

**A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE**

TALK ABOUT



Volume 1: No. 1

December, 1997

Wagga Wagga Teachers' College celebrates 50 years.

Story by John Riley (1948 - 1950)

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th June, 1997

A full programme was arranged by Charles Sturt University for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College. Because of large numbers involved, some reunions on Friday and on Sunday were split into groups. This account summarises events attended by the sessions of 1947 - 1951.

There were a number of highlights for about 540 in attendance, the most memorable being able to meet with and talk

to colleagues again after gaps of up to 47 years. A most enthusiastic welcome was accorded to our former lecturer in Education, Dr Victor Couch, who defied the frailties of age to attend all sessions. It was great to see him again and to swap yarns about College days.

Also in attendance was our former lecturer in Biology, Marjorie Cornell (Readman) who, with a group of alumni including Betty Stone, Ann Broadhead and Pamela Martin (Georgeson), arrived at 2.50 on the XPT from Sydney. Betty was making her second trip in two years from her home in England to be with us at a reunion.

One had to admire the courage of some fellow alumni who attended though suffering severe handicaps, including one of our "Pioneers", Bill O'Sullivan. Des Handsaker also braved the elements despite a recent hip operation which has left him temporarily on aluminium crutches. He looked quite dangerous with these in hand.

FRIDAY 13th JUNE

The first official function for the 1947 - 1951 group was a *DINNER at THE WAGGA, WINERY* on Oura Road. Problems in finding the way there were not confined to those making their way by car - it was

continued on page 2



The first group of WWTC students

B2a

rumoured that one bus found its way to the University Winery before the mistake was corrected! A number of car passengers arrived too late for the wine-tasting and also experienced difficulty in finding seats at the benches where dinner was to be partaken of.

The meal consisted of either chicken or steak plus salads, followed by optional dessert and drinks.

Much of the time during the evening was of course spent wandering around trying to identify faces not seen for 47 years, this being difficult as name badges were not to be issued till registration the following day. As word passed around that a particular individual was on the premises, there was a frantic search to find him or her. There was no such trouble identifying our fondly remembered lecturer Vic Couch, who sat at the end of a bench surrounded by a throng of ex-students anxious to enquire about his health.

Also present was Marjorie Cornell for whom I once refused to participate in the dissection of some creature after it had been extracted from its smelly bath of formalin.

Buses began to arrive about 9.30 to transport people back to their accommodation. Those lucky enough to have cars found it easier to find their way home than to track down their destination earlier in the evening. Apparently a Booze Patrol awaited victims near the junction of Junee Road, so hopefully all of our members reached home without exceeding the limit.

SATURDAY 14th JUNE

Scheduled events for the day were set down for the *NEW CAMPUS*, beginning with *Registration* in Joves



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Hall at 10a.m. By the time all had arrived and picked up their name tags the vestibule resembled a large sardine can. It was almost impossible to hear conversation or announcements, these being drowned out by the excitement of reunions. Finally the body of the hall, set up in readiness for examinations, was invaded by the throng.

At one stage we were asked to open the side doors and move out into the open unless we were still registering or buying souvenirs, presumably to allow the air to dehumidify! As the temperature outside was around ten degrees, people were most unwilling to co-operate. Old legs began to feel the strain of protracted standing before the call to lunch came; perhaps we were fitter when we religiously stood all day before our classes, resorting to our chair only now and then!

Those who were hungry by

12.30 had to curb their impatience for *LUNCH* when an announcement was made that we had to wait till the dining room was vacated by current students before we could enter at 12.45. When the move was finally made the queue extended from the kitchen servery, across and along the length of the hall, and outside for at least fifty metres up the hill.

Seen amongst the crowd for the first time in 47 years were former members of Sections 484 Shirley Rolfe and Eileen Pickering. Memories of days of lectures at the College were revived.

A choice of meat dishes was served expeditiously, after which we proceeded to help ourselves to vegetables or salad, coffee or tea and fruit. Supplies were replenished at regular intervals, so no-one went hungry.

Notices in and near the servery reminded one of some College rules in early years:-

Students must produce their cards when being served with meals.

