1949-50)  
on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2004.

Terry Higgins was a keen student who was an active participant in all aspects of college life. He was an outstanding footballer and a member of the college Rugby League team that contested the group grand final. As a teacher Terry climbed the promotion lists and retired as a Principal First Class. In his retirement he became an expert in Tole Craft and created a magnificent college badge for our first big Alumni reunion. Always a teacher. Always a problem solver. He always did it his way.

**Kenneth James Hoare** (1955-56)  
on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Ken Hoare was a brother to Barbara now Maynard (1948-50) and Patricia now Fullerton (1951-52). He and his wife Cherry had retired to Hervey Bay Queensland, where Ken died.

**Rosalyn Roberts (nee Charlton)**  
(1957-58) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2003.

Rosalyn arrived at Gladstone in 1959, her first appointment, as a primary trained teacher appointed as an Infants teacher. Within a year she was transferred to Kinchella School where she used her talents in music, school plays, eisteddfods and other activities. She met her husband Ray at Gladstone and in 1963 they moved to Sydney. Some of her many achievements were 10 years classroom teaching, declined Demonstration work, was in charity organizations and received Ministerial appointment to the Far West Regional Development Disability Advisory Council. In 1985 she gained her Bachelors degree in Special Education and spent her last ten years of teaching as a specialist teacher for exceptional children. She was 63.

**Isabel Mary Corin nee Pople** (1954-55) on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2003

I do not have any information about Isabel Corin . Perhaps someone can tell us for a future Talkabout.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## From the Secretary's Desk.



Most of my time since the March Talkabout has been spent in helping to find names which are still missing, addresses and people who have never been put on the Database. We are looking for any person who ever attended Wagga Wagga Teachers' College for any length of time, not just the ones who graduated at the end of their college course. I have been helping the reunion coordinators find their missing ones in 1962-63 and 1963-64. We have been quite successful and have found some who have never been to a reunion before. Both the above sessions are having reunions this year. The CSU Database is used to address your Talkabouts and that is why we must keep it as up to date as possible. Please don't be confused whether you received a copy from CSU Bathurst or from me. Mine comes in an envelope hand addressed and has my name stamped under the word Talkabout on the front cover. It is sent to everyone who returns their Information Sheet. This sheet is then sent to CSU. The CSU copy is now in a different form for posting. It has your number and address typed and stuck on the folded copy. A piece of sticky tape holds it together. Please let me know if yours "did not travel well".

The **Information Sheets** are sent by me to **Mrs Pam English** at the Alumni Office who enters all the information and checks that the entered details are correct. This is done every week. Talkabout comes out in March, July and November. If you have not received yours by the end of those months please contact me. There are too many going back to the University because of incorrect information. It is important to tell us your new address, or the fact that

your copy did not arrive or that you choose not to want copies sent to you. Will you please try to find some more of our lost Alumni. Ask any teacher if they went to Wagga and if they get Talkabout. If the answer is "no" then get their address and phone number or give them my address and phone number (see Contacts).

We have received some very encouraging comments on what Talkabout means to the people who sent the following:

**Greg Thompson 1969-71** gets and enjoys Talkabout.

**Shirley Taylor 1969-71** also enjoys it and will send some extra money for phone calls trying to find missing ones.

**Neroli Cooper 1953-54** reads it, enjoys it and then rereads it.

**David Fraser 1964-65** says "You do a great job. Many thanks!"

**Malcolm Hanratty 1950-51** says "Talkabout! As usual a brightener".

**Beth McDonald nee Seton 1949-50** sends congratulations to all who have worked so hard to pull the Alumni together and to produce Talkabout.

Some people who trained at Wagga completed their commitments and then changed to another occupation. **Pauline Hill 1962-63** changed to nursing. Last issue I named 8 people from the Pioneer session whom we could not find, Through a phone call from **Jack Clark 1948-50** I found **Ross Bree 1947-49** who had become a doctor. He now lives in Queensland.

Some live overseas, some travel overseas. **Craig Copley 1962-63** has been teaching in Canada for many years. So does **Keith Cowan 1964-65**. **Terry Lane** and his wife **Maree le Clerc**, both **1962-63** live and work in Saudi Arabia. Our treasurer and editor **Lindsay Budd** and his wife **Gladys Chapman**, both enjoyed a couple of weeks in Jakarta to visit some of their family.

In an email **Ted Bolton 1955-56** told us of his trip to the Rockies via Seoul. He had been up for 56 hours and was trying to separate two frozen hamburgers when the knife slipped through the web of his left hand, cutting the artery and spraying blood everywhere. He was alone 35 kms from the hospital. I believe his adventure ended OK.

**Bev Raward 1971-74** has come back from New Zealand for treatment. I am told that Bev is quite a good artist. I was told that another Australian living in America was also a talented artist. Please can someone again tell me who it is.

I believe that **Peter Hamilton 1962-63** lives in France. Does anyone know where? My letter was not answered.

**Ken Sargeant 1960-61** would like to meet up with some mates. His email is kens@blueturtles.com.

Does anyone know where **Bernice Munro 1949-50** moved to?

**Michael and Marilyn Politi 1965-66** were burnt out in the Canberra fires. They hope to go back to their home soon.

**Narelle Salisbury nee Tanner 1947-49** had to give up teaching because of ill health.

**Hans van Haalan 1969-71** has just taken an early retirement.

**Narelle Duff nee Johnston 1958-59** is still doing some casual teaching in a school at Inverell.

**Tony Baker 1949-50** and wife **Beth** have notified of their move.

While they were on a motor home holiday a few weeks ago they called at his first appointment school (1951). While there he married Beth and they stayed until 1961. Now a new classroom had been built (1957) when enrolments rose to 54. They found it quite strange to see the other additions – flushing toilets, telephone, satellite TV, a library building, a part time secretary and some relief for the principal.

Lastly, a question for **Don Talbot. 1951-52**. Was it you who used to open all the windows and freeze all the occupants?

*Ann Smith*

### COMING EVENTS

**Alumni Association Meeting:**  
at Teachers Credit Union  
Homebush  
on Tuesday, 3rd August 2004.

**WWTC Alumni Luncheon:**  
at Masonic Club  
Castlereigh Street, Sydney  
on Thursday, 19th August  
2004.



# REUNION PAGE

## CLASS OF 62-63 REUNION



*Gerri Schirmer, Nerida Nowland, Wes Nowland, Jenny Madden, John Madden, Robin Gooden, Lyn Potter, Marion Greene, Colleen Lees.*

It felt a bit like being in a time warp. Forty years had passed since we'd all been together at WWTC in 62-63 as seventeen and eighteen year olds and here we were in February 2004 – still feeling young but clearly not looking quite as youthful and athletic as we did all that time ago. A weekend wasn't long enough to catch up with everyone but we did our best. It seems we all still have a great zest for life and carry on as though we are athletic and youthful despite the few extra kilos and wrinkles!

