



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS

# TALKABOUT



Volume 21 No 3

December 2018



The Science Display at the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Open Day 1955

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



An important role of the WWTCAA is to keep us all in touch as we move into the post 70th Anniversary Celebration period. This is probably more important than ever as that event was a great catalyst to re-establishing connections and friendships that may have been lost or weakened over the intervening years. *Talkabout* is most definitely a major means of achieving this important role but equally as important is for the various cohorts to keep in touch through personal contact and organized group events.

It is therefore pleasing to see that two "Mini Reunions" have occurred in recent times. The Canberra Reunion organized by Jenny and Chris Blake (66/67) attracted 30 alumni currently living in and around Canberra. This brought together folk from 1950s to 1970s for a morning tea and luncheon at the Hellenic Club on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Di Herbert (70/71) has posted photos of attendees onto the *WWTC Facebook* page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/306317016742/>. Neville Keeley organised *The Enders* for a get together at the Mercantile Hotel on November 9th at The Rocks. A photographic record of this gathering is also available on the *WWTC Facebook* page. I'm sure Jenny, Chris, Neville and Di will be only too happy to pass on ideas of how the process can be enacted to bring folk together.

As the yuletide approaches may I pass on Season's Greetings . Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Bruce Forbes**  
President

## EDITOR'S NOTE - Brian Powyer



Welcome to our third and final edition of *Talkabout* for 2018. The feedback throughout the year has been most encouraging and with your continued support I am sure that 2019 will prove to be another great year for *Talkabout* as it continues to connect those of us who shared those special years together whilst attending Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

As indicated, the success and continued publication of *Talkabout* is very much dependent upon member contribution. As you can see from recent editions these can be quite short, or if preferred be of a longer nature. Contents can include short updates about milestones in your current life, longer articles about your life's journey from College days to the present are most welcome. Stories of your travels or achievements since retiring, all make for great reading. Often members are featured in local press or are featured in newsletters etc. Just send us the link to the article and we can usually download it and include the information in *Talkabout* - saves you writing the article. Recently a number of poems have been written by members and these have been very well received. Photographs are essential to breakup the text, add colour and interest to the published articles .

In short we need your articles, stories, memories, poems and photographs. Please put fingers to the keyboard or pen to paper - we will arrange to type them up if required. Remember all articles are submitted through the Secretary.

Merry Christmas to all and looking forward to receiving your articles in the New Year.

**Brian Powyer**

## ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK - Leslie Forbes



Thanks to all those members who have contacted me with their little snippets, updates, thank you notes and letters of appreciation.. As you will see there are not quite as many as in the past in this edition but we might be a little over writing to the Secretary following the 70th Anniversary Celebration. So just another reminder - keep those emails/letters coming.

Season's Greetings to all and may the New Year usher in another special year to all within the WWTCAA.

### **Hans van Haalen (1969-71)**

Just a short comment in response to Ian Stevenson's comment in the last *Talkabout*: He claims

that 1970-72 was the first 3 year trained group to graduate from WWTC, it was in fact the 1969-71 group that was the first cohort, I was a member of that group of 30 students.

### **John Cassidy (1963-64)**

Thank you for another very enjoyable read. I loved Bruce's poem, *Alumni Unite*.

### **David Long (1953-54)**

Thank you for all the work you did getting the 70<sup>th</sup> Celebration on the road. It was an occasion to remember.

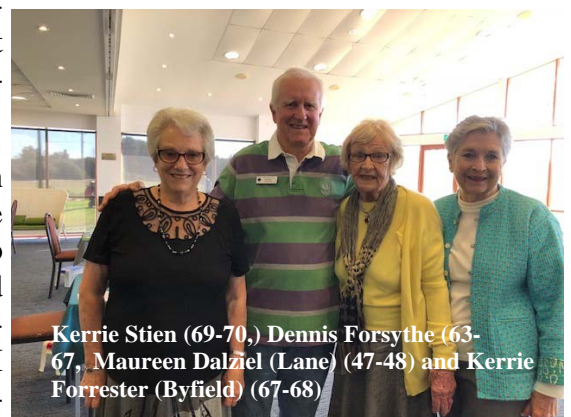
The 53-54 session seemed to be thin on the ground but it was good to catch up with Ron and Mavis Baird and Margaret and Henry Gardiner. I hadn't seen my old foot-

ball mate, Peter Croker since the end of 1953. Time does travel fast.

I look forward to future editions of *Talkabout*. Let's hope it is possible to get some groups together, especially 53-54.

### **Dennis Forsythe (1963 - 67)**

Pictured below four ex WWTC students are currently playing Bridge as members of the Belmont Bridge Club.



Kerrie Stien (69-70,) Dennis Forsythe (63-67, Maureen Dalziel (Lane) (47-48) and Kerrie Forrester (Byfield) (67-68)

## IPAI 1958-59—Tom Richmond, OAM (1958-59)

I have noticed in the past very few of my vintage at Wagga have contributed details of their post-College adventures. I was at WWTC in 1958 and 1959, an inmate of the Ipai Dormitory.

