



A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS

TALKABOUT



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The Wagga Wagga Teachers College Library 1950

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Homework Report

Thanks to those fellow alumni who completed one of the three homework tasks as scheduled in the last edition of *Talkabout*. There are some interesting and quality reports now on hand giving Brian, our editor, a wide and interesting group of articles.

Talkabout now reaches over 1650 fellow alumni either through the email network (1250) or through Australia Post. While printing and postage costs have been reduced there is still the need for subscriptions to cover these imposts. At this stage about 33% of our alumni are financial members. If you have not subscribed in the last 12 months or longer, it would be appreciated if you would make February 2015 your due date for payment. Funds assist the publication, the scholarship, archives and the 70 Year Reunion in 2017.

Talkabout is also available online through Charles Sturt University website link:
<http://www.csu.edu.au/alumni/alumni-spotlight/publications/other/talkabout>

Scholarship Changes

Most WWTC Alumni would be aware that subscriptions to the WWTCAA assist not only the

Cont'd p2

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Welcome to the final edition of *Talkabout* for 2014 with special thanks to all of the members who have responded to our call for articles and items for this and subsequent editions.

In fact the response was so good that we will have to hold over a number of articles until the first edition in 2015. I do apologise to those who will have to wait until the new year to see their article published, but we are limited to the size of each edition and as you can see this is already a bumper edition.

Of course this does not mean that those who are still to meet the president's challenge, and complete their homework, need relax. We still need your contributions to ensure that the next and following editions are filled with stories, memories, personal updates and photographs that help us to recall those very special times that we shared and enjoyed on the Wagga Wagga campus.

Happy reading. I hope you enjoy this edition as we all prepare for the festive season ahead.

Brian Powyer
Editor

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT Cont'd

publication of *Talkabout* but also contribute to the CSU Foundation Scholarship Trust Fund and to improving the WWTC Archives on the South Campus at Wagga Wagga.

At recent meetings we have discussed, in association with the CSU Education Faculty and Scholarship Trust, to implement changes to the criteria and the processes for the selection of Scholarship recipients. \$6000 is allocated each year to a fourth year student in the Faculty of Education. We have broadened the campuses for selection but have retained the rural/country origin and the preparedness of the graduate to take up a rural/country appointment. Given the shortfall of quality maths and science teachers we have also placed a preference on these aspects of study. Our WWTCAA Scholarship Committee will also process the final applications before referring the successful candidate(s) to the CSU Foundation Trust.

Reunions

Lesley and I headed off to two reunions during October. The first was the 25th Year Celebration Reunion for CSU conducted with a cruise on Sydney Harbour. We met alumni from MCAE and WWTC as well as the more recent graduates from

CSU. We were well fed and entertained and enjoyed the fraternity. Not to be outdone, the 63/64 graduates from WWTC put on a weekend of fantastic events in Canberra where over 90 ex-students exploded their way through three days of well organised events of fun and fellowship. A highlight was the Saturday Night formal dinner with guest speaker Colin Sale and a race call by Dennis Forsyth who picked out a few fillies to run the distance. It was their 50 year Reunion so some probably did not run as well as previously remembered.

The next big reunion signalled is for those WWTC students who completed the last three years of the Leaving Certificate. For those who cannot remember this would be the 65/66/67 graduates. Are you one of these? You will need to do your homework and prepare a life synopsis and a current photograph for submission? A committee is developing to assist in planning and organising so shout out or put your hand up if you are able to help.

How about the 70 year WWTC Celebration Reunion in 2017?

Bruce Forbes
President WWTCAA

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ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK



My thanks to all who have written to me since our last edition. Your compliments are graciously received. I look forward to hearing from others as we roll out future editions of *Talkabout*.

Lesley Forbes Secretary

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

It is wonderful to hear that you have been prepared to take on this task...Ralph and I are still at Batlow...working on growing apples as well as we can, despite the weather, and in my case teaching at Batlow Technology School as it is now known...and very officially renamed from Batlow Central School. Ralph has not played "Aussie Rules"...or other football...or golf... for a very long time...He has been a primary producer!!! I did continue with netball a lot longer...having two daughters certainly had a bearing! I have now been retired for a few years from playing in the Tumut competition, coaching Batlow players, umpiring, etc...

Judy Wilson (Mackay) 1969-70

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Thank you for your contact. I am still interested in the 'doings' of the Alumni, though I am very far away in Townsville. I have fond memories of my time at Wagga Wagga Teachers College, and have remained in the education 'business' for all of my life, teaching in three states and two systems, becoming an administrator, and finally (now) teaching part time at Uni.

Lyn Megarrity (Judd) 1964-65

Congratulations to the new committee and thanks to you and your colleagues for keeping the spirit of WWTC alive for a little longer.

Although I have been unable to get to the re-unions, I have thoroughly enjoyed reading about them and other 'doings' of Wagga staff and students via *Talkabout* – Again, thank you for your leadership role – trust you find it a rewarding experience.

Betty Talbot (Parker) 1955-56

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Many thanks for your kind thoughts at the loss of my dearest Barbara. Best wishes to all in Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association who knew the lady I had the good fortune and privilege to have as my partner for fifty two good years and one not so good year.

