

PANORAMA



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

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

Issue No. 41 SUMMER 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Panorama Readers,

Welcome to our Summer Issue of 'Panorama' for 2021. Since the last edition of our magazine, our Reunion to celebrate 70 years since the foundation of BTC and 20 years since the formation of the Alumni Association has been postponed until November 2022 due to the Covid Pandemic.



The new date for our celebrations, now for 71 years since the opening of the College and 21 years since the foundation of BTCAA will be on November 7th, 8th and 9th 2022.

The 2022 Reunion will again be in Bathurst with activities centred around Rydges Hotel and Charles Sturt University (CSU).

A luncheon will still be sponsored by the University on the Tuesday and the formal Dinner will be at Rydges on the Tuesday evening.

Thank you so much to the organising committee for all their work planning this year's Reunion and then making all the arrangements, adjustments and notifying people about the changes to 2022.

Our next AGM and allied annual Luncheon is booked at The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel Sydney for Saturday, March 5, 2022.

This is always a great event and we hope you are able to join us next year. More information about this event can be seen later in this 'Panorama' magazine.

'Panorama' is our link and lifeline to you, the BTC Graduates, and articles and contributions are always welcome. They can be emailed to Wayne Bensley or myself. Many thanks to Wayne for the excellent job he does twice a year putting our magazine together.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions Zoom Online Video Conferencing has been a wonderful way to hold our BTCAA meetings throughout this year.

In 2022 we plan to hold both Zoom and Face-to-face Committee Meetings. Our AGM on March 5, 2022 will be a face-to-face meeting. We are always looking for new Committee Members. If you are interested in joining us please contact me on my new email address carosharp30@gmail.com

2021 has been a sad year with one of our Committee Members and a BTCAA Foundation Member. Peter Connolly passing away on June 8, the day after his 90th birthday. His company and contributions to the Association will be sorely missed by all.

Our goal to increase our Scholarship Fund is still going ahead. Thank you to all the generous Alumni who have already contributed. We are moving steadily towards our goal of \$65,000 (currently at \$53,564) which will make the Award a perpetual one. Details about this are at the back of 'Panorama'.

Once again I hope you enjoy our magazine and we look forward to hearing from you. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and above all a healthy New Year.

---Carole Sharp



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2022 AGM and LUNCHEON

This year's (2021) annual AGM and Luncheon was not held because of COVID restrictions. However the AGM and Luncheon for 2022 will go ahead. It is booked for **Saturday 5th March at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel** (usual place) at 169-171 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. See special flier and more details on the next page.

BTCAA SCHOLARSHIP

As mentioned in an earlier magazine (#40) there was no BTCAA Scholarship awarded for this year (2021) as there were no eligible applicants. Let's hope there will be more next year. Any aspiring student who has a family connection with a BTC graduate (parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt, step relation etc) is eligible to apply.

CSU REPORT / UPDATE

CSU Alumni
Today's industry leaders.



Dear BTC Alumni

< LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD >

71 YEARS OF BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE

It is our great pleasure to help provide you the final edition of 'Panorama' for this year 2021.

Our immense gratitude, as always, goes to the editor, Wayne Bensley, and all the magazine contributors, for helping such a wonderful publication to be put together.

As we approach the final weeks of the year, our office would like to introduce a new fundraising campaign we are doing for the BTCAA Scholarship Fund and legacy at large.

Sadly, the 70-year celebrations to mark the commencement of BTC were unable to be held this year due to COVID. However, with the party being postponed 12 months and a new celebration being set for 71 years, we thought this a perfect opportunity to set a new fundraising goal to increase the BTCAA Scholarship Fund total from \$53,564 to \$84,000 to mark the occasion.

Reaching this new goal and benchmark total will allow the BTCAA Scholarship to increase in value from the current annual award of \$3,000 to \$5,000, which will provide greater assistance to students with the increased costs of education.