The weekend reunion in Kiama came about as a result of the enthusiasm, energy and exceptional organisational skills of Elaine Hardy (no wonder she ended her career as a Principal). Elaine went to enormous lengths to advertise the reunion and to track down colleagues whose contact details were missing from the Charles Sturt University Alumni Office database - managing to locate most of the 70 'missing' from our group of 231 students (those still 'missing' are listed below.). The Alumni Office arranged the mailouts and assisted with administrative tasks for the reunion. Michelle Fawkes from the Alumni Office joined us in Kiama as did Ann Smith (class of 48 and Secretary of the Alumni Association). Ann works tirelessly to keep memories of WWTC alive for those of us who had the good fortune to go there.

There were over 100 at the reunion. While most of us still live within a day's drive of the Riverina, some travelled much greater distances to attend the

reunion including David Ross who came from Canada. Several ex-students emailed their regrets including Terry Lane and wife, Marie Le Clerc who are currently working in Jeddah.

Bruce Molloy tore himself away from Lake Macquarie and did a great job as MC at the reunion dinner at the Fishbone

Restaurant at the Kiama Terrace Motel. Passers by must have wondered what was going on when they heard our rendition of Guadeamus followed by the College Anthem (ably led by Margot Doyle). We recalled the night we marched through the town and on to Hampton Bridge in protest against our lack of freedom amongst other things. An amazing quantity of beer disappeared before the 'lights out' – perhaps making up for the difficulty getting any when we were at college. Our children would not comprehend the antiquated rules and restrictions imposed on us then – but what fun we had breaking those rules. We reminisced about those escapades and shared stories about what had happened during the intervening years over dinner and a barbeque lunch on the following day. Most agreed that the training we were given at WWTC equipped us superbly for the challenges ahead – classes of 45+, one teacher schools, limited resources to name just a few.

Many at the reunion are now enjoying 'retirement' and trying out a great range of new activities. The stories collected for the reunion, and kindly collated by Val Lister's husband Paul Hare, told of an

amazing range of experiences both in education and in other fields in Australia and overseas. It seems most of the class of 62-63 have lived life in the fast lane and don't intend to move out of it!

We'll be able to keep in touch thanks to the 'Guest Book' Elaine passed around during the evening to capture contact information. Thanks to Pam at the Alumni Office for compiling all the data and posting out copies. No doubt the contact details will lead to lots more 'catching up' over the years ahead! Please contact Ann Smith on (02)9635 0449 if you have contact information for any of the following people.

Jennifer Barton (Lambert)

Students from 1962-63 whose current addresses are unknown

Jean Agnew, Gary Bauer, Malcolm Beazley, Maree Brilliant, Ian Brown, Patricia Byrne, Ann Carter, Kay Connelly, Jennifer Crawford, Hazel Druitt, Beverly Dunston, Jeffrey Ashcroft Edwards, Marion Fox, Trevor Goff, Bernard Greig, Lynette Griffin, Jo Hall, John Hanlon, Maureen Kennedy, June Lewin, Helen Lynch, Paul Miley, Lorraine Morrison, Rika Nacanieli, Margaret Ottaway now Bishop, Helen Parrish, Carmel Piltz now Hanson, Robyn Priest, Sidney Ridley, Pamela Roberts, Margaret Rollston, Lynette Ross, Marcia Sargeant, Ken Schulz, Helen Sinfield, Janet Smith, Maureen Smith, Norman Taylor, Kathleen Thompson, Gillian Watson, William Woods.



*Former Marinya inhabitants: Jean Anderson, Rus Baldock, Jan Turbill, Anna Boersma, Lyn Walker Margaret Badger, Lesley Pearl, Kay Fintan, Bev Hamilton*

# REUNION PAGE

## 1956-57 REUNION

The reunion of our 1956/57 session which was held at Ranelagh House, Robertson on the weekend of 20th/21st March was a great success. About fifty people attended and all expressed their enjoyment of the occasion. Two members of our session were attending one of our group reunions for the first time.

Neville Dunne and Bob Carberry came along and proved they haven't really aged and Mary Blyton continued to thrill us all with her enthusiasm and good humour. We wished her a very happy 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Messages from those unable to attend were passed on during our meeting time.

Michelle Fawkes of the Alumni Office also attended the reunion and she arranged for a printout of names and addresses of members of our session to be circulated during the reunion for any alterations or addition of information on members not previously located. We hope that the Alumni Office now has an up to date list of session membership. As far as we know, there are about 7 or 8 former members who have never been located, in spite of the combined efforts of a number of session members to locate them.

A date has been set for our next reunion. It is to be held at Ranelagh House, Robertson on the weekend of 18th/19th March 2006. The reunion will mark the 50th year since our entry to Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

The reunion is to be organised by Kevin Street,  
8 Ruby Place Green Point 2251 NSW  
0243670035  
and

Gwen Ravell nee Wild  
27/41 Smith St Wollongong 2500  
0242294706.

They promise that this will be a very special celebration on our special occasion so organize your diaries and begin planning now. Contact your friends from College days and encourage them to attend. If your address needs to be updated, please remember to give details to the Alumni office and one of our reunion organizers.

Keith and Irene Crittenden

## 1963-64 REUNION

The 40th Anniversary Reunion will be held in Canberra 24/25/26 September 2004.

Marion Giddy contacted Maurice Hale, who was the Principal in 63/64 requesting a message for his ex-students as they celebrated their 40th Anniversary.

Maurie has given permission to publish his reply in Talkabout.

*Dear students of the 1963/64 session, W.W.T.C.*

*Congratulations on having a reunion!*

*As you look back now and re-live your 2 years in training, you can see what was happening at Wagga Wagga in its framework. The first teachers' college for N.S.W., taking the place of the PUPIL-TEACHER SYSTEM, was Sydney T.C., built by Alexander Mackie as a copy of Moray House, Scotland, where the students were day people, as indeed were ours at Balmain, Alexander Mackie, Westmead and Wollongong Colleges. But when Armidale was set up, as a result of political pressures, residential provision was required to get numbers. Wagga followed, then Bathurst (pressures again) and all 3 were residential and co-educational.*

*George Blakemore, founding principal, "activity George" his colleagues called him, worked out the rules with the students I have been told. Bathurst was set up as a modified copy by Lionel Allen, who had been George's Vice Principal. Objectives were the same viz. 1st rate preparation for teaching children, following a set syllabus, and similar in style to David Stowe, the Scotsman pioneer of teacher training at Jordan Hill (where I've seen his statue). All the 10 colleges in N.S.W. ultimately followed Mackie and Stowe's influence, regarding an option study purely for itself for the tertiary development of the trainees who were young and from secondary education. The professional aspect required subject teaching, demonstration lessons and supervised, helpful practice teaching. Of course the 10 colleges varied according to details of this programme.*

*As you all probably are aware I was appointed by the Governor of N.S.W., to take charge of W.W.T.C. coming from a background of achievement academically and in teaching at Sydney*

*College and University, teaching primary and secondary children, working for 5 years in Research Branch, lecturing at Balmain, Sydney, Bathurst and Wagga (2 years as the senior lecturer in 1955-6) and Vice-Principalship at Bathurst. I considered the rules, published in the calendar of the college, as basic and with the help of Wade, Swan and others modified both the study side and the running of the houses by student committees toward the end of the 1960s decade. The college was replaced by the Riverina College, as part of the framework imposed all over Australia and following the U.K. A new man (Cliff Blake) was appointed in charge. Two thoughts might occupy you, as well as enjoyment of this reunion, personally:-*

*(1) Think of the lectures, dem. lessons, practice teaching, the scholarship set up giving free medical help (Sister Martin, Doctors Holmes, Millard) free accommodation including meals, sport, college fields, intercollegiates, Gilbert & Sullivan and drama, choir music and so on. Contrast the cost to present trainees.*

*(2) Don't you agree that the present University based preparation has strength academically, perhaps beyond your "options" studies, but weaknesses on the practical side, looked after in Teachers' Colleges, because lecturers were selected people who had academic qualifications, achievement as teachers in schools, and a desire to help students to become teachers successful with children in studies and personal development. Now lecturers are appointed purely on academic grounds!*

Maurice Hale

### 1955-56 SESSION

Mt Annan Botanical Gardens

12th October 2004

Contact Person: Margaret Shanks

### 1953-54 SESSION

To be held in Wagga Wagga.