Russ Maynard (husband of Barbara [Hoare] 1948-50)

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Many thanks for forwarding the latest *Talkabout* issue and thanks to all who helped write and collate it. It is lovely to catch up with stories of so many people. Some obviously had quite brilliant careers.

And yes I see the homework dates! I went to Morning Melodies in the Hamer Hall in Melbourne last week where they were doing excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas. It certainly took me back to my days at Wagga TC and participating in *Pirates* and *Iolanthe*.

A small group of our year meets each year in Sydney. I'll follow it up with Decima Pickles.

Ella Keesing (Redpath) Melbourne 1950-51

Thank you so much for what you're doing and "good on you" for stepping in to help the cause.

Kind regards.

Marge Bonsor (Bollen) 53-54.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Thank you for publishing this adaptation of an excerpt from my ever growing memoir being written for my equally expanding family (two daughters, five grandchildren, and now one great grandson). I have been in Canada for 46 years.

**Jim Walsh 1960-61
Sherwood Park, Alberta Canada**

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Well done to all involved. Enjoyed reading the newsletter.

Ray Griffiths 1964-65

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Thank you so much, it really made my day receiving the latest copy of *Talkabout*. You and Bruce and all the committee have done a wonderful job producing such an interesting publication. I stayed up late devouring every word and for a while I was transported right back to those precious days, I was 17 again not a 70 year old grey haired lady!

Grahame Keast's article made me laugh remembering what we used to get up to. When I first arrived at WWTC no-one had warned me about "initiation" and I was so unhappy I phoned my parents and told them I wanted to come home. They advised me to stick it out for a few weeks and see if I settled in better. Little did I realise what happy times lay ahead and I cried when it was time to leave!

Cont'd p4

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK (Cont'd)

Thank you again for all your hard work, it is so appreciated. Best wishes

Sally Barnes-Cooke 1962-63

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Many thanks to you and Bruce for the August edition of *Talkabout*. Congratulations on a very well presented magazine. It brought back lots of great memories, including the photo on the front page! I look forward to the next edition.

Marie Brady (O'Donnell) 60-65

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Thank you Lesley for the most recent edition of *Talkabout*. I really enjoyed reading it.

I thought you might like to hear the ramblings of an early student: I was just 16 when I went to WWTC and just 18 when sent to The Rock for my first appointment.

It was a Central School and I had to teach a 5th/6th Class combination as well as the senior school from time to time with its 14 year olds!

Thank you for all the work that goes into *Talkabout*.

John Maskey 1948-1950

Thoroughly enjoy the issues and thank you and staff for the dedication and time given to keeping the magazine going.

Thelma Salisbury (Goldstein) 1954-55

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

I have done my homework and chosen Task 3!

My 2 years at WWTC were a revelation and amongst the best in my life! I had been at a girls boarding school for 5 years so I loved the freedom. Many of those friendships endure today.

All my memories are good ones despite the poor allowance, dreadful food and cold winters. My pet hate was the 'barley water' served up at lunch.

Congratulations on the great job you and your helpers are doing to keep the WWTC spirit alive.

Marie Ellicott (Hulme) Pioneer 1947-49

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

May I also join those ex-students who have tendered their thanks to you, Brian and Lindsay, for shouldering the responsibility to ensure that *Talkabout* continues to be published.

We moved around a fair bit during my early career but decided to settle when I was appointed to Quirindi. After 18 years the school really needed a new principal but I wasn't prepared to leave such a wonderful community so I took early retirement. We have been breeding Angus cattle and Boer goats at *Kingsmill* since 1990.

I enjoyed my years at WWTC but the last two have been the best so far and, now that the drought appears to have broken, the next two are shaping up even better.

Bob Muir 1952-53

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Talkabout has always been spe-

cial to me since my time at WWTC 1948-50. It brings back many happy memories and I am pleased to see that it is continuing.

Jean Johnston (Underwood) 1948-50

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Thanks for taking on the job of keeping *Talkabout* being produced.

My wife and I returned to Australia in April 2013 for the 60th anniversary reunion of my high school class who graduated in 1953. It was a very happy occasion, 16 were able to attend, 10 of our class were deceased and 6 were in wheel chairs and sent us good wishes. I thought it would be my last visit to Australia (I am now 79). However, we have now booked a passage on the Holland America cruise ship the *Oosterdam* leaving Vancouver, B.C. on 28th September and arriving in Sydney on 24th October, 2014. It should be a good trip providing my health is good. We plan to rent a car and travel to Narrandera to visit my sister and a tribe of relatives there! We will return to Canada on November 5th, 2014.

John ("Jim") Carolan 1951-52

We enjoyed the article 'From the Archives: Recollections of a pioneer 47/48'. It brought back so many memories of experiences that were such a part of everyday life in College.

