



A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

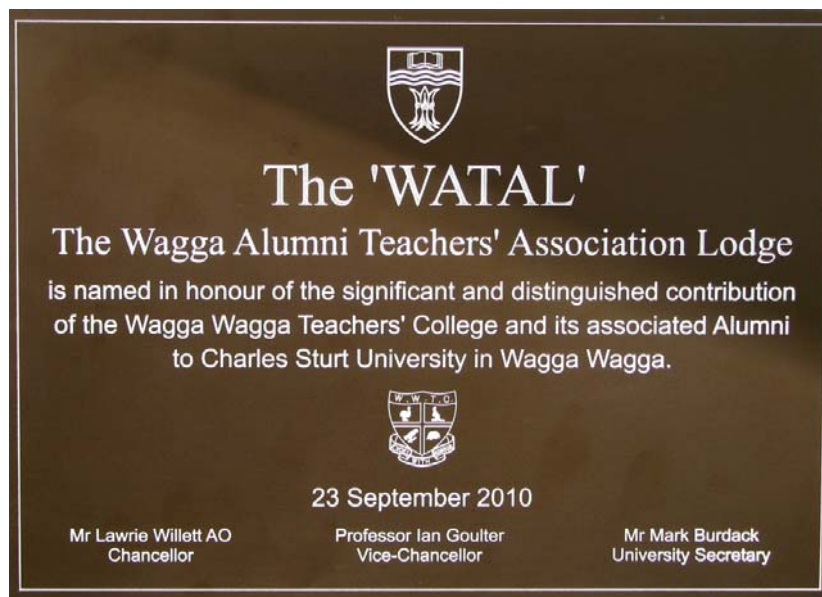
TALK ABOUT



Volume 13 No 3

November 2010

"THEY DONE US PROUD!"



Thursday, 23rd September dawned as a splendid spring day when Charles Sturt University and Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association met at the Wagga Wagga Campus for the dedication ceremony of House 381 becoming "WATAL" (Wagga Alumni Teachers Association Lodge), named in honour of the significant and distinguished contribution of the Wagga Wagga Teachers College to Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.

Head of Campus, Mr Adrian Lindner, opened proceedings and offered special acknowledgement to the members from WWTAA who were in attendance on the day. These members were Mr Graeme Wilson (Vice President), Mr Lindsay Budd, Mr Lew Morrell, Mrs Pat Morrell, Mrs Dorothy Tanner, Mr Nigel Tanner, Mr Malcolm Hanratty, Mrs Maureen Hanratty, Mr Roger Clements and Mrs June Clements.

Charles Sturt University Chancellor, Laurie Willett, O.A. and Graeme Wilson, Vice-President of Wagga Teachers Alumni Association unveiled the plaque.

Laurie Willett, congratulated and recognised the significance of the role the WWTAA has played in the establishment of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College and more recently CSU.

Our Vice-President Graeme likened Wagga Wagga Teachers College to an acorn from which Charles Sturt University grew to a mighty oak tree. Of course Wagga Wagga Agricultural College is the other acorn from which Charles Sturt University grew.

A tree was planted with the original sign marking the opening of the Wagga Wagga Teachers College in 1947. A plaque was placed beside it to symbolise the history and importance of the Wagga Wagga Teachers College as a predecessor institution of Charles Sturt University.

It was a proud day for our Alumni Association.

THE 'WATAL' NAMING

On Thursday September 23rd 2010, Charles Sturt University bestowed upon the Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association (WWTAA) the honour of naming a student residential building on the Wagga Wagga Campus. After much deliberation as to a name for this building, "The WATAL" was chosen which stands for Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Lodge.

This honorary naming celebrates the historic significance of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College and recognises the continuing contribution and support of the WWTAA to the foundation of Charles Sturt University.

Numerous Charles Sturt University representatives were in attendance on the day, the Chancellor of CSU, Mr Lawrie Willett OA, Adrian Lindner, Head of WW Campus, Karen Jamieson, Professional Assistant to Adrian, several members of the University Council, as well as Linda Breen, Manager Corporate Governance, Debbie Schache, Community Officer, Jayson Hanrahan, Manager University Advancement and Gina Jessett, Faculty Advancement Officer for the Faculty of Education.

This auspicious occasion was marked by the unveiling of a plaque at Building 381. Head of Campus, Mr Adrian Lindner, opened proceedings and offered special acknowledgement to the members from WWTAA who were in attendance on the day. These members were Mr Graeme Wilson (Vice President), Mr Lindsay Budd, Mr Lew Morrell, Mrs Pat Morrell, Mrs Dorothy Tanner, Mr Nigel Tanner, Mr Malcolm Hanratty, Mrs Maureen Hanratty, Mr Roger Clements and Mrs June Clements.



Chancellor,
Mr Lawrie
Willett,

congratulated the WWTAA on their continuing contribution and support and recognised the significance of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in the establishment of Charles Sturt University.

Alumni Vice-President Mr Graeme Wilson accepted the naming honour on behalf of the WWTAA and expressed a vote of thanks of behalf of Mr Bob Collard who could not attend the ceremony. Following the plaque unveiling was the planting of a commemorative tree (a Chinese Elm) by the attending members of the WWTAA. The tree planting was marked by two commemorative plaques, one for the day in question but another, perhaps even more significant, was the original plaque from the opening of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1947. The plaque was salvaged by Karen Jamieson, and members of WWTAA expressed sincere thanks to Karen.

Following the honorary naming and tree planting attendees were invited to an afternoon tea hosted by the Chancellor. It was a relaxed and social occasion which allowed WWTAA to reunite and Charles Sturt University Staff to meet old and new friends. The occasion was enjoyed by all who attended.



