



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

# TALK ABOUT



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March 2004

## OUR COLLEGE A CENTRAL DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA



*It is a great pleasure to publish this report from Michelle Maddison, Curator, on the progress of our negotiations with the Museum of the Riverina.*

"Last year, the Museum of the Riverina was thrilled to receive a substantial collection of memorabilia from the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College, which had been collated by former students.

The items range from blazers, pennants, badges, theatre and souvenir programmes and photographs showing all facets of life at the college.

The long-term goal of the Museum is to revamp our existing schoolhouse building to become a permanent display of material associated with local schools and teaching establishments, the central

display of which will be the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

In the meantime, cases have been set aside within the museum's permanent collection for the creation of a smaller display of the material, for the enjoyment of visitors.

The process of acquisition into the Museum of the Riverina is a methodical, hence, time consuming one. When items are donated, they are entered into a Register, given an accession number, and then entered into a computerised collections management database, called MOSAIC Plus.

To date, 159 objects from the Teachers' College collection have been registered onto the database, and are fully accessible to the public.

As Curator, I am working on the collection daily. I have a team of part-time staff who are helping with the cataloguing and ongoing care of this collection. The entire WWTC collection should be registered in the next couple of months, and the display within the permanent collections created shortly thereafter.

I would like to extend an open invitation to any former pupils of Wagga Teachers' College to visit the Museum of the Riverina if they find themselves in Wagga, and furthermore, would like to thank the Alumni for the wonderful collection which they have taken the time to create."

*Michelle Maddison*

*Curator – Museum of the Riverina, Wagga*

***The Scholarship Fund is over \$38000.***

# ALUMNI COMMITTEE FOR 2004

The Annual General Meeting of the WWTC Alumni Association was held at Homebush on 3rd February 2004.

## President's Report.

Awareness seems to have been the watchword for our activities in the past twelve months and will continue to be the motivating force for the next period of time.

There has been a heightening of our (the Management Committee's) awareness in respect to the Scholarship Fund and the lack of acknowledgement by the City of Wagga Wagga as to the influence that the establishment, in 1947, of the College has had on that city's development.

The alumnus were made aware as to what the future might hold for the WWTC Alumni if in the near future the younger brigade do not step up to carry forward our dreams and aspirations.

We have all become aware of the valuable work carried out by Ann Smith, the editorial staff of Talkabout, the careful, calculating expertise of our Treasurer, Lindsay Budd, and the untiring efforts of John Riley in collecting and recording memorabilia. What many would not realise is that whenever we have needed an alumnus to step up and become part of the solution to recurring problems – it has been done.

The CSU Alumni has struggled to meet commitments because of limited resources. Within our own small areas of influence we have taken every opportunity to bring this situation to the attention of those who have responsibility for the CSU Alumni Office.

Thankfully, due to the efforts of Lew Morrell, we have made contact with the Wagga Wagga Museum and the prospects for an exciting partnership is imminent.

The search for memorabilia continues and the need exists for more material to assist with our project at the Wagga Museum and the CSU Archives.

Perhaps we may even unearth the "Head of a Boy" sculpture that was the gift of the second session (1948-50) and became the Debating Trophy from 1950 onwards until it was lost.

So, we prepare for the next stage of our development. May good health and contentment be with you all.

*Bob Collard.*

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The election of Office Bearers for 2004 resulted as follows:

President: Bob Collard  
Vice President: Graeme Wilson  
Secretary: Ann Smith  
Minute Secretary: Dorothy Tanner  
Treasurer: Lindsay Budd  
Talkabout Editors: Lew Morrell  
Lindsay Budd  
John Riley

Committee: Phil Bastick,  
Nigel Tanner,  
Col Crittenden,  
Kevin and Win Wilcox,  
Mal Hanratty,  
John Cummins.

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## CHRISTINE'S LETTER

### THE HIERARCHY

*We all have a grouch about rules and regulations that are passed down from the top. To the underlings many of these seem unfair and at times harsh.*

*However there are occasions when an uncharitable action is redeemed by the thoughtfulness of one of the hierarchy. Christine's letter is an example of this.*

Dear Ann,  
Thank you for sending all your information and including me as a past

student, even although I didn't pass my final exams, the two years I spent at Wagga Teachers' College (1962-63) was a very important part of my life-wonderful and sad.

I was thrilled to receive my first Talkabout after all these years. I was very saddened to read the deaths of several people I knew and admired at college including Mr Worthington.

At the graduation ceremony in 1963, even although I didn't graduate I had to fight to still be allowed to partner one of my fellow male students. All female graduating students received a corsage as they walked up the hall and were presented to the "big-wigs".

Because I hadn't passed the final exams, I was not an official graduating student and was not immediately given a corsage but Mr Worthington walked over, took a corsage and gave it to me, even although he wasn't the one officially giving them out. He broke protocol and did something he thought was right. What a caring, considerate brave man!

My partner who graduated was Mick Bryant, an aboriginal and I did not want to let him down. In hindsight, he probably could have easily got another partner and may have been relieved to have done so. I really don't know.

Regards and thank you for your hard work.

P.S. I would love to hear from Jeanne Quartel – a very private hardworking person.

Christine Steeles nee Jack (1962-63)

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## *From the Secretary's Desk.*



The November copies of our magazine Talkabout were again well received. We even had to order some more copies and these were sent out in January. The first mailing should have arrived at your place in mid November which is a very busy time. Holidays follow and everyone looks for relaxation. During this time I have not received many letters or emails. So there will not be the usual amount of news as in earlier copies.

**Chris and Judy Blake** organised a successful reunion in Canberra on 11 and 12 October 2003 for the 1966-67 session. They still have not been able to find **Cheryl Theresa Brydon, Carol Joy Forster, Dorothy Juliette Hawke, Beverley Ann Hayden, Verdon Lilienthal, Robyn Miriam Reedy, Joan Strong, Ann Elizabeth Sedwick and Jeanette Zurawski**.

By the time this is printed in the March edition, the session 1962-63 will have had their reunion in Kiama. This is a group who in the last 40 years have never held a reunion and thus their addresses list was not up to date. I congratulate **Elaine Saunders** nee Hardy and her helpers **Leigh Griggs** nee Moore, **Jenny Coggan** nee Lambert and **Diana Walker** who combined to look for the names of those on the session list, find them, check them and send them to **Michelle Fawkes** at Bathurst. The number who have booked is very heartening.

For those of you who may be helping to run a reunion for another session, it was found that the "In Search" section of the Daily Telegraph proved to be a great help. From this group **Val Horrocks** nee **Curtis** is still teaching and enjoying it. **Noeline Goodall** nee Couling is working in

Child Protection and **Geraldine Schirmer** nee Allen is looking forward to many and varied experiences. **Kerry Eastlake** nee Barr was overseas for twenty years and then came home. She is looking forward to the reunion.