22/23/24 October 2004.

Contact Person: Barry Ewert



# HISTORICAL MEMORIES

## My Tucker Box



*Dawn Stewart (Andrews) 1950-51 continues her delightful stories about growing up on a property Back o' Bourke. This one recounts her memories of the foodstuffs available in the bush in the 30's!*

One little barefoot kid loved to go to town. There were lots of good things there. The two spinster Miss Bells had a café and I don't know why they were "Miss", because they sure knew how to make people happy, especially kids. You see, they made their own ice blocks, and wrapped them in paper so they could sell them to little kids like me- and big kids too, of course. Some were raspberry with slices of frozen banana in them- another kind was raspberry-milk, and there were lots of other flavours. I liked all of them and Miss Bell didn't mind holding a few in her hand until I made that most difficult decision - which one?

On occasions when we stayed in town, we were allowed to go to a matinee in winter or to the open-air garden screening in the summer where the mossies enjoyed their largest meal of their day. The first time I saw that phony lion roar and leap straight towards me, I admit I felt a bit shaky. And while we emptied our peanut shells of their contents and kept watch on the ice cream boy to make sure he didn't duck away somewhere, we watched Dorothy dispose of a couple of witches. We had few worries about meat - my Dad took care of that with his butchers' knives, his meat-house with its big chopping block and his know-how to

dry-salt the fresh meat. My Mum never served us kangaroo, wild pig or rabbits. My Dad said they usually had vermin and parasites. I didn't really know what those things were, but if my Dad said they were bad to eat, he would know, because he knew lots. However, he allowed us to eat wild ducks, topknots and galahs. They were handy when heavy rains fell or the Warrego spilled over its banks and took over the two-mile flood plain that usually let us drive over our bush tracks to the main road, so we could visit the storehouses in town.

There was one day when my Dad was fixing something on the car- and things were not going well. My Mum came out to announce that we had no meat for the evening meal. My Dad worked from daylight to dark and needed lots of good food to keep him strong. That one time, he gave me the use of his .22 rifle. Normally, barefoot kids were not allowed anywhere near guns, but this was, to my mind, a real emergency. There were lots of galahs sheltering from the heat in some thick scrub not far from the house, so my Dad told me to try to get a couple and to aim at the young birds, those with bright pink breast feathers. I surprised both the birds and us by getting two, so we ate galah stew that night.

Before we had chooks, my Dad would sometimes arrive home with some emu eggs, and just one of their eggs is as useful as 14 hen eggs, so we would stuff ourselves with my Mum's goodies to use the eggs while they were still fresh. One day my Dad arrived home with 9. When emus are laying, they make a drumming noise that can be heard some way off. He listened to the sound for a few mornings, memorised the general direction and set off on foot to find the nest. After some hours, he had to give up and he didn't often do that on any task he set himself. The next day he was out riding in that same area, when his dog flushed out an emu and gave chase. My Dad rode back to where the chase began, and found a shallow depression, with a nest of ten eggs. He broke one to test its freshness, made sure his belt was tightly buckled and stored the others inside his shirt. I laughed at that part of his story- he must

have been a funny shape! He mounted the horse and headed for home. Then he couldn't believe his eyes, because not ten yards away were his boot tracks of the day before.

My uncle taught me how to make the emu's drumming sound - in the back of my throat. I practised and practised, and one day I went out to test it. And would you believe that a lone emu heard me and came to investigate? It came closer- and closer - its head cocked on one side- looking and listening- as my drumming got weaker and weaker in keeping with my dwindling courage. The closer he came the bigger he looked, and the nastiest-looking parts of him were those spurs on his toes. I panicked. I yelled and screamed - I waved my arms and stamped my feet until he ran off. I do not know to this day whether he was just guarding his territory from an intruder or I was enticing him with a mating call!

When the quandong trees were displaying their ripe red fruit, we would visit them to harvest it. My Dad would shake each tree and we would gather the fruit that would be used for pies and jam. Once home, we would cut the fruit from the stone. Then it was soaked overnight just in case a few greedy grubs were growing fat, eating our future pie filling. We would then spend several days sun-drying the pieces, turning them regularly to ensure that all were completely dry before storing.

I have left talking about the best tucker until last- the yabbies. From time to time, our bore drains needed desilting. When my Dad bought a caterpillar tractor, he arranged to have a delver made. The framework was of wide and heavy hardwood - it had delta-shaped wings, a strong iron nose-cone to dig out the mud and a large round log was towed along the drain bottom to smooth a new path for the water, to more easily fill the drain after it was desilted. The wings swished the mud and slush right out over the banks and left many hundreds - perhaps thousands - of yabbies exposed on the slush and temporarily without a home. Our Dad showed us how to safely catch them to guard our fingers and told us why we must leave the egg-carrying females and the young ones to find their way back to

# HISTORICAL MEMORIES

the safety of the drain to make a new home.

Our first harvest was disappointing. We had two heavy potato sacks tied to the wings of the delver and we popped the yabbies in there. They used their strong nippers to cut their way out of the bottom of the bags and drop back to the safety of the drain, without us noticing. I think our Dad was disappointed too, because next time we had two large kerosene tins wired onto the wings to hold the yabbies. That time, they finished right where we intended them to be- on the dinner table.

So, if you would care to accept a dinner invitation from a little barefoot kid, I have my menu well thought out. I would talk with my Dad so we would start our feast with piles and piles of freshly cooked yabbies. Then we would have roasted wild duck with roasted vegies and peas.

(I hope my Mum remembers to soak the dried peas, otherwise they will be as hard as little marbles and there is no way you would be able to catch them on your plate even though you wanted to try them - and do be careful with the ducks - you may find a shotgun pellet or two and lose part of a tooth.)

The main meal will be topped with proper gravy - homemade from the pan meat juices. And then..... Quandong Pie with oodles of custard. Lastly, we would have a couple of cups of tea while we listen to my Dad tell some of the wonderful stories about his life.

Does that sound O.K. by you?

Oh! I almost forgot something very important! If you insist on having fresh milk in your tea, please bring some with you. Our cow is on holidays- resting in the back paddock, and there is no way we would drive the round trip of 160 miles to buy some from the nearest milkman!