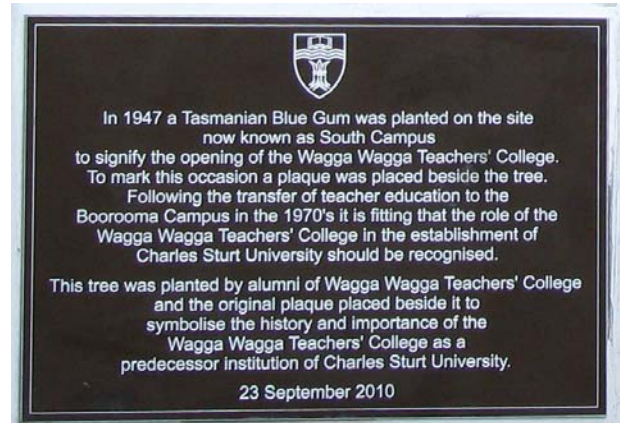
ALUMNI ATTENDEES



Graeme Wilson, Dot Tanner, Nigel Tanner, Lindsay Budd, Lew Morrell, Pat Morrell, Malcolm Hanratty, Maureen Hanratty, June Clements, Roger Clements.



Original 1947 plaque



Wording of tree plaque



Malcolm Hanratty, Lindsay Budd, Lawrie Willett, Adrian Lindner, Graeme Wilson

TEACHING MEMORIES

JUNE RETURNS TO ROCKY RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL



Miss Robson and her Lower Division in 1950

The 150 year Celebration was held over two days on 10th and 11th September with the formal proceedings on the Friday. A School Honour board was presented. It showed the names of all the school principals and also the school captains from 1981 – apparently earlier records of school captains were not kept. A beautiful quilted, embroidered wall-hanging, including photographs of each school child at present enrolled, was also presented.

The children entertained on this day and that really took me back to my days of “producing” children’s acts for some particular occasion.

Two past school principals took part in the proceedings, but no other past teachers were introduced. I managed to speak to one lady who was a teacher there in the 1980’s but that was all. This was a bit disappointing!

The two days, of course, mainly centred on the present pupils, their

parents/family and local past students.

To find any of my “young” students I approached a group of three men who I thought were about 65-68. Two of these turned out to be two of my Kinder and First or Second class students. So the word spread that Miss Robson was present.

I eventually found nine of my little ones, each with different stories about me and their memories.

The first one I met was Geoff, a real gentleman and a very successful businessman in the local area. He told me that he thought I was special.

Harold remembered me as the teacher who threatened him with a ruler each time he went to pick up his pencil with his left hand. However he is now ambidextrous and it doesn’t seem to have affected him psychologically.

Len confided to me, “I fell in love with you when I started Kindergarten, and I remember a yellow jumper which you wore – it had a sort of cable stitch on it.”

Paul “protected” my car in 1951. It was an Austin A40. He said the boys put acorns in the exhaust pipe. I think he was one of the culprits.

Jan remembered that I had a skirt guard on my bike! Funny memories! They all remembered my car.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day. I met one of my friends of that period. He is the Historian of the Rocky River School and of Uralla it seems.

June Shaw (Hadley)

nee Robson 1948-50



June and Len, one of her former pupils.

REUNION PAGE

WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE REUNION 1957/58 YEARS



Standing - Back Row: Bob Anderson, Graeme Shea.

Standing - Middle Row: Aileen Dillon (Phillips), Laurie Orchard, Ken McCubbin, Denis Woodward, Ken Bond, Dale Hell (Lette), Margaret Priest (Smith), Sam Priest.

Seated - Front Row: Jenny Briggs (Mould), Genelle Thomson (Pasman), Cynthia Piper (Sutton), Gwyn Clarke (Hughes), Margaret De La Gare, Judy Woodlands (Steen), Janet Gardner (Cane), Val Woodward (Crossley), Marlene Mebberson (Whilloughby).

Buoyed up by the delights of the 2009 Whitsunday holiday, an enthusiastic contingent of 1957/58 ers gathered in August 2010 for a “bush” experience at Binna Burra Mountain Lodge in the Lamington National Park in Queensland. This park is 800 metres above sea level and comprises Australia’s largest remnant of sub tropical rainforest. Not all from last year’s holiday were able to make it, but others from previous reunions came, including our much loved and respected music lecturer Laurie Orchard and his wife, Penny.

We can thank Bob Anderson for suggesting and organising this get together. His enthusiasm and inclusiveness is so infectious and we couldn’t help but get swept up in the joy of sharing and reminiscing about our exceptional college years.

Arriving on Monday August 23rd at the Mountain Lodge, we gathered by the fireside in the main recreation room to reconnect and to hear what was planned

for the next three days. This beautiful hideaway has been luring bush lovers and walkers since the early 1930s. Many of the lodges have been built from hand cut Tallow Wood sourced from the nearby rainforest. There were walks to suit all levels of bushwalking fitness, and most were eager to set out the following morning.

One 11 km walk took us to the Coomera waterfalls which we viewed from a high platform before descending to the river where we lunched sitting on the large boulders that forded the river. Another walk enjoyed by many led us to the Kweebani Caves. En route we were delighted to sight a mother koala and her young in a eucalypt overhanging the track. We were dwarfed by the enormity of the Tallow Woods, Hoop Pines, Antarctic Beech, ficus, eucalypts, and red cedars to name but a few of the giant trees, and the birds, including whipbirds and bellbirds kept up a constant serenade.

Daytime activities divided us into various groups but the evenings brought us together again when we enjoyed “news time”, great food and a tippie or two. One evening Graeme Shea treated us to a slideshow of our days at college. Old memories, college “confessions” and much laughter ensued — no one nodded off on this slide night! With song sheets at hand, we all chortled some of the famous college choruses led by Maestro Laurence Orchard (who else) and, yes, we wandered off to bed with “Summertime” as our lullaby.