At a recent Inner Wheel Australia National Conference held in Orange the following WWTC ex-students were seen:-

**Jacqui Raine** nee Barnes (1952-53) **Andy Raine** (1953-54), **Henry and Margaret Gardener** (1953-54) **Gordon King** (1953-54) and **Nell Cooper** nee Bland (1953-54). Thanks Nell

**Maureen Smith** (1954-55) is getting on with her life after battling cancer.

**Kerrie Hearn** nee Gladwin (1967-68) wanted more Talkabouts to read (I do have a few back copies. Send an SAE envelope if you would like one. Remember Talkabout comes out in MARCH, JULY and NOVEMBER, I do not have some of every print)

**Garry McKibbin** wants to hear more of the 1971-72 session. Yes, so do I Garry. Please ask your friends and send me some information for the July Issue.

In October I contacted **Meredith Hastings Smith** for the very first time. Also **Pam Merrigan** nee Knight (both 1970-71).

**Bill Atkinson** checked that **Helen Patton** nee Wrigley was on the list for (1951-52). She was, and was complimented on being a very nice lady.

**Barbara Deece** nee Todhunter, (1961-62) has gone to live on the North Coast. Thanks Barbara for sending your CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Thanks also to **Kevin and Leonie Mitchell** (1959-60). Every mail out there are quite a number of Talkabouts being returned to the University "Left this address" and it is not easy to find the new addresses. **Robert James** (1966-67) taught for 21 years. He recently completed studies as a massage therapist.

Thank you **Lyn Jones** nee Withington (1968-69) for sending some more memorabilia (banners, photos, letter). I have passed them on.

**John Bevan** (1958-59) would go to a reunion if it was held in Wagga. I believe that he was a very good cricketer.

**Terry and Maree Lane** nee Le Clerc (1962-63) both work in Jeddah.

**Judy Morrison** (1970-71) still teaches and enjoys it. **Ingrid Jones**, our first scholarship winner did a prac at the school where Judy taught in 1999.

**Roy Parker** "found" **Elaine Sharp** nee Dwyer from the 1961-62 session.

It was with sadness last night when I was looking for new addresses for those people whose envelope had been returned to sender at Bathurst, that I spoke to Mrs Leonard, aged 90, mother of **Robert Phillip Leonard** only to learn that he died on 18th December 2003 from cancer which resulted from what was thought to be three sun cancers. He loved singing and had been a very good son to his parents, both of whom are still alive. Robert was in the 1961-62 session.

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## *Rest In Peace*

May our fellow friends rest in peace:-

1. Corinne Paravantis nee Ongly (1962-63) died in Canada in year 2003. This was advised by her friend Wendy Rien nee Zirmgold.
2. Marie Patricia Lang nee Sawyer (1950-51) died from lung cancer 21st October 2003. Marie's husband advised me of her death.
3. Robert Phillip Leonard (1961-62) died from cancer on 18th December 2003. This was advised by his 90 year old mother who told me what a good son he had been to her and his father.
4. In IN MEMORIAM Helen Watson remembers her friend Robyn Bennett (1969-70).
5. James Ronald Butler (1948-50) died in January 2004.

*Ann Smith*



*Blair and Rebecca O'Meara and Ann at the Reunion Dinner*

## WWTC MUSEUM/ REUNION '03 DISPLAY

Donation or loan of photos or other material for the above is gratefully acknowledged. My apology if any name has been omitted at what was a hectic time. One hundred and fifteen photos were scanned and printed at A4 size for the Museum, as well as non-photographic material for the display. The latter was a great success, and we wait with keen anticipation completion of the Museum display in Wagga Wagga.

John Riley.

Vera Anderberg (Adcock) – 47-49; Peggy MacBeth (James) – 61-62; AE & JL Saunders – 55-56; Bozena Sain (Dzieglewska) – 57-58; June Hadley (Robson) – 48-50; Rees Lewis – 64-65; Ray Osmotherly – 59-60; Bill Atkinson – 57-58; Brian Pettit – 58-59; Carolyn Hatfield (McNaughton) – 62-63; Jim Walsh – 59-60; Fay Everson (Potter) – 60-61; Eric Hawcroft - Staff; Jim Hale – 62-63; Hazel Mann (Kaye) – 48-50; Kerry Elliott (Hyde) – 61-62; Eileen Donahoe (Ryan) – 48-50; Ann Smith (Broadhead) – 48-50; Bruce Robinson – 48-50; Colline Heather (Cunnington) – 59-60; Kevin Tye – 49-50; Joan Johnson (Armstrong) – 47-49; Norma Fowler (Phipps) – 60-61; John Ferris – 51-52; Paul Butz – 50-51; Joan Kirkham (Robinson) – 59-60; Alan Lake – 59-60; Alison Harrison (Nixon) – 48-50; Bob Collard – 48-50; Kevin & Winifred Wilcox (Walshaw) – 47-49; John Riley – 48-50; Marjorie Cornell (Reedman) – Staff; Ruby Riach – Staff; Dorothy Raskall (Gibson) – 47-49; Judith Hiatt (Hanns) – 48-50; Dr Henry Gardiner – ex-student & Staff.

### MUSEUM ITEM DONORS

If you donated items for the memorabilia display and your name does not appear above, would you please forward your name, session and name the item/items. The Museum of the Riverina would like to acknowledge the donors and their session at the display. Please forward the information directly to Lew Morrell, 25 Grandview Drive, NEWPORT. 2106.

*Ann Smith received the following email from last year's Scholarship winner, Blair O'Meara last November. Blair and his wife Rebecca, were invited to attend the Reunion Dinner and were able to meet many of the Alumni.*

Dear Ann,

I am writing to thank you and the Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni for the wonderful night in Bathurst. My wife and I were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of your members supporting young hopeful teachers. I was lucky enough to receive your scholarship against other potentially great teachers and proven tertiary students. The money that I received from your scholarship was enough to repay the personal loan I took out while at university for a laptop computer (an essential item for Information Technology teachers).

In recent news I was offered a permanent appointment at Urana Central School starting next year. This is very exciting as it was the school that I completed a 10 week internship this year. I should be teaching Vocational Information Technology to Adults and Senior students, the new Information Technology syllabus to stage 5 and a variety of subjects outside my area of expertise, which is to be expected in a small school. We will move to Urana in early January into the teachers residence in the town. Rebecca is planning to teach casually at the school when required and spend time developing an art exhibition for the community gallery in Wagga.

The night in Bathurst with the Alumni was a very rewarding experience as I

felt privy to the stories that established the Charles Sturt University's School of Education and the recipient of a variety of motivational tips and advice from current and ex-teachers at the dinner. The combined educational experience at the dinner was evident as each person would tell me a story that influenced their teaching life and either urged me not to make the same mistake or to follow their lead.

Once again I wish to thank the executive members of the WWTC Alumni for being so hospitable on the night as it was a nervous moment when I realised the only people at the function our age where the waiters and waitresses. I would like to thank the generous people who have contributed financially to the scholarship fund because there are many more deserving students in our pre-service ranks that are in their third, fourth or second year of the degree. These students are the ones who will need to be retained in our work force to meet an impending teacher shortfall and your scholarship program provides financial assistance for them while at university as more and more we must fund ourselves through university. I also would like to thank the people at the Bathurst reunion dinner for the spirit that you show towards teaching, it is infectious and needed. To all members of the WWTC Alumni I thank you very much for the opportunity you provided for me while I study for my Bachelor degree in Education.