\$100 fine for any student obtaining a meal illegally.

No more than TWO paper serviettes to be taken.

Only ONE piece of fruit to be removed from the dining room.

(I cannot remember at College being offered fresh fruit very often, though perhaps my memory is fading!)

I wondered if it was a sign of the times when I noticed in the washroom the fixtures for three mirrors, but no mirrors!

Most alumni appeared to enjoy the meal which was interspersed with



B6a

further reunions. Decisions then had to be made as to how to occupy the rest of the afternoon. On offer were tours of the University Winery or the Equestrian Centre, *Boorooma Campus* or an "Old Campus Ramble".

It was hoped that a large number would attend a meeting of Alumni in Joyes Hall at 2 p.m. where it was hoped to establish the *WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION*. As the hour approached only about six people were seated, making it appear that a quorum might not be reached. Others in the vestibule, finally overcome by curiosity (or was some gentle pressure applied?), entered the hall and allowed Alumni Manager Michael Fogarty to declare the meeting open and ask for a chairperson to be appointed. The temporary post was accepted by Henry Gardiner.

Following acceptance of a motion to establish the Association, Henry called for nominations for office bearers. Bob Collard accepted the post of President, Bill Grant Vice-President and Henry Gardiner Secretary. A Treasurer remains to be appointed, while a number of volunteers accepted positions on the Board.

One of the first duties of our President was to call for nominations for Patrons, resulting in our former lecturer Vic Couch and the University Chancellor being appointed.

It was then moved that a scholarship fund in the name of *Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association* be established to provide educational opportunities for alumni and children of alumni at CSU, the Board being responsible for deciding on details. This was carried.

The meeting closed at 3 p.m.,



B8a

leaving alumni time to explore the campus or to return to their motels to prepare for dinner.

DINNER, because of the large numbers involved, was to be served in two halls - the Dining Room and the Convention Centre. It was to be preceded by a session in Joyes Hall in which *photographs of all sections* were to be taken. By then the examination furniture had almost been cleared, fortunately, as the throng just about filled the available space.

Taking their deserved place as first to be photographed were our 1947-1949 'Pioneers', 39 of whom plus Vic Couch and Marjorie Cornell appeared in my personal photograph.

The hall by that time was a hum of conversation, making it very difficult for the photographer to attract the attention of following sessions as their turn came. 44 of the 1948-1950 session heard the call, but only 26 of the 1949-1950.

The Photographer had great difficulty assembling later sessions because of the din, even when a large envelope displaying the required session was held up - the figures were difficult to read because of shadows. Surely a public address system should have been available in such an auditorium.

In one corner of the stage a select group were being lined up for a photograph by a reporter from the local press. This was intended to be of the survivors of the College's first hockey team, whose original photograph had appeared in the day's paper attached to a well-written article by a 'Pioneer' student, rumoured to be Brian Webb.

Ian Thomas had great trouble rounding up the team from the 500 or so present, even when certain members were known to be present. In order not to disappoint the press, a number of volunteers from the 1949 first grade team filled some of the vacancies, but still fell short by three! Behind the hilarity in arranging this photograph lurked the reality that several members of our teams of that era have answered a prior roll call, including Col Squires, Tom Allport and Lane Mullen.

There was a slight delay for DINNER while current students finished their meal in the dining room and tables were reset with clean napery, cutlery, glasses, and green and gold serviettes as a tribute to our former College colours.

Tables were labelled for the respective years of graduation, so again it was just a matter of finding seating at the correct tables.



B10a

The

continued on page 4

programme began with a rendition of the College anthem -

College of the Riverina

Failing memories apparently were responsible for the lack of volume resulting. Luckily we did better with *Gaudeamus*, probably because we have been exposed to it over the years at various other tertiary institutions.

A speech of welcome then by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Campus, Professor Kath Bowmer, was marred somewhat by a non-cooperative public address system, but the intent was appreciated. Bob Collard then made a stirring response and proposed a toast to Wagga Wagga Teachers' College and to its "Pioneers" which was received with gusto by those present. An even louder cheer burst forth when he concluded by paying tribute to "the 1948 bunch who bucked them (the "Pioneers") up".

