



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS

# TALKABOUT



Volume 21 No 2

August 2018



The 1950 College production of *Pirates of Penzance*, performed in the Auditorium.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By now members would have been able to read through and digest the contents of the *70 Year Celebratory Edition of Talkabout* (Vol 21 No 1) and judging from the feedback it has been well received. It has now become a booklet in the CSU Regional Archives celebrating the 70 Years of Teacher Education WWTC 1947 to 2017.

Did you find yourself in one of those photos on the CD?

Now what has passed in those 70 years? I am sure that at The Celebration there were many stories related about life's journey from times at WWTC through to 2017 and it is *TALKABOUT* that needs these stories.

A primary objective of *TALKABOUT* is to keep people in touch with each other and as was the case at our Celebration, where life's journeys were recounted, there are still stories to be written about. With over 1500 members there is undoubtedly a diverse range of adventures and pathways trodden.

*TALKABOUT* needs your stories, events and encounters from College Days through to now. You know that the time has come for when even *The Enders* are in the retirement age group.

What journeys have you been on? Why do you live where you live? Who was your favourite lecturer?

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd

Can you remember your first inspection? How did you handle your P&C? Why did you choose to teach? Would you still opt to be a teacher today? Have you any recommendations for travel? What is still on your bucket list of places to go and see? What do you do in your community?

The challenge is out! **TALKABOUT** needs your contributions. Please keep those articles coming.

From time to time we have requests for assisting in reuniting "lost friendships". One of our committee's objectives is to assist in the establishment of re-

**gional WWTC cohorts.** In many places there seems to be a regional sprinkling of WWTC Alumni. Hopefully we will be able to assist with putting these people in touch with each other and perhaps meet for morning tea, luncheon or just a good old session. Is there a regional coordinator out there to make it happen? The choice is yours!

Some WWTC's are now "Grey Nomads" who have taken the opportunity to traverse our "wide brown land" (or is it "by the Tweed and beyond the Darling") and of course be able to meet up with fellow alumni on their travels ... if only they

knew!

So, the bottom line.

We need your contribution to **TALKABOUT**. Where are you? Why are you there? Where have you been? What has been achieved? You get my drift.

**Post Script:** By the way remember that there is a **Membership Contribution Form** at the back of this edition where you can pay your annual membership and make contributions to the WWTC Scholarship Fund and other projects. Thanks.

**Bruce Forbes**  
**1965/66**

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to our second edition of *Talkabout* for 2018. Thank you for your very kind comments regarding the special edition of the **70 Year Celebratory Edition of Talkabout** (Vol 21 No 1). It was indeed an honour to put that edition together in an attempt to capture a most memorable occasion.

So now our difficulty becomes continuing the tradition of producing a quality and engaging newsletter for you all to enjoy. Whilst a small part of the solution sits with the editor, by far the major responsibility lies with you, the members of the Alumni.

In short we need your articles, stories, memories, and photographs, without them there will be no more *Talkabout*.

**Brian Powyer**

## ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK



**Lesley Forbes**

**Liz Farley**

(daughter of Ian Thomas 1947-49)

I would like to thank you for emailing the latest copy of *Talkabout* in which you kindly included my story about my mother, Betty Thomas, wife of Ian....who though not a student/pioneer at WWTC was still very much a part of my dad's student days there and of course his teaching career.

As I had sent her death notice apart from the story, it wasn't perhaps clear to readers who mum was or that she has died. I should have prefaced my story with that information. However, I am sure those who knew my dad at college or through his teaching time would have remembered mum.

I had hoped to have sent some

things down for the reunion. However, the job of sorting through mum and dad's collection is still ongoing.

I do still intend to collate what may be of interest for archives/records of the pioneer students and will be in touch when that is done.

Meanwhile it was great to hear the 70 Year Celebrations were such a great success.

Please continue to email *Talkabout* to me. Many thanks, Lesley.

**Merle Rector (McPherson) 1961-62.** It is great to be here in cold Vancouver Canada, able to still be connected to my wonderful WWTC life 1961-62, through the miracle of emails **and your hard work!!!**

I look forward to reading it this coming weekend.

Cnt'd p3

**Grahame and Fay (Bailey)**

**KEAST 1963-64**

Good work again guys!

Lo and behold you've put a photo of my wife Fay (Bailey) on the front page, playing basketball! (not netball.) Yes, that's Fay, #4, shooting a basket from the free throw line. Anyway, she'll write to you herself.

Yep.... it sure was a great gathering.

**Phil Pryor 1958-59**

Thanks so much for this reminder of the old days. I'm trying to round up some old mates for our 58-59 upcoming anniversary. I'll read in more detail later and send some money to renew and cover costs. Great to see a few old familiar names still going.

**Lyn Palmer (Pavitt) 1961-62**

Thank you for the *Talkabout*—many nostalgic memories attached to your articles.

**Bronwyn Patrick (Chivers)**

**1966-67.** I am still teaching!! I guess I should retire... before I die and miss out on all the fun you lot have!!!! What a great job you 2 do keeping the fraternity alive...literally.

**Maggie Harris (Ward) 1966-67**

Great to read the latest review in *Talkabout*. Well done for all your efforts. I am sorry I could not attend.