Sincerely,  
Blair O'Meara

# COLLEGE MEMORIES



## W.W.T.C. Graduation Ball 1964

Our Graduation Ball was held at Kyeamba Smith Hall in Wagga Wagga on Wednesday, 16th December.

It followed a 'Day Ceremony', which was held at the Plaza Theatre in town where we graduands received our certificates and words of congratulation from Mr D.J.A. Verco M.A. (Deputy Director General of Education), who also presented prizes. The ladies were expected to wear white, while the gentlemen were required to wear suit and tie.

I suppose, for its time the Ball was a rather 'swell' affair, almost along the lines of a Debutante Ball. We ladies were again restricted to wearing long white gowns, and our partners were formally attired in dinner suits. My escort presented me with a corsage (thank you, George!). Two by two, we graduates paraded down the centre of the hall to be 'presented' to our college principal, Mr Maurice E. Hale. Some of our parents and relatives were also in attendance.

We were provided with a smorgasbord meal, which, as the accompanying supper menu shows, was reasonably unimaginative. But hey!, it was 1964 after all! There was no alcohol - although I do I recall some non-alcoholic wine being served. (Only those who had paid a shilling for their 'Drinker's Licence' would have been able to imbibe - but NOT at Grad. Ball!) The evening involved some formal dancing (Pride of Erin, Gypsy Tap etc.), but just after midnight there was provision for us to break out with a little "Twist, Stomp etc"

The evening finished at 1.25 a.m. (Shock! Horror! We were accustomed to Lights Out in Dormitories at 10

o'clock!) with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and God Save the Queen.

To the best of my memory it was an uneventful evening - and we all kept ourselves NICE!

Perhaps others of my session have different recollections!

Marion Giddy ( Smith )

### SUPPER MENU

Curried Prawns and Rice  
Spaghetti Bolognaise

Cold Poultry, Ham and Cold Meats  
Potato Salad  
Cole Slaw  
Tomato  
Lettuce  
Asparagus  
Eggs  
Celery

Peas and Beetroot in Aspic  
Fish Pieces

Cocktail Frankfurts

Fruit Salad and Cream

Coffee

"off limits" and that occasionally in the dead of night, some depraved person would polish her exposed brassy left breast.

In an act of disrespect a few of us (clad in our brand new WWTC tracksuits) clambered over her and took photos as proof of our gung-ho attitudes. Some time during 1963 'Myrtle' mysteriously disappeared! (See Brian Bazzo's story - Talkabout Nov 2002)

There was a wonderful turn-out of 63-64 ex-students at the 1997 Reunion at CSU. ( I think we were the best represented session!). Somehow the word got around that 'Myrtle' was alive and well, and still holding her lamp aloft, but was now installed on the CSU campus. We went in search. Sure enough, there she was in all her glory!. We needed closure. That evening a few of us returned to her side and in an emotion-charged ceremony, we once more put Brasso to work!.

Marion Giddy (Smith).

## Some more "Myrtle Titbits"

Soon after our arrival at WWTC in 1963 as First Year students, we were duly 'initiated' (and that's another story) and then indoctrinated. We needed to learn all the college traditions, nicknames and 'college-speak' to pass on to those who followed us. We were delighted to learn that 'Myrtle', the beautiful goddess who stood in the garden outside the Administration Block was



Doug Walker reapplying Brasso in 1997

## SPENCER

He comes as a god. Riding in his chariot, drawn by one fiery, prancing steed which has the endurance of six and the beauty of the king of horses himself. His trappings send forth strong incense upon the balmy air. The perfume, like that of – well, I leave it to you – is wafted forth upon the breeze. No words can describe the pomp, magnificence, indeed the splendour, with which he approaches the wrought-iron gateway.

Sharply his steed wheels and while the sun gleams on the steed, chariot, and indeed on Spencer himself, all three sweep along the drive. Pride of purpose is a marked feature of their bearing. The steed, tossing his mane so that the sun spins his gold among its strands, and Spencer, the immortal, the inconceivably great, holds his head as though upon those dark, waving locks rests the crown of the king of all the world. His apparel has that marked appearance which so holds the eye (and little else), and around chariot, steed, and master rests a clear, gold light.

Those who see not this spectacle will never understand fully its appeal to the heart of the clear-minded, the thinkers, and, above all, those who dine on fine dishes, for Spencer is God of Food. He it is who cooks the fish on Fridays, for no other has yet acquired the art of the fish to such an extent. He only has learnt to extract carefully that which will be Saturday's kidney pie. Dans la cuisine, among his many cupboards, he searches, and makes his mixtures. How potent, how appetising are these mixtures! Truly, Spencer mixes well.

Students, sitting anxiously at meals, have oft times welcomed, have felt throats tighten, pulses quicken and stomachs jump as he dashes past the window and draws his chariot to a halt at the kitchen door. Unfortunately his steeds, though each as I said, has the endurance of six and the beauty of the king of all horses, tire at the rate of one per week. Spencer also cooks steak!

Many and varied are the meals he can produce. Those who partake of these meals will realise fully their vitamin value, their decorative value, and their energy value. Truly, I have seen diners break all sprinting records after only one course of "Spencer's Meal" (Kelloggs have been replaced!).

Have you ever met Spencer? Have you spoken with him? Then don your robes of purple and gold and wait by his chariot until he has finished his cooking. Then, as he steps forth once more from the door of the cuisine, bow the knee and fling banners high. Proclaim him God of all Food, and who knows but that he may gently rest his hand upon thy head. Then rise, O Friend! Lift for him his goods into the chariot. Hold for him the head of his impatient steed and, who NOSE, but that he may let thee taste of those loaded delicacies.

Oft he is seen to come. As oft to go. Yet his presence is felt mostly in those dishes, those delicate dishes, which he leaves behind.

P.S. – Mr. Renwick says: "We do not taste, we only smell."

Wyn Wilcox (Walshaw) 1947-49

## WWTC REUNIONS

With the success of the General reunion held in Bathurst last September it has been decided to hold another General Reunion in Wagga in 1995.

It has been suggested that individual Sessions who wish to hold a reunion do so in even numbered years.

There have been a several Session Reunions planned for this year These are listed as follows.

Anyone wishing to find out more about a particular reunion is asked to contact Michelle Fawkes at the Alumni office for contact details of the organisers.

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### 1956-57 SESSION

Our biennial reunion will be held on 20th and 21st March 2004 at Ranelagh House, Robertson (Southern Highlands).

Reunion includes Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Overnight stay and Sunday breakfast.

Session members are invited to attend any or all of the above.

Bookings can be made directly with Ranelagh House. 02 4885 1111.

Keith and Irene Crittenden (organizers).

### 1963-64 SESSION

### 40TH ANNIVERSARY

We are planning a reunion of 63-64 ex-students to be held in Canberra 24/25/26 September 2004

Come along and recreate the fantastic atmosphere of our last get together!!

Contact Person:

Sue (Upton) King

### 1955-56 SESSION

Mt Annan Botanical Gardens.

12 October 2004.

Contact person: Margaret Shanks.