The Ipai Mob from 1958-9 recently held a reunion, marking the sixtieth year of our arrival in the Deep South. Although I was unable to attend the reunion, I thought it appropriate, as I was the 1959 editor of *Talkabout*, to produce a booklet for the boys, outlining their careers and contributions.

I have made the following brief notes from the details provided to me for the booklet, which extended to 48 pages in all. I must confess that I was amazed at the imprint on education that the group had left.

**Ray Anderson** was not at the reunion and no contact has been made in recent years. When last seen, he was living at the Varsity Lakes.

**Rod Berkeley** unfortunately passed away at a relatively early age, long before retirement.

**John Bevan** was one of a number of Ipai men who ended up in the ACT. There he became the long-serving Head Teacher of the Humanities at Copland College. He is also remembered as one of the key figures in the Teachers' Federation in the ACT, as one of the leaders in the battle for conditions after the ACT separated from NSW. For those who do not know, John's son, Michael, played a bit of cricket!

**Warren Bingham** was with us in our second year. He was last observed on the North Coast, but details are scarce.

**Terry Burke** reached the position of principal at Hillston Central School before becoming an inspector and then a director. He rose to the rank of Deputy Director General in NSW and relieved in the top position at times. Terry obtained a doctorate and after retiring from the Department, became a professor at Wollongong University. Terry has made an enormous contribution to education in the State.

**Ron Burns** was another escapee to the ACT. There he rose to the position of Principal of Macgregor Primary School. His major contribution was as a sport organizer and became involved with the delivery of sport administration. From 1995 to 1997, Ron held the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Confederation of Australian Sport, which is the national peak body for sport in Australia.

**Peter Dobson** was unwell and unable to attend the reunion. "Dobbo" made a gigantic contribution as a sports organiser on the South Coast and was NSW Schools Swimming Convener for twenty-seven years. A legend in swimming, he also served for most of a lifetime as a Surf Life Saver and his contribution has been acknowledged by life membership of the South Coast Branch of Kiama Surf Life Saving Club.

**Keith Heales** went straight to the ACT. on graduation, demonstrating that some good decisions

are made in Canberra. Keith taught, at one stage, on Christmas Island, but finished his career as Head Teacher Social Sciences at Charnwood High School. Keith contributed hugely to AFL in the area, as a player, coach and administrator. His contribution was acknowledged by elevation to the ACT Hall of Fame in 2015.

**Ted Kaye** started at Bungendore Public and, after teaching in the ACT, became an education officer. He went on to serve in the Northern Territory and South Australia, developing expertise in school buildings. Ted was an outstanding Rugby half-back at College and he continued his Rugby career in the ACT, playing major representative games and leaving his mark as a Rugby legend. He now lives in the Northern Territory.

**Tom Lake**, our SRC President in 1959, left the profession after finding teaching in remote areas difficult. He went to Parliament House and rose to Clerk of Bills in the Legislative Council. Later he became a company secretary. Unfortunately, Tom passed away in 2017.

**Laurence Lepherd** was Ipai's sole representative in the Christadelphian community. We have lost contact with him but note that the Christadelphian bookshop is currently selling a book with Laurence Lepherd as the author.

**Dave Mulrooney** has taught largely in the Riverina area, where he spent twenty-six years as the Principal of Uranquinty Public School. Dave is a local

legend in Rugby League and played over three hundred games for the Wagga Kangaroos. In retirement, Dave became the President of the Riverina Men of League Association, raising money that has done a wonderful amount of good in Dave's chosen area.

**Kevin Plummer**, at last sighting, had left teaching and was managing a property. We have lost contact with him.

**Phil Pryor** taught in the Lismore area before coming back to Sydney. He acted as department head at Ashcroft High, but his music and study for his MA degree took some precedence. As a musician, Phil became well known and provided backing for the Deltones, Peter Allen, Judith Durham and others. He still performs as a "one man band" at weddings and social events, as well as at country festivals.

**Peter Rae** is another with whom we have lost contact. It is believed that he taught in the Deniliquin area.

**Tom Richmond** completed his career as the Principal of Kurung-gai High School, after having been Principal of Evans High, Blacktown. He has written several history books and has a weekly column in the *Hornsby Advocate*. He has been a cricket coach for over fifty years and the trophy for the best coach at NSW District level has been named after him. He currently volunteers as a consumer adviser to the Department of Health.

**Kelly Rowe** was with us in Ipai Major, but we have lost contact with him.

**Ted Sime** began teaching in primary schools, but undertook

courses to qualify as a Physical Education teacher in high schools. He qualified as a Head Teacher and served in this capacity at Malvina High School, Randwick Boys' High School, Dover Heights High School, Fort Street High School and Vacluse High School. Ted has been a long-serving member of the Life Saving movement and played several other sports at top levels.

**Paul Slater** was another to forge a teaching career in the country. He served as Principal of Burra-Boi, Jugiong and North Wagga. Paul was a keen sportsman at College and his interest has continued with contributions both as a player and as an administrator. He and his wife have a hobby farm at Candello, where they raise Hereford beef cattle and White Dorper sheep. He also has interests in horse racing.