For the sake of historical accuracy could I make two small corrections to the text. Wagga Wagga Teachers College was the

Cont'd p5

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK (Cont'd)

first fully residential co-educational college in Australia. This made the experiment which worked! All the more historic. (*Secretary's note: My Dad was at Armidale Teachers College in its inaugural year 1929-30, as a scholarship holder with women in residence – I wonder what the difference was?*)

Our first Deputy Principal, Mr Duncan, opened Newcastle Col-

lege as Principal in 1949. Our second deputy, Mr Allen, opened Bathurst College as Principal in 1951.

The miserly allowance was even more miserly than reported. In 1947 and 1948 this princely sum was £7 (\$14) every five weeks. It was increased to £12 (\$24) every five weeks in 1949. At least the Pioneers enjoyed this increase for one term before their first ap-

pointments, in May 1949.

Our congratulations to the new leaders of WWTCAA and we give our support to the several new directions added to the aims and objectives of the association, especially in the work being done with the archives.

**Winifred and Kevin Wilcox
1947-49**

ALUMNI REPORT TO WWTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fundraising

Since our WWTCAA's last meeting, the Scholarship fund total has raised by \$260, to be a total of \$87,872.80. However, this figure does not reflect recent contributions, including the amazing \$1,500 donation by Mr Jack Cassidy, following the recent 63-63 WWTCAA reunion held in Canberra. Not only did Mr Cassidy make this donation, he also committed to give the same each year to the WWTCAA Scholarship Fund. We cannot thank Mr Cassidy enough. Again, thank you to all, particularly Bruce and Lesley Forbes, who continually promote and encourage fundraising for this very worthwhile cause.

WW TCAA Scholarships

After much consideration and consultation, the criteria and conditions of the 2015 WWTCAA Scholarship have been updated.

A full outline of the revised rules will be included in the next edition of *Talkabout*. In summary there will be one \$6,000.00 or two \$3000.00 scholarships, they

will be awarded to 4th Year students in the faculty of Education from any campus. Preference will be given to students who are descendant from a graduate of WWTCAA, intends to teach in rural areas and has majored in the areas of Maths and Science.

Bruce and Lesley Forbes requested that the name be changed to reinstate the 'College' in the scholarship title. This has been changed on the web site to now be advertised as WWTCAA Scholarships.

University Advancement Unit

The University Advancement Unit has conducted a number of CSU Alumni events this year. The most recent was the highly successful Sydney Harbour twilight cruise. It was wonderful to see Bruce and Lesley Forbes, as well as other WWTCAA Alumni there.

A recent 50 year reunion of the WWTCAA 1963-64 cohort, held in Canberra, was attended by



Bruce and Lesley Forbes, Justin Williams CSU (back) and a graduate from CSU.

Justin Williams, the Faculty Advancement Officer for Science. Justin reported that this was an absolutely wonderful occasion, so well organised and a pleasure to attend.

Congratulations must also go the WWTCAA committee, particularly Bruce and Lesley Forbes, for all your achievements with the WWTCAA data base, organisation, fundraising and *Talkabout*. You are certainly achieving great things, which is a great benefit to not only CSU students, but also your WWTCAA Alumni.

**Stacey Fish
Faculty Advancement Officer
Charles Sturt University**

OUR STORY FROM 1964 - Janice (Kerin) & Bernie Fitzpatrick



December 1965

- 1964: Bernie meets Janice, WWTC, 18th March; Janice plays hard-to-get
- 1965: Janice, Narrandera PS – '65-'66
Bernie, 2nd Year WWTC – hitch-hiking to Narrandera!!!
Bernie & Janice announce engagement, Bernie's grad ball, December '65
- 1966: Bernie, Leeton HS – '66-'71
- 1967: Bernie & Janice marry, North Goulburn, 7th January '67
Janice, Leeton PS – '67-'68
Birth of Stephen; 6 siblings 15 years: Gabrielle, Dolores, Juanita, Bernadette, Julian & Adrian
- 1972: Bernie, Mt Austin HS, Wagga Wagga – '72
- 1973: Bernie, RAAF School Penang, Malaysia – secondment to Department of Defence, '73-'75
- 1975: Janice, part-time casual RAAF School Penang – '75
- 1976: Bernie, Warilla HS (Southern Illawarra) – '76-'77
Bernie & Janice, tertiary studies (external study)
- 1977: Bernie, BA degree, UNE Armidale – '65-'76
- 1978: Bernie, History Master, Oak Flats HS – '78-'83
- 1979: Janice, Dip Teach (Primary), Wollongong Institute of Education
- 1980: Janice, part-time permanent Teacher-Librarian, Stella Maris Shellharbour – '80-'98
- 1984: Bernie, Deputy Principal, St Joseph's HS Albion Park – '84-'89
- 1986: Janice, Grad Dip School Librarianship, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education
- 1989: Bernie departed from teaching; work in finance industry – Oct '89
- 1990: Bernie returned to classroom teaching, Miller Technology HS (Green Valley) – Term 4 '90-'91
- 1992: Bernie, Deputy Principal, Miller Technology HS – '92-'96
- 1997: Bernie, Deputy Principal, Lake Illawarra HS – '97-'02
- 1999: Janice, part-time permanent Teacher-Librarian, St Paul's PS, Moss Vale – '99-'00
- 2006: Bernie & Janice, Sydney–Surfers Paradise fund-raiser bike ride (on a tandem), 950 km – 7 days
- 2008: Bernie & Janice, Sydney–Surfers Paradise fund-raiser bike ride (on a tandem), 950 km – 7 days
- 2008: Janice, part-time casual, UOW College, University of Wollongong
- 2009: Bernie, part-time casual, UOW College, University of Wollongong
- 2012: Bernie & Janice, Broken Hill–Tibooburra fund-raiser mountain bike ride, 700 km – 14 days
- 2014: Bernie & Janice, Warren–Warren via Qld border fund-raiser mountain bike ride, 850 km – 14 days