Michael Fogarty also raised a laugh from the chair when he announced that he had had in his possession since morning a spectacle lens, "in case you had not noticed it was missing".

The serious business of "feeding the multitudes" then began, tables being called in turn to the carvery, followed by the choice of vegetables and salads. At the tables for consumption were CSU wines or juice, while other drinks could be purchased through frequently circulating drink waitresses.

Before the address by the Chancellor, Mr David Asimus A.O., a well appreciated musical interlude was performed by Laurie Orchard and a Flautist from the Conservatorium of Music.

Betty Stone (1949-1950) was again asked to cut the celebratory cake in recognition of her having travelled the greatest distance to be present.

One of our popular "Pioneers", Winifred Wilcox, was given the task of responding to the Chancellor's address and of proposing a toast to Charles Sturt University. This she did with great expertise.

In between the formalities there was an opportunity for a small group of people to scan a database of 128 deceased students of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College which included a number of people of the 1965 session. It was a sobering moment to realise that so many whose faces were once daily in front of us are gone.

There was also time to continue identifying people and to compare notes with them. Some were seen seeking help to identify faces in Section and sports photographs taken all those years ago. This really put memory to the test.

At the end of a memorable evening, buses began to arrive just before midnight to return visitors to their motels.

SUNDAY 15th JUNE

The final day of celebrations began with a special *CHURCH SERVICE* in St Johns Anglican Church beginning at 9 a.m. A large group had indicated their willingness to form a choir for the service and had attended a practice under the baton of one of our members the previous afternoon. They performed well on the day, despite having to cope with a number of unfamiliar hymns. Their resounding renditions of *The Lord's Prayer* and of the *23rd Psalm* during communion were a highlight of the ceremony.

The preacher for the day was John Harris (1957-1958), his theme being Reconciliation.

It was generally agreed by the 1947-1951 group that the highlight of the weekend was our *DAMPER LUNCH* at the Showground following the church service. Possibly this was because of the brilliant sunshine which warmed bodies that had been feeling the cold over the previous two days.

Under conditions different from his normal routine our Chef had cooked large dampers, slices of which were served with a number of hot dishes straight from camp ovens. This was followed by dessert. Anyone who had skipped breakfast (as so many were accustomed to do on Sundays at College) could make up for the omission.

As some of the group had already had to leave for home, with smaller numbers involved it was possible to catch up with colleagues not seen previously, including our former College fast bowler, John Stuckings, now a semi-retired farmer from Coleambally.

As farewells were said by homeward bound people, there were hopeful reassurances about the next

reunion. By 2.30pm only a few stragglers remained as the Chef and his assistant packed up the equipment. A couple of car loads were seen heading off towards the Old Campus for what was likely to be their last visit.

There was a brief reprise when a couple of parties found themselves at the Commercial Club for dinner at 6. Animated conversation among them was even more difficult than at Joyes Hall, it being drowned out by the calling of winning numbers for the Club's jackpot prize. Then it was a matter of everyone wishing one another Godspeed for the journey home and for future health.

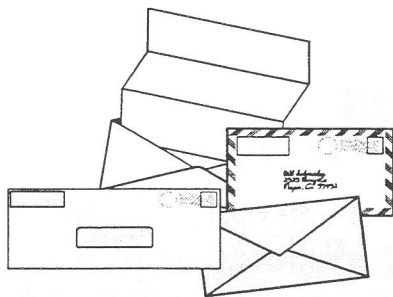
From a purely personal point of view there was only one major disappointment for the weekend, this being the non-appearance of a couple of firm friends from College days not able to be tracked down by the University's database. These have apparently just faded from sight.

WWTC alumni must surely have appreciated the generosity of Charles Sturt University in making available their facilities at Wagga Wagga, and also the efforts of Michael Fogarty and the Alumni Office in organising our reunion. Our thanks must also go to Bob Collard for his part in liaison with the University and at the local level to Yvonne Day (Harbrow) for her attention to catering matters.

All these, plus the approximately 540 alumni who were able to attend, contributed to the holding of a highly successful and enjoyable weekend. Hopefully we will be able to hold smaller regional ones at intervals in the future.