**Paul Nicoll (1967-68)**

I have just read *Talkabout* and enjoyed it as much as ever. I was overseas during the 70 Year Celebration reunion so that I was unable to participate. However, if I had been in Australia at the time, certainly I would have been delighted to travel to Wagga Wagga for the celebration. Congratulations again on *Talkabout*.

**Bob Jackson (1966-67)**

Thank you for the latest edition of *Talkabout*. It was my full intention to attend the recent celebration, encouraged by Keasty, but unfortunately several things conspired against that happening. I am interested in the Book which is promoted - *South Campus* - so I will get an order in. I have had no luck tracking Jeanette down.

**Ella Keesing (Redpath) 1950-**

**51.** I was so surprised to hear of Joe Schipp's death as no doubt many others are. I was sitting next to him at the dinner and although I did catch up with some of his history since leaving College, I was not aware of his other fame. I did not know he was an MP but living in Victoria for the last 45 years put me out of touch with NSW politics.

I can only say, 'What a way to go!' Much better than a long slow demise.

**Audrey Salisbury (nee Tanner)**

**1947-49.** So sorry I am unable to attend any of your meetings, etc. but I am still caring for my husband whose cancer has gone to the bones. Please give my best wishes to anyone of the 47-49 group from Wagga TC. I was pleased to hear of Wyn Wilcox, recently.

Unfortunately I don't go anywhere these days, but we live in a very pleasant spot near the water at Paradise Point. I often think of the old crowd and remember happy times. I was a voluntary tutor at TAFE for years, but that has stopped now.

I'd be thrilled to hear from anyone—my phone is 07 55774044.

**Missing:**

**John Wallace (1948-50)** is no

longer at his address in Wellington. Someone may know of his state of health and/or whereabouts. His last copy of *Talkabout* was returned.

**Gladys Meaney-Budd (Chapman) 1950-51.**

Congrats on the November *Talkabout* too, I am enjoying every issue – it's gratifying to see the contributions of the 'younger ones' of the Alumni coming forward with such excellent copy.

**Ian Stevenson, Lecturer in Education WWTC 1970-71.**

I was interested to read Neville Jennings' story in the previous issue of *Talkabout*. After gaining his degree Neville taught at Meadowbank Boys High, so he was probably there when Rod Kefford was School Captain.

I first met Rod when he was a university student and again many years later when he was the Headmaster of Barker College Hornsby.

Another Meadowbank student at that time was Peter Roberts. Peter studied at WWTC in 1970/72, where he was universally known as "Peter Rabbit." Peter was in the first section to be three year trained, so graduated from Riverina CAE with a Dip. Teach. Peter and I still keep in touch.

**Denise Montvoisin (1953-54)**

I do enjoy *Talkabout* magazine. I'm not sure how many of my year fellow students are still about.

I get down to Sydney rarely now – travel is a bit difficult. Are there local groups of Alumni in the country areas?

I do have a lap-top but prefer the paper version of the college

magazine as I can pick it up for a read whenever. Also arthritis sometimes makes using the computer quite difficult – also handwriting!

The group graduation photo published in August 2017 took me back to that day – we girls had to wear a white dress – also a white gown to the graduation ball – I did not attend!

Remember the choir conducted by Chris (?). Stirling singing, *Going Home*, a negro song at graduation – we all had tears streaming and could hardly get to the end!

### Joan Chaplin (Brown) 1953-54

I am writing to tell you how much I appreciate your sending me a copy of the *Talkabout*. The photographs and the colour made everything so real – I felt after reading every word and looking at the photos that I had actually been there.

All those people looked so ‘respectable’, you would find it hard to believe some of the things they got up to in their younger days.

The stories made me laugh and think about the time someone

painted Myrtle green – and Brock Rouse and George out there next day trying to remove all the paint with razor blades!

There was not much difference between the 53-54 session, the Pioneers, the Enders and all those between. But I did miss those old fibro buildings used in the early days. I’d never seen those brick ones.

That magazine is a real treasure – I feel I know those faces. When I think of the teaching experiences of all those people from WWTC I feel proud. I can say, ‘Bob and I were there too’.

## WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP REPORT - Jenny Blake

Molly Darrington, a Third Year student from the Wagga Wagga campus is the recipient of the WWTCAA scholarship for 2018.

While we were disappointed that there were only three applicants this year, compared with fifty-eight last year, Molly was the outstanding candidate. She has achieved very good academic results and displayed great leadership skills and initiative both at the university and in the local community.

Unfortunately the other two applicants did not fit the criteria for our scholarship.

At the May meeting of the Alumni the members discussed the need to address the poor number

of applicants for the scholarship and we will have discussions with Sarah Ansell from the CSU Foundation Trust to look at better pub-



licising the scholarship in the future.

There is enough money in the fund to award scholarships to more than one student each year so we would like to encourage more applicants.

Katelyn Rudd, one of the scholarship winners from last year, has updated us on her post university activities. She is working, as a casual, four to five days a week in the Wollongong and Southern Highlands area gaining a lot of experience. She has made it to the interview rounds for some full time positions but has not been successful yet.