Also as a special Christmas gift, the Charles Sturt Foundation has 100 beautiful hard copy 2022 wall calendars to give away. If you would like one, please email your name and address to alumni@csu.edu.au.

On that note, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and connection to one another and the University. May you all have a very happy and safe Christmas season.

**We look forward to celebrating 71 years of
BTC in November 2022.**

Warmest regards

Stacey Fish

Alumni Office and Advancement Team



Please see the Scholarship Contribution page on the back page of this magazine if you would like to donate to the existing and/or new fundraising goal.

In addition, if you would like to establish your own legacy through a named scholarship, please contact Kirstie Grady on (02) 6338 4834 for further details.

BTC ALUMNI CONTACTS 2021

President: Carole Sharp (1960-61) – email carosharp30@gmail.com

Secretary: Val Woodward (1966-67) – email vwoodwardbbps@yahoo.com.au

Treasurer: Tony Koop (1960-61) – email tkoop7@gmail.com

Panorama Editor: Wayne Bensley (1964-65) - email: wrbensley@hotmail.com

Database: Mike Creenaune (1960-61) – email: mikecree@iprimus.com.au

**Development Officer– Advancement Office,
Bathurst Campus:** Stacey Fish
email: sfish@csu.edu.au

FRIENDSHIP

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones
at the Annual

BTCAA LUNCHEON

on Saturday 5th March 2022

Guest Speaker

TBC

The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

169-171 Castlereagh Street, SYDNEY

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

12.30 – 3.00pm

Brief AGM prior to luncheon
11am – 12.15pm

Cost: \$75 p.p. (2 course meal PLUS
tea/coffee and a drink)

Please send payment with the slip below to:

Mrs Gail Metcalfe (Asst Treasurer)

14 Banksia Park Road

KATOOMBA NSW 2780

to arrive by Monday 28th February 2022

I enclose payment of \$75 pp for _____ person/s to attend the BTCAA luncheon on
Saturday 5th March 2022

Please tick method of payment below:

Cheque

☐

Money Order

☐

Direct Bank Deposit

☐

(see details below)

BTCAA Bank Account Details: Commonwealth Bank BSB 062-300 A/c # 10133521

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

NAME: _____ BTC Years _____

ADDRESS: _____

I require a receipt YES / NO (Please circle). Include a stamped self addressed envelope for the sending of
the receipt OR it can be collected at the door on the day of the Luncheon.

Please advise of any dietary requirements below:

AGM REPORT 2021

At this year's ZOOM AGM (in February) it was suggested that it may be a good idea to continue to include some of the decisions and reports in '**Panorama**'. The main decisions this year related to this year's planned 70/70/20 Reunion, a request for stories/reminiscences from College experiences, and information about the Scholarship Fund.

The main thrust of activity this and next year is to increase the BTC Scholarship Fund up to \$65 000. A revised total is also being promoted.

This is being undertaken, with readers' support, to make the scholarship a more worthwhile award AND also a perpetual one. This will make it one that can hopefully lead to the award of a Centenary Scholarship in 2051..... IMAGINE THAT!!!

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ...DID YOU KNOW ?

- + The Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 and the first award was made in 2008. To date 13 scholarships have been awarded.
- + \$3000 is currently awarded to the scholarship winner (who must have a family connection to a BTC graduate).
- + Scholarship Funds are pooled with the CSU Foundation to ensure a better return on funds.
- + Currently the return is 6% on our investment.
- + In 2020 there was a shortfall of \$274 which was made up by the Foundation.
- + There was no Scholarship award for 2021.
- + Current balance in the Fund is \$53,564.
- + The Fund needs to be \$50000 to maintain viability to fully meet the current commitment each year.
- + For scholarship to continue in the long term investment needs to be \$65000 (see below too.)

PLEASE NOTE:

Included with this magazine is a CSU flier suggesting we aim a bit higher because of the increasing costs of study, books and other support for any Scholarship awardee/winner. Note that this flier is specifically directed at the BTCAA Scholarship ONLY, not the CSU Scholarship Funds in general.