In Summary:

- Children growing up: parents become more sensitive teachers
- Grandchildren arrive: more fun and games
- Overseas travel: lots of fun; great learning experiences
- Book group: widening horizons
- Local Burmese refugees: ESL support



Janice and Bernie 2014

LINDSAY'S STORY— Lindsay Budd

LINDSAY'S STORY

I grew up in a small town in the centre of NSW called Mount Hope. In the early 20th Century it was a busy copper mining town with a population of over 3000 people. By the late 30's the mine had closed and most people had moved away. My mother operated the Post Office and my father worked as a stockman and shearer. My primary education took place in the one teacher school that my parents had attended years before. In 1942 when I was in 4th Class, the school closed. The Department of Education enrolled us in the Correspondence School at Blackfriars and we were sent leaflets for each subject. My mother then had to perform the thankless task of supervising our lessons.

I was the eldest of four boys and my parents wanted us to have the education that they were denied; both had left school at thirteen. We had relatives in Griffith so mum and dad bought a block of land there. At the beginning of 1945 my father and uncle started building our house and I enrolled in First Year at Griffith High School. The three of us lived in a tent in the back yard until the house was liveable. Then mum and the other boys came to join us.

In 1947 I passed the Intermediate Certificate and intended to become an apprentice carpenter. Wagga Wagga Teachers College had recently opened and scholarships were being offered. Mum thought that if I passed the Leaving Certificate I could perhaps get a teachers scholarship. I passed the Leaving Certificate in



Phil and the Bakers Cart 1950

1949, was awarded a scholarship and became the first in my family to go on to tertiary education. I worked on a horse drawn Bakers Cart for six months before starting College in June 1950. I earned a man's wages which I was able to use to supplement the £9/5/6 a month we received from the scholarship.

At this time, the College was changing their timetable for entry to fit in with the school year. Our session was the second of the truncated sessions. We commenced in June 1950 and finished eighteen months later in December 1951. It was a very full timetable (compared to that of today's students) so that the course could be completed in eighteen months.

I enjoyed the sporting activities playing soccer, hockey and baseball as well as gymnastics.

Saturday night dances gave us an opportunity to get to know members of the opposite sex. Friendships were formed which have lasted for more than half a centu-

ry and many permanent relationships were formed from this interaction. Sitting at my table in 1st year was Lew Morrell, who with Lew Crabtree, co-edited the original *Talkabout*. They wrote articles under the pseudonym *Lautrec* (because they were the two Lews.) Also sitting at my table was Gladys Chapman who married Frank Meaney and is now my wife. One of my roommates was Phil Bastick. We lost contact until I went to Campbelltown 30 years later and discovered that he lived in the next street.

Our College days were further reduced in December 1951. We had finished our exams and were looking forward to the Graduation Ceremony and the following Grad Ball. With a week to go, one of the students was suspected of having contracted polio. Infantile paralysis was such a feared disease in those days that the decision was made to send everyone home. A rushed Graduation Ceremony was held on Thursday 6th December and we were sent home the next day.

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Lindsay and Phil Bastik

The National Service Act of 1951 provided for the compulsory call-up of all males who turned 18 after 1st November, 1950. Most of the men in our session were eligible. The service was deferred until we finished our course but at the beginning of 1952 we were sent off to do National Service training.

I elected to do my training in the Air Force but when school started in 1952 I still had not received a call up. When I enquired I found out that the intake was full and I would have to wait. I had not received a teaching appointment because the Department thought I was doing National Service. I was told to report to Griffith Public School as a supernumerary until a position was found for me.

A week later I received an appointment to a one-teacher school at Ryan, via Henty. The children had not had a teacher for three weeks so the parents were really pleased to see me. I had not been lucky enough to have

made the small school section at College, so here I was in a small school with children aged from 5 to 13. Ryan was a wonderful community and I thoroughly enjoyed my three years there.

There were a number of Wagga ex-students in the area, including Colin Williams (48-50), Blake Lewin (48-50), Keith Ball (49-50), Ray Fielder (50-51), Rod Fenton (50-51), Margaret King (Wallace 50-51) and we saw each other at the numerous balls that were part of country life.

In 1954 I was called up for National Service and this time I elected to do the 90 days in the Army. I was sent to Puckapunyal where many of my college friends had been two years before. This was the year that Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip first visited Australia. My platoon had just won the Company Marching Competition so we were selected to line the streets for the Royal visit to Melbourne. We spent two days spit polishing our boots and "blanchoing" our webbing. We travelled to Melbourne by train, then marched for miles to get into position, then stood for what seemed like hours until the procession appeared. We were given strict orders to keep looking to the front but as the Queen's car passed by I sneaked a look and she waved at me, or so I thought.