**Jenny Blake**

## INVITATION: WWTCAA LUNCHESES - Winifred Wilcox

Members of the WWTCAA are invited to join with other members on 3rd Tuesday of February, May, August and November for WWTCAA Lunch. Meet at 12 noon, at City Extra, Circular Quay.

**Phone Winifred Wilcox 02 9580 5916**



## LETTER OF APPRECIATION - Molly Darrington

**Lesley Forbes Editor  
Wagga Wagga Teachers Col-  
lege Alumni Association:**



I would like to thank you for selecting me to be the recipient for the 2018 Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Association Scholarship. I am incredibly grateful and honoured to have been chosen for this scholarship.

Becoming a teacher has been an aspiration of mine since I was in High School. I was inspired and encouraged by many of my own teachers to reach my full learning potential and achieve my own aspirations. It is my hope that one day I will be able to help and inspire students the way my own teachers inspired me.

I was born and raised in a small rural town and I enjoy being a part of a tight knit community. I hope to in the future continue to work in small rural schools and ensure that all students are given the best possible education they can receive.

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Education K-12 majoring in Modern History and I am now in my third year. I very much enjoy my studies at Charles Sturt University and I have gained valuable knowledge both in class and whilst on practicums.

I have been on three practicums, two at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Wagga Wagga and one at Boree Creek Public School. I will commence my fourth practicum on the 25th May, where I will spend six weeks in a High School, and I will complete another six-week practicum towards the end of the year in a primary school.

I have particularly enjoyed being

able to observe and teach students in the classroom and am eager to complete my studies and begin my teaching career.

Receiving this scholarship will help ease some of the costs associated with attending University. I will use the funds provided by the scholarship to help pay for expenses such as accommodation, travel, class supplies, University fees and the costs associated with my practicums. Having this assistance means that I am able to better focus on my studies and continue working hard to complete my degree.

I would once again like to express my gratitude at having been chosen for this scholarship and to thank you for assisting me in my studies to become a teacher.

**Molly Darrington**

## GRADUATED WITH DISTINCTION - Katelyn Rudd

Hi WWTCAA,

I graduated today at the university in Wagga Wagga, thankfully not too hot. I ended up graduating with distinction for which I am incredibly happy.

Thank you all from the Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association for helping me to achieve this, I am forever appreciative. I

would not have been able to do it, especially last semester without your generous help.

Regards  
Katelyn Rudd

Editor's Note: Because of the special Celebratory Souvenir edition of *Talkabout* we were not able to publish this article earlier.



## WWTC 1951 Documentary - Wayne Doublejoy

We have uploaded the 1951 Department of Education documentary about WWTC to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/csuarchives/>) so everyone can access it. You can find the page by searching for "csu archives". Wayne Doubleday Manager CSU Regional Archives & University Art

## GREGADOO ONE TEACHER SCHOOL - John Robinson 1952-53

Attached are two pictures relating to the Gregadoo One Teacher School 15 kilometres from Wagga Wagga.

I was appointed to this school in May 1954 to take over from Mr Joe Schipp who had opened a Sports Store in Wagga. Sadly Joe passed away last year.

The school was removed in the very early seventies and this house was erected there on the land occupied by the school.

Being just 18 years old and fresh from National Service I don't think I was really equipped to

take over the running of a school with 21 pupils. I stayed there for two years and was then transferred to Jerilderie.

It was very beneficial for me that I had an excellent P&C with a Mrs Helm as President. She checked out with Dem School in Wagga and purchased much needed equipment especially for the lower school.

As I had never been away from home I think I was poorly equipped to take on this task. The parents and especially the students made the task so much easier as they were amazing and

welcomed me so willingly.

I made the journey back to Gregadoo recently and made myself acquainted with the owners of the house and presented them with an enlarged picture of the school (shown below).

Wagga Teachers' College however had prepared us well for Small School Teaching and special tributes go to Mr Latham who took us for Small Techniques.

Happy memories of a bygone era.

**John Robinson**



Gregadoo Public School 1957



Current home on Gregadoo PS site

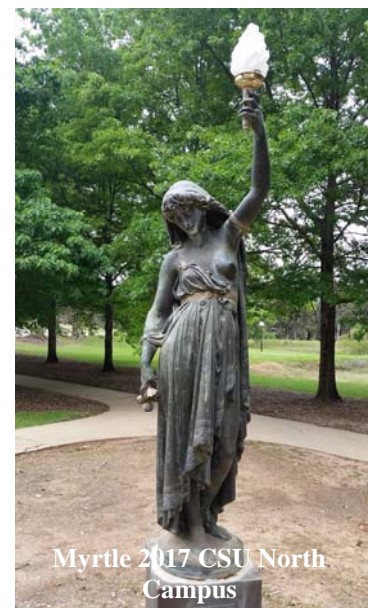
## CREPE MYRTLE - David French 53-54

I was at WWTC in 1953-54. George L Blakemore was principal and there was a push to make the college and grounds more culturally instructive and sophisticated. For example, all the shrubs in the gardens had small plaques near them displaying their name.

Some donor added to this move with the gift of a bronze statue. With all the pomp and ceremony (of which George L. was capable) it was installed in the garden outside his office. This lithe little nude was much admired,

especially by all the male students. From my dormitory we had to pass her every time we went to the dining room.