**Garth Smith** is another with whom we have lost contact. He is reported as having been working in a Mosman institute for disabled children, but no details are known.

**John Smith** left us in the first years and no further contact has been made.

**John Sutton** progressed to become Principal of Coolamon Central School. From there, he was appointed as Assistant Director in the Hunter Region. He became Regional Director in the Western Region and retired as Assistant Director General Primary Education. Unfortunately, John's retirement was not long and he passed away shortly after finishing work in 2003. He made a splendid contribution.

**Geoff Tasker** died at Toormina in 2016. Only sparse details of his career and life are known.

**Richard Waring** moved from primary teaching to secondary and enjoyed a successful career. He became a Head Teacher History in 1975 at Forest High and later served in a similar position at Pittwater High. Richard, in 1975, was part of a Federation delegation to China and has travelled very widely. An active sportsman, he became well known for his interest in sailing at the Avalon Club.

**Terry Wheatley** was with us for a time in Ipai Minor, but we have not maintained contact.

From this summary, it may be seen that our dorm provided two directors, a high school principal, several primary principals and a number of head teachers. Contributions to sport were made in a number of sports and a variety of areas. They have produced 54 grandchildren to provide employment for later teaching generations.

Terry Burke is a Member of the Order of Australia and Tom Richmond has the Order of Australia Medal, the Centenary Medal and the Australian Sports Medal. Ron Burns also has the Australian Sports Medal.

I would be delighted to receive any further information about the people with whom we have lost contact. My e-mail is [uncletom@optusnet.com.au](mailto:uncletom@optusnet.com.au)

I hope that this summary breaks the silence from the 1958/59 session and that we may hear news in *Talkabout* of the other men's dorms and the women's dorms as we all approach the status of octogenarians.

**Tom Richmond**



## CANBERRA MORNING TEA - Chris/Jenny Blake (66/67)

The October morning tea in Canberra saw thirty-five alumni enjoying themselves at The Hellenic Club in Woden. Sessions from the 50s, 60s and 70s were represented and it did not take long for stories of years at Wagga Wagga and teaching experiences to emerge recalling friends, characters and events.

While some like John Skene and David French only taught for a short period, others had dedicated their lives to a variety of different forms of teaching.

Old friendships, often dating back to school-days, teachers college and educational relationships were soon rediscovered.

All too quickly coffee, cakes and conversation had eaten away the morning and while the majority departed a handful lingered on for a long lunch and still more tongue wagging.

Dot Hogan summed up the event when she wrote, "Thanks for organising yesterday's get together. It was lovely to catch up with some that I had not seen for

many years – even one who taught my eldest daughter in Year 4 and I had no idea that she was ex-WWTC. And another whose 21st I went to in the Central West and I had not seen since. We should do it again".

There are probably other communities, possibly not as big as Canberra, where groups of Wagga alumni can get together in a low key event and share part of their mutual background.

**Chris and Jenny Blake**



L-R: John Spence, June Werner, Pat Spaul, Jackie Robinson



L-R: Helen Thomas, Wendy Wade, Trish O'Brien, Jenny Blake and Irene Gilbert



Ann (Sedwick) and John Smith on left, Robin Robinson, Heather McLaren, Trish Smith on right



Leslie and Bruce Forbes

## INVITATION: WWTCAA LUNCHES - 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**

## JOHN BEVAN: A TEACHER SHAPING LIVES -Tom Richmond OAM



John Bevan

John Bevan, BA (ANU), Dip Teach (WWTC) graduated with us from the Junior Secondary section at Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1959, taking up his first appointment at Mullumbimby High School, on the North Coast, about nine kilometres from the sea at Brunswick Heads. He had been an Ipai man.

He spent two years at Mullumbimby before transferring, as an assistant, to Seven Hills in 1962. This must have constituted a rude awakening, as Western Sydney in the 1960s was often no place for the faint hearted. In 1964, he transferred again, as an assistant teacher, to Blakehurst High School. Eighteen kilometres to the south of the Sydney CBD in the George's River area.

After four years at Blakehurst, John made a major decision to move to the Australian Capital Territory. He picked up an appointment to Campbell High School, not far from the Australian War Memorial.

It was the ideal time and place to undertake a degree and John studied at the ANU from 1969 to 1974, with an interested concentration on History.

The decision, in 1972, for the ACT to take on responsibility for its own staffing led to a num-

ber of changes in the Capital Territory. In 1975, John transferred to Holder High School, thirteen kilometres to the south-west of the centre of Canberra. He was only there for one year, however, before taking up a full-time position as a union representative from 1976 to 1977.

The Teachers' Federation in the ACT formed after the changes in education in the Territory. John had been a strong member of a local branch of Federation and became a strident advocate of teachers' rights, speaking forcefully on industrial matters. His contribution over a number of years was significant in the development of the ACT teaching service.