### 1953-54 SESSION

To be held in Wagga Wagga , 22/23/24 October 2004.

Contact person: Barry Ewert.



*Spencer exits the College bound for the pig farm*

# HISTORICAL MEMORIES

## My Games



*Dawn Stewart (Andrews) 1950-51 has written stories about growing up on a property Back o' Bourke. This one is about how children amused themselves in the days before TV and computer games!*

Two little barefoot kids didn't own many bought toys. We didn't need them anyhow, because we made our own. Of course, when we were very small we had our cotton reels threaded on a string, our dolly peg aeroplanes – some with double wings to make them fly faster and higher – and our upturned cake tins to bang on, making loud noises on our drums.

However, when we were bigger kids, play was much more interesting because we built villages – and I was the chief planner. We laid them out very carefully, making wide roads by smoothing the sand with timber off-cuts. The smaller off-cuts were our racing cars, and we made sure we locked them away every night in the garage, in case it rained. We scooped out big rivers and creeks and spanned them with our bridges – branches just the right length and shape. Then we built railway lines with matchsticks and twigs, and tunnels out of jam tins. The lids and bottoms of the tins made neat little ponds, which we scattered around the countryside and their waters shone in the sunlight. Our homes were cardboard boxes, our fences small twig posts and woollen thread. We even had wooden gates that opened and shut. In my house was a bathtub – a tobacco tin filled with water – and my garden was planted with paper daisies, soldier

buttons and the bluebells that grew on “Bellands”.

Our village had three shops. The greengrocer stocked all kinds of fruit and vegetables, gathered from the bushland and neatly displayed in matchbox trays, inviting everyone to “Come Buy”. The butcher didn't sell fresh meat – just soup bones. He had such a large supply of different bones, but he didn't ever get his hands on the ones we used to play jacks. We boiled those in crepe paper water to make them look pretty – different colours for different kids – thus, no snitching when one was lost from a set. Our clothing store held the most modern, designer clothes – cutouts from the latest catalogues and held upright in the shop window by sticks. The material samples from the catalogues made ducky little bath and door mats.

Did we have money to buy these tempting wares? Of course we did! How else could we use the buttons cut from worn-out clothing! And a bottle top was worth heaps, five medium sized buttons. We didn't have a post office – it was over in the next village that was built around a dead tree. That tree had hollows, holes and ledges to post and collect our letters – not only for us, but also for our neighbours and the shopkeepers. My Mum and Dad gave our busy postman all the old envelopes and letters they did not need, and copies of “The Land” newspaper were delivered to the farmers.

There wasn't much point in building a lolly or ice-cream shop, or a picture theatre – so we didn't bother with any of those – nor did we need a police station – we were such good little kids! No matter what the wool prices were, Santa always brought us Christmas stockings and we guarded so carefully, the little treasures we found in them.

One year, I received my first book – “The Adventures of Fudge, the Elf”. In it was a story about “Who Will Bell the Cat?” – a question asked of some mice – and there was a picture of the big, black cat sitting real close to them on the opposite page.

My Dad had walled in underneath our house tank that sat on a high platform.

In there was an iron bed and mattress, and a kerosene box bedside table with a hurricane lamp on it. My uncle used those things when he came to help my Dad with some work. And that is where I kept my friend “Fudge” – in my own special hideaway. I sometimes invited my little sister to afternoon tea, and read stories to her from my book. She didn't mind when I skipped over the hard words.

Then, one year, everything changed. Santa brought my brother a three-wheel bike with a tray on the back. My sister had a blue car and I was the proud owner of a brand-new, bright-red Dodge! From then on, our wooden racing cars suffered neglect, as my brother and I raced our real cars along the pathways, tooting our horns to tell the people to get off our roadway – or else... Came the day, all too soon, when I was given other kinds of presents – sewing basket, brush and comb set, manicure set. I didn't really mind getting such things – they looked very nice too, but the problem was that I was expected to USE them – especially that sewing basket! Some part of this little barefoot kid didn't want to grow up and wouldn't have minded in the least going back in time.

She just wanted to build another village – outside in the red sand – and visit her old friends again.

Dawn Stewart (Andrews) 1950-51.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

All alumni are invited to attend the quarterly meetings which are held at the Teachers Credit Union, Homebush starting at 11 am. Meeting Dates for 2004 are as follows:

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November

# POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

## EX-STUDENTS' POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

*At the 2003 Reunion, which included ex-students from WWTC's twenty five years existence, the attendees were asked (if they so desired) to list any details of their career and how they made use of their time since retirement (if relevant), for inclusion in a publication of this historic event, should such a publication be viable.*

*Most people responded and it has been decided that these will be published in future issues of Talkabout. In this issue we publish 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

##### **BONNIE MILLS (McINTYRE)**

After graduation I taught briefly at Dulwich Hill Infants Dept. I was transferred to West Tamworth in Sept., 1950 - then Tamworth South early 1953 - a new school with large classes - not unusual then - I resigned Dec. '59 to have a family but returned to teaching at Tamworth East in May, '63, then transferred to Hillvue (still Tamworth) in 1972 with carpet on the floor! I retired from there as ET in 1986. I enjoyed my teaching.

In retirement my husband and I travelled and enjoyed our time together until his death in 2001. I go to various club activities and am improving my computer skills to delve into family history.

##### **CLARE HOPKINS (McGEE)**

I retired from teaching in 1987. I was the original Kindergarten teacher at Beaumont Road School (Killara) in 1953. Last weekend I was special guest at the 50th Birthday celebrations - recalling the conditions of teaching in that year.

After retirement I went into dressmaking specialising in Weddings and formal wear. I now enjoy sewing for my four grandchildren — also do lots of patchwork and enjoy days of cards - 500, Solo, Canasta and Bolivia.. I also love my garden. I have yet to find

out how I can retire from retirement without going out in a box.

#### 1948-50

##### **JUDITH HIATT (HANNS)**

Schools: Greta Migrant Camp No 2 1950-51, Brewarrina Central 1952-54, Dobroyd Point Jan to June 1955. Drummoynes Infants Act Dep Mistress 1955-59, Darlinghurst Infants Dep Mist 1960-65, Rainbow Street Infants Mistress 1966, Crown Street Infants Mistress 1967-71, Bourke Street Infants 1972-76, Kensington Infants Mistress 1977-78, Wellington Primary Librarian 1979-85. Since retirement December 1985 - Involved in community activities - mainly history and heritage groups, Meals on Wheels, Wellington Bicentennial Committee Organising Secretary 1984-89. Wellington Project Committee, Wellington Historical Society, Wellington Council Heritage Committee, Oxley Museum, Australia Day Committee . Society of Australian Genealogists, Royal Australian Historical Society. National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.): long time member and involved in activities both in Sydney and in Macquarie Regional Committee (Wellington Sub-branch).

##### **ELIZABETH (BETTY) PUNTON**

Schools: Trundle Primary 1950, Lake Cargellico 1951-53, Central Tilba, 1954-a reward for 3 years in the Far West ! Narrandera Infants 1955-57, Wyalong Public School 1958-59 (and on the Promotion's trail) Narrabri Infants Mistress 1960-61 Narrandera East Infants' School 1962-68 West Wyalong Public School 1969-85 (List 3 '71) West Wyalong Public School Principal 1985 -Mar. 88. Joined the ranks of retirees . A good rewarding career..