One cold frosty winter morning on our way to breakfast (in anticipation of our regular 'angel's food' – peanut butter and honey on toast!) we found that the statue was bright blue from head to toe. She looked a cold sorry sight. However, after breakfast the scene was bizarre. There was George L and the craft lecturer scrubbing her down with turps, brushes, cloths etc. Actually,



Myrtle 2017 CSU North Campus

they were overly zealous and certain prominent points shone in the sunlight. Other applications were duly made to dull her down again.

A witch hunt followed, and from the dormitory where I roomed with Henry Gardener, Ian Boothe was chief suspect. He had very recently painted a small book-

case bright blue! It was probably his paint that was used, but none of us thought that Ian was responsible. He was a slightly older student and a quieter and less offensive person you could hardly meet.

The furore died down until shortly afterwards, when again on our way to breakfast, we saw the

statue was entirely white. She had been fully wrapped in toilet paper! At her feet had been placed a sign from the shrubbery; CREPE MYRTLE.

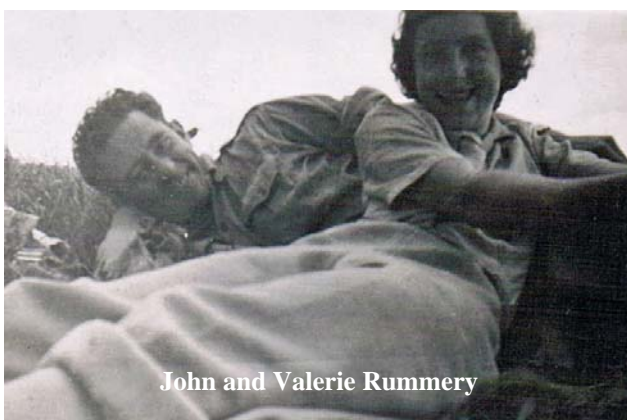
What a great combination of cultural instruction. Three cheers for Myrtle. Long may she reign.

**David French**

## A LIFE LONG JOURNEY - JOHN and VAL RUMMERY 1949/50/51

John Rummery (1949-50), and Valerie Hoskin (1950-51) met at dinner while both attending Wagga Wagga Teacher's College in 1950. John, who edited the college newspaper at the time, asked Val to the movies and the pair struck up a romance that was to last the rest of their lives.

After John graduated he was



John and Valerie Rummery

posted to Euabalong, then later to Pooncarie, all the while corresponding with Val by post.

Val began teaching in Canberra after her graduation, and the couple saw each other during holidays until they were eventually married in Valerie's hometown of Ganmain in 1953.

They based themselves in Canberra and subsequently had six children. While teaching, John also took up study at ANU and eventually gained a Bachelor of Arts with Honours.

In 1967 Val and John moved with

their family to Armidale NSW- John took up a lectureship in English at Armidale Teacher's College, and Valerie followed her passion, teaching preschoolers at Armidale Community Pre-School.

They remained in these positions until retirement, and together they inspired and nurtured countless children and young people, including their own children and grandchildren.

Both died at home with their children attending them - John in October 2016, and Valerie in August 2017. They spoke often of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College, and remembered their time there with great affection.

**Ian and Maria Rummery**

## WWTC: MY TWO YEARS A WERE A BLUR - Bob Jackson 1966-67

My training began in 1966 having finished at Goulburn High School the previous year. Kabi was my allocated dorm sharing with Bob Thompson.

Early experiences of shared showers, strange meals, rushing from lecture to lecture, afternoons of ball games between dorms carried through to weekends which were all too short.

Frances Tester, John Kitchingman, Arthur Trewin, Arthur Tonkin, dreaded Mr Hale and Mr Smith come to mind along with frosty winter mornings, weekend sport and long train trips at the end of semester.

Dem lessons at Koorinal, swimming in the Murrumbidgee. The After 5 Club!! Where was that exactly? Bumping into D K Wal-

ters at the drive-in. Choral concerts, playing the Ag College, prac teaching at Kywong, rushing over Willans Hill to beat curfew. New Math, Psychology, Creative Arts, Music, Philosophy, Social Sciences. My two years were a blur.

My first appointment to Binya was initially anxiety filled, but wonderful families and children



rapidly dispelled all that. Leeton, Myall Park and Balranald followed.

A switch from the Riverina followed with appointments to Goulburn South, Bradfordville, Bredalbane and back to Bradfordville until retirement.

Retirement included a string of casual work at Bradfordville. Highlights involved roles as Regional Coach and State Basketball Convenor/Manager. As well I attended State Swimming and Athletic carnivals. Of special note, I was responsible for coor-

dinating a submission for a new hall and COLA along with the Sydney Olympics submission. A few years in middle management round out memorable recollections.

**Bob Jackson**



## THE SLIDING DOOR - ALUMNI UNITE - Bruce Forbes 65-66

### Alumni Unite

So you and your colleagues went to Wagga Wagga Teachers College  
A Riverina town to learn the art to impart skills and knowledge.

From June in 1947 to December in 1971

There were twenty four years of concentrated courses and many lectures on the run.

It wasn't a lecture here and a tutorial there over four years as is the program of courses now,  
There were seventeen subjects, remedial courses and demonstration lessons just to show you how.