John's final teaching appointment was to Copland College, in Melba, ACT. John served as the Head Teacher of the Humanities area, contributing to the school in that capacity from, 1978 to 1994. This was a marvellous contribution to the educational programmes of the College.

At Copland, John taught Stan Grant, later to become a prominent ABC news commentator. Grant attributes much of his success in life to John's influence. John, says Stan Grant, told him that "he could be someone".

The way Grant remembers it, "He said, 'You have the potential to do anything you want. Don't waste it. Don't try to pretend you're not smart; you are.'"

John Bevan more recently commented, "A student can inspire a teacher. I loved the challenge of entering Stan's class: I had to present my best game."

Few teachers are fortunate enough to have someone as articulate as Stan Grant to comment on the impact that they have. John's contribution, acknowledged so impressively by Stan Grant, is a reminder of the way teachers can help shape lives.

By contrast, John recalls, as a Federation representative, calling on the Treasurer, John Howard to ask him to lend his name to an advertising campaign featuring prominent people educated in the public school system. Mr Howard agreed because the account was factual, but his attitude was less than sympathetic.

John took early retirement at the end of 1994, but worked as a casual teacher from 1995 to 2006. In 2007, he taught students who were trying to achieve late entry into the ANU.

Most of us will remember John as a keen sportsman and a talented athlete. He played Rugby League for Mullumbimby after graduating, but his major sporting achievement may well have been introducing his elder son to the basics of cricket.

That son was Michael Bevan, who went on to play test cricket for Australia and to be widely accepted as a legend in one day



Stan Grant

cricket.

John Bevan's career in education was a distinguished one and he contributed strongly to the system in the A.C.T. Reading through contemporary newspaper clippings, it appears that John's period as a Federation representative coincided with a turbu-

lent time in A.C.T. industrial matters. The comments of Stan Grant reveal an even richer contribution, as a stalwart of the public education sector influencing and shaping young lives.

His contribution was plainly significant.

**Tom Richmond**



## HAPPY MEMORIES OF A ONE-TEACHER SCHOOL - Kevin Stone

After training at Wagga Wagga TC from 1968-69 my first school appointment was to Tirranna Public School, via Goulburn where I commenced teaching on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1970 as Teacher-in-Charge.

At the time of being notified I was attending the annual Church Missionary Society Conference in Katoomba. I had no idea where Tirranna was actually located but by obtaining a map of the district was encouraged to find it was only eight km from Goulburn on the Braidwood Road.

At this stage of my life I did not own a car and had not obtained a driving licence. The President of the P and C Mr Eric Sykes, owner of the Pelican Sheep Station made it possible for me to board with Mrs Fowler in Churchill Street, City View, a suburb on the southern edge of Goulburn.

Because an employee of Eric's lived close-by he was for a short time able to drive me to school. However for most of the year I hitchhiked my way to school and back again. Later I was to board with Canon Harold and Mrs Palmer of St Saviour's Cathedral. The temporary Deanery in those days was in Cowper Street Goulburn.

On my first day at school I was greeted with a packed classroom of thirty-three children ranging from Kindergarten to Grade Six with pupils in every grade. I can't say I was daunted at the challenge but somehow was aware of the enormous responsibility thrust upon me at just twenty years of age. I was also fairly conscious from those early days that the school had been well managed over many years with able teachers and with very solid family units.

I succeeded Mr Peter Clarke who had stayed for three years. Before that Mr Jack Brice had been the TIC for many years. I subsequently taught at Wollondilly Dem with his daughter Helen. Many years later I was privileged to take the funeral for Helen's aged mother in Goulburn.

Parents' and Citizens' meetings were always encouraging to attend. There was always a high level of respect shown to me by the parents – many of whom attended these meetings. If, for example I had made a spelling mistake on the blackboard it would have been quietly pointed out without any fanfare. Besides these monthly meetings the P and C arranged for regular de-

liveries of wood in Winter. I must say that I found the wood was often quite hard to split! The other activity was the annual fete which was very well-attended being so close to Goulburn. There were also regular playground clean-ups but without any grass to cut because of the sandy soil, the tasks were accomplished in minimum of time. It was also a chance to get to know the fathers of the pupils.

As I was the only teacher it fell to me to supervise the playground every day. This didn't seem like an onerous duty. Many of the older children were very good in supervising those who were younger, many of whom were younger siblings. The hot weather did mean the appearance of many tiger snakes. However, I was assured by the older boys that they could look after the snakes as they were quite adept at disposing them on their own farms! Never the less there was always a curved steel rod hanging just outside the main door that could be used if necessary.

Apart from myself there was also a sewing teacher, Mrs Rosemary Ramsay who came one afternoon a week to assist the girls with sewing. That left me to teach various crafts to the boys



boys with the help of John Cosier's craftbook from Wagga Wagga TC.

In addition there were two Scripture teachers who were very regular each week: Mrs Olive McGuire who taught Anglican and Protestant children in the main classroom and Mrs Mary Williams who taught the Catholic children, usually outside under a tree. I was always impressed to see the excellent visual aids that the Catholic teachers had available.