In 1955 I married Merle Singe and we moved to

Yarragundry, a small school just out of Wagga on the Narrandera road. There was a vested residence which had just been renovated. Ralph Bryant had been teaching there but living in Wagga. It was while I was there that Bob Hagan suggested I should commence a BA through New England University which had just introduced external studies. Other ex-students nearby were also doing external studies; Bob Whittaker, Ralph Bryant, June Whittaker, Arthur King, and Keith Willard, who introduced me to golf.

When I was studying Pure Maths II I was having trouble understanding the text books so I went in to College and asked Miss Bridges if she would be able to help me. She was really pleased to see me again and only too keen to help. It is largely due to her expertise that I managed to struggle through a Major in Mathematics. At that time the Department was so short of sec

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Lindsay and a Grant tank—National Service

ondary Maths teachers that they offered me anywhere in the state if I transferred to High School. I suggested the North Coast would be acceptable. An appointment to Mullumbimby High School resulted. We spent seven very happy years there.

In 1968 I accepted an appointment as Maths Master at Cootamundra High School where my interest in computers started. I had been appointed Maths Adviser for the Riverina and was given some Programmable Calculators to evaluate. For the Government contract. My staff learnt simple programming techniques and some of the brighter pupils wrote programs to find interesting numbers such as Pythagorean triads and five figure palindromic primes.

In 1976 I renewed my acquaintance with the west when I accepted the position of Deputy Principal at Cobar High School. Of the thirty new staff who arrived that year, I was the only one who was not a 'first year out'! I stayed the compulsory three years and then transferred to Airds High School in Campbelltown. It was quite a culture shock going from a small school of 400 pupils to an overcrowded school of 1300 in a Housing Commission area.

Putting together a timetable was an enormous task and we were fortunate to have the use of the Lucas Heights IBM 360 computer to assist with the production of a workable timetable. Printing and disseminating the timetable was a huge job and in 1982 I bought the first Apple II computer and learnt to program in Apple Basic. I wrote programs to print staff and student lists and student and staff timetables. The printer

was an ImageWriter which was a dot matrix printer, and the paper had holes down the sides which had to be torn off after printing.

At the end of 1982 the Principal of Airds retired and I took over as Principal. For the next few years I improved my programming skills and taught Basic programming to evening college students. In 1988 I was seconded to Head Office to work on OASIS, the database program that the Department was developing. I worked on the Report Generator and assisted in the development of the Finance Module. It was there that I met Beth McLaren (1960-61) who was involved in the development of OASIS Library. I travelled around the State training the clerical staff in the use of the Student and Staff modules and tutoring Principals and Clerical Assistants in the use of the Finance Module. In 1990 my wife was diagnosed with cancer and died in 1991.

I kept working on OASIS until 1993 when I retired. I had renewed acquaintanceship with Gladys whose husband Frank Meaney had died five years before, also of cancer. We married and spent the next few years travelling and minding grandchildren. (We each had four children and now have twenty grandchildren between us!)

In June 1997 we attended the 50 Year reunion on the CSU campus in Wagga. At that reunion a meeting was held which resulted in the formation of the WWTC Alumni

Association. Bob Collard was elected the first President and I was one of those who volunteered to be on the committee. The first task of the President was to move the establishment of the WWTC Alumni Association Scholarship. At the first meeting of the Committee June Hadley was elected the Treasurer and Ann Smith the Secretary. In 1999 I took over as Treasurer and continued until 2013.

The College magazine *Talkabout* was resurrected in order to communicate with all alumni. The first edition was published in December 1997. The editors were Lew Crabtree and Lew Morrell, renewing their collaboration from 1950. The copy was sent to Bathurst where it was compiled by Michelle Fawkes and sent to the CSU printer. It was then mailed out to all WWTC ex-students who were on the CSU database. The original mailing list was just under 2000.

In July 1999 we were informed that the CSU Alumni could not continue funding us for the compilation and printing costs of *Talkabout*. I had some desktop publishing experience so I took over the compilation of *Talkabout* with the assistance of the two Lews.

Cont'd p10



Lindsay and Gladys Wedding

The copy was sent to the CSU Australia printer and the CSU Alumni then posted it out to all those on the mailing list. In 2001 we lost Lew Crabtree so Lew Morrell and I continued the production of *Talkabout* for the next eleven years.

Our Secretary Ann Smith made it her goal to find the whereabouts of all ex-students and get them on the mailing list. For the next ten years Ann did an incredible amount of searching. She looked up phone books, electoral rolls, regularly visited the State Archives at Kingswood and appealed for information in her regular column in *Talkabout*. She was the major force in increasing the database so that over 3,500 copies of *Talkabout* were eventually circulated. By 2001 *Talkabout* was being posted to 16 countries as well as all states in

Australia. It has been a constant source of amazement to me that enough copy kept turning up to fill another edition. Every time I thought I would not have enough material for the next edition I would receive another article. Now as I look through the 47 editions published so far I am overawed at the incredible number of stories. *Talkabout* has become a compendium of historical memorabilia of a generation of teachers who were trained at WWTC. I am grateful to the CSU Alumni for having posted all the *Talkabouts* since 2006 on the Alumni website for people to browse. I have recently copied all the *Talkabouts* from the Alumni Association's beginning in 1997 to 2013 to disk and a copy has been sent to the Riverina Ar-

chives in the Blakemore Building on the old WWTC site. This will now form part of the WWTC memorabilia held by the Archives.