From nine to five every day for fifteen weeks per term

Attend the lecture, write it down, lots of stuff to learn.

We were living in dormitories with guidelines, rules and many other regulations  
We were eating those predictable dining hall meals provoking intestinal sensations.

Males to the north and females in the south was where we were domiciled  
But don't dare cross that fence or road or you made the principal's naughty file.

Who was in Ipai or were you in Marinya?

Was your partner from Kumbu or perhaps it was hall Buuna?

Two to a room with a sponge mattress on a Masonite base

Three showers per dorm and a mirror to check your hair and face.

A lecturer or warden appointed at the end of every dorm

Do your own washing and hang it in the drying room to collect in early morn.

Shorts with long socks, shirt with collar and tie or cravat,  
Concessions which were long fought for, there is no doubting of that.

Conservatism in dress code was controlled by the females' head

No slacks were allowed and please don't wear red.

Sport, musicals, drama productions and debating were on the scene  
Critical analysis by the revered principal as he often vented his spleen.

Catch a bus at the gate with brief case and teaching aids sublime



Trek across the Riverina roads to rural schools on some railway line.  
Fields of wheat, paddocks of sheep, farmhouses, dams and silos dominate the scene  
Maybe a dry waterhole, a creek and a rattly bridge along a dirt road was in between.

Small school, infant school, primary school or perhaps you were doing a secondary course,  
Young enthusiastic bright eyed scholarship students to become tomorrow's teaching force.  
What about those who were conditionally certified because of their spelling.  
Perhaps I should not dwell on this, I can sense some anger welling.

Just look at us now so many years on and still young at heart  
We taught in many places over two centuries so we must be really smart.  
Dispersed and dispensed to some strange place as a teaching destination,  
Isolated back blocks as bonded secondment with three years on probation.  
Most had not reached twenty years when responsibility was expected  
Programming all those subjects ... surely they are still not neglected.

Don't forget your cleaning and isolation allowance and that creosote order from Government Store  
Just keep the spiders from the dunny seat and the shovel behind the slatted door.  
Playground duty, sports carnival training, Christmas concert and Easter hat parade,  
Jelly pads, fordigraphs, ink wells, hand written reports for every kid in every grade.  
Sometimes you didn't make it to school for the creek was filled with rain,  
But those initial teaching memories are still implanted in the brain.  
Not that rural appointment then it could be the Valley of Green  
Migrant nationalities in overflowing classes; conditions rarely seen.  
Teach English and how to count, in a hall or rudimentary demountable  
Did our College days prepare us well to make us all accountable?

Now 50 years has passed with the sliding door closed behind  
It is probably fair to say that the journey has been mostly kind.  
Our hair has turned grey or perhaps it has gone, but still there is that face  
You can recognise the smile or voice from the Teachers College place.  
We leavers from '65 to '68 learned together our education trade  
Now have this time to relive the memories and how well we were paid.

But just a pause right now to remember those departed  
They surely were very much a part of us at Wagga when we started.  
So embrace your mate, check out that chick or bloke and tell another tale  
Renew your friendships, recall and recollect and get their new email.  
Charge your glass, toast the College, toast your colleagues and let the stories flow  
For we are Wagga Wagga Teachers College from 50 years ago.

**Bruce Forbes**  
**WWTC Social Union President 1966**

Pictured below show the site of the Oxley Public School which was the first appointment for Bruce.



## WORLD SUPER SENIORS TENNIS CHAMPION - Margaret Fisher

The 2017 World Super Seniors Tennis Championships were held at Lake Nona, in Florida. What a thrill and privilege to join with 700 athletes aged from 65 to 93 years from around the world. Excitement everywhere.

I was selected in the Australian Over 80s Women's Team and proud to once again be representing my country. How wonderful to join our captain Nola Collins, from the Gold Coast, and team members Jenny Bourke, also from the Gold Coast and Marj Niccol, from Sydney, to travel to Florida USA to participate in this world class event.

After many hours of training with members of the Byron Bay Tennis Club, and with the encouragement and support of my family, friends and the Byron community, I was up, up and away on a trip during which I vowed to do my best!!

Departing Brisbane my daughter Virginia and I travelled across the world - the hustle and the bustle of the journey was exhilarating and exciting.

Time went backwards during the flight, arriving in America yesterday!!!

Orlando was awash with water, very flat and sprinkled with small lakes - offering wonderful environment for alligators. One young man told me: "if the alligators come for you, run zigzag for 50 metres - they give up then"

At the Opening Ceremony Adrian Alle and I were chosen to carry the Australian flag - what a wonderful moment that was to lead the Australian team into the Ceremony on the Centre Court.



Margaret Fisher

Then the competition was underway. The courts were slow with no excessive bounce and the dark base reflected and radiated very, very hot temperatures.

Funnily enough, we were underneath the Orlando International Airport flight path - and we played these world championships for two weeks straight with jet aircraft practically landing on our heads!

The over 80s tennis players are impressively fit. They're dogged, they don't give up and will run forever.

Our last opponent in the teams competition was Ukraine. Every morning the Ukraine team

was first to the practice courts as the sun was hitting the horizon for the new day. They smiled and laughed and with only one English speaker and not one of us speaking the language of Ukraine, we still developed a relationship of waving and supporting as the tournament went on.