We were also fortunate to have Mrs Una Tetley as the School Cleaner. I was able to arrange for her to work as she lived close by. Not long after I was appointed I had discovered that the payment to the school teacher or member of his family for cleaning was a lot lower com-

pared with an outside person. Fortunately Mrs Tetley would arrive well before school commenced. This was particularly pleasing in Winter as she had the *Warmray* heater well alight by the time I arrived. I was able to thaw out in front of it before lessons commenced.

During my first year at Tirranna the local District Inspector of Schools was Mr Nankervis, who was based in Goulburn. He was a pleasant but fairly formal man. From memory, his first task in arriving for the annual inspection was to cast his eye over the classroom timetable and to see that each subject was dutifully assigned the required amount of time. On other occasions he would pull up in the school playground and meet me outside to discuss schooling arrange-

ments. On one occasion it was the result of an application for the school to conduct swimming lessons. My application listed the mothers who, over the years had assisted in learn-to-swim lessons at Goulburn Swimming Pool. He was at pains to point out the necessity of myself also changing into a swimming costume and to ensure that I was the one who was held responsible. I assured him as best I could of my responsibilities, knowing that I was relying on the mums present to do a good job as I was a poor swimmer.

In my next year and final year at the school, the District Inspector was Mr Don Lawler. He was a very practical and insightful supervisor.

**To be continued next edition.**

## THE ENDERS MEET UP AT THE MERCANTILE (SYDNEY ROCKS)

*THE ENDERS* met up at the Mercantile Hotel (The Rocks) on 9 November, 2018 A great time was had by all and planning is now underway for the 50th Anniversary of the enrolment of the 70-71 cohort. Contact Neville Keeley - Search Facebook: Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni.





## JACK, NEIL AND SERGEANT PEPPER - Garry Funnell (67–68)

We all remember where we were when Jack was assassinated and Neil took the step at Tranquility Base. Earlier this year I heard a music fanatic claim we remember where we were when we first heard *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Let's go back all those years and set this recollection in time. The Beatles new album release was scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> July in Australia. There was a delay in shipping the album covers from England so the release date was more likely late August or September.

On the very day *Sergeant Pepper's* went on sale it was purchased by a Marinyan and was played to both the delight and

the intrigue of a goodly number of the 32 in residence. The venue was Roger Swift's room. I believe Gerry was the proud album owner. Or was it Des Finnegan? Nevertheless, I clearly recall many of us crowding into the room and hallway to hear landmark songs such as *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, *With a Little Help From My Friends* and of course *Lovely Rita*. Let's not forget the title track!!

What I also remember was for some, the almost disbelief that this album was produced by the Beatles. That they had strayed so far from their usual style it could well stifle their popularity and spell their downfall.

The radically different *Sergeant Pepper's* album cover was scrutinised accordingly. Marvel at and admire the cover as some might, many saw it as confirmation that the Beatles were on the road to oblivion. I was a disbeliever.

History has shown that any misgivings were unfounded as the album went on to become the Beatles best-selling album ever.

We are about to celebrate 50 years of *Sergeant Pepper* in Australia! I wonder how many Marinyans recall that night all those years ago ...

Thanks for the memory!!!

**Garry Funnell**

## THE CONFOUNDED CORPORAL - David French (1953-54)

*This poem based on an actual scenario from National Service Training at Holsworthy 1954 and written for John, Geoff and David, all Nasho's back in the 1950s. David wrote it when his brother, Geoff was in Wagga Base Hospital, awaiting an operation in St Vincents, Sydney, for a brain tumour which took his life on February 18, 2009.)*

### The Confounded Corporal

The Regular Army Corporal was a cocky little fellow;  
All his commands were given with a loud resounding bellow.  
With a platoon of new recruits, he proudly boasted to these troops,  
"In just a day, my lads, I say, I'll know you from boots to beret."

Now this platoon was different from all others he'd besieged;  
These "Nasho's" were all gaining knowledge at the Wagga Teachers College;  
And quite unlike the usual mob that had defined the corporal's job,  
They knew each other, it's quite clear, from living-in for a whole year!

Next morning, as the roll was called, the Corporal became very galled;  
For every lad that he'd pick out, another lad would give the shout!  
"I'll have you all on charge," he yelled, and curses from his mouth expelled;  
"I'll cut this crap, by hell, by thunder! What's your regimental number?"

But these lads had thought of that, and swapped their numbers all off pat;  
And their numbered rifles too, tallied with what the Corporal knew.  
Now here take note, all of you, who would a little boasting do;  
This Corporal, within a week, for a new posting he did seek;  
And the lads, with little sadness, reckon he was close to madness.

**David French**

## WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS - Molly Darrington



Hi Chris, Jenny and all the members of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association.

Thank you for your recent email. I'm almost finished for the year. I

finish my placement at Leeton Public School this Friday. I've had such a great time there and I've been with a really beautiful Year 1 class.

I'm very happy with my exam results and now just have two subjects to complete over summer.

Thank you very much for letting me know about the closing date. For this year's applications.