Since 1988 have been involved in community work, via Quota, church, Probus, History and heritage, travelled in Australia and once overseas. Garden, disc vered cappucino ! Meet with friends, talk a lot, and have maintained fairly good health. It's good. Wonderful to re-meet fellow 1948-50 W.W.T.C. people this weekend.

#### 1949-50

##### **SHIRLEY JAMES (COOK)**

First appointment was to Narrandera P.S. teaching primary as trained. Left after three years to rear five little daughters then returned to Infants' Departments 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

##### **GEOFF GORMAN**

First appointment Lithgow Relief 1952, Wallerawang 3 years, then various Sydney West schools including opening the new school at Minda Remand Centre, then to Yamba where I retired and still live. There I play golf and tennis and do some fishing. Other activities include travel and visiting grandchildren.

#### 1951-1952

##### **JOHN SKENE**

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

##### **MARGARET LOCK (WARDROP)**

I retired from teaching in 1988 and took a position as Editor in the publishing company C.C.H., worked with them as manager of their Law Division until retiring in 2002 (69). I was astounded to learn when I entered the world of private enterprise that one could actually talk to another adult during working hours and one could go to the loo at any time of the day! Oh wonder of wonders ! And the loos were really beautiful. Reverting to my teaching career— from Infants' teaching I completed the Teacher Librarian course and Post Graduate Children's Literature and ending my teaching career at Arndell – school for emotionally



# POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

disturbed children K-6. 25 children brought by taxi each day, Infants live in. 3-6 really hard work, 3-5 children per class, teacher and nurse at all times.— no regrets.

**1952-1953**

## **SHIRLEY RADCLIFFE (TOWNSEND)**

Appointed to Barham on Murray River (800 km from Sydney) Feb '54 —still there being lovingly cared for by former students.

When the High School was built, I joined the staff as Teacher-Librarian, gained degree from Riverina Institute of Higher Learning (now C.S.U.) and served for 25 years (1969-1994).

Although I had thoroughly enjoyed working with the Infants, in later life I happily accepted the challenge of introducing and developing the audiovisual section before computerising the system for future students.

As a staunch researcher and advocate of lifelong learning, I am now helping to develop a local U3A group for the stimulation of study and the joy of social interaction.

**1953-1954**

## **GRAHAM IRWIN**

Commenced primary teaching 1956 (one teacher school). Moved to high school teaching 1959.

Experienced a teaching life with a family in U.K. 1970-71.

Retired from principalship of a high school 1992 as an early retiree to prepare for:-

Setting up my children in business and extending or renovating their homes.

Life as a grandparent with nine grandchildren.

Community work as a volunteer - Sailability (introduces disabled to sailing)

Paralympics, Church groups involved in various community work and aid overseas, Kairos - helping in readjustment for prisoners in gaols.

Continuing interests include travel, photography, antiques (but trying not to become one — yet !), reading which includes Christian literature, music and opera.

Oh ! How can I use better any time left to me ?

**1955 - 1956**

## **JUDY MAGILL (TUTTY)**

Taught for four years, firstly at Kempsey, then at Wagga Dem, and Turvey Park Dem before marriage. Have been working as a Family Day Care Co-ordinator for many years — found a teaching background very handy. Did a Uni degree in Early Childhood through Charles Sturt - so now am a double Alumni member !

**1957-1958**

## **DOUGLAS BOOKER**

Graduated U.N.E. 1961  
Assistant Appointments : Bankstown Cent, Tec., Crookwell District Rural. Hunter's Hill High, Forest High. Head Teacher History - Chatswood High 13 years  
Deputy Principal Balmain High 6 years, St Ives High 8 years.  
Retired in 1995.

Currently running a small sheep property and researching early records of white contact with aboriginal people. Executive HTA 3 terms Chaired HTA History Committee 10 years. Syllabus Committee Ancient History 3 terms. North Sydney Region Secondary Audio Visual Advisor 3 years..  
Interested in assisting C.S.U. Teacher Education Program in any possible way .e.g. Student mentoring, Group discussion, Concept development

**1960-1961**

## **CHRISTINE MARTIN (CARPENTER)**

Retired March 2003. A.P. The Meadows P.S. Seven Hills. Taught in N.Z. and in England 1966-68. First appointment Kings St. Mascot then Blacktown South, West and Central, Kings Langley. Volunteer for Tourism in the Hills.

Gaining a life without "bells, lines and reports".

**1961 - 1962**

## **DIANE ELIZABETH GRUBE (WEBSTER)**

Taught 3 years at Alma P.S., Broken Hill - the school my dad attended. After 2 years on Sydney soil, went to England on an exchange teacher program.

For 35 years I have been living in Portland, OR. U.S.A. where I am now retired with my husband, have one married son and a daughter.

My teaching skills acquired at Wagga Wagga have been used in Lutheran School bible education. Part time work is done in senior and disabled home care services.

**1962 - 1963**

## **ROBYN HANIGAN ( ELLIOTT)**

Appointments :- 1964-65 Wagga H. S., 1966 Holbrook Central, 1967-8 Bega High, 1969 P.N.G. Volunteer , 1970-76 P.N.G. Govt Teacher. 1977 Cafe operator, 1978-80 Casual work Wilcannia Central, 1984-91 West Wyalong, 1991-03 Karabar H.S. Queanbeyan., Still working In School/Distance Education.

Married husband Peter in 1973. We have two children Kylie and Ivan and two grandsons Isaac and Noah.

**1963 - 1964**

## **RUSSELL WARFIELD**

Appointments :- 1965 Padstow North P.S., 1966 Laggan P.S. (Lower Division), 1967 Balranald North (Buff's Hall) 1968 St. Benedict's Lidcombe, 1971 Sackville North P.S., 1973 Hobartville P.S. 1974 to present Cathedral School, Bathurst.  
At W.W.T.C. was in "The Gondoliers" and "Everything in the Garden".  
I am married have two children and five grandchildren.

**1966 - 1967**

## **ILDIKO HOWLETT (KORO)**

Appointments:- 1968-69 Warialda Central, Inverell High, 1970 Mt Austin High, Wagga, 1971 South Wagga Primary, 1972-75 Coorwill, Lithgow, 1976-77 East Orange P.S., 1980 Marian High, Launceston, 1986-87 Tasmanian State Institute of Technology, 1989-95 University of South Australia, 1995-98 Seoul International School, Korea. 1999-2003 Scots School Albury.  
I am married to Warren Howlett and we have two children, Sean and Mark and two grand children.

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# TEACHING MEMORIES

## FIRST APPOINTMENT

Sometime during 1st Term, 1950, George Blakemore had asked me if I would be interested in teaching in a Small School in the College practice area. As I had trained in the Small School Section, I desired such a school and agreed with quite a deal of satisfaction.

When my appointment did arrive, he informed me that I had "got" it. To my surprise the appointment was to Hernani. Where was Hernani? Nobody seemed to know until Fay Mullen who came from Grafton said "I think it is between Grafton and Armidale".