When Australia played Ukraine I played in the doubles and we won 6-0, 6-2.

Teddy Roosevelt said: "There is no effort without error and shortcoming... and if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly." Or, in Aussie parlance: "Good on them for having a go!"

Our Australian team did not make the finals and with the team events over, we commenced the individual competition.

First up I played Angie Ray from the USA. I was aware of Angie's ability to produce deadly drop shots from anywhere on the court. I won 6-3, 6-2 - not an easy win, as Angie made me run and work for my points. I was fitter than I realised.

With my eye on the world singles championship, I wrote little reminders for myself and read them each night before bed: height equals depth, left arm must follow the ball, release the racquet between serves - these tips were invaluable to keep me focussed as the heat and pressure mounted on the court.

My Aussie teammates Jenny and Nola were generous with

their tips and words of wisdom. They sat courtside under sun umbrellas during my matches, offering support and the occasional 'Margaret what are you doing!' That always helps to refocus. I appreciated it.

Nola had a great win over the seeded #1 French player, 10-8 in the third set. Great win – tough match.

My second match of singles was against an opponent that I have played before in Turkey, a French woman called Yvette Laubis. Yvette won 6-3, 5-7, 10-6. It was an interesting match. I have more to learn about older women's tennis and I'm one of them.

I certainly won't imitate this match again BUT, lessons learned: I must still my mind when it is being distracted at the other end. Focus only on the ball. Follow the ball absolutely to my racquet.

So I was disappointed BUT I live to fight another day.

The next day the rains came, thank goodness, to cool the exceptionally hot and unseasonal Florida autumn. No tennis for me that day. Others played though and were scheduled to play under lights up to 9pm – that is a horror time for 80 year olds and older.

The ranks thinned out as the tournament wore on and people were knocked out of the competition. My over 85 women's doubles partner, Rosemary Ashe from Canada, has become a long time tennis friend, as we front up somewhere in the world to compete at this level.

This year there were 14 players

in women's over 85 doubles. The wind whistled across the courts, which added to yet another level of skill required – the encouragement of the supporters rose with the excitement of the competition.

On finals day I had two matches – the over 85s women's doubles final, playing Americans Margaret Canby and Angie Ray, and then the mixed doubles over 85 final, which I played with Max Byrne, from Tasmania, against Joyce Cutts and Gordon Oates.

The final day of the two week long competition had arrived and my partners and I were playing for *gold*. Playing for the right to be recognised as the best in the world.

I met the finals day with my usual practice routine, the sun welcoming us to the courts each morning as it peeped over the horizon. Jenny Burke my 'coach' came with us to give me a practice hit. At a very young 80 years of age, she has been so helpful in honing my games skills.

On this very hot and windy day, an exciting women's doubles match was played and we did it - we won GOLD 7-5, 6-3.

Then re-focus and on to the mixed doubles. The crowd was growing, as was the chants for favourites. At one end of the court Max and I were warming up and getting into our rhythm and at the other end the British pair Joyce Cutts and Gordon Oates were doing the same.

The crowd was participat-

ing and was as much a part of the game as the players on the court!

Tiebreaker in the third set. Deep breaths everywhere. I was focussed and Max hit his specialty – an angled winner. My goodness we did it!!! We won GOLD 5-7, 6-3, 10-7.

The court erupted and swelled with well-wishers. My family, supporters, the officials and strangers were all clapping and smiling and congratulating us on winning such a close match. I must admit I was enjoying the game so much and was so focussed that I didn't realise how close the match was!! And was oblivious to the silence that had hung over the grandstand as each serve had been delivered. Apparently it was quite tense!

The Closing Ceremony. I couldn't stop smiling!! Presentations and photos. What an honour. What delightful memories!!

Thanks Rosemary! Thanks Max! We are all in our late 80s and we are the best in the world. Wow!





## IN MEMORIAM

We deeply apologise for the delayed publication of some of the vale notices below but it was considered inappropriate to have included them in the April Celebratory Souvenir edition.

### **Knox Durrant (1950-51)**

Passed from us 2 November 2017. **Shirley Durrant**



**Helen Patton (Wrigley) 1951-52** has sadly passed away.

### **Margaret McLean**

My name is Heather Grigg and I am writing to inform The Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Association that my wonderful mother has recently died.

My mother's name was Margaret

McLean D.O.B 17/1/1936 and she attended the Wagga Wagga teachers college in the 50's where she also met and married my father ( George Clay: D.O.B 21/6/1936 )who was also a student there.

Mum was a real academic and went on to be one of the most amazing teachers. She was also heavily involved in the live theatre productions at college.

My father died at the age of 38, so very sad as he too was an incredible man who was an Art lecturer at The Armidale Teachers College in the early 70's.

If you have any information or photo's of my parents in your archives I would love to receive copies of them if possible.

**Heather Grigg**  
(Daughter)

### **Bruce Bowman (1949-50),**

A Wauchope resident, passed away September 1, 2017. He in-

dicated to family that he was greatly saddened that he was not well enough to attend the 70 Year Celebration and loved going to these functions and seeing old mates to catch up.