As a follow-up, why cannot we, as teachers with hundreds of thousands of hours teaching experience behind us, contribute to the **compilation of an anthology of humorous anecdotes** for publication? This surely would have a market, if only amongst ourselves. Perhaps our Alumni Association might sponsor such a project.





Letter from the President

With the conclusion of the 50th Anniversary Reunion of WWTC, another page has been turned, another chapter written but the book has not been closed.

Rather, a new era has commenced with the formation of the "WWTC Alumni Association". Its major task will be to perpetuate those valued qualities of comradeship, caring and honest affection that have always been to the forefront whenever ex-students of WWTC get together.

The proposed establishment of an Alumni Scholarship to provide educational opportunities for Alumni and children of Alumni at CSU will ensure that the spirit so caringly nurtured since 1947 will live on in the students at CSU.

In this magazine, along with photos from the reunion and some from the past, you will find information about the WWTC Alumni, a letter from John Riley, who is once again attempting to revive the publication of the stories from WWTC concept

together with the results of the "WWTC Hit Parade" which was organised by Jim Hagan from Canada.

As I have written previously, the meeting with cherished friends, the memory of departed colleagues, the goodwill, respect and genuine concern for each other that so clearly identifies our Alumni will be kept alive by the ongoing gatherings which are being planned.

More frequent communication between our membership is an important aspect high on the agenda of the Alumni Committee. Our motto "Excel With Honour" so revered in the past will be enhanced in the future.

Bob Collard MBE
President, WWTC Alumni Association

New Secretary for Association

Due to pressures of a busy schedule, Dr Henry Gardiner (WWTC 1953-54) has tendered his resignation from the position of Secretary to the Committee. Mrs Ann Smith (Broadhead) (WWTC 1949-50) has been elected to the vacancy. Ann's details are:

24 Whitworth Street
Westmead NSW 2145
02 96350449



Meeting Notes

① 1999 Reunion for Pioneers et al. In April the first four sessions 1947-51 will be holding a follow-up reunion in Canberra. If you missed the warm-up in 1995 and the 50th this year, then don't miss 1999.

Contact:- Dorothy Judd (Collins), 4 Verco Street, Hackett ACT 2602. Phone 02 62487542.

② Social Activities - a number of suggestions were made including vintage train trips, a Harbour cruise, theatrical performances etc. These were to be investigated and reported on at the next meeting in February. If you have suggestions for social activities whether in Sydney or closer to home, please pass them on to Ann Smith - 02 96350449.

③ WWTC Alumni Scholarship Fund - The committee agreed that it would go ahead with the establishment of a Fund in the name of the Association to raise funds from Alumni for the purpose of awarding a Scholarship to Alumni, their children and grandchildren to undertake studies at CSU.

The Association will endeavour to do this by encouraging alumni to contribute an amount of \$25.00 the first year and \$20.00 each year

thereafter. All gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible. All money received will be administered by the Riverina Trust of the Charles Sturt University Foundation in the name of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association. The Association will have participation in the development of criteria for the award and the selection of successful applicants.

Further information on the WWC Alumni Fund will be sent out soon, giving you the opportunity to keep the memory alive and benefiting some worthy recipient with a top education. The opportunity to contribute more than the \$20.00 annually and seek further information about providing a bequest will also be included in the information material.

④ "Talkabout" editorial team appointed - Lou Morrell (1949-50) and Lew Crabtree (1949-50) will work with the Alumni Office in preparing this quarterly newsletter. If you have any items of interest for publication, please contact either of the Lewis' -

Lou Morrell 02 99971506
Lew Crabtree 02 94985457

1998 WWTC Alumni Association Meeting Schedule

The committee will meet each quarter on the second Tuesday of the month. The dates are:-

February 10
May 12

August 11
November 10

All Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni are invited to attend each meeting and join in discussion. Please contact the Secretary, Ann Smith (02) 96350449 if you wish to attend future meetings.