This has been carefully examined and discussed by the Committee to determine that there is no conflict of interest ... and its inclusion approved.

REUNION REPORTS 2021

Again, there are NO Reunion Reports for this issue of 'Panorama'. The COVID19/ coronavirus situation and its allied restrictions earlier this year, meant that the big planned super reunion set for November this year just did not happen.

The decision to postpone it, made by the Committee in early September, has been well and truly vindicated with the travel lockdowns between Greater Sydney and Regional areas not being lifted until the 1st November and ongoing uncertainties on travel and group size activities.

HOWEVER The event is reset for next year 2022. It will be a very similar format, and is planned for **November Tuesday 8th November**.

REUNION ACTIVITY.... 2022

2022 is still a BTC significant year !!

TRIPLE CELEBRATIONS! ★ ★ ★

- **71 years** since first intake of students (aptly named the 'Pioneers') attended a welcome assembly addressed by L.J.Allen. held in half of the Dining Hall 15-03-1951)
- **71 years** since Official Opening of BTC by the then Minister for Education, the Hon. R.J. Heffron..... (09-11-1951)
- **21 years** since formation of BTC Alumni Association. (24-11-2001)

To celebrate and recognise these events, two functions described below have been tentatively re-organised as follows:

- **Official celebratory luncheon, hosted by CSU**, from 12 noon on Tuesday 8th November. Hopefully someone from the NSW Department of Education will be confirmed as the keynote speaker. It is also planned that the newly appointed CSU Vice Chancellor Ms Renee Leon may be able to attend this lunch activity (TBC) to represent the University.
- **Official Dinner in the Panorama Room, RYDGES Mt Panorama Hotel** from 6.00pm. Tables will be set up specially for Pioneers AND other year groups who decide to attend. There will be very few speeches, some special entertainment and plenty of chat time!



Tuesday, 8th November 2022 will be the day of these functions to which former students, spouses, partners, carers, lecturers, family and other BTC friends are cordially invited.

Registrations will be required to confirm numbers and organise seating a special Registration Form will be included in the next edition of 'Panorama' magazine early next year (2022). Again, an event room-rate is being negotiated with Rydges but it will not be announced until into the new year.

More details, similar to the details included in this year's earlier edition of 'Panorama' (# 40) will be reproduced and updated in next year's first edition of the magazine. For an earlier preview past editions (inc. #40) can be accessed on the CSU website (See below).

NOTE TO READERS OF MAILED EDITION:

"Panorama" Edition #40 earlier this year with all the planning information can be accessed by going online to

www.alumni.csu.edu.au/publications

and then click on the Publications box and then BTCAA Panorama Newsletters.

DO YOU REMEMBER BTC LIKE THIS?

Contribution by David Craig (1953-54)

David says: "I have two grandsons, residing in Uni accommodation at the moment and their experiences, especially at mealtimes, are certainly different to what we experienced back in the early 50's. The differences are profound ..."

MEAL TIMES AT BTC

Who could forget mealtimes at BTC? They are etched indelibly on my memory.

Imagine BTC in 1953. I was a member of the third cohort to be enrolled. The college was still suffering growing pains. It was tightly disciplined - dormitories were strictly gender-based and opposite genders were not permitted to enter the other domain except on one open day per year. There were no complaints - this was our expectations of how to behave in the '50s.

Lectures, of course, were co-ed, as were meals. Mealtimes were extremely organised but were also times of intimate socialisation. Unlike today, we were initially allocated a place on a table with four men and four women. We did not change tables randomly, although after first term we were

allowed some choice, but once allocated we remained on that table. Tables were usually a mixture of first- and second-year students. Can you ever forget 300 students massing outside the dining room waiting for the lecturers to take their place at the top table facing the students, whose tables were in long rows stretching back into the depths of the large dining room? The doors opened and the students noisily made their way to their allocated table for that week. In fairness, tables rotated at the beginning of each week. The top tables, who were under the scrutiny of staff, moved back to the end of the row and each table moved one up toward the top of the room.