It has been very gratifying that a new committee has been formed to continue the work of the original committee. Hopefully they will get a good response from students from the later years of WWTC who will necessarily have different experiences to the early years. I wish the members of the committee all success in their endeavours and in their wish to keep the spirit of Wagga Wagga Teachers College alive for all.

Lindsay Budd (1950-51)

A LIFE STORY—Ken Little

It's 6913 here, no it's 7023 - I've matured. Then again maybe I'm 7150694, or in a Walter Mitty moment - 007.

It was great receiving the electronic version of *Talkabout* this afternoon, (although Gordon Young would have been disappointed if he was still alive not to get a mention in the credits for the '61 lecturing staff.).

I was teaching at Cowabbie West via Grong Grong in 1971 when I picked up an infection in my finger from the school firewood. Despite medical treatment in Narandera, about four weeks later I became paralysed overnight from an epidural abscess. This quite naturally changed my life forever.

The reason for my contribution to *Talkabout* involves a book I

wrote. Please bear with me as I explain.

The only people who write life stories are the well-known but a few years ago I was asked to write about that time for friends who work with street kids as resource material. I didn't plan to write about it but that 20 pages grew until it became a 360 page memoir with Wagga and WTC central characters in the story.

Rather than say anymore about it you may care to look at the website that has been set up for me.

www.morepocketsplease.com

I think old WWTC luminaries would be interested in it especially those in the '69-70 session. I did change the names to protect the innocent.

I did write two other books about a fellow from the northern beaches who ended up teaching near Wagga. They were fiction based on my experiences whereas - *More Pockets, Please*, is factual.

Ken Little 1969-70



INITIATION - MISS GOODY GOODY TWO SHOES - Marion Greene

I enjoy the jottings in *Talkabout* very much and share it with some other ex-WWTC graduates. I particularly enjoyed Graeme Keast's accounts in the last issue. Graeme was a contemporary of mine at WWTC (1962-63) and was a member of the Keast family from Junee where they operated the famous (in Junee) Keasts' Emporium.

Junee is my hometown being born, educated and married there. It was also my first appointment. Kindergarten teacher at Junee Central School (even though I had done the primary course at WWTC) where Bonnie Mutch (WWTC?) was Infants Mistress.

Bonnie was also a local girl whom I had known all my life but that did not stop me being terrified of her in my first few weeks. Infants Mistresses were a force to behold in those days.

I remember clearly the first Annual Inspection by Inspector Wolf who had a 'thing' about 'nothing on top of cupboards' – everything neatly put away in appropriate cupboards; a challenge with only one corner press

in the room. The space between the top of the press and the ceiling usually had piles of chart paper/paintings etc. Not for Mr Wolfe's Inspection though! I clearly remember balancing on top of the teacher's table with a yard stick to measure how far the tops of the windows should be down for proper ventilation which was another of Inspector Wolfe's requirements. I am not sure how much store he put on 'what and how the kids were being taught! He certainly terrified me!

Unlike Graeme, my memory of college days is dim. However, I do remember my first days very clearly during initiation! I think I am one of those poor souls in the headscarves (so as not to excite) in the last edition. It did not have the desired effect on me and I found it hard to warm to those cruel second years!

Initiation also led to me being carpeted in Mr Hale's office in my first week as he saw me asleep with sheer exhaustion during a lecture. By chance he just walked by and I received a summons to come to his office. I was

devastated. Miss Taprell had been a 'Goody Two Shoes' at school and never had to confront the Headmaster and here I was being carpeted on Day Three of my College Year. I was put on notice. I never spoke to or even looked at Mr Hale again.

A clear memory I have is of the long drive in a rickety old bus to Culcairn for summer prac. We spent the night before ironing our starched petticoats and full skirts but by the time we reached Culcairn we were 'limpbillies'!

During my second year (1963) I was courted by Brian Greene (ex-teacher Wagga Wagga High School 1960-64). Some ex-students may remember him. We were married in the August holidays of my first year at Junee. Next week (29 August) we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We both retired as primary and secondary principals in 1999; me from Crown St Surry Hills, Sydney. We now enjoy travelling overseas each year and our five grandchildren. Regards.

Marion Greene (Taprell) 1962-63

A LATE SCHOLARSHIP - Norma Fowler 1960-61

I was born in Narrandera in May 1943. My father worked at the Aerodrome during the Second World War with his truck. After the war, there was not much work road-building as the councils had little money. He took his truck to the Steelworks at Port Kembla, and we moved to Warrawong when I was almost four. My older sister attended school

across the road at the Scout Hall, as Warrawong School consisted of a double portable classroom, and the population had exploded with the influx of migrants who came to work at the Steelworks.