Another account of a very happy reunion completed. But before finishing we want to thank the spouses who shared in the fun so enthusiastically. Full marks to them, and a big thank you again to Bob Anderson for organising and fathering us all so wonderfully well.

“Three Cheers we all agree for W.W.T.C.!”
Cynthia Piper (Sutton)

REUNION PAGE

The Mother Of All Reunions

Mighty things sometimes evolve from seemingly insignificant events. This magnificent reunion happened because a young woman kept a diary, a fellow thought he'd take his Canadian wife to Australia, three fellows had a yarn after a game of golf and a librarian offered her assistance.

A tearful Gwenda Zappert (Starling) wrote in her diary on Monday, December 11 1961 that 'thirteen of the nicest boys in College had been suspended today'. She then went on to name these lovely lads which was great because none of them, in years to come, could remember all who were at that private keg party on Friday December 8. They were: Ken Eggleton, Mick Gow, Don Hammond, Billy Hauville, Ross Hosking, Kev Leys, Mark McCulla, Geoff Peters, Ralph Sadler, Allan Slater, Jack Tierney, Dick Winnett and Ray Writer. Such is the importance of record-keeping!

Mark McCulla went to Canada, as so many of our fellows did, but he became a citizen and married Erna. They thought 2010 might be a good year to visit Australia.

Geoff Peters, Allan Slater and Ross Hosking had a game of golf together and agreed, over a beer later, that it was a shame, nay, an injustice that they and the rest had missed out on graduation all those years ago and wouldn't it be satisfying to do something about it.

After a couple of get-togethers, Beth McLaren approached Ross and pointed out that, not only was Mark McCulla coming back to Australia this year but 2010 was fifty years after we began our WWTC experience. So not only could we honour The Last WWTC Student to Graduate, we could have a Fifty Year celebration. Win-win. Would Ross like some help in the organisation? Beth is an information consultant and a proven finder of people, chaser-upper and organiser so Ross jumped at the chance.

The first reunion was held in 2006 at Broulee and surrounds on the NSW South Coast, as were the subsequent ones. 101 people turned up to watch Billy Hauville, Ross Hosking, Kev



Section 607 1961:

Tony Milne, Russell Cassidy, Joan (Oxley) Gunn, Ronette (Kelly) Hancock, Ray Writer, Beth McLaren, John Buckle, Alan Pymont, Ross Hosking, Bill Murray

Leys, Geoff Peters, Allan Slater, Jack Tierney, Dick Winnett and Ray Writer 'graduate', receiving a certificate and a bottle of Charles Sturt red from lecturer and old friend, Ray Petts. Ronnie Hancock (Kelly), SRC secretary in 1961, produced a magnificent cake and a folder for each of the graduates.

Ralph Sadler and Mick Gow were available in 2008 and a smaller, but still lively, group of 51 witnessed the proceedings. This left Mark McCulla as the last to 'graduate'. Ken Eggleton and Don Hammond, sadly, are deceased.

A few things were learned at these reunions. First, many people our age or about are ready for a gathering. Second, there must be events over a few days to warrant the journey and give people time to re-connect. Thirdly, these are teachers we are talking about, multi-talented and used to organising. Use them! Fourthly, vary the activities so that people can enjoy themselves (outrageously even) but still have the more formal occasion for matters of respect and honour. So Beth and Ross set to. It has to be stressed that we had 211 people for this reunion and of that number, 121 were actual students of the

1960-61 cohort. So if you look at the previous numbers you can see we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Beth. About twenty had been to the previous reunions who couldn't attend this one and there were many apologies because of illness, grandchildren being born and planned trips unable to be postponed, so it was a magnificent effort from 1960-61. Beth rounded them up from Canada to North Queensland and we had contact with people in Holland, Darwin, WA and elsewhere. All this from a cohort of seven sections. As well, seven ex-lecturers honoured us with their presence and we welcomed Bill Birrell, Bob Huntsman, Laurie Orchard, Betty Robertson (Keech), Helen Smith, Mike Smith and June Whittaker.

This reunion (and it has to be the final one of such a scale) took place primarily in the Batemans Bay-Broulee-Moruya area on Tuesday March 9, Wednesday March 10 and Thursday March 11. Day 1 was registration and a barbecue at Tomakin Club. Day 2 was given over to a Thanksgiving Service at the Moruya Uniting Church, tours of Old Mogo Town Gold Theme Park and a memorabilia display at Captain Oldrey

REUNION PAGE

Park Broulee. That night there was a dinner at the Batemans Bay Services Club followed by singing, dancing and skits. Day 3 featured a variety of activities such as golf, tennis, bowls, a moderate coastal walk, a testing walk to Mt Dromedary and a Clyde River Cruise to Nelligen. That night there was a 'formal' dinner at the Moruya Golf Club. Gaudeamus was sung heartily, Grace was said and Beth McLaren moved a toast to 'absent friends'—those of our number who have passed on. Our SRC representatives from 1961, John Buckle and Ronnie Hancock (Kelly) spoke entertainingly and sometimes nostalgically. Two much-admired lecturers from our time, Mike Smith and June Whittaker, regaled us with anecdotes and observations we would never had heard fifty years ago.

The highlight of the evening was the 'graduation' of Mark McCulla. He was escorted to the stage by the woman who was supposed to be his grad partner in 1961, Joan Hosking (Crakanthorp) and he then became the "Last WWTC Student to Graduate". The 'Principal' who completed this important act was John Sutton. John also gave a "Sorry Speech" which would have made Kevin Rudd proud! Mark then turned around and, with additional speeches from Adele Persi (Bolton) and Col Kohlhagen, presented Ross and Beth (plus long-suffering spouses Joan and Phil) with some handsome presents for their efforts—Charles Sturt wines, Italian wine glasses, book vouchers, other vouchers and beautiful native flower corsages. It was very touching and unexpected.