Once all the students were in place, the principal (LJ), or the senior lecturer attending the meal, would wait for silence and then lead in saying grace. This was then the signal for talk to begin and to wait, expectantly, for 'what we were about to receive'.

At the first assembly of the year - yes, we had regular assemblies - it had been pointed out that we would all put on weight because of the type of food and the regular mealtimes. This announcement, caused a very loud groan to echo around the room, mainly from the female students.

The cooks, mainly migrants from Europe, needed to have 300 meals ready to serve, by a multitude of waitresses, as soon as the students were seated. The meals were nutritious and reasonably tasty but we did miss our mother's home cooking.

I have some very vivid memories of mealtimes. Breakfast time in the winter was very cold. On the way to the dining room care had to be taken not to slip on the puddles which had frozen over during the night. On one occasion, as the boys in the bottom dormitory were coming out of their rooms on their way to the dining room one mature student came out of his room holding his arm up high. He pronounced, in a loud voice, that he had left a glass of water on the windowsill, and it was now frozen solid. Of course, someone asked, "Why the fuss?" The answer, in a broken voice, was "because my false teeth are in it".

Sometimes it was so cold that when the bacon and eggs were delivered to the table they had lost their heat and were so congealed we could hold the plate upside down and the food would be stuck firmly to the plate.

Often, women students came to breakfast in the winter, in their overcoats. Many had risen late and still had their pyjamas on.

Summer brought a different problem. Often, we had cold meat and salad for lunch, and it was prepared prior to us being seated. Once served, it was not unusual to see students make their way to the staff table to show that they had 'fresh meat'

for lunch - blowflies had successfully laid their eggs and maggots had hatched before the meal reached the tables. This meant students closely examined the food on their plate.

One of the first things our room had done, once we became acquainted, was to go downtown, find a second-hand shop and buy an electric jug, a toaster, some mugs, plates and cutlery. We then ensured we collected some sliced bread at each meal and often persuaded the waitress to let us take nearly empty peanut butter and honey jars back to our room. This way we enjoyed many a delicious supper before bed.

If a student was late for a meal they had to approach the staff table with their excuse and an apology. Saturday evening meals, often saw whole sporting teams lined up as they hadn't arrived back in time from the games in town or further afield.

On one memorable Sunday, as we settled in our seats for lunch, a couple arrived late and out of breath. As they faced the top table to apologise, their backs faced the students seated at their tables. To the great amusement of everyone it could be seen that their backs were covered in straw. They had spent the morning in the hay shed adjacent to Fergie, the resident bull, at the Experimental Farm. To the bewilderment of staff, the lunchroom erupted into singing "Happy Birthday" - the traditional way of celebrating anyone who had done something foolish. Once they had turned around to take their seats the staff could then also comprehend the reason for the roasting. They could barely conceal their amusement. It appears that the couple had very carefully brushed their fronts down but in their haste to get to lunch had forgotten their backs. They shall remain nameless.

I, too, received a "Happy Birthday" one lunchtime. I had attended a practical PE lesson before lunch and decided to have a shower before going across to the dining room. My room was very close to the front door of our dormitory and it opened directly into our common room. Anyway, I stripped, threw a towel over my shoulder, burst out of my bedroom door and proceeded to run to the bathroom. Unfortunately, LJ, his wife and a group of important visitors to the College happened to enter the front door as I exited my bedroom. I must have been a pretty sight as I presented my bare rear end before disappearing into the distant bathroom. One of our class must have reported the incident to his table and I received a hearty reception on entering the dining room. There was no need for the student body to know what had happened to earn a "Happy Birthday"- as soon as a table started to sing it was taken up spontaneously by the crowd in the dining room.

Later that day, I was summoned to Archie Millar's room and quietly reminded that I should not run in the common room as I might slip and injure my coccyx. I had no idea what he was referring to and had to look it up later. No mention was made of my nudity or how the visitors had reacted, but that was Archie's way - quiet, down to earth dealing with the matter at hand.