So on 15th May, I caught a bus at Swan Bay near Lismore and travelled to Grafton where, I boarded another bus which travelled from Grafton to Armidale. No accommodation was available at Hernani so board was arranged for me at the Ebor Hotel about 10 miles away. About 2 hours later I finally reached Ebor about 7 p.m. after one of the roughest trips I have ever experienced. To add to my anxiety the jocular driver told me, after ascertaining that I was the new teacher at Hernani and would be boarding at the Ebor Hotel, that I should be on my guard at the hotel. He went on to tell me that each Saturday timber workers gathered at the pub and slaked their thirsts in a rowdy and often not amicable manner.

On one particular occasion one had returned to his vehicle and procured a rifle. On re-entering the pub he had pointed to a picture of an old Indian hanging there and shouted, "You have been there long enough". Immediately he fired a shot and apparently the bullet went through the ceiling and into the room which the driver was sure would be my room. What was I coming, to!!

Apprehensively I entered the hotel and knocked on the bar door since the only noise was coming from there. The red faced publican, bleary eyed and in a not too clear voice asked, "What-ya-want?". I told him and he informed me that it was late and there was only a cold pie and a cup of tea for me. What an introduction to my future abode! However it proved to be a friendly place

where I usually had dinner in the big warm kitchen with the two families that ran the hotel. However I might add that I sat by myself in the cold dining room for the first few weeks and missed the W.W.T.C. dining room with about 300 dining with me.

Because of the cold nights and frozen taps in the mornings, I had to have a shave and the occasional bath at night. To wake myself up each morning I broke the layer of ice on the water in a hand basin to give my face a wash. To keep me warm in the upstairs lounge where I was to do my lesson preparation, the publican gave me a PRIMUS RADIATOR —ever seen one? Needless to say I soon gave that away as there was a blazing log fire down in the bar with usually only the families and just sometimes a few after-hour drinkers. I don't doubt George would have approved my "study area".

To reach my school at Hernani, I caught the bus at 8 a.m. and after the 10 mile journey, walked another mile walk down a lane which was very muddy especially in June when there was 37 inches of rain in a week. My first job each morning was to cut the fire wood and make a fire in the brick fire place. School attendance was 14 —classes ranged from K through to 6 th. What wonderful, polite kids they were with varying abilities. Some walked but most rode horses. In later years I have discovered that at least one became an English lecturer at a teachers' college and another a teacher. At the end of Term 2 a holiday was granted to celebrate the birth of Princess Anne. This was to be taken on the last Wednesday and back to school for the Thursday. With the parents' approval we had school on Wednesday and I was able leave for the holidays at home on the Thursday. The inspector in Armidale never found out because I received a very good report after inspection in 3rd Term.

In Term 3 I obtained board at one of the parents' homes and enjoyed the family life. The father was a dairy and potato farmer and he introduced me to trout fishing and how to play the card game, crib. My board cost 50/- a week and I had to mow the large lawn with a hand

mower when required. Sunday night was bath night and the guest had first turn of the hot water from the copper. An enclosed part of a verandah measuring about 8 ft by 6 ft with a single bed a little combination wardrobe and dressing table - "no room to swing a cat" - was my room.

Entertainment that term consisted of a picture show one Saturday afternoon and a dance (transport on the back of a truck - 30 miles). For sport I had a few games of tennis and I was able to get a cricket team together and play in the Dorrigo competition.

My appointment to Hernani P.S. lasted only 2 terms as fate struck a cruel blow and my career changed direction for some time but I shall never forget my first 2 terms as a teacher at Hernani which later became a 2 teacher school. There were some very lonely times but also some very rewarding times.

Frank Lees 1948-50.

## A DETENTION TRAP

In the early days of teaching as a teacher-in-charge of small schools I was one of many who had no conveyance but depended on your landlord or some passer-by for transport to the closest town.

Imagine my delight when I was appointed to my second small school, Mundiwa North, to find that an adjoining small school Mayrung was in the charge of Johnny B.

We were in the same session at college, had been in Phys Ed Option together, played in the same football team and were great mates.

Mundiwa North was six miles from Deniliquin on the Mooney Swamp Road and Mayrung was a further twenty miles from Deniliquin on the same road.

The district farmers' shopping day was Thursday as was the district stock sales. If you secured a lift to town on a Thursday you were assured of a lift home that night. Often on a Thursday pupils were picked up from school to accompany their parents to town. One dared not close the school prior to 3.30

# TEACHING MEMORIES

p.m. and hoped some parents would be picking up their children at that time or that some would be passing by after 3.30 p.m.

One Thursday Johnny was hoping for such a lift after the 3.30 p.m. dismissal when he sighted a prospective lift. He quickly locked up and made his way to the roadside. In his haste he neglected to dismiss one lad who had been placed on detention.

The lad made no protest and was soon alone locked in the school. He was a typical country lad with common sense, and as soon as Johnny and his lift were out of sight, he unlocked a window, slipped out pulling the window down behind him.

At home he mentioned the incident to his father, who happened to be a good natured person with a sense of humour.

His father instructed his son to get to school early in the morning before "sir" arrived, climb back through the window, locking it behind him, and resuming his place at his desk and feigning sleep.

When Johnny arrived he unlocked the school and entered to be confronted by the sleeping detainee.

Panic stations!

What the hell was he to do? Why weren't the parents there to berate him? All manner of repercussions crossed his mind.

The lad awoke, made no comment and behaved normally while Johnny stewed.

Johnny had great difficulty in concentrating on the morning session with one eye cocked on the window awaiting the arrival of an irate or irate parents.

Finally at recess the lad approached Johnny and explained what had happened, remarking that Dad said "I don't think that is likely to happen again!"

Inwardly Johnny wholeheartedly agreed!

Lew Morrell (1949-50)

## A LASTING BOND

Quite a few years ago several ex-Wagga Wagga Teachers' College people began to meet for a drink and a talk at the Teachers' Club. in Bathurst Street. Its proximity to Town Hall Station and the bus zone at the Queen Victoria Building made it an ideal central location. I seem to remember Ed Raskall, Bill O'Sullivan and Ray Wood as being among the first few.

Winifred and I joined them and as word spread the numbers increased and we were getting between twenty and forty at each gathering. Names such as John Cummins, Graeme Wilson (twice), Bob Collard, John Riley, Brian Webb, Bruce Phillips, Bob Henderson, Christel Cox, Ken McLean, Roy Hudson, Frank Ley, to name but a few, became regulars as we met every three months on Wednesday morning as the club opened (11 a.m.) and we socialised for an hour or two before going our separate ways.

It was from these humble beginnings that some amongst us saw the potential, and it was Bob Collard who took the baton and gathering a small group, began the formalisation that became the WaggaWagga Teachers College Alumni, at Charles Sturt University.

We had had reunions before in the early post college days, but the first major one was in 1980 in Canberra. For this we have to thank the Wagga group who made Canberra their personal and professional home. Again I apologise if I miss someone, but we were indebted to Shirley and Tom Hodges, Edna and Keith Brew, Margaret Fisher, John Skene, Col Squires, Mary Debnam and Paul Rees, who gave their time and energy in organising such a wonderful week-end of re-finding lost friends.