Wagga Wagga Teachers' College

"Hit Parade"

	<i>Percentage of Votes</i>	<i>Name of Song</i>
1	56%	Don't Fence Me In
2	53%	The Tennessee Waltz
3	51%	Goodnight Irene
4	50%	I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover
5	49%	Galway Bay
6	47%	You Made Me Love You
7	46%	Lili Marlene
8	44%	I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now?
9	43%	Put Your Arms Around Me Honey
10	42%	Some Enchanted Evening
11	40%	Oh, What A Beautiful Morning!
12	39%	Zip - A - Dee - Doo - Dah
13	38%	Give Me Five Minutes More
14	36%	Music, Music, Music
15	35%	Now Is The Hour
16	33%	Mona Lisa
17	32%	Twelfth Street Rag
18	31%	Button & Bows
19	29%	Play A Simple Melody
20	28%	As Time Goes By
20	28%	Blueberry Hill
20	28%	Stormy Weather

To order, please contact:-

Jim Hagan
Box 4296
Barrhead, Alberta
CANADA 7N 1A3
Ph: 0011 1 403 674 6015
Fax: 0015 1 403 674 3503

Teaching Memories

An Appeal from John Riley (WWTC 1948-50)

Just over 18 months ago, I circulated via the CSU Alumni an appeal for anecdotes about travel to school appointments by rail, at a time when rail was the widely used means of long distance travel. A few responses were received.

At the 50th Anniversary Reunion, it became obvious that there is a wealth of personal, often humorous, stories waiting to be put into print to be shared with all, rather than those lucky enough to be at the reunion. I, and I trust, the Alumni Association would like to do something positive about this.

Coincidentally, only six months ago, a small volume along similar lines, though not identical, was produced by an officer of the Dept. of School Ed. entitled "Telling Tales Out of School" which contained material showing the vagaries of teaching over the decades.

I propose that we do something similar but from a purely personal point of view rather than from the official ie *we tell it as it happened to us*.

Here are some brief suggestions:-

Base your anecdote on one or more of the following areas:-

- College life
- Classroom antics
- Best or worse pupils (no name please)
- Travel to school
- Experiences with the Inspectorial system
- Experiences with the Administration
- Accommodation problems

The tone should be preferably humorous and length up to 1½ pages of typing. As there are nearly 2500 graduates who might be reached it would be great if a large number could stir themselves to put pen to paper. This would give us a sizeable volume of material. It would also involve a large amount of typing to prepare a draft. So, it would be helpful if 6 or so people equipped with Word for Windows could volunteer to assist.

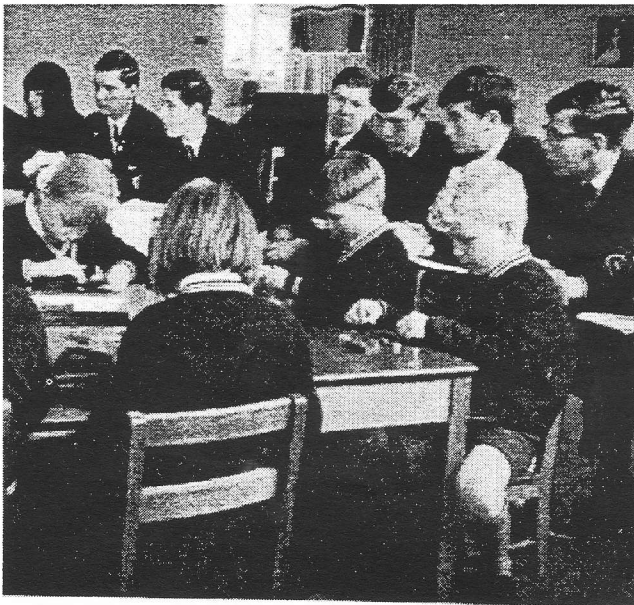
Only when a draft is available could we look at methods of publication and distribution. If you are enthusiastic about the idea, please write to me at the address below or to Bob Collard (our Alumni Association President), preferably with your anecdote attached so that the viability of the project can be gauged.

Please submit your contribution NOW while memories of our great 50th Anniversary Reunion are still entrenched in your emotions - don't just leave it to the other person!