See you!

Dawn.

## Are You Getting Old?

“Hey Dad”, one of my kids asked the other day, “What was your favourite fast food when you were growing up?”

“We didn’t have fast food when I was growing up,” I informed him. “All the food was slow.” “C’mon, seriously. Where did you eat?” “It was a place called ‘at home,’” I explained. “Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at a thing called the kitchen table - every home had one in those days, or on really special occasions, we had to use the dining room table, and if I didn’t like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.” By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn’t tell him the parts about how we were taught table manners, not to speak with food in your mouth, proper mastication leading to good digestion, nor that I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it: Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.

In their later years they had something called a Bankcard. The card was good only at certain places which generally had a minimum spend limit before you could use the card. My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 120 kilos, and only had one speed, (slow).

We didn’t have a television in our house until I was 11, but my grandparents had one before that. It was, of course, black and white, but they bought a piece of coloured plastic to cover the screen. The top third was blue, like the sky, and the bottom third was green, like grass. The middle third was red. It was perfect for programs that had scenes of fire trucks riding across someone’s lawn on a sunny day.

Some people had a lens taped to the front of the TV to make the picture look larger. I was 13 before I tasted my first

pizza, it was called “pizza pie.” When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It’s still the best pizza I ever had.

We didn’t have a car until I was 15. Before that, the only car in our family was my grandfather’s Ford. He called it a “Model T.” To go anywhere, somebody had to stand at the front of it and swing on the crank handle to get it started.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn’t know weren’t already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk was. Milk in those days always had cream on top - amongst us kids, whoever got the milk in first, got to have some of this cream on their porridge or cornflakes, Mmmmm!

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers. I delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 pence a paper, of which I got to keep 1 pence - about 2 cents worth these days. I had to get up at 4 AM every morning. On Saturday, I had to collect the 3/6- that’s three shillings and sixpence from my customers. My favourite customers were the ones who gave me 5/- (Five shillings) and told me to keep the change. My least favourite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day who then had to pay at the newsagents or their paper delivery was immediately stopped.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. Touching someone else’s tongue with yours was called French kissing and they didn’t do that in movies. I don’t know what they did in French movies. French movies were dirty and we weren’t allowed to see them.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don’t blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

*Anonymous*

# POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

## EX-STUDENTS' POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

*Since the last Talkabout several people have written in with a Potted Biography. These will be included in the Potted Biography started last issue. If you would like to let people know about you please send a short summary to one of the Editors.*

*In this issue we continue the potted biographies of a range of ex-students from the sessions 1947-1967.*

### DO YOU REMEMBER THESE COLLEAGUES FROM YOUR STUDENT DAYS?

#### 1947-49

##### NOREEN HUNT (PERRY)

I resigned from the Dept 41 years ago after teaching at Glen Davis, Blacktown Infants, Oshawa (Ontario, Canada), Berrong and Sylvania. We raised our family of four, and then I became involved in our family business for many years. Now am well into the grandma period of my life with 9 grandchildren under the age of 15. Boring you might think, but these kids are the light of my "old age".

##### SHIRLEY BARRY (YONGE or "YONGIE")

I taught at Muswellbrook, Fairbridge Farm (Lost Children of the Empire) Harold Hill, Essex, England, Beaumont Rd Killara and Gloucester. At Gloucester I became Teacher/Librarian and then moved to Tamworth where I was Teacher/Librarian at South Tamworth till I retired at the end of 1993. We've both now retired and sold our farm and live in town. I do "brekky club" 2 mornings per week at South Tamworth. Am secretary of Nundle Garden Club, "baby sit" my grandchildren, attend College reunions and enjoy life after school.

##### MIRIAM FOSTER (BOWERS)

Taught Willow Tree 49, 50, 51. Married in 1951 and taught at Nabiac and Tamworth. I taught at Moonbi Public, Calrossy C. of E. Christian Brothers (the best of my teaching years). While at Tamworth I did my B.A. at N.E.U. and met my second husband there and we went to Queensland. Taught at Kepnock High, Bundy High and Sister

of Mercy College Loyola. I retired at 60 (1989) but now tutor children who are dyslexic.

#### 1948-50

##### JOHN RILEY

Appointed to Mortdale 1951 after polio; uni degree Sydney at night. Appointed to secondary English/History in 1957. Finished career early in 1986 for health reasons. Since retirement enjoying life to the full researching railway history and being involved in activities of the W.W.T.C. Alumni Association.

##### JUNE ROBSON (HADLEY)

Schools : Rocky River (2 teacher near Armidale ) 1950-51, Bowraville Central School 1952-53, North Bankstown Infants and Glen Innes Infants 1954, Retired 1955- married - lived on land at Emmaville till 1973, casual teaching at Emmaville Central School 1973 -76. With husband held licence of Wallacia Hotel, Sydney suburbs casual relief 1977 - 90, Began work with Adult Migrant Education Service, training volunteer Home Tutors to teach English to migrants.

Retired and became involved with VIEW Clubs sponsored by The Smith Family. Wrote a VIEW History- lived at West Pennant Hills. Member of the W.W.T.C. Alumni Association. Moved to Nambucca Heads. Honoured by receiving an O.A.M. in January 2003 for Services to the Community through View Clubs of Australia. Have two sons and three grandchildren.

##### DON WIBURD.

1. Three years teaching in the State Education system, finishing at Mendooran Central School.
2. Commenced teaching at The Scots School at Bathurst and taught there until retrenched in 1976.
3. During time at Scots and after was fully engaged in promoting sport for schools in the country areas of the state - mainly Rugby and Cricket. Awarded the O.A.M. 1996 for contribution in this area.

#### 1949-50

##### SHIRLEY JAMES

First appointment was to Narrandera P.S. teaching primary as trained. Left after three years to rear five little

daughters then returned to Infants' Depts and in due course took promotion positions - Deputy at Mudgee, then Infants' Mistress at various Metropolitan West schools. In retirement I went to the North Coast but the "quiet life" didn't suit me so I returned to Sydney and am heavily involved in no less than six clubs like Probus, National Seniors, Cottage Garden Club, Shirley Club ! etc

#### 1950-1951

##### ARTHUR FAIREY

Musicals at WWTC : "Pirates of Penzance" and "Iolanthe".  
First year out: Mortlake Primary - bright 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, played piano at School Assemblies.  
Transferred to "THE BUSH" ... Small, Central and High Schools in the 1950's e.g. in New England (winter snow!); Portland, Wellington, Gulargambone (yes, it does exist!) ... survived serious health concerns ... married (1957) .. to Wagga area (an old farmhouse with NO power!) ... resettled in Dubbo .. few years at West Primary ... pleasant memories of white and indigenous students .. active in various roles ... e.g. Choirmaster; Sportsmaster: establishing and maintaining playing field; publishing the school's first newspaper (pupil committee) wrote a school song; wrote and produced a short Musical performance. Commenced External Studies with UNE.

To Dubbo South in 1960's, Graduated BA in 1969.