**Editor**

### **Neroli Cooper (Bland) 1953-54**

Sadly passed at the end of 2016. She had been living in Kippax.

**Editor**

### **David Giles (1963-63)**

With sadness we advise of David's passing on 10 May, 2018.

**Editor**

### **Margaret O'Connor (Herrick) 1962-63.**

I write to inform you that my wife Margaret passed away on 15th March after a short battle with cancer. She was living in Victoria at the time of her passing. Margaret always enjoyed reading *Talkabout* and it rekindled many happy memories of her time at Wagga Teachers College.

**Kevin O'Connor**

## **EDWIN [EDDIE] BARCLAY [1960-61] - Elaine Armstrong**

Eddie Barclay passed away on 23 January 2018 after a full and varied life spent in teaching and in tennis coaching.

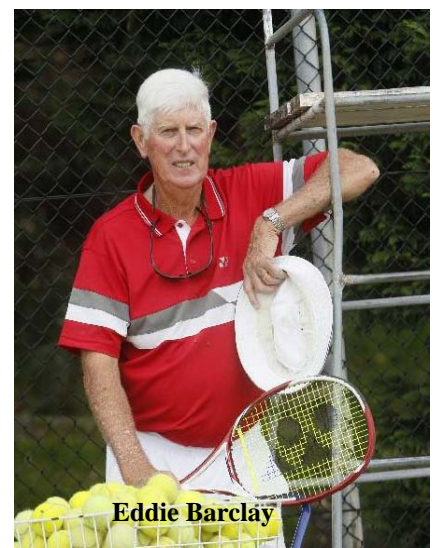
He was one of the many Wollongong students who found their way to the Wagga Wagga Teachers College. Eddie's first appointment was Teacher-in-Charge at Bullarah, approximately 30 km outside of Moree. He stayed there for three years.

His next appointment was, "back home" as it were, to Corri-

mal. This was a relatively brief appointment as Eddie left teaching for a time to work as a tennis coach.

He married Wilga in 1970 and within six months or so they had decided to embark upon an adventure together to Canada. At that time in order to work in Canada, all Australians were required to emigrate, so emigrate they did.

As a matter of prudence, Eddie attempted to secure a teaching



### **LOST CONTACTS**

Does anyone know the whereabouts or have contact details for:

John Wallace's (1948-50) from Wellington???. Margaret Crofts (Stuckey 1961-62) from Dural???

position in Canada before leaving Australia. He was unsuccessful but he and Wilga decided to go anyway. They arrived in Edmonton with no job but much personal resourcefulness and resilience.

Within days of arriving, Eddie managed to get an appointment to a three-teacher school at Endiang, a small community half way between Calgary and Edmonton. He taught there for four years.

After four years Eddie decided on a change of direction and again set out to re-enter the tennis coaching business. He spent some time in Edmonton before moving to Vernon Okanagan and teaching there briefly

His next move was to take up an appointment as Head Tennis

Coach at Hollyburn Country Club in Vancouver. Ed stayed in this role for another four years.

While in Canada, Eddie completed a B.Ed. Degree and then embarked upon a law degree. He completed two years of a law program before deciding that the lure of the sun and the tennis court were more his calling than being a crusty old lawyer so he called it quits.

The family decided to come back home to Australia and so, complete with a couple of little Canadian girls they had produced along the way, they returned to Sydney for a few months and then to Bellambi where their third daughter was born and they lived for 37 years.

At Bellambi Eddie started his own Tennis Coaching business and proceeded over the next 37 years to enjoy great success across the northern suburbs of Wollongong. He became well known and respected in this role.

Eddie was also prominent on the administrative side of the game he loved, found time for a regular Wednesday morning game at the Wollongong Golf Club and was an active member of the congregation at the Corrimal Anglican Church where he and Wilga worshipped together until Eddie's passing.

Eddie is survived by Wilga, and daughters Mellissa, Laura and Elizabeth, together with their families.

**Elaine Armstrong**

### **RACE 3 1.34PM ARNIE BOWDEN MAIDEN HANDICAP (1200m) KEMBLA GRANGE SAT 18TH AUG.**

Arnie Bowden was a student at WWTC 1966-67 and was great friends with Ian Hanson and David Jones. The following tribute was paid to him on the Racing NSW website.

The racing industry is mourning the loss of popular bookmaker, racehorse owner and passionate racing fan, Arnie Bowden.

He passed away on Monday, aged 69, after a short but brave battle with Motor Neurone Disease.

Arnie began clerking for other bookmakers as a young man and was granted his own licence in 1982. He was a regular bookmaker at Kembla Grange for thirty

years and also enjoyed working at Nowra and Bong Bong Picnic Races.

Arnie's son Matt began working with him as soon as he was old enough and his now daughter-in-law Katy also pencilled for him.

"Dad's love of racing rubbed off on us and I have fond memories of sitting on a picnic blanket at the races with him and listening to broadcasts on 2KY when we weren't at the track," Matt said.

"He loved being at the edge of the mounting yard and looking at the horses. For him, it was all about the horses, the trainers, the jockeys."