Evening meals were often remembered for something quite special. During the first few weeks of first-term students disbursed quite quickly to their dormitories. Soon, however, people began lingering and socialising outside the dining room. It was the chance to meet students who were in other class groups. Small groups, often went to the tuckshop, while others went to the student common room. Others, went to the library. Then, there were the couples who quietly wandered off into the darkness, hand in hand. LJ, often despaired in assemblies, about the 'ostentatious display of affection by couples in the college drive'. He pleaded for the students to be aware of visitors driving up 'the drive' and for the good name of the college.

Yes, mealtimes at BTC were times to remember. I hope my grandchildren are enjoying their tertiary education as much as I did at BTC.

REFLECTIONS ON 54-55 SESSION

----- *Brian Cambourne*

I am writing to express how lucky and privileged I am to have been a member of the 4th cohort of BTC students-- the 54-55 session.

Lucky because after failing to matriculate for University in the then NSW five-year Leaving Certificate (3B's and an A), and after trying a few boring, tedious jobs, I learned that the NSW Dept of Education was offering teaching scholarships to people like me. So I rushed down to Bridge St in late February and applied. I was classified as a 'Late Applicant' and on Easter Sunday (April 18, 1954), aged 17 and a bit I arrived in the driveway of BTC with two suitcases and 20 pounds in my pocket. Because of my late application in Sydney I arrived about 4 weeks after everyone else.

Privileged because the two years I spent there became the platform for how my life unfolded over the next seven decades. I believe many of the 54-55 cohort would feel the same way.

What was it about those two years which had such a significant influence on our lives?

I think there were three overlapping factors that made the BTC environment so significant.

1. Freedom From Parental Control

For most of us this was the first time we were free of parental control. Rather than being subject to our family's rules for what we could do and when we could do it, we found ourselves in a community which gave us the freedom to make these decisions ourselves.

2. Design and Setting of The College.

The physical location and structures that made up the BTC environment shaped how we could use these new found freedoms. In terms of physical distance it was at least a 30 minute walk to down-town Bathurst. A taxi typically cost between 7 and 10 shillings each way. This cut into our monthly stipend of 15 pounds 30 shillings. As a result of this, trips to and from down-town Bathurst were rare events.

In terms of how the college environment was structured it meant providing spaces and infra structures where all social and personal needs such as food, shelter, entertainment, health, and learning resources for about 200 students, and teaching and admin staff could be met. This meant there had to be dormitories, a dining room, a kitchen staff, a medical centre with a trained nurse (Sister Nell Martin), a community hall for dances, performances, assemblies, table tennis, a tuck shop and one public coin operated phone.

3. The Creation Of A Professional Academic Culture:

LJ and his staff also had to create an academic learning culture that supported our professional development. We were called "Mr" and "Miss," the lecturing staff wore academic gowns, We were encouraged and rewarded to participate in the choir, the annual Gilbert and Sullivan opera the college performed for the Bathurst citizens every couple of years.

Five Specific Memorable (for me) Events:

(i) Our rugby team won the local Rugby competition for the first time, beating the local team which had dominated the competition for many years. I still remember how LJ congratulated the team at the assembly the following Monday, referring to "the magic boot of Mr McMorro". (Reg kicked the winning goal).

(ii) Our G and S performance of "Patience" with Bernie Brown playing the role of Bunthorne. I can still see him entering the stage, looking at the audience and singing "Am I alone and unobserved? I am".

(iii) At the end of our first year exams many of our dormitory raided the second year male dormitory while they were doing their final exam. All we did

was short-sheet their beds as a bit of a joke. LJ was not amused. He called a special assembly of first year men and directed that "The perpetrators of the atrocity stand up". I think we were all fined five shillings and told how unprofessional such behaviour was.