There were also two massive cards organised by Jack Tierney and signed by almost everybody. Bottles of Charles Sturt red were meted out to the deserving and a donated painting from Lionel Gailer, a lecturer of our time, was bought by the Whittakers after some strong bidding. Any monies raised in this fashion (and we raised \$1,482) was sent to the building fund at Charles Sturt, in the hope there will be a WWTC dormitory. We would like to see 'Myrtle' in front of that dormitory with a proper 'lamp of learning' globe rather than the inappropriate spherical one she currently bears!



Lecturers: Mike Smith, June Whittaker, Betty (Keech) Robertson, Bill Birrell (seated)

It is a delightful thing to organise a reunion for teachers, particularly ex-Wagga ones! They are responsible citizens, wonderful people and many used those organisational skills and special talents to make this reunion the huge success it undoubtedly was. So thank you to the following people for their contributions; they were very much appreciated.

1. Jim Shearing for initiating the idea that people could write brief autobiographies and these could be collected. Beth McLaren did the 'heavy lifting' here and compiled over 100 of these. It is fascinating to see the lives and careers and how varied they were. Copies have been sent to the archives.
2. Allan Slater—great t-shirts.
3. Col Kohlhagen—the dromedary walk and, with Jill, the presents for Ross and Beth.
4. Dave Martin—memorable MC.
5. Beth McLaren—Nelligen Cruise.
6. Ross Hosking—golf.
7. Vince Fisher—bowls.
8. Ross Hosking—Old Mogo Town Tours.
9. Laurel Simmonds (Quarmby)—coastal walk.
10. Joan Hosking (Crakanthorp) — playing the organ and Kay Killick (Harris) and Brian Killick for setting up the church.
11. Rev John Buckle for conducting the service.
12. Frank Leonard—providing the sound system and a fine singing voice.
13. Ralph Sadler, John Sutton, Norma

Fowler, Brian Keast, Ross Hosking and Bill Murray (and what's left of "The Collegians") for delighting us all with music, parody, skits and verse.

14. Bob Haskew—really professional recording of this reunion and others and terrific DVD's.

15. Brian Keast—tennis.

16. Ray Petts—bringing the Charles Sturt wines and providing professional 'graduation' certificates.

17. All those volunteers who helped at Captain Oldrey oval and in all those little ways I may have neglected to mention.

It is pleasing that the reunions have sparked up old friendships and contacts have been maintained. We thank 'Talkabout' for their significant contribution.

And my apologies for speaking about myself in the third person!

Ross Hosking 1960-61.



*The Organisers:
Beth McLaren and Ross Hosking*

COLLEGE MEMORIES

Cathy at Teachers College

Early in 1947 my High School friend, Maureen O'Neil (now Hathaway) and I were appointed to Wagga Wagga Teachers College. Enrolment was deferred to March, then April and finally to May. We set off by train from Sydney, hopefully to become teachers after 2 years. We arrived at Wagga station at about 5.10 am where a friendly taxi driver was waiting to drive the two and a half miles to the College. The single storied building was just visible out of the gloom. There, Miss Wylie, Women's Warden and History Lecturer, escorted us to our room which we were to share with Margaret Moore.

At first sight I thought "this is a nice big room", and so it was, being uncluttered by any furniture other than the three single beds. We tumbled into these and were asleep in seconds. Awake we decided to unpack, but where? Our cases went under the beds where they stayed for many weeks. It quickly became common practice to hang our frocks from the picture rails and I don't think anybody complained; after all we had grown up during the war years and were used to shortages.

On that first Sunday, one of the students, Ed Rascal asked anyone interested in a game of tennis to go to the tennis courts. Quite a few went across and although Ed called me a "little girl" (which miffed me somewhat) I stayed and played and, like everyone else, thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and we began to learn each other's names.

The staff had their meals in the dining room with the students – poor things, but if they did complain, we were unaware of it. We were expected to look neat and tidy – jeans and joggers hadn't been invented. Blinky Bill (the Principal) insisted on sports jackets for the boys but in the summer of the

second year they refused to comply one Saturday at midday and a small step towards freedom was taken. Meals in the dining room, with tables of six, were provided by a succession of cooks (the term chef, unheard of in those days) and at best were edible and rarely on time – I think the record wait was 90 minutes – but a plentiful supply of bread, butter and milk was always on the table. Bread, butter and pepper alleviated the pangs of hunger while we waited. Imagine the consequences! With no mirrors or scales we didn't notice our changing shapes.

Ray Pople, our Music Lecturer loved music and tried to ensure all students enjoyed the lectures. He decided to produce "The Gondoliers" and called a meeting of interested students. The cast was assembled and rehearsals commenced. Because we all lived on the Campus no travelling was involved and he had a captive audience.

It was a great production enjoyed by the cast and the audience, ready on time but, sadly, the Gym wasn't. Eventually the Gym was completed and the production went ahead to the delight of all. Costumes for performance were hired. Later on we performed "Trial by Jury" and "Pinafore" both of which were a great success. Ray won fame too by owning the very first car to be parked in the College grounds. The Gym provided a wonderful area for P.E. classes, badminton and table tennis which led to the introduction of "Round the Table" after dinner on summer nights. And how we enjoyed the Saturday night dances.