Arnie was also a teacher for more than three decades and ran a successful IT business, but racing was his passion. He owned horses



**WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

**Go To - CSU Regional Archives**

<https://csuregarch.intersect.org.au/items/browse?collection=2>

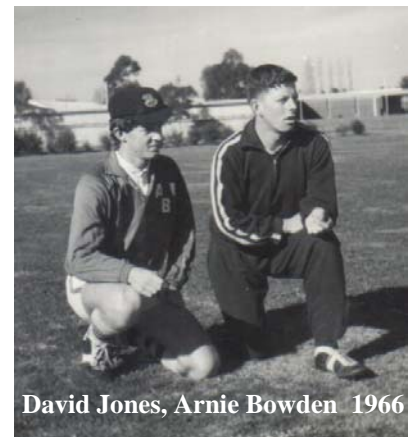
with Terry Robinson, Robert and Luke Price, Barbara Joseph and Paul Jones, David Pfeiffer, Emma and Lucy Longmire and more.

While he delighted in supporting all his horses and followed them around the country, his best was the David Pfeiffer-trained "Atmospherical" - a great sprinting mare who won the Listed Denise's Joy Stakes and Earl

Grey Stakes and notched several black type placings.

"Arnie was a great mate to his fellow bookmakers and a familiar friendly face around the South East region of NSW," Illawarra Turf Club Racing Manager Michael Craig said. "He's going to be sorely missed."

**David Jones/Ian Hanson**



David Jones, Arnie Bowden 1966

## CSU ADVANCEMENT OFFICE REPORT - Sheridan Ingold



This was the first year the Advancement Office were the principle leads in organising, coordinating and implementing the Scholarship Ceremonies. The Advancement Team worked hard to ensure we delivered a professional, enjoyable and streamlined ceremony and in the most part I must say we did a good job.

It was lovely for me to meet many donors and recipients and to reconnect with Chris and Jenny Blake. Molly Darrington was a very grateful scholarship recipient and it makes my job much more enjoyable seeing the recip-

ients and the donors meet, talk and share their stories and experiences.

It was also rewarding as an Advancement officer to welcome Chris and Jenny to the informal Donor "thank you" event we held on the Wagga campus after the Scholarship ceremony and to hear not only their wonderful connections to WWTC but also to hear firsthand their ongoing commitment to CSU.

As Alumni Relations Coordinator, I will be focusing on increasing the number of scholarship applicants for the coming

years. At the recent quarterly meeting, we had productive discussions on how we can better communicate to students about the availability of scholarships and I will work hard to implement these going forward. Don't forget if you know of any students at CSU, let them know about this great opportunity!

Wishing everyone a happy Spring!

**Sheridan Ingold**  
**Alumni Relations Coordinator**



Charles Sturt University Campus Wagga Wagga

### ENDERS (1967-72) AND OTHERS GET-TOGETHER -The Rocks

An informal get together will be held on Friday 9 November 2018 at the Mercantile Hotel at The Rocks from 11.00am. All Enders (1967-72 sessions) are encouraged to attend. An open invitation to join us is extended to those from other sessions. Put it in your diary and hope to see you there.

**Neville Keeley** - nev.keeley@gmail.com

### CANBERRA - MORNING TEA

Over 100 WWTCAA live in Canberra and surrounds. A morning tea get together is planned for 10.30am, Friday, 26th October at the Hellenic Club in Phillip.

If interested please contact Chris and Jenny at: [chrisjennyblake@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjennyblake@gmail.com) or ph. 0428721337.





# The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2018 TO SECURE THE FUTURE



## IMPORTANT NOTICE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

To ensure the continued financial viability of the Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association the following membership contributions and services will apply from 1 January 2018.

### a) Electronic Membership:

Receive all information and three (3) copies of *Talkabout* electronically. \$10.00 p.a.

### b) Standard Membership:

Receive all information and three (3) printed copies of *Talkabout* via standard mail. \$20.00 p.a.

In addition to either Electronic or Standard Membership members may choose to make additional contributions from the options below.

### c) Additional Contributions:

- i. general donation to the Alumni for ongoing projects e.g. digitise archives from \$10.00.
- ii. specific donation to the WWTCAA Scholarship Fund from \$10.00.

Opposite is a contribution slip for 2018.

## WWTCAA CONTRIBUTIONS 2018

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

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

Given Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Electronic Membership (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

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Donation to Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

General Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION 2018** \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to:

**WWTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Send Your Contribution To:**

Secretary WWTCAA

12 Silky Oak Rise

KEW NSW 2439

## ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

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**Commonwealth Bank Casula NSW**

**BSB: 062 329 A/C No: 10073789**

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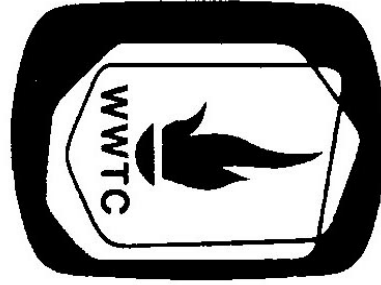
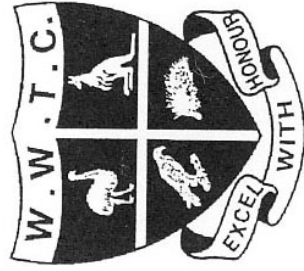
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The Secretary WWTCAA

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