Moved with wife and family of 3 to Central Coast. Henry Kendall High for a few years then Terrigal High. Last major move to Coffs Harbour area, some casual work before full retirement on a hobby farm at Bonville. Missed intellectual challenges so embarked on courses such as Swedish Massage, Remedial Massage, Iridology. Later U3A Courses (Astronomy, French, Indonesian etc). Member of a Coffs Writers' Group (poems published in US anthologies). YES, THERE IS LIFE AFTER TEACHING!!!.

#### 1951-1952

##### JOHN SKENE

Due to circumstances my teaching career was very short. I have lived in



# POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

Canberra since 1960 where I pursued a career in the Public Service (Customs and Health). Since retiring I've worked for eleven years in a social welfare organisation and have been involved in Aged Care for the past fifteen years.

## JOAN GERARD

As result of my training and experience, since my retirement, I was able to act as Literacy Co-ordinator at the Taree Steiner School for three years. This was certainly a different experience.

## 1955 - 1956

### PEGGY SHUMACHER (TUTTY)

My first appointment in 1958 was to Jones' Island followed by two years at Port Macquarie and two years at The Rock. I taught at Mt. Austin in Wagga from 1966 until I retired at the end of 1994.

## 1957-1958

### PATRICIA JOAN MARTIN (TUCKER)

My career as a teacher was terminated because my beloved husband died from cancer over three years and I nursed him myself until he died. Since he died I have done very little apart from minding my grandchildren and looking after a 90 year old aunt. My life now is not very interesting but I guess that's my fault.

## 1958 - 1959

### ROSS GRAHAM

1960-63 Small Schools Teacher in Wagga District! 1964 -65 University of New England (BA), 1966 Broken Hill Trainee Geologist, 1967 U.N.E. completed B.Sc. Geology, 1968-86 Esso Australia (M.Sc. James Cook) Finished as Minerals Exploration Manager, 1986-91 General Manager Boulder Gold NL, 1991-98 Executive Director Australian Coal Research Ltd (research arm of Aust coal industry), 1998 to present C.E.O. Aust Meat Process Corp.

### MIKE BONNER

Canowindra Rd, Cowra.

Wagga taught me about small schools and as a result I spent 5 years in them from Bigga to Cubben to Climslands,

from a school of 9 to one of 35.

I went to Cowra in 1965, with the intention of staying 3 or 4 years but fortunately I met and married a local girl and stayed in Cowra until I retired in 2000. Since retirement I have discovered the shed (all Australian men need a shed) and am doing leadlight and lamp making. I'm also employed by the local newspaper as a very casual photographer for weekends and also report for the local radio station. I am a slave to the house and garden and I'm currently revamping. I also help my wife in her role as a Marriage celebrant as the gopher.

My wife, Joy, said I must mention we have three lovely sons, all of whom are very successful.

## 1960-1961

### NORMA FOWLER (PHIPPS)

Married to Bob Fowler - sons Mark, Howard and Malcolm and 2 grandchildren. 1962 Port Kembla Primary teaching migrant girls. 1963 Narooma. Exeter to 1965 1966 to Rainbow Street. Randwick 1968. 1969 Morisset Public. 1971 Muswellbrook Infants. 1973 Muswellbrook South D.M. 1981 Small Schools' Consultant Hunter Region. 1984-97 Muswellbrook Sth. Since retirement playing organ, working on Family Tree, going to gaol with KAIROS. Caring for mother.

### JIM ROBERTSON

P.O.Box 401 FINLEY 2713  
Appointments : Hillston Central, Warrawong P.S., London Borough of Ealing, Keira Boys' High School, University of Alberta (M.Ed. Ed Admin), Airds H.S. Head Office (D.S.P. Research) Sarah Redfern H.S. Met South West Regional Office (Curriculum Development), Billabong High School Deputy Principal 1988-89, Finley High School Principal 1990-2002. Retired January 2003.  
Since retirement : 2003 Overseas Retirement Trip ; Yukon, Canada, Greece, France, Italy. England and Wales, Japan. Attending reunions.

## 1961 - 1962

### MARGARET CROFTS (STUCKEY)

I have been retired from full time teaching for five years now. I do casual

teaching and teach 4 S.R.E Scripture classes on Wednesdays. I love teaching and taught K-3 classes for over 30 years. I met my late husband, Peter Crofts at W.W.T.C. and he died 13 years ago. His first school was one teacher school at Rennie on the N.S.W./Vic border (there hasn't been a school there for many years now) .I didn't teach in any country areas at all:- Minto P.S., Peakhurst South P.S. Excelsior P.S. (Castle Hill) and Crestwood P.S. (Baulkham Hills). One of my two adult children is also a teacher. Since retiring I have had about 5 O.S. trips and photography is my hobby.

### LYN KIRBY (FERRIS)

Initially taught at Lurnea P. S. and various schools in Sydney. Taught at the Montessori Pre School in Seoul when I lived there for two years in 1975-76. Moved into Teacher/Librarian and have been a Teacher/Librarian since the mid 1980's. Still teaching, but will retire at the end of 2003. I added further academic qualifications at Wollongong University and finally graduated from Charles Sturt University with Master Applied Science (Teacher Librarian) in 1999. I started at Wagga and finished in Wagga. What a wonderful institution W.W.T.C. and Charles Sturt University.

## 1963 - 1964

### MARION GIDDY (SMITH)

Classroom Teaching 1965-72 Stanmore P.S. 1973-77 Baulkham Hills Nth.P.S. Teacher/Librarian 1978-2000 The Meadows P.S. Baulkham Hills Nth. P.S. Retired June 2000. Since then ? Employed 2 or 3 d.p.w. Casual and Temp Work.

## 1966 - 1967

### PAULINE PRICE

Appointments:- 1969-70 Lethridge Park, 1971 Schofields and Our Lady Help of Christians, 1972 London, 1973-75 St Michaels, Stanmore - Child Rearing. Years 1984 St Michaels Stanmore Community Relations, 1987 St Fiacres, Leichhardt. 1991-95 Up grade Catholic Special Needs, University of N.S.W, Master Gifted Education, 1996-2003 Our Lady Dolours Chatswood.

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# COLLEGE MEMORIES

## EARLY SWIMMING CARNIVALS AT WWTC

### Some Memories

Later students will recall that these were held in the Olympic pool opened near Bolton Park from around 1952, but this luxury was not available for those in earlier sessions.

The first carnival was held in March 1949 in what were called the Pontoon Baths, located beside the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. As the name implies, pontoons secured to the bank formed the walls of the pool, with lanes provided in the usual manner. It is unclear whether there was any “shallow” or “deep” end of this pool, more likely it was the shallow or deep “side” with the pool running parallel to the bank.

Memories ranging back 56 years have to be rather vague, but a borrowed photograph reveals that some form of spectator accommodation was provided on the bank.

It was a gala day when in early 1950 it was announced that our carnival was to be held in the pool at Junee, involving bus transport to that town. So it became almost like a picnic day, away from the “deadly” routine of lectures. Picnic lunches were provided, similar to those during practice teaching.

Carnivals were held at Junee till the new Olympic pool in Wagga was opened.

Throughout the years, in the education field at least, whether primary, secondary or tertiary, carnivals have been a time for fun, apart from the more serious intent to score points for one’s house – “one point for your house for each event entry”. But the fun was not only confined to the students.