Some months after our arrival while we were at lectures, a dressing table with mirror was delivered for Miss Web, the librarian. It was left in the covered way and gasps of horror filled the air as the girls looked at themselves – "I'm not that fat"; "Yes you are" the waiting throng replied. Help was at hand in the form of Matron who had just arrived. This forthright body told us that things

were going to change; and change they did. Barley water replaced the jug of milk and the bread and butter disappeared from the tables, though the pepper stayed. One evening Maureen and I strolled past the kitchen and the cook appeared saying "That was a terrible meal, wasn't it girls?" It was but we forbore to say so and meekly obeyed when he ordered "Stay here". He soon emerged with a large paper bag (no plastic in those days) which we graciously accepted and scuttled back to the dormitory to share the contents with our friends. Finally a tuck shop was opened which sold essentials such as soap and soap powder and, of course food. I never tasted the meat pies, though they smelled so appetizing in the Winter but the sight of the green interior made it easy to abstain. The proprietor cheerfully replaced them with a fresher (hopefully) variety.

Practice teaching was an exciting time and most of the students loved to go to distant places; Lockhart and The Rock were particularly popular. Buses filled with song took us to our destinations and home again. We played in the Town sporting competitions; the girls in net ball and Cricko (an awful game) and the boys in football in two weight divisions. Thus I saw my first football game, and washed my first football jumper (white of all colours – I hope they have since changed).

Towards the end of the College year, Eric Hawcroft, our PE Lecturer, decided to organize a trip to the snow. Maureen, Fish, Shirley Brown and I promptly put our names down. The day finally came and the bus proprietor provided us with a new bus - it was so comfortable.

None of us, including Eric, had ever seen snow and when we eventually saw the first light sprinkling of snow we called out "stop the bus!". Doug, the driver, wisely ignored the calls and travelled on until we came upon snow that was thick and far reaching. There

COLLEGE MEMORIES

we stopped and had a snow fight – what fun! By now the snow was becoming a problem and much later than planned we finally reached Hotel Kosciuszko, unable to proceed to “The Chalet” because of the thick snow. Our intrepid leader Eric entered the hotel to see what he could do. How he did it I never knew but we were to be accommodated for the princely sum of ten shillings each – sighs of relief. I remember the hot water and more importantly the dinner. We four found a table and were waited on by a sweet young waitress. I’ve forgotten the first course but remember the dessert – apple pie and fresh cream – I am sure we were given seconds; can you imagine that after College meals? Everyone had to hire skis and boots. There weren’t quite enough boots to go around so Shirley, who had politely waited until last was provided with the last two boots – of different sizes. I can’t recall how we got to the Chalet the next day but we made it and had the most marvellous time.

Alas time flies when you are having fun and time for departure soon arrived. The snow was too deep for the bus so those who wanted to could ski down to the Hotel, and the rest, mainly the injured, went in a contraption called an ice box. Eric, much to his chagrin was one of these as he had injured his knee. The skiers were to travel in pairs and Edgar McMicking kindly accompanied me. Once we were some distance from the Chalet the snow became scarce and only patches were suitable for skiing. I think the distance was about 13 miles and as we reached each crest Ed would say “This may be the last one” until finally it was. Quite a number of the boys were already at the Hotel and Murray Millar was giving them a rum to warm them up. When Ed and I arrived (I was the first girl) Ed may have had a rum but all agreed that I couldn’t but I did get a drink. Doug drove the train travellers to Yass railway station where

we were greeted by a roaring fire while we waited for the train.

It was a wonderful 2 years; our lecturers were enthusiastic and the College was off to a fine start. It certainly was close to our Principal’s heart (he was rather irreverently called “Blinky Bill”). He christened us “The Pioneers” and the name lingered on for many years. Maureen was appointed to a 2 teacher school, Fish to National Fitness and I to an Intermediate High school teaching PE. I did love it and taught for 3 years before resigning to begin a new life as wife and mother.

Many years later I accompanied our youngest daughter to her Graduation. Vic Couch was there and as we walked towards him, Margaret said “that’s Vic Couch mum, I will introduce you to him” To her amazement he called out “Hello Cathy!”. Daughter was dumbfounded and after we parted said “How does he remember you after all these years”? “The power of the Pioneers, Margaret” I smugly replied.

What a wonderful 2 years! Thank you friends of 47 – 49!

Cathy (Smith) O’Donnell (1947-49)

In Memoriam
*Years go by, memories stay
As near and dear as yesterday.*

John Heffernan
1949-50 February 2010

Dorothy Fogarty
1948-50 September 2010

Michael Gow
1960-61 October 2010

APOLOGY

In the July Talkabout the maiden name of Ralph Bryant’s wife was inadvertently given as O’Sullivan. Her maiden name was O’Halloran and the mistake was not picked up in the proof reading. I apologise to anyone who was offended by the error.

Lindsay Budd.

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HALL OF FAME

June Whittaker (Scott) 1947-49 prepared this article for the 1960-61 reunion which was held in March 2010.

She has given permission for it to be reproduced in Talkabout.

VIVAT ACADEMIA

Around Christmas 1958, George Blakemore invited me to join the staff of WWTC. Then he dropped dead! Nevertheless, I joined the College staff in time for the new year, and became the first student of



WWTC to take up a lectureship at WWTC.

My acquaintance with the College went back to May 1947 when, aged sixteen, I was one of 150 pioneer students of whom half were returned servicemen. As the only child of elderly parents, I had enough common sense not to mention ex-servicemen in my letters home. Rules and regulations were proclaimed on Day One: no absence from base (i.e. old RAAF barracks) without a signed leave of absence, all pubs and clubs out of bounds ... The ex-servicemen couldn't believe their ears; they rose as one in angry rebellion! To everyone's delight, the proclamation

was rescinded and a kind of imperfect freedom reigned.

I should mention that one of those ex-servicemen was Mervyn Whittaker, who had served in New Guinea and with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan. We were allocated the same table for meals prepared by World War II refugees newly arrived from Bonegilla Refugee Camp. They spoke no English. God knows what they thought of us!