I've been in contact with some others in my course and let them

know about the first round of applications for the scholarship and how beneficial the scholarship was in supporting me to complete my studies without the pressure of financial worries.

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.

So glad to hear from you!

Kind regards,  
**Molly Darrington**

## CSU ADVANCEMENT OFFICE REPORT - Sheridan Ingold



Scholarships for 2019 are now open. We urge all the WWTCAA to share amongst their friends and family to encourage CSU Teacher Education students to apply!

The Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Scholarship is available to either Commencing Students or Continuing Students studying at any of our campus locations that can show sound academic achievement and community / regional involvement.

They must be studying one of the below courses:

- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)
- Bachelor of Education (K-12)
- Bachelor of Educational Studies
- Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies).

We have been promoting scholarships through our social media channels, through the Schools and our website. We hope that some amazing applications come through.

Scholarship ceremonies will be held at the end of April/ start of May 2019.

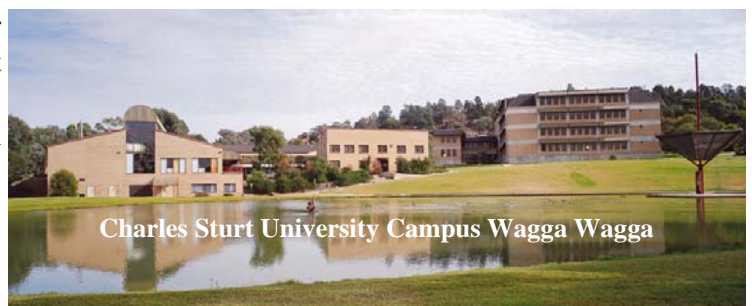
2018 saw the Advancement Office be principle leads in organising, coordinating and implementing the Scholarship Ceremonies. We worked hard to ensure we delivered a professional, enjoyable and streamlined ceremony, and in the most part I must say we did a good job.

It was lovely for me to meet many donors and recipients, and to reconnect with Chris

and Jenny. Molly was a very grateful scholarship recipient, and it makes my job much more enjoyable seeing the recipients and the donors talk all things University, study and scholarships.

It was also rewarding as an Advancement office 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.

**Sheridan Ingold**  
**Alumni Relations Coordinator**  
**| Advancement Office**



## IN MEMORIAM

### **Bill Birrell (College Lecturer)**

I have included a death notice from the *SMH* of June 23 regarding Bill Birrell. Bill was geography lecturer and men's warden when I was at WWTC in 59-60. He was a great lecturer especially for the junior secondary group. He certainly lived to a great age (98)! Others may have recollections of Bill.

**John Burrell**

### **William John Moon (51-52)**

John Moon who was in the same session as myself died suddenly this week, Tuesday 4 September at home here in Canberra.

**Gretel Ayre**

### **William John Moon (51-52)**

John died as the result of a heart attack on September 4 2018, in Canberra. We were lifelong friends and acted as best man at

each other's wedding. We each had three children and spent many enjoyable times together.

**Fred Rice (1951-52)**

### **Alison Herd (Tod) 49-50.**

Sadly I need to inform you that my mother Alison Herd (née Tod) who attended Wagga Wagga Teachers' College 1949/50 died recently on the 31st August.

**Lyn Herd**

## WARREN O'MARA [1967-68] - John Ferguson

Warren O'Mara passed away on 26th April after a very short fight with lung cancer.

Warren attended WWTC 1967/8. He was born in Wagga (1946), attended Wagga Demonstration School (Gurwood Street PS) and Wagga High. He spent most of his early teaching career in and around Wagga at Forest Hill and Turvey Park Public Schools and Mt Austin High.

Warren had a particular skill and affinity with teaching non academic students. They loved his practical lessons of bringing old machines into the classroom, dismantling them, and then writing about their experiences.

Warren was a rugged front rower and hooker for both Teachers College and Wagga City Rugby Clubs.

He was a particularly talented writer and wrote the Rugby Column for the Daily Advertiser from 1973-85, as well as several

humorous and enlightening journals for the Wagga City Rugby Club!

He was a more than useful medium pace bowler and led Wagga City Rugby Cricket team to a first grade premiership in the 1978/9 season!

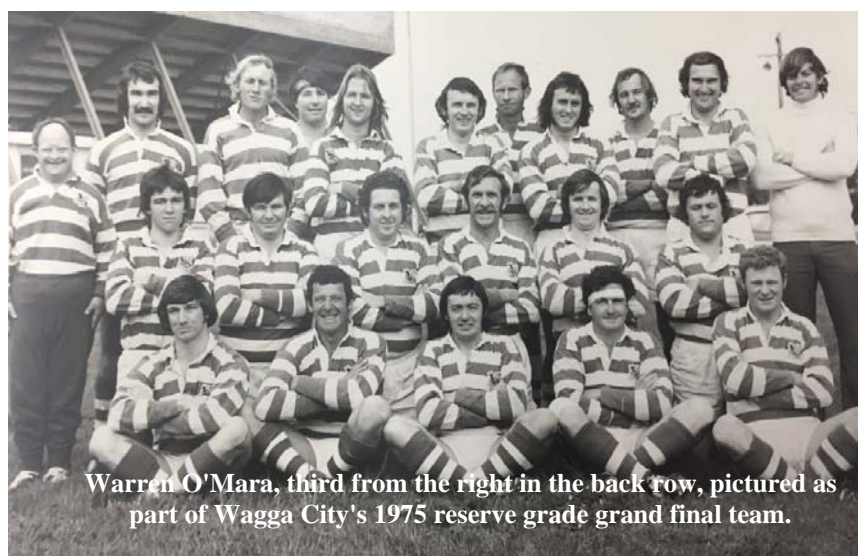
Warren left the NSW Department of Education and spent the last 12 years teaching English in China. He retired last year and returned