The teachers took pity on me as I sat on the doorstep waiting for my sister to come home, and allowed me to start school at four

and a half. The classes from Kindergarten to Fourth Class crammed into the hall, until the new school was finally completed.

I remember the only thing in the cupboard was plasticine in my class room. The library was a cupboard in the hallway, where

Cont'd p13

you were allowed to borrow books, which I devoured.

The school population exploded and many classes were held in the "hat room" while the school was extended. Many of our teachers were returned servicemen who had completed a shortened teacher training course.

One of these teachers was Jack McGrath, whose son Kip started the coaching college. My sixth class teacher was Samuel Talbot Turner, who, with his father, had planted the Norfolk Island Pines in Kiama, and was an avid propagator of native trees.

I was Dux of the school, and was chosen to attend Wollongong High School, a selective school. I joined the choir with Nada Brissenden as the music teacher. I was chosen for the chorus of *Tri- al by Jury*. We also sang in Sydney Town Hall and performed well at the Wollongong Eisteddfod.

At the end of High School, I waited for news of a scholarship to Teachers College and was

devastated when it didn't arrive. My mother talked me into taking a job at an Accountancy firm in Wollongong, which I hated - I wanted to be a teacher. A boy who also attended Wollongong High was working there. He had obtained a minimum pass in the Leaving Certificate, and I was devastated when he was offered a scholarship and left.

By the time I was offered a late scholarship, Wagga College had been underway several weeks. There was no accommodation at the college, so the latecomers were boarded in town. I had only just arrived, when I was sent out on Practice Teaching to Lockhart Central. I did badly in the half yearly as our section had barely covered the course.

I played hockey on the weekends. I sang in the chorus of *Iolanthe* in first year and *Rud- digore* in second year, with Laurie Orchard as our music teacher. I sang in the girls' quintet. I also sang in the *Messiah* with the Wagga singers. We made a jelly pad with Mr Cosier, fostering a love of carpentry. I discovered

Art. I did Maths with Miss Bridges and Poetry with Mrs Coleman, fostering a love of writing poetry. I discovered Psychology and PE. By the end of first year, my results were much improved. I did a home practice at Warrawong, where I had attended school. The school was understaffed, so I was given a sixth classes to teach by myself.

In my second year at College, I lived-in, moving into Kambu dormitory, next to Miss Bridges. I joined the General Primary section. The girls were given classes in Infants Method with Mrs Whittaker, and the boys did Small School Method. I made a lampshade with Mrs Betty Keech, fostering a love of Craft.

In May, when I was finally old enough to get my licence, dad gave me a 1939 Chev panel van he had bought for 50 pounds. I could fit the whole dormitory in it to go to the swimming pool. You had to be careful not to hit the brakes too hard, or the back doors would fly open, and it would veer violently left.

Norma Fowler 1960-61

IN MEMORIAM

MAYNARD Barbara (Hoare) 1948-49 passed away peacefully on August 14 2014. Late of Woy Woy and formerly of Pennant Hills and Temora. Much loved wife of Russ, Loving mother and mother-in-law of Geoff and Michelle, Paul and Anne, and Philip. Cherished grandmother of Victoria, Grace and Eugenie. Aged 83 years.

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HOTCHKIS Gregory (1952-53) passed away 14 March 2014.

He had been SRC president at WWTC. He left high school teaching to lecture at Macquarie University in Special Education.

Helene Hotchkis (Graham)

o--o--o--o--o--o

DELLER Bob (Kellyville) 1949-50 passed away 19 August 2014. He is survived by his wife Anne (Hughes) 1951-52. She is a Kellyville resident.

Anne Deller

LONSDALE Joseph passed away peacefully in Bowral, 20 October 2014.

Beloved husband Muriel (dec) Dearly beloved father and father in-law David, Jan and Doug. Adored Gramps to Melissa and Doug, Wayne and Elizabeth, Darren and Sarah, Alison and Tim and Gramps to his 11 grandchildren.

Note: Joe was the first Bursar of WWTC, he died at the age of 96.

DOHERTY Margaret (nee Byron) 1943–2009, (1963–1964 Session)

Margaret Frances Byron was born on 21st August 1943 in St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, the daughter of Vincent and Eileen Byron of Bankstown. She was the third child in a family of three girls and two boys.

Margaret was educated by the Sisters of St Joseph at St Felix School, North Bankstown. Her performance in the 1958 Intermediate Certificate Examination won her a State Bursary for her two final years of secondary education as a boarder at Marist College, Woolwich. Her 1960 Leaving Certificate Examination results gained her a Commonwealth Scholarship, allowing her to enrol in a BA Degree at Sydney University.

The Arts course and the university scene were not for her, and in 1962 Margaret joined the work force, initially with MLC in Sydney and later in an administrative position at Grace Brothers. At the end of that year Margaret applied for, and was awarded, a Teachers College Scholarship.

Graduating in 1964, Margaret was appointed to Lockhart Central School where she taught for the next 24 years. At the Rand "Bushmen's Ball" Margaret met, and later married, Tom Doherty. They had two sons, Peter and Matthew, and then two granddaughters, Bethany and Emily. In 1988, Margaret and Tom moved to Wagga.