Merv and I married in 1952. My room-mate, Beth Denton, was my bridesmaid, and I was her matron of honour a few months later when she too married a fellow student, Arthur Smith. Beth and I remain best friends.

Back to 1959 – a very good year for all concerned, and especially so for the Rugby Seconds who won the Reserve Grade Championship on the day my son was born. After a celebratory drink down town, and understandably just a little foxed, the full team came up to visit me. Sitting all over my hospital bed, draped over the furniture or lying on the floor, they gifted me a big bottle of beer and a full run-down on the match. Not long after, the new Principal, George Muir, announced he had been promoted and transferred.

His successor was to be Maurice Hale. Some older, more informed members of staff immediately enquired about the possibility of a transfer for themselves. Ho! Hum! I thought, there is still rugby union, good mates amongst the staff, and rewarding professional relationships with students. Living so close to the College, our house was to provide a refuge for the many who fell foul of the curfew and other draconian dictates, or believed they might not survive a breath test.

Obsessed with a desire to travel, Merv and I both resigned in May 1962 and, with our young family, shipped out. Armed with a reference from Maurie Hale, which spoke mainly of my superb skills in preparing a nice morning tea for VIPs visiting his College, I told myself I'd get a teaching job somewhere. This proved right: a very happy time lay ahead at Etonbury Secondary, England and at Montreal High, Quebec.

After a few years abroad we made a successful return flight to Wagga. Successful in that we found we had made enough money for Merv to buy a small aircraft and for me to buy a big grand piano! My previous position at WWTC had remained unfilled. I was not offered reinstatement: Mr Hale advised he had nothing against me professionally, but wanted someone "younger and more amenable"! At 34, I felt *so old! But oh, how the Gods loved me at that time!* For, soon after this rejection, I received a telegram directing me to the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) as Lecturer in History and Government.

ASOPA was on Middle Head just around from Taronga Park Zoo. My office overlooked Sydney Harbour. At our initial meeting, the Principal told me "there are no hours of work ... as long as you're here when the whips are cracking ... you can give as many lectures as you like, and when you like ... make sure you leave some days free to do your research, and publishing, and stuff like that ... if you're not effective, our mature-age students will soon let you know! Ha! ha!"

ASOPA was a child of the Australian Government, under the Department of Foreign Affairs. All the staff were eminent in their particular field, jealous of their professional freedom,

HALL OF FAME

and demanding of the same freedoms and privileges for their students.

I had never struck anything like it. It was a centre of unremitting stimulation from other staff members, from the flow of eminent people passing through, and not least from its students. Staff joked to one another: "Is it true that we actually get paid for doing this?"

Until PNG gained Independence, ASOPA trained Australians to work in PNG as patrol officers opening up hitherto uncontrolled territory, or as magistrates, or as secondary school teachers. Australians were also trained to work in Aboriginal settlements in the Northern Territory as primary school teachers or as advisers for the Aboriginal communities.

As time went on, the objectives of ASOPA changed to meet changing needs of the Third World. In the early 'seventies, Papua New Guineans were brought to ASOPA for training in Public Administration so that they could take over Public Service positions from expatriates. As Senior Lecturer and Department Head, I had opportunities for regular travel in PNG, South Pacific Islands, countries of South East Asia, and China. The most significant of my many publications were those relating to New Guinea history (Jacaranda Press).

In 1980 my work for AIDAB (now AUSAID) took a new twist when I became Director for longer-term regional training programmes. Even more travel was involved, particularly throughout Southern Africa. Last year I was awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) "for service to international relations".

Throughout the 'eighties, I was history consultant for Old Sydney Town, as well as visiting lecturer at other tertiary institutions such as the

Army Officers' Training School and Universities. I began to write historical novels set in colonial Australia. Two were published by A&R in 1981 and 1983; a third and fourth in 2000, and a documentary early last year.

I had accepted my appointment to ASOPA cautiously, agreeing to an appointment for one year only. I stayed for 28 years. In 1993 I retired. Merv had taken early retirement from his position as Principal of North Balgowlah and for over a decade had



been working in civil aviation, training student-pilots in flight theory, as well as managing the hiring of aircraft. We came south to a small acreage (100ac.) beside a pretty trout stream, 30ks from Tumbarumba. It was once owned by Merv's grandparents who called it "the home block". Alas, the old home had fallen down years before, so we had to build.

Here, we are not quite "back to Wagga", but close enough. Merv brought me here on the back of his Harley Davidson to visit his grandparents when we were students of WWTC!

June Whittaker

COMING EVENTS

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The next quarterly meeting of the Alumni Association will be held at 11 am on: Tuesday 9th November, 2010. The meeting will be held at: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre. 37 Reservoir Street Surry Hills. All welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th February, 2011. The meeting will be held at: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre. 37 Reservoir Street Surry Hills. All welcome.

WWTC ALUMNI LUNCHEONS

The Alumni luncheons are held on the 3rd Tuesday in February, May, August and November .

The next one will be the Christmas luncheon and will be held at the Icons Restaurant in the Marriott Hotel, Pitt Street Sydney (near the Quay) on: Tuesday 16th November, 2010.

For bookings contact Lindsay Budd on 9601 3003 a week before.

A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

John Francis Heffernan 1949-50.

Hi Lew,

I have been asked by my mother Margaret Heffernan to send you a copy of my father John Heffernan's eulogy and an accompanying picture, for inclusion in the next publication of Talkabout. It will mean a great deal to Mum to have this added and your assistance is truly appreciated.

The eulogy was prepared and delivered by my eldest brother Paul and was a fitting tribute.

Many thanks,

Peter Heffernan.