to Wagga.

He was a "colourful character" to say the least and the licensee of Wagga's Imperial Hotel stated that, "his profits declined sharply when Warren left town".

Warren is survived by his wife, Lyn and daughter Katherine.

**John Ferguson**



Warren O'Mara, third from the right in the back row, pictured as part of Wagga City's 1975 reserve grade grand final team.

**WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

**Go To - CSU Regional Archives**

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



## RONETTE DAISIE HANCOCK (KELLY) 1960-61



Ronette Hancock

Ronette was born in Albury. When she finished school she went to Wagga Wagga Teachers College. Her first teaching position was at Tumbarumba High School, where she taught English, History and Maths.

Here she met her husband, Kevin, the absolute love of her life. They married in Tumbarumba on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1962. Her family was very blessed to be able to celebrate their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary together on a 3 day houseboat cruise on the Murray River last year.

Their first child was born while they were teaching in Tumbarumba. In 1969, they moved to Hastings, Victoria, where Kevin joined the Navy at HMAS Cerberus. Their second child was born there. In 1972 they moved to Normanhurst in Sydney, where Kevin was posted on board the HMAS Melbourne aircraft carrier. Kevin was at sea on the Melbourne when he learned, via telegram, that Ronette had given birth to their first son Trev, that year.

Kevin spent quite a bit of time away from home with the Navy, so Ronette spent that time looking after the family and the menagerie of pets, including a Samoyed dog, several cats, mice, fish

and turtles. In Normanhurst, there were a lot of ticks in the bush around the house so Ronette would have to check a cat, dog, two kids and herself for ticks at the end of each day. She would then have a tick tally on the top of the page on all her letters to Kevin.

With Kevin away a lot in the Navy, their love was cemented. Ronette also got to see the world having holidays with Kevin in the UK, Paris, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA. She also attended many Navy dinners, balls and functions looking stunning in some gorgeous ballgowns.

Ronette was an avid golfer in those days, and she enjoyed her time as secretary of Albatross Golf Club. Ronette also played “breakaway” in a rugby game while she was at Teachers College!

In 1973, the family moved to Nowra. During that year Kevin spent 6 months in the UK studying Meteorology. Ronette was able to enjoy a 10 week holiday in the UK with him. In 1976, their last child was born in Nowra.

During the years in Nowra, Ronette returned to studies, completing a Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies (in Special Education). She then returned to the workforce as a Special Education teacher for severely and profoundly physically and intellectually disabled children. Sadly she had to give up her career due to her illness.

They moved to Canberra in January 1986, where Kevin finished his Naval career, working at Rus-

sell offices. It was here that they purchased their first own family home, having lived in Navy accommodation till then.

The family spent many years travelling to Queensland for holidays. On one of those holidays Kevin and Ronette bought a block of land at Sunshine Beach, on the Sunshine Coast. They had planned to retire to there, but as soon as the grandkids came along, they sold the land, retiring in Canberra as Ronette treasured her seven grandchildren – Joel, Dan, Kelly, Ryan, Zoe, Josh and Ben and enjoyed attending all their special events and was so proud of every one of them.

In 1992 Ronette was diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy. At that time she was advised she might only have 5-15 years depending on the course of the illness.

They had always wanted to travel around Australia when Kevin retired, but Ronette’s illness prevented that, so they did a 28 day cruise circumnavigating Australia in 2006. They both loved that trip as well as all the wonderful family adventures they were able to enjoy together.

The whole family went to the USA in 1983 when Kevin worked there for the America’s Cup yacht race.

Due to the amazing care of Dr Peter French and Dr Arnagretta Hunter, Ronette enjoyed another 26 years post her diagnosis, though as Kevin said, they wished for more.

**(Adapted from Ronette’s daughter’s eulogy).**

## DOROTHY POPE (NEE MASTERS) 1960-61



Dorothy Pope

Dorothy Pope [nee Masters] was one of several Wollongong-born and educated members of the 1960-61 session to graduate from Wagga Wagga Teachers College. She passed away 10 September, 2018 in Bowral after a long battle with kidney failure.

Dorothy grew up at Fairy Meadow in Wollongong and after completing her Leaving Certificate she attended Wagga Wagga Teachers College where she formed many happy friendships.