Over the years in all sports there has been a traditional Staff Vs Students event. Anyone involved in the secondary field will recall those cricket matches, where the unfortunate unpopular teacher was subjected to a barrage of bumpers by the school’s top grade fast bowler. The reverse, to a lesser extent for ethical reasons, might also have applied.



*Strength of the current of the Murrumbidgee can be clearly seen - Hazel Mann (Kaye)*

But we’re talking about swimming carnivals. Kevin Wilcox of the 1947-1949 session has revealed some of the fun and games of the 1949 event.

Male students had challenged the staff to a relay event with the four house teams. The staff were running a pretty poor last as the final leg began. For the staff, this was to be swum by lecturer in English, Arthur Ashworth, who was excused from beginning his lap with a dive because allegedly he was afraid of diving.

Keep in mind that the waters of the Murrumbidgee are not exactly transparent, and that there is a strong current, making things difficult for the unfortunate person swimming against it.

Arthur duly began his swim, lagging behind the field till near half way, when he suddenly began a meteoric sprint, with a surging bow wave preceding him. He romped in easily, to defeat the astonished house teams.

Then the truth emerged. A rope had been tied under Arthur’s armpits, and his sudden spurt had been made possible with some assistance from the other end!

Arthur suffered severe rope burns under his arms from pressure exerted by the rope. In telling of the event later, he declared he had swallowed a good deal of Murrumbidgee water – not a pleasant

experience – and would never repeat the act.

My only personal contribution to the “success” of that carnival was my attempt to swim for the first time in my life 50 yards backstroke against the tide. I’m not sure that I made the distance! Other students of the era, many of them from country areas where swimming was just not practicable, tell me of similar experiences.

Events of the day are probably best summed up in the Talkabout article of 27th March, 1949:

### Swimmers Make Splash

The College Swimming Carnival held at the Pontoon Baths on Tuesday, 15th March, was a great success. The Swimming Committee and Mrs. MacLoughan and Br. Howe must be congratulated on their fine organisation, as they were hampered from the start by having to run a one and a half day carnival in an afternoon.

The best all-round swimmers on the day were among the women and included Barbara Spence, Margaret Fisher, Joan Kuskey and Margot Wilson. The outstanding men performers were Ray Wood, Nick Bricknell, Joe Pestell, Len Sheriff, Lance Mullins and Les Potter.

Barbara Spence, Ray Wood and Joe Pestell should be singled out for their really fine performances. Barbara for her spirit and all-round ability, Ray for the freestyle sprints and Joe for his phenomenal time of 35.4 secs. for the 50 yards breaststroke.



*Staff member identified as Miss Barnes photographed wearing flippers after the Staff vs Students relay.*

# COLLEGE MEMORIES

From the start the carnival was a stirring tussle between Ipai and Kabi for the point score trophy donated by Mr. Fearn. The points were still fairly level when the relays, the last events of the day, were being staged. Out-standing swimming by both Kabi men and women resulted in Kabi winning all four relays, so giving them the honour of being the first house to win the swimming trophy. Congratulations, Kabi!

Let me here also pay tribute to Mr. Ashworth's meritorious dash in the staff relay. Had he been dragged along by a rope he could not have covered the distance any faster!

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I have fond memories of the first carnival held at Junee. Instead of partaking in the picnic lunch, my two room mates, Bob and John, and I accepted an invitation to lunch at the home of another mate, Bruce. It is not clear if we left with permission, or whether we just sneaked out, but we headed off to Bruce's place a couple of blocks away.

There we were made most welcome by Bruce's mother, and quickly sat down to a delicious hot meal. This was followed by a wonderful fruit pie (was it blackberry or quince?) with jelly, and covered with lashings of fresh cream. Compared with the standard lunch at College (or sandwiches at the pool) it was heaven.

Ann Smith throws more light on the 1950 carnival after coming upon the day's programme. She reports that she found it run off on a Gestetner on very poor quality paper. It listed the names of the officials, the 1949 record holders, the program of events, the heats and finals, the persons representing and their houses. The first race was 220 yards freestyle (about 10.30 am) and the last the men's House Relay (Event 29) at 3.45 pm, followed by George Blakemore presenting the house trophy. One might wonder how there could be any comparison between records for races swum in the Murrumbidgee and at Junee baths.

Incidentally, it might seem that attempts of staff to hold superiority over students continued at Junee, when an archival

photograph reveals that one female staff member actually wore flippers!(See photo)

A number of novelty events also proved popular, another archival photograph showing a very tall Kevin Tye (1949-1950) standing over a smaller colleague who has emerged from the pool in dripping wet clothes.



*Kev Tye standing over Lew Morrell*

John Skene recalls the carnival at Junee where Ipai was well represented by Don Talbot and June Legge, the former at least to become well known in the swimming world. June apparently won most if not all of the events she competed in.

John Briggs has more vivid memories of what was probably the first carnival held at Wagga baths. He swam in the 50 metre freestyle (or was it yards then?), and came third. He couldn't swim 100

metres - not at speed - but could do the 50 metres in about 29 seconds. On the opening day a young boy drowned in the crush - no one could see his body on the bottom of the pool.

He recalls a group daring one another to dive off the 10 metre tower. Barry Olds and John climbed the ladder to the top and stood there looking down to the postage-sized pool beneath and being too scared to go off. They both retreated to the back of the platform, much to the jeering of their mates below. Then Barry muttered "Bugger this" and ran to the front edge and launched himself into space, plunging to the waters below in a totally graceless dive.

That left John on his own, with his mates (?) urging him on. He looked down and jumped feet first, hitting the water flat-footed and jarring every bone in his vertebrae. His feet also went numb. Slowly he swam to the edge and climbed out to the cheers/catcalls of his mates. He could barely walk.

John consoles himself that at least Barry and he had been brave/foolhardy enough to go off, when none of the others would.

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These are just a couple of memories of happy days at those early carnivals. Perhaps readers could search through their memories to produce a few more for publication in Talkabout.

JOHN RILEY

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*All was not effort at the 1950 carnival. Olga Taylor, Bob Collard and Des Handsaker here relax.*



# LETTERS PAGE

## A LETTER FROM A FORTY-NINER

R.M.B. 2266  
Corrie Hill,  
LEETON. 2705  
9th April, 2004

Dear Ann,

My principal reason for writing is to notify you of my "new" address. I must admit to having been remiss in not notifying you sooner, as I have been here for some time, however the Postal Readdress systems have been quite efficient and I still receive Talkabout regularly.

I really enjoy getting it both for the content but also because it takes me back to the days when Lew and Lew plus assorted villains including yours truly spent frantic last minutes and late nights getting the College issue of Talkabout all together.

Of the 49-50 session who could forget "Mr Belvedere" alias Lew Crabtree and his gossip column, a most creative melange of fact, fiction, speculation and mischief. I wonder if the "Loos" ever have qualms of conscience about unloading the boring bits on me. One of the more memorable was being bribed to do interviews with the audience at "The Mikado". I spent most of the time fending off questions about what "goes on" (or off?) in a Co-Ed College. Attitudes have certainly changed.