Over these years Dad taught each of his six children. For me personally, he was the only teacher I had until I went off to high school at St Michael's. He was much loved as a teacher by all his former students. He had a great passion for History and Poetry and he had an amazing memory for historical facts. At one stage he started a degree in History at New England University, but six children put an end to that. His final years of teaching were spent as Deputy Principal of Turvey Park Public School. He taught in the classroom right up until his retirement in 1991. He loved the involvement with the kids.

Dad had many passions in life, but his greatest love was reserved for his family, especially his beloved wife Margaret, his children and his grand children. He doted on his grandchildren and they worshipped him. He made each one feel special and always had a cheeky remark to make them laugh. He never took himself too seriously with anyone. Even though he spent most of his life living inland he loved his trips to the coast. He really enjoyed taking Mum up the coast to Nelson Bay. Dad loved a beer and he loved his seafood. Unfortunately his prawns had to come from the local fish co-op. He was also a keen fisherman, but the 'big one' always got away.

In his retirement years he stayed very involved in the local church and community. He spent many hours delivering food parcels and working in the shop for the St Vincent de Paul. One of his great strengths was his compassion for people less fortunate than himself. Dad touched many people throughout his lifetime and while the last year was difficult he was never one to complain, maintaining his sharp sense of humour to the end.

Dad passed away on 9th February 2010.

Thank you all for coming to celebrate Dad's life.

It's very difficult to sum up such a rich and rewarding life with a few words. You will all have your own special memories of Dad, but I'll try to tell you some of the memories that stand out for me.

Dad was born in Tamworth in 1931 where he spent his early years. He came from a large family of five boys who all predeceased him and his much loved little sister Marie. From there he completed his secondary education at St Bonaventure's in Waverly and at St Anthony's at Robertson in the Southern Highlands. Dad spent all his high school years with his brother Jim. Jim was the sporting star and Dad was the academic student. He would often reminisce about doing Jim's assignments while Jim was off starring in the school sports teams.

After school Dad had a brief flirtation with the priesthood and lasted nine months into his noviciate. Luckily for his five sons and daughter and his grandchildren he did not take up the calling. After twelve months working at Sam Brown's Menswear in Tamworth, he enrolled in primary school teaching

at Wagga Teachers' College where he met his beloved wife Margaret (nee Pollard).

In 1951 he took up his first school appointment at Ward's Mistake in the New England which he later called John's Mistake. His only entertainment was shooting rabbits and snakes on the walk to and from school. His boarding conditions were primitive to say the least.

Dad lasted two years before getting a transfer to Hay where he finally married mum and started a family. After a few years in Hay and the birth of their first three children he was appointed as Principal at a one teacher school at Swan Creek, near Grafton. For the next fourteen years he worked as Principal in the small schools of Swan Creek, Dalton and Uranquinty. At each of these schools the Heffernan family lived in the residence attached to the school. The Uranquinty Public School Centenary History booklet commemorated Dad and his family's seven year tenure at Quinty by noting that the school residence had to be demolished after we moved out!! Luckily Mum and Dad had bought their house in Ashmont Avenue by then.

NEWS FROM CSU

University Advancement Unit

In the beginning of 2010 the unit previously known as “Alumni/University Relations” was renamed the “University Advancement Unit”, which is concerned with creating and promoting an awareness of and support for the university’s academic and research achievements and building the reputation of the University within Australia and around the world.

University Advancement encompasses a range of functions aimed at building effective relationships with key stakeholders such as alumni, donors, business, professions, government and communities, to communicate and grow the University’s reputation as well as build financial sustainability.

The functions of University Advancement encompass three main discipline areas:-

- **Alumni Relations** – membership program; alumni associations; chapters/societies; social & professional networking and events
- **Communications** - public relations; media; newsletters; marketing & recruitment activities and events
- **Development** - fundraising (bequests, scholarships, awards, prizes, annual giving, capital giving, major gifts); donor relations; corporate/industry relations; community relations; government relations; stewardship

Further to this, the Advancement Unit has also welcomed some new members to the fold.

Mr Jayson Hanrahan has joined CSU as Manager, University Advancement and CEO Charles Sturt Foundation. He brings with him a wealth of experience in philanthropic management and marketing, having worked with a range of not-for profit organisations, including Guide Dogs Australia, the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, the Adelaide Festival Corporation and the Organising Committee for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

The Advancement Unit is also supported by a small team of dedicated professional staff:

- Development Officer, Danielle Ballinger-Responsible for developing and coordinating University wide Advancement activities.
- Faculty Advancement Officer, Gina Jessett, Education and Business-Responsible to design, coordinate, implement and support stakeholder activities at a faculty level.
- Research and Systems Officer, Michelle Fawkes-Responsible for the development and day to day management of the University Advancement System.
- Foundation Officer, Tracy Andrew-Responsible for administrative duties associated with scholarships applications, donations, bequests and pledges.

Honorary Naming of the Wagga Alumni Teachers’ Association Lodge (WATAL)

The Advancement Unit extends heartfelt congratulations to all members of the Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association (WWTAA) for the recent honorary naming of “The WATAL” at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. This honorary naming celebrates the historic significance of the Wagga Wagga Teachers’ College and recognises the continuing contribution and support of the WWTAA to Charles Sturt Foundation and Charles Sturt University. The occasion was marked on Thursday 23 September by the unveiling of a plaque at Building 381 and the planting of a tree by the attending members of the WWTAA. An afternoon tea, hosted by the Chancellor, followed the honorary naming and provided the attendees an opportunity to bring the past and the present together at this occasion of celebration and commemoration.