We now have our Alumni. It sits at pride of place as the foundation of Charles Sturt University – dare I mention that Wagga Wagga Teachers' College was the "Pioneer" of C.S.U. The Alumni has gone from strength to strength under the capable and inspired leadership of our President, Bob Collard.

Most of the students of WWTC from 1947 to 1973, when it ceased to exist in name to become Riverina College of

Advanced Education, have been traced and contacted due in large part to the stirring and tireless Sherlock Holmes-like efforts of our Secretary, Ann Smith (Broadhead).

The College newspaper, Talkabout, has been reborn due to the efforts of Lew Morrell and Lew Crabtree as the refounding editors; and now carried on by Editors Lew Marrell, Lindsay Budd and John Riley. We have published a book "Teaching Memories" put together through the dedication of John Riley.

We have from amongst us donated over \$38,000 to create a scholarship fund the second scholarship was awarded in 2003. Through the Alumni Office we have now had All Years Reunions in 1995 (Wagga Wagga), 1997 (Wagga Wagga), 1999 (Canberra), 2001 (Sydney), 2003 (Bathurst), with the next in 2005 probably in Wagga Wagga.

A small Group of the girls from W.W.T.C. began meeting for lunch at the Masonic Club in Castlereagh Street. This has grown to a mixed group of over twenty, who meet for lunch in February, May, August and November. (See Page 12 for 2004 Dates). The November luncheon often has over forty participants.

These months are the same as the original informal group's get-together, and since the demise of the Teachers' Club, we have been meeting also at the central Masonic Club, (2nd floor). As this now often clashes with the luncheon the informal group has decided to move months. So our future get-togethers will be in the 2nd. Floor Lounge at the Masonic Club at 169 Castlereagh Street on:

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March;**

**Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June;**

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September;**

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

We look forward to seeing any ex-WWTC students in the quiet, relaxing atmosphere of the 2nd floor lounge on any or all of these dates to enjoy fellowship, tea, coffee or a drink from 10.30 am and on.

Winifred and Kevin Wilcox.(1947-49)

# HALL OF FAME



## **BILL KEAST 1960-61**

*Bill Keast (1960-61) came from Canada to attend the 2003 Reunion in Bathurst. The following letter was received from him just before he arrived but because there was insufficient room in the November Talkabout, his achievements are published in this edition. Several of the pictures he sent formed part of the display of memorabilia at the Bathurst Reunion.*

Dear Lindsay,

Although I'm on my way to the WWTC re-union this September in Bathurst, I thought you might be putting up displays of WWTC grads. I'm certainly not in the same category as Don Talbot the swimming coach, or many others who might be known for a variety of recognizable achievements.

However, I'll enclose some pictures and a short resume. I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time as wicket-keeper/batsman.

I had kept wickets throughout my schooling, beginning with Liverpool Primary.

My actual "claim to fame" is having my name in WISDENS, the 1970 edition. When I arrived in Canada in May, 1968 I continued to play cricket in Vancouver, driving from Kamloops about 4 hours north-east of Vancouver each weekend.

I was selected to play for Canada against USA in a "Test Match" in August /September 1969 at UCLA in Los Angeles. Although Canada was soundly beaten, I did manage a catch and I stumped Terry Lee for 93. Terry Lee played for NSW state as an all rounder. He was studying for his masters in San Francisco at the time. The USA also boasted Everton Weekes' cousin.

Retired from the game for many years, my cricket resume includes the following:

Liverpool Primary

Hurlstone Ag High School 1<sup>st</sup> XI 1958-59

WWTC 1<sup>st</sup> XI 1960-61

Pooncarie Cricket Club 1962-64

Macksville Club and District XI 1965

Coffs Harbour Club and District XI 1966-68

North Coast XI 1968

Vancouver Club 1<sup>st</sup> XI Burrard 1968-71

CANADIAN TEST TEAM v USA 1969

BRITISH COLUMBIA Provincial Team, Tour of England 1970

I have enclosed a few piccies which I recently found on slides and have had them made up in case there is a display of some type.

Looking forward to seeing you all again,

Regards,

Bill Keast 1960-61

## **WWTC ALUMNI SYDNEY LUNCHEONS 2004 DATES**

### **WHERE: –**

Masonic Club, 169 Castlereagh St., Sydney.

Complete a Temporary Member's card at the Ground Floor, before proceeding to the 2nd Floor Lounge to socialize any time from 11, for 12 o'clock luncheon in 4th Floor Dining Room.

### **WHEN: –**

Wednesday 19th May 2004

Thursday 19th August 2004

Friday 19th November 2004

### **COST: –**

Up to \$27; pay for your own drinks.

### **MENU: –**

Select 2 of 3 courses, with choices available in each.

### **WHO: –**

WWTC Alumni from any session, partners & friends.

### **HOW: –**

Phone Ann Smith (9635-0449) or John Riley (9525-5304) at least one week in advance so that numbers can be made known at the Club. We look forward to renewing friendships and to making new ones.



*Bill Keast in the nets at Old Trafford in 1970*

# IN MEMORIAM



**Corinne Paravantes  
(Ongley) 1962-63**

My friend Corinne died of cancer in February this year. We grew up in Ainslie, on the slopes of the mountain, several blocks away from each other. Canberra was then a big country town where everyone knew each other by sight. It was at Ainslie Primary School that I met Corinne, with her glorious auburn hair twisted into intricate plaits and tied with blue ribbons. We were at Canberra High School together and when our final exams were over there were important choices to be made. For women in 1961 these were very limited. We had both been involved in Girls Brigade and had leadership experience, so teaching was the obvious choice and we both received scholarships to Wagga.

We started in February 1962 and the two years were extremely busy, with lectures from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday as well as assignments to complete. Today's undergraduates would buckle at the workload. Corinne and I were also in the choir and in the production of *The Gondoliers*. She was also involved in drama and had a leading role in Fry's play *The Lady's Not For Burning*. We shared a room in Kabi-Kumbu. and after lights out, had many clandestine suppers of hot chocolate and cinnamon toast made on the radiator. At weekends we would often ride our bicycles into the country. One day riding past a farm, we found a dead sheep with its newly born lamb which then had a ride on Corinne's jumper in the bike basket up to the farmhouse.

Over the years our parents had become very good friends and our families had many meals and camping holidays together. In 1964 we both had teaching appointments in Canberra, Corinne at Watson Primary and me at Narrabundah. We were both 19 years old and discovering the reality of teaching children, sports coaching and training choirs. After several years we both had postings to Wollongong and once again shared a flat. Learning to cook was great fun but tossing pancakes is not that easy when they hit the wall! Then there was the baked chicken we found the plastic bag of giblets after it was cooked!

Then Corinne was off on her big adventure to teach in Canada with Kerry Melville who had been our neighbour in college. "She'll come back to live", we all said with confidence, but we reckoned without Dean who was also a teacher and school principal. Corinne and Dean married in 1969 and made their home in Kamloops BC. We maintained contact over the years and I know what Dean and her two boys Simeon and Nicholas meant to her. She continued her teaching career and her work in modernising the libraries of the Kamloops School District won her wider recognition in Canada and the USA. Her impact on local teachers was so great that the traffic had to be stopped for the funeral. That would certainly have appealed to her dramatic sense.