In 2006 Margaret was diagnosed with bowel cancer. Surgery, and then chemotherapy for nine months, gave her a reprieve. Later it was found that the cancer had spread to her lungs and liver. Subsequently, other tumours were detected in her brain, skull, spine and femurs. Margaret was hospitalised on 8th February 2009, and after a continuing decline in her condition she succumbed to the disease on Tuesday 24th March of that year, her 66th year.

At Lockhart Central, Margaret acquired a reputation amongst her peers for being able to teach the unteachable. She was very good at maintaining discipline in the classroom – she possessed a talent for instilling fear in wayward students through certain facial expressions which, in a very obvious way, conveyed her disapproval.

[This summary of the eulogy delivered at Margaret's Requiem Mass by her younger brother, John Byron, was prepared for inclusion in *Talkabout* by Bernard Fitzpatrick, a Byron family friend.]

FREER Ken September 2014

Ken was born 20.6.1933 at Cootamundra to Les and Dorothy Freer. He was one of three boys and a girl in the family. His parents separated when he was about 5. He and his siblings were placed in the Salvation Home Goulburn (known as Gill). He spent the next 11 years there. At school he played rugby and cricket, and was a school prefect. He was also musical and played the tuba in the Salvation Army band.

At the Gill he learnt resilience and above all God's love for him which would define the rest of his life as the man of faith he became. The Gill gave him the opportunity to gain his Leaving Certificate and an offer of a place at Teachers College which he took up a few years later after working as a Clerk and studying accountancy in Goulburn.

In 1951 together with other 18 year olds, Ken was conscripted to do National Service with the Army at Ingleburn and his stories about that experience were hilarious.

On completion of his Teacher Training at Wagga Wagga, Ken was appointed to his first school, Kinalung, a small railway workers' community 40 miles from Broken Hill, where he was the sole teacher. He taught 41 students from Kinder to Year 9. Ken couldn't cook and so survived on rice with various sauces until one of the mothers took pity on him and provided some meals. *Cont'd p15*

His next school was at Picton from where he entered Moore College to study theology. There he met Gwen who was studying at Deaconess House. Ken and Gwen were married on 27 November 1965 at Merewether by Gwen's father, Fred Standen.

After Moore College Ken returned to teaching and for a time taught English as a second language at Paddington. In 1970 Ken was appointed Principal of Lightning Ridge primary school. Ken and some of his friends bought an opal mine and spent their weekends mining.

Lightning Ridge was also where Ken bought his beloved car, a Leyland P76, which he had for many years. This car was a well known lemon. However, Ken was always proud of it, and often boasted that he could fit a four gallon drum in the boot.

Ken's teaching career took him to Carroll, Urana and South Grafton. He focused on the children's education and was a great mentor to the many young teachers he was involved with. He finished his teaching career at Wilcannia as a relieving principal .

In 1977 Ken gained his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and English. In 1989 the Bishop of Armidale Peter Chiswell, asked Ken to take on a parish ministry. Ken was ordained in St Peter's Cathedral Armidale and was appointed to the parish of Mungindi where he served for five fruitful years. His interest in Aboriginal education was something he pursued during his working life.

Ken's ill health forced him into retirement, firstly to Tamworth then to Springwood to be closer to his grandchildren. He was a real family man; a loving and patient father encouraging his children in their endeavours and raising them to be people of faith.

REUNION ROUNDUP

Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College

50 Year Reunion Years 1965-66; 1966-67; 1967-68

A fifty year re-union is proposed for Sunday 15 May to Wednesday 18 May 2016 to be held in Wagga Wagga.

We need:

- Volunteers to join the organising committee – much organisation can be done by email
- Suggestions for interesting activities
- Collection of memorabilia
- **Most of all, please register your interest in being there** by contacting:

Bruce and Lesley Forbes
Unit 5/185 Albany St
Point Frederick NSW 2250
Ph: 0243225650
Mob: 0408587065
Email: bruceles@bigpond.com

SEASON'S GREETINGS

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT
NEW YEAR**

and

**A PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR THE
WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**





The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2014 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 2015.

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. digitalising archives from \$10.00
- ii. specific donation to the WWTCAA Scholarship Fund from \$10.00

The new rates will not apply until January 2015 when membership renewal is due. Opposite is a contribution slip for 2015.

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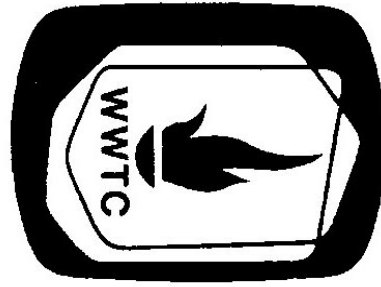
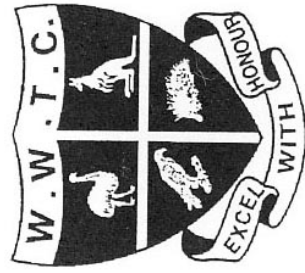
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