Her first appointment saw her return back home to the Illawarra when she joined the Infants Staff at Towradgi. This appointment was followed by periods at Tarrawanna and East Hills. She was subsequently appointed to executive positions at Lurnea and Telopea Schools.

Following her marriage and the arrival of her children, Paul and Bronwyn, Dorothy worked for a

short time at Gib Gate School in the Southern Highlands before relocating with her family to Tasmania where she taught at the Leighland Independent Christian School in Ulverstone. Here she happily developed her passion for teaching while serving in a Christian environment which she held so dear, and to which she was so well suited.

A change in family circumstances saw her return to Bowral in 1987 when she joined the staff at the recently established Southern Highlands Christian Primary School.

The very supportive community associated with this latter school helped Dorothy re-establish herself as a single mother and resulted in a special bond being developed over nearly two decades between Dorothy, her students and their parents.

She played a part in guiding and nurturing the Southern Highlands Christian School right from the time when it first operated in temporary accommodation, catering only for a handful of students. She was also to have significant role in school's relocation and expansion at its permanent home in East Bowral..

Dorothy was eventually to become Principal of this school, and during her leadership, the foundations were laid for its eventual conversion from a K-6 to a K-12 School Campus.

When she retired at the end of 2000, the school enrolment had reached 380, it was catering for students in Kinder to Year 10 and the school enjoyed a sound reputation .

Dorothy was to meet her second husband, Chris, during her time at the Christian School, and they were to share many happy years together before ill health intervened.

Dorothy's standing in the community which she served so faithfully and diligently, saw her funeral service take place at her local Baptist Church with a huge crowd of former students, appreciative parents and her many friends in attendance.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Chris, her son Paul and his wife, Melissa, her daughter Bronwyn and her husband, Todd and their two children, Addison and Robert, together with her step-children, Heath and Lynlee , and their families.

**Col Kohlhagen**

## IAN SPENCE, 1960-61 - Madeleine Sinclair (daughter)



Ian Spence

Ian passed away on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 after fighting bowel cancer for several years.

As a pupil, he attended Fairy Meadow Primary School and Wollongong High School, be-

fore joining Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1960.

After graduation he was Teacher-in-Charge at Larras Lee (1964-72), and also taught with the NSW Education Department at schools including Gulgong, Mo-

long and Manildra.

He travelled overseas extensively and taught English language classes in Greece, Barcelona and Hamburg. Ian and his family spent a year in Turkey (1978–79) with the NSW Education Department under the Overseas Educational and Cultural Experience program.

Upon his return to Australia, Ian took up a position at Cringila Public School near Wollongong, and in 1987 transferred to Jamberoo Public

School, in the village where he lived and worked until he retired in 1998.

Ian believed teaching to be the perfect career for him, and in his later years often reflected on how satisfying it had been; filled with wonderful children, great colleagues and unique experiences.

**Madeleine Sinclair (daughter)**

## MEETING DATES - WWTCAA

### ALL WELCOME

WWTCAA quarterly meetings are held at 11.00am at Teachers Federation House, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills.

### Meeting Dates for 2019:

12 February 2019 (AGM)

14 May 2019

13 August 2019

12 November 2019

## INVITE: WWTCAA LUNCHES

Members of the WWTCAA are invited to join with other members on 3rd Tuesday of February, May, August and November for WWTCAA Lunch.

Meet 12 noon ,  
at  
City Extra, Circular Quay.

Phone Winifred Wilcox 02 9580 5916

## NOTICE WWTCAA AGM

### WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### NOTICE of AGM

Tuesday, February 12 2019  
Federation House Surry Hills  
11.00am

#### AGENDA

Acceptance of Previous Minutes  
Matters Arising Previous Minutes  
President's Annual Report  
Financial Report  
Appointment of Auditor  
Special Business  
General Business  
Election of Office Bearers

Notice of Motions to be forwarded to Secretary  
By 12 January 2019

A General Quarterly Monthly Meeting will follow  
the AGM

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

WISH ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI,  
THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

A  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
YOUR SUPPORT  
2019







# 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 2019.

### 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 2019.

## WWTCAA CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Standard Membership (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Alumni Projects \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION 2019** \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to:

**WWTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Send Your Contribution To:**

Secretary WWTCAA  
12 Silky Oak Rise  
KEW NSW 2439

## ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

To credit of  
**WWTC ALUMNI ASSOC**

**Commonwealth Bank Casula NSW**

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

**Reference :** Member's First Initial, Surname and first year at college e.g. BForbes65

Please send a Remittance Advice to:

email: [bruceles@bigpond.com](mailto:bruceles@bigpond.com)

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**TALKABOUT**  
**(Including Photos )**

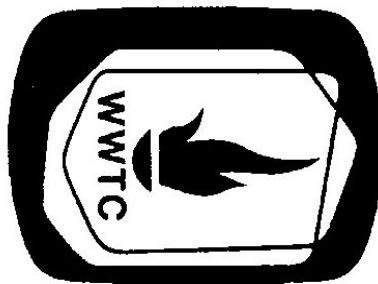
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Volume 21 No 3



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