(iv) The learning culture LJ and his staff set in place created a love for learning in many of us. Many of our cohort continued academic study after graduation, completing Ph.D's and Masters degrees. Most of these were employed by Universities to teach pre-service and post-graduate courses in education. Doctus Doce indeed!

(v) 1955 brought the end of six o'clock closing. It meant 18 year old males could go to a local pub after lectures, have a few drinks and catch a cab back to college in time for dinner. It created a whole new range of issues which LJ hadn't predicted. While booze was forbidden in the College grounds, there was little he could do to stop us bringing it in internally

End Piece

The two years I spent at BTC was a platform for the rewarding, personal and professional life, I've enjoyed since beginning my teaching career in 1956. I'm certain there's a connection between what we learned and did during those two years, and how our professional lives unfolded.

VALE NOTICE.....

Peter Connolly (1951-52)

Farewell Peter! Peter, whose home town was Cowra, took up a scholarship to attend Bathurst Teachers' College in 1951 as one of the "Pioneers". He got there after doing his Leaving Certificate for a second time while working in Sydney for two years.

At BTC his artistic talent was fostered. While later teaching in primary schools in Sydney he studied at the National Art School for three years. After graduating he was appointed as a specialist Art teacher in secondary schools in Sydney and then on the Central Coast, He generously shared his knowledge with his students and his colleagues. His last appointment was Deputy Principal at Woy Woy High School.

Following his retirement in 2007, he enthusiastically supported his community with art groups at The Entrance and led music groups in local nursing homes and unit blocks.

Peter was a loyal and committed member of the BTC Alumni Association from its inauguration in 2001 until the day he died on 8th June (a day after his 90th birthday). *Helen Egan (1951-52)*



The Bathurst Teachers' College

Alumni Association Scholarship Appeal

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE TO SECURE THE FUTURE



BTC Alumni Association Fund

BTCAA and 'Panorama' rely on contributions from us as BTC graduates for their continuation. Please help by making an annual contribution to our Fund, your first \$25 covers your annual BTCAA Membership.

I wish to assist the financial viability of the BTCAA

My contribution of \$_____ includes my annual Membership fee of \$25. Any extra amount is considered a donation.

Please pay by Direct Bank Deposit to BTCAA Bank Account: BSB 062300 A/c No. 1013 3521

Please include your name and year when depositing

OR send your Cheque with your name and college year written on the back to:

BTCAA c/- Tony Koop

PO Box 5225 Greenwich NSW 2065

If any of your details have changed please email changes to mikecree@iprimus.com.au

OR complete and send the following to:

BTCAA c/- Michael Creenaune,

7 Eden Street, Chatswood NSW 2067

Date: _____

Surname: _____

Former Name: _____

Given Name: _____

Years at BTC: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone : _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive Panorama by: (circle one):

Email

Print

BTCAA Scholarship Fund

This scholarship, to assist study annually at any CSU campus, is available to a selected member of the BTC family – see criteria on how to apply on the CSU website. Currently this Scholarship Fund now stands at over \$53000. Our goal is for a fund of \$84000 by 01/11/22

I wish to support the BTCAA Scholarship Appeal

\$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other ☐

*Please send to: Charles Sturt Foundation Trust
Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795*

My gift to the Scholarship Fund is: \$ _____

Fiind enclosed my cheque for \$ _____

OR

Debit my credit card for \$ _____

Card Type: Mastercard or VISA

(Please circle card above, provide numbers below)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name on Card: _____

Expiry Date on Card: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

Surname: _____

Given Name: _____

Year Group: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

EXPLANATION:

Please note that in this quest to build the BTCAA Scholarship Fund to \$84 000 by the 1st of November 2022 there are two ways in which alumni can help. One is to complete the form above (RHS) and choose a donation amount then pay by either writing a cheque or using your credit card. A second way is to do it on-line direct by clicking on the hyperlink below and following the instructions there (can pay by EFT). <https://www.csu.edu.au/office/advancement/giving-to-csu/give-now> (Note: Both allow Tax Deductability).