Hearing my grand daughter practising her recorder brings back Saturday afternoons, hair drying on the steps of the dorms to the "strains" of recorders at varying levels of skill.

Then there was the men vs the women football game where Rafferty ruled culminating with the ritual dip in the duck pond, and the rumours surrounding the lucerne patch where I was disappointed not to have been invited. I still sang along with the rest "We'll make Lionel Allen leave the lucerne patch alone When the Red Revolution comes"

Does it seem that my memories are extra- curricula ? I must have learnt something as I managed to pass, and get my first appointment to North Belmore Infants School, where with a couple of young ladies from Sydney T.C. I duly

turned up, hatted, gloved and stockinged as requested.

I was at North Belmore from 1951 to 1955 when I returned to my home at Yanco with an appointment to Leeton Infants, and marriage to "the boy next door" in the offing.

We were married at Easter and I resigned in August 1956, though I did some casual relief until my husband John went to St George in Western Queensland and worked on the Irrigation Scheme.

Back to Leeton in 1958 and the life of a country housewife with a son adopted in 1961. In 1972, my husband, always frail, became ill and I joined the staff at St Francis College, Leeton as one of their early lay staff. It was a happy time, I taught English and History (my main subjects at Sydney University), established a remedial unit, and integration units, and was English Co-ordinator until 1985 when I resigned to work with the young unemployed in the CYSS scheme.

Shortly afterwards my husband died, and when my son married in 1990 I began caring for my mother and Downs Syndrome sister. Shortly after my mother's death, I began my present vocation – full time Grandma. My son was left with four young children, twins 3 months, boy 2 years, girl 4 years (now all at school) hence the move back to the farm recently to cut down on daily travel.

As you can see, a fairly uneventful life – no grand titles or outstanding achievements. My main interests now are the children, volunteer work with St Vincent de Paul and the Church.

I have seen very few of fellow W.W.T.C. students, though Mary Payne (now Hulme) attends the same Church at Yanco, and I taught Des Handsaker's daughter. I was pleased to see Norma Clark (McCleary) and her sisters, as we were at school together. Don Morgan also called in; and "Fred" (Louis ) Whant and his wife made contact through their daughter who taught at Leeton High School. I should be delighted to see any others who may be visiting or passing through. My phone number is (02) 6955 7860.

It would be wise to phone as I am a short distance from either the village of

Yanco and Leeton township and not easy to find without directions. Well Ann, thank you for your patience in reading this.(One of my History students once asked me if I was practising for the secret service) Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to pull the Alumni together and to produce Talkabout, Best wishes to you all and to the 49-50 session.  
Yours sincerely,

Beth McDonald (nee Seaton)

## EDITOR'S NOTE :

"The Observations of Mr Belvedere" was Lew Morrell's column, Lew Crabtree wrote "Personality of the Week". Yes Beth I do have qualms of conscience about some of the "poison" that appeared in that column. A lot of fun was had in later years when, at various functions, Lew Crabtree was reprimanded for Belvedere's column and when the complainant was informed it was me, many were so surprised that they forgot to rebuke me.

Lew Morrell

## BOB TEASDALE WRITES ABOUT TIU MALO

Dear Lindsay

Warmest greetings from Suva.

A few issues of Talkabout ago (perhaps a couple of years back) someone from the 59-60 session asked about a Fijian student from their group, Mr Tiu Malo, who was in the secondary section. I'm glad to report that he is alive and well and living in Suva. Tiu is originally from the island of Rotuma, to the north of the main Fiji islands, and came to WWTC on a Methodist church scholarship, having already taught for several years at Lelean Memorial School in Nausori. He did not live on campus, but boarded in town with someone from the Methodist church, riding an old bicycle out to College each day, quite a hardship in the winter months for someone from warmer climes.

On his return to Fiji, Malo, as he preferred to be called at WWTC,

# LETTERS PAGE

returned to Lelean, and then moved on to another Methodist school, Jasper Williams High, in Lautoka. He then won the post of principal of one of Fiji's oldest and most historic schools, Levuka Public School, on the island of Ovalau, where he served for many years. He then moved to Suva to take up the Deputy Principalship of Laucala Bay Secondary School, his final post before retiring from teaching.

In parallel with his teaching career Malo also was involved in the Fiji Military Forces, rising to the rank of major. On two occasions, once before retirement, and once afterwards, he served as commander of the Fiji United Nations Peace Keeping Forces in Lebanon, a demanding role that took him away from home and family for a full twelve months each time.

Following his second tour of duty in Lebanon he was asked to be one of the three Commissioners who managed the affairs of Rabi Island, the Ocean Island (Banaban) community resident in Fiji. Later still he took on a similar role in relation to his own birthplace of Rotuma.

Tiu, now in his early seventies, is living with his wife Fanny in Suva, and playing an active role in community, church and family affairs. He has two children and two grandchildren. His daughter has followed in his footsteps as a school teacher, and is currently head of the Science Department at Adi Cakobau School, while his son has a fascinating job as research diver in the Marine Studies program at the University of the South Pacific.

Malo would very much like to be placed on the mailing list for Talkabout. His contact details are: Mr T W Malo, 8 Sevuka Place, Namadi Heights, Suva, Fiji.

Incidentally, you also might like to change my mailing address for Talkabout to: Dr Bob Teasdale, PRIDE Project, University of the South Pacific, Box 1168, Suva, Fiji. After 34 years in the School of Education at Flinders University, I decided it was time for a move and have taken on the role of

Project Director of the Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of Basic Education (the PRIDE Project), managed by the Institute of Education at the University of the South Pacific. So I'm now sitting in a sunny office in a grove of breadfruit trees (when not travelling the region) overseeing an exciting new program to support the reform of basic education in fifteen Pacific countries, from Palau in the northwest to Cook Islands in the southeast. We have substantial funding from the European Union and New Zealand, and the challenge of helping countries build their education systems on a firmer foundation of local cultures, languages and values while also preparing students to take their place with confidence in a globalising world.

If anyone from WWTC 58 - 59 - 60 is visiting Suva, or living in Fiji, please make contact.

Warmest good wishes,  
Bob Teasdale (58-59)

## LETTER FROM ARTHUR FAIREY

To Talkabout Editors

Greetings,  
Thank you for posting "Talkabout" March 2004 which I read with much interest.  
I note with interest a proposed General Reunion in Wagga in 2005. I would very much like to attend the reunion and would appreciate details as soon as possible so I can plan ahead.  
At WWTC I used my first name Arthur, and Surname FAIREY. However, later I changed the surname by deed poll to FAIREY, the original form, as in "The Fairey Aviation Company" in England. Also, the original Fairey name can be traced back to at least 1252. My father, for some reason, dropped the 'i' in Fairey but 2 of my older brothers officially restored the missing 'i' and I followed suit.  
Enquiry: At WWTC (1950-51) my two room mates were Cliffe Cudlipp and Keith (Buddha) Stanley.  
Cliffe has written to me and I have his new address somewhere but I don't

know the whereabouts of Keith. Do you people have any information on these two ex-students?

Another query: Any knowledge of Len Haskew?