Yours,

John Riley
2 Woorak Crescent
Miranda NSW 2228
02 95255304

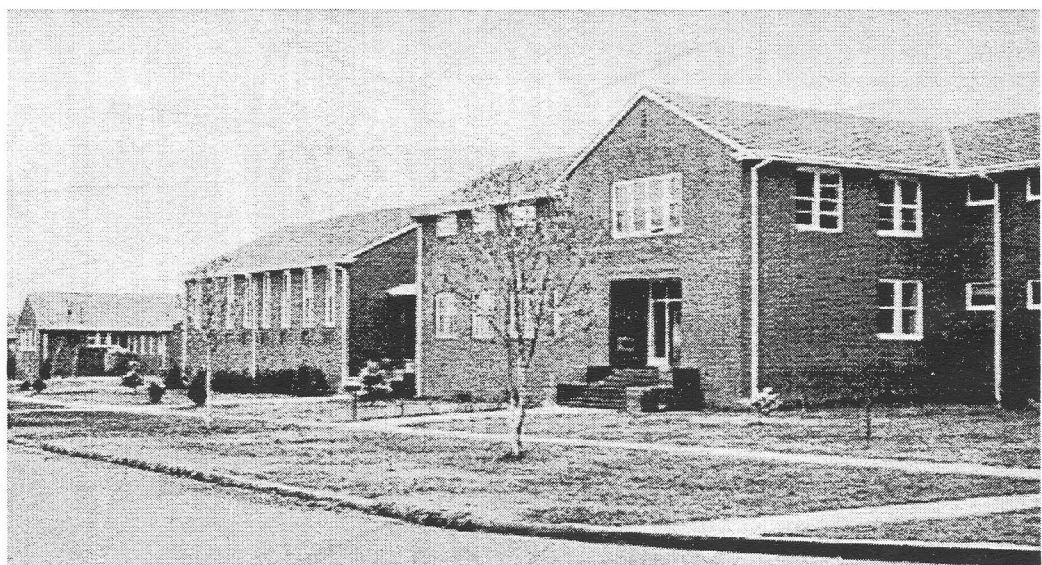
Learning & Teaching Experiences



Students observing a Cuisenaire Lesson.



Students observing an Activity Lesson.



Turvey Park Demonstration School

Alumni Reunion Diary

1998

<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>
April 18	WWTC 1956-57	Ranelagh Guest House	Irene Crittenden 02 97245831
April 18 & 19	WWTC 1953-55	Southern Highlands	Noel Haberecht 02 62470738
July 11 & 12	WWTC 1966-67	Wagga Wagga	Chris & Jenny Blake 02 63721338
Sept 22 & 23	WWTC 1952-54	Floriade, Canberra	Robin McKinnon 02 98781857
TBA	WWTC 1958-59	Wagga Wagga	Jacqueline Jeans 02 99533232

1999

<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>
April	WWTC 1947-51 (1st four sessions)	Canberra	Dorothy Judd (Collins) 02 62487542

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WWTC Collection														
Please state years at WTC : _____														
WTC Tie	\$22.00	100g												
WTC Polo Shirts (embroidered logo)	\$30.50	400g												
Short Sleeve	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>L</td><td>XL</td><td>XXL</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	L	XL	XXL								
S	M	L	XL	XXL										
WTC Wall Plaque	\$35.00	300g												
WTC Lapel Badge	\$5.00	40g												
WTC Pendant	\$5.00	40g												
WTC Flutes	\$5.00	Post cost												
WTC Whiskey	\$5.00	for these												
WTC Beer	\$8.00	items \$2.80												
WTC Coffee Mugs	\$6.50	each												
CSU Collection														
Graduation Ted (Faculty: _____)	\$30.00	500g												
Graduation Koala (Faculty: _____)	\$30.00	450g												
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Badges (metal)														
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- lapel	\$5.00	40g												
* Desert Pea - stick pin	\$5.00	40g												
- lapel	\$5.00	40g												
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University Pens	\$6.00	80g												
University Wall Plaque	\$65.00	600g												
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Card Holders Name :

Expiry Date of Card :

Signature of Card Holder :

Please complete and return with payment to:

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Bathurst NSW 2795 AUSTRALIA

Phone: 02 633 84629

OR FAX to: 02 633 84766