Her visits to Australia were all too brief and too often related to family tragedy. The last time I saw Corinne she was waving good-bye in the hospital carpark in Canberra, the sun still shining on her auburn hair. Good-bye my dear friend. Next time I see you, we'll do what we always did just pick up from where we left off.

Wendy Zimgast ( Rien) 1962-63

## **Robyn Bennett (nee McDonald) 1969-70**

There is a photo in the WWTC archives of a girl with long straight blonde hair, a short skirt and knee high boots striding to the dining hall. That was Robyn - the very essence of a late 60's girl. In the dorm (Kabi - Kumbu) she was a real dynamo. She shared a

room with Brenda Lemke and the two of them were very house proud. Their sheets were always first out on washday (Thursday) and they were busy doing their floors.

Robyn had a great sense of fashion and style. My room was across the hall from hers and my skirts (which were very dowdy) soon had the scissors to them to bring me to the 60's. My mother was not impressed!

My room-mate was Denise Whelan (Dolaghan) and Robyn was such a great help with everything - assignments, relationship advice etc.

I thought her so much more mature than me and she had - which I didn't - a real sense of who she was.

I saw her at a reunion - perhaps in 1994 and was glad to see that she was happily married. Whilst some people were sliding into middle age she still had that youthful edge about her. So I was really saddened to hear of her death. Some people from those years stand out more than others and she was certainly one of them.

Helen Watson (Cumes) 1969-70

## **Jim Butler 1948-50**

Many of our members are sorry to hear of the death of James Ronald Butler on 30th January. Jim, as he was affectionately known was a member of the 1948-50 session.

We remember him as a co-editor of *Talkabout* with John Mitchell as editor. Jim was a very talented writer and his "Saturday Morning" in "1950" ( *The College Literary Magazine*) was a masterpiece depicting the frustration and depression experienced by a young teacher appointed to a dying country village.

Jim was a co-founder of the Leninsky Society - a spoof secret society that intrigued many students.

"The darkness of the night yields to the rising of the sun". The muttering of this mysterious saying accompanied with a sweeping motion of the hand and arm puzzled many an inquisitive student.

Jim was pre-deceased by his wife Barbara whom we remember as Barbara Spence. They are survived by their children : Mark, Neil, Geoff, Karen, Terry and Liza.

Lew Morrell 1949-50

# Those Were The Days

Extracts from Talkabouts of long ago

A common theme for comment in Talkabout in early days was the use of the recorder flute in music lectures. Lecturer Cornell brought out a box of these for distribution and use for playing folk airs from a set collection. Those not especially enthusiastic on the practice could hide their lack of skill when the section played, but when individual performances were called for at exam time, the truth came out. Yours truly managed to learn set pieces, but when it came to the UNSEENS!!! Here are some of the comments found in early times.

## Off the Record

Oh for a gramophone! Oh for a record!  
Oh for a bonfire of broken recorder flutes!

Never before have I heard so many versions of "The Lost Note" – pardon, I mean "The Lost Chord". I see beautiful young ladies frantically running up and down our 6 inch by 6 inch corridors mournfully asking all those not already dead, "Have you seen my note? I just blew this ..... (confounded thing) and the note came out the wrong end. You'll return it if you find it, won't you?"

My delicate ears are assailed by the volumes of monstrous windjamming that goes on morning, noon and night. All the wind possible is jammed into the poor little insignificant flute!!

Don't be surprised if I exert my superiority with a super atomic bomb. I must outdo the noise somehow.

**B.E.S., 3/8/48**

.....

Sir,  
During a recent visit to the garden city of the south, I was privileged to tour the campus of your celebrated College. Hailing from Italy where music is not rare or fettered within the record, I was charmed to hear music everywhere. I thought it must surely be the Pipes of Pan in this Arcadian setting, but, on enquiry, I found that the majority of the students are flautists. This was a wonderful discovery. The Music

Department must be commended for its initiative and enthusiasm.

It is to be hoped that this ideal may be perpetuated and that lecturers and students will never become accustomed to the music they cannot help hearing. What I really mean is that they must never let such experiences become stale, but on each outburst, find delight in the subtle uncertainties of this instrument.- Yours, etc.,

Antonio Magnafigio-11/4/49  
.....

..... I am told on good authority that these students invariably take with them wherever they go a new-fangled musical instrument known as a marauder toot, which they play at all hours and even to the children. As I object to jazz music of any kind and as I do not wish the children in my school to be contaminated in this way, I would prefer not to have to meet such ex-students rather than to have to tell them (kindly but sternly) to keep the marauder toot at the bottom of the suitcase where it rightly belongs.

From Matilda Snifwell – 11/4/49  
.....

Sir,  
It is indeed time a concerted attack was made upon a pernicious in-fluence that threatens the stability of our community life. I refer to a thin ectoplasmic wailing that haunts the air after nightfall, a ghostly caterwauling, an inharmonious, nerve-wracking thread of sound - in short, Sir, the recorder flute. I think it high time a stand was made against the Music Department of this establishment, a department which seems to be actuated by an insane desire to wreck the seraphic calm of the campus, the deep peace of the dormitories. The recorder flute itself is an instrument which is in shape questionable, in origin doubtful, and in performance blasphemous. It is an outrage against Nature and against God.

Yours, etc.,  
"PRO BONO PUBLICO" –11-4-49  
.....

Dear Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Miss Cornell to the serious risk of infection which every second year student takes twice each week. I am referring, Sir, to that potential spreader of disease, the recorder flute. I have no objection to blowing into the fool thing and producing a hideous wail or an ear-splitting squeal, provided I am given a flute for my own, sole, personal use. As an alternative I would suggest sterilising the foul mouthpiece and using an instrument similar to a pipe cleaner for removing the drool, spittle and remains of numerous breakfasts from the piece with the holes in it. Perhaps this would ruin its alleged tone. If this is the case I'll have one for my private use, please. Why do I not buy one? For the same reason I do not buy a white elephant. Yours, etc.,

**"CONTAMINATED" - 20-9-49**

.....

## Overheard on a Turvey Park Bus:

"I wonder what that instrument is the students at the College are learning to play. I hear them practising every morning about seven o'clock."

(Fancy calling our new hooter an instrument! Must recommend it to Joseph Post.)  
14/3/49

.....

Compiled and edited by John Riley  
(1948-50)



# 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 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.

In order for donations to reach their destination as quickly as possible, please take note of the following information:-

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

**Talkabout contributions should go directly to the Treasurer of the WWTC Alumni Association:-  
Lindsay Budd, 4 Flemington Close, Casula NSW 2170.**

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". **Remember to send your contribution directly to the Treasurer. 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 63386016

**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

Place address sticker here.

### **Change of Address**

If your address details are incorrect please notify Michelle at:

**alumni@csu.edu.au**

or

The Alumni Office  
Charles Sturt University  
Bathurst NSW 2795 Australia