Len and I, by coincidence, were sitting together in late 1950 at General Assembly when George Blakemore announced that Len and I were JOINT winners of the "Dux of the Year" prize. We had not really known each other, nor had we ever sat together in the Hall – strange but true!

I have included a brief history of my career which you may like to include in the Potted Biography page.

Thanks again, I look forward to reading more Talkabouts.

Arthur Fairey (1950-51)

## EDITORS NOTE:

I have written to Arthur and sent him details of the whereabouts of his friends.

Lindsay Budd

## EDITORS' CONCERN.

The editors are concerned that although nearly 4,000 copies of Talkabout are sent out each issue to alumni and affiliates, less than a QUARTER of our readers have contributed to the cost of printing. Printing costs have increased and if Talkabout is to continue in its present form it will be necessary to receive a larger proportion of contributions. This issue will be sent out as usual but contributions will be monitored and discussed at the next meeting to be held before the next issue.

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF  
YOU HAVE PAID YOUR  
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION!**

# CSU INFORMATION

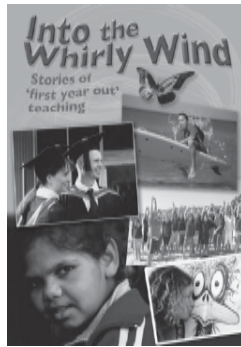
## VETERINARY SCIENCE – A FIRST IN EDUCATION FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

There has been widespread industry concern and media coverage given to the supply and ongoing availability of rural veterinarians caused by the significant number of retirements and the lack of new graduates seeking rural opportunities. From 2005, Charles Sturt University will be the first veterinary science education provider in Australia located outside of a metropolitan area and, with research recognising that 60-70% of CSU graduates remain in regional locations, it is hoped that CSU Veterinary Science graduates will reverse this trend.

The CSU course will be a six-year program - one year longer than other courses in Australia, designed to address the limitations perceived in other courses, including herd health management and epidemiology, communications, business management and large animal skills. The course will have a strong rural focus and it is hoped will deliver long-term benefits to both regional Australia and Australia as a whole given the economic importance of its livestock production for its exports.

The University has appointed a core team of staff based on the Wagga Wagga campus to develop the curriculum and is working with the Charles Sturt Foundation to seek \$150,000 per annum for five years in sponsorship from corporations and individuals to fund a Professor. In addition, the Foundation has embarked on a fundraising campaign to secure resources that will support the course, including infrastructure, equipment, capital projects and scholarships for students.

For further information contact the Foundation Manager, Narelle Stocks on (02) 6338 4202 or via email to [nstocks@csu.edu.au](mailto:nstocks@csu.edu.au).



**INTO THE WHIRLY WIND**  
CSU's School of Teacher Education will this month launch *'Into the Whirly Wind'* - a collection of stories about teachers' 'first year out'.

As teacher educators, the School of Teacher Education wanted to know what it was like 'out there' for recently qualified teachers, and how earlier graduates had coped with their first teaching placements. The resulting book spans fifty years of teacher education graduates, who include primary, early childhood, and secondary teachers, as well as specialist educators.

Each of the writers has shared a part of themselves in describing the children, the schools, and the communities they work in. They tell about their apprehension, their tears, their successes, and their pride in their students' accomplishments, such as the following excerpt:

"Childbirth was less taxing on my mind, body and spirit than my first year of teaching...but both experiences have proved life-changing".

The book has glimpses of adversity and indifference, as well as friendship, exhilaration, and humour. Some of the tales are about places that no longer exist and of children, now grown up, who are preserved perfectly in a teacher's memories.

The production of the book has been made possible through funding by the Charles Sturt Foundation. The book can be purchased for \$22.95 and ordered from:

[www.csu.edu.au/division/alumni](http://www.csu.edu.au/division/alumni).

**Do You Have a Grandchild in Year 12 who wants to come to CSU?**

**If so, The Alumni membership program can help!**

Join the Alumni Membership Program as a Gold or Gold Life Card Member and we can offer your grandchild priority for on-campus accommodation for their first year of study.

- ❖ Gold Card Membership is only \$82.50 per year
- ❖ Gold Card Life Membership is only \$330.

Other benefits include:-

- ⊕ 25% Discount on CSU Wine
- ⊕ 10% Discount on Alumni merchandise
- ⊕ 10% Discounted reunion costs
- ⊕ \*\*10% Discount on fee-paying postgraduate courses at CSU
- ⊕ Notification of Reunions
- ⊕ Free subscription to "Alumni" magazine
- ⊕ Preferential rates for use of University facilities
- ⊕ Preferential rates at The Centre for Professional Development on the Bathurst Campus

The Membership period is from 1 September to 31 August. If however, you join during the period 1 May to 31 August, your Membership will run until 31 August the next year.

\*\* Please note that the discount on fee-paying postgraduate courses for Gold and Silver card members does not apply to Subjects delivered by CSU's industry partners including all Subjects starting with ITI-xxx.





# The Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association Scholarship Appeal



**KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2004 TO SECURE THE FUTURE**

The WWTC Alumni committee is seeking your continuing support for the Scholarship Fund in 2004. Although we have reached our initial target of \$25,000, we are keen to see this expand and allow us to either have an additional Scholarship or to make the present one more prestigious.

It is an important project as it serves not only to assist students who may have affiliations with our members but also to perpetuate the spirit and comradeship which was established so long ago and still exists. The WWTC Alumni Association will have direct input as to how this Fund is managed and where the Fund will expend its monies. All information pertaining to activities of the Fund will be communicated to our membership through 'TALKABOUT'.

Your willingness and courage to 'secure the future' providing for the best possible education for members of the WWTC Alumni family is an outstanding goal.

**Scholarship Fund donations must go directly to the CSU Foundation at:-  
The Grange, Charles Sturt University, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795**

As you know, we pay for the printing of TALKABOUT and even though the Alumni Office covers the cost of postage, the Association still incurs fairly large expenses. It has therefore been decided that an annual contribution of \$10 per member is required and that this will fall due at the time of the March "Talkabout".

**Talkabout contributions should be sent directly to the Treasurer of the WWTC Alumni Association:-**

**Lindsay Budd, 4 Flemington Close, Casula NSW 2170.**

**If you require a receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.**

The Alumni Office over the years has been a great supporter of the Association. Postage costs for Talkabout are approx. \$1350 for each issue. To assist them to cut costs you can opt to receive your "Talkabout" by email. Simply tick the box on the bottom of your contribution form. The Alumni Office will appreciate your help very much.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Alumni Office on 02 6338 6016

**I want to support the WWTCAA Scholarship Appeal  
(All gifts over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTABLE.)**

My gift for 2004 is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please find my cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Years at College: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Here is my annual contribution to the production of  
TALKABOUT.**

My contribution for 2004 is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Years at College: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to receive my Talkabout  
by email



If undeliverable please return to:  
The Alumni Office  
Charles Sturt University  
Bathurst NSW 2795 Australia

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

Place address sticker here.

### **Change of Format**

In order to reduce costs and simplify the mail out the format of Talkabout has been changed. The back page now has postage information and a space for the address label. The Scholarship form is inside the back page so that the contribution form can be cut out without losing any Talkabout content.