Problem with July Talkabout Mailout

We extend our apologies for the confusion experienced in the July 2010 mailout of Talkabout. Unfortunately our software which collates the mass mail outs mixed up the first names of the mailing list and so people received the newsletter to the correct address and the correct surname, but a different first/Christian name. We appreciate your patience and understanding regarding this matter.

As has always been the case, the Advancement Unit is your point of contact for information regarding reunions, change of address details, Alumni events, donations, pledges or any other Alumni related matter you would like further clarification on.

Please contact Gina Jessett on 02 6338 4680 or email to gjessett@csu.edu.au

NEWS FROM CSU

- **Charles Sturt University Students work as mentors with refugee students**

In Semester one 2010 eighteen Faculty of Education students volunteered to work as tutor/mentors for Refugee students enrolled at Wagga High School. This involved them tutoring students, in class, for three hours each week, attending debriefing sessions at the school and contributing reflections on their learning to the Refugee Assistance Scheme wiki. All involved in the program, the students from CSU and WW High and the school staff, report of the success of the strong network of support and learning that has developed. In Semester two students from the Humanities (Social Work) faculty joined the program and were trained as tutor/mentors along with more Education students. This opportunity for sharing learning across faculties and nations is a valuable development.

- **The Faculty of Education supports rural pre-service teachers to undertake international experiences during their degree**

The Faculty of Education has established a grant scheme to encourage pre-service teachers to undertake a teaching placement in an international context during their degree. As a result of involvement in an overseas school experience, it is expected that student-teachers will acquire a greater appreciation and understanding of schooling in a different cultural setting; an increased understanding of teaching children with language backgrounds other than English; increased capacity to reflect on their teaching practices; and increased intercultural competence. Around 70% of the graduates from the Faculty of Education go on to take up teaching appointments in rural settings. Their overseas experience builds the intercultural competence of the rural education workforce. In 2010 programs have been developed that provided the opportunity for students to undertake placements/study tours to Vanuatu, Thailand, Korea, India and America.



- **Bringing cultural diversity to rural schools**

The Faculty of Education works with regional school communities to deliver study programs for staff and students from international universities. In September 2010 8 staff and students from the University of Yamagata, Japan participated in an Australian school visit program. The visitors ran a cultural day at the Rock Central School teaching students aspects of Japanese culture. They also visited Wagga Public School and Wagga High school. The program provides the Japanese delegates with an insight into the way education is delivered in Australia. It brings Australian students into contact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.



The School of Education also encourages international students to complete aspects of their degree in Australia. In 2010 two students from the Uni of Gothenburg visited Wagga to complete their final degree project for their teaching degree on the subject of "Outdoor Education".

- **AVID Dallas Summer Institute 2010**

The Faculty of Education also supports pre-service teachers to attend international conferences and develop links with global initiatives to improve the educational participation of those not traditionally represented in higher education. In 2010 staff and students from the Murray School of Education attended the Summer Institute of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) training in Dallas, USA. They joined over 2,000 teachers in exploring the elements and successes of the AVID program, now in its 30th year in the US. Each year Bachelor of Education (Middle Years) degree students are invited to submit an application to participate in this program and successful students are selected to attend based on the caliber of their written application.

AVID is a program that helps equip students for entry into and success at tertiary level studies. It is a voluntarily joined program that combines academic rigor; high teacher expectation; researched techniques; a focus on literacy skills; critical and reflective thinking; and strong organizational strategies to support students as they work towards their post-secondary careers. The AVID program is specifically designed to help students 'in the middle' (those with unrealized academic potential); students from families with no history of tertiary education attendance; students from low socio-economic backgrounds; and students from under-represented minorities.

The AVID program is being used by over 400,000 students in the USA. The program has been adopted by the Wodonga Middle Years College. On their return from the AVID program Charles Sturt University students act as tutors in the Wodonga Middle Years College AVID program.

To find out more about the AVID program, please go to <http://www.avid.org/intro.html>



The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association



KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2010 TO SECURE THE FUTURE

The Scholarship Fund has been closed with a grand total of \$60,000. Congratulations to all our contributors! This means that we can award Scholarships to a total of \$6,000 annually. We also have a further \$11,423 which will be contributed towards our next Fundraising project.

You will note that our Association is now known as the Wagga Wagga Teachers' Alumni Association as all graduates of W.W.T.C., Riverina C.A.E., Riverina Murray I.H.E. and the C.S.U. Campus have been invited to join our ranks.

The next stage of the W.W.T.A.A. fundraising is still to be confirmed. The Committee is still considering the options with providing student accommodation on the Wagga Wagga Campus a high priority. However, while we consider the best way to move forward, we encourage you to continue supporting the WWTAA and we hope that the past generosity will remain strong. With the anticipated swell in numbers, a student accommodation cottage would be a fitting memorial to all those who have graduated from Wagga Wagga.

**All donations should be made payable to the Charles Sturt Foundation at:-
Charles Sturt University, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795**

As you know, we pay for the printing of TALKABOUT as well as the cost of postage. Each edition of Talkabout costs approx. \$3,500. It has therefore been decided that an annual contribution of \$10 per member is required and that this will fall due at the time of the March "Talkabout".

**Talkabout contributions should go directly to the Treasurer of the WWT Alumni Association:-
Lindsay Budd, 4 Flemington Close, Casula NSW 2170.
If you require a receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.**

To help cut costs you can opt to receive your "Talkabout" by email. Simply tick the box on the bottom of your contribution form. The Advancement Unit will appreciate your help very much. The University over the years has been a great supporter of the Association and will continue to provide volunteers to carry out the mailing of Talkabout.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the University Advancement Unit on 02 6338 4680

**Here is my donation to WWTAA Fundraising.
Donations over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTABLE.**

My donation for 2010 is: \$ _____

Please find my cheque for \$ _____

OR please debit my credit card for \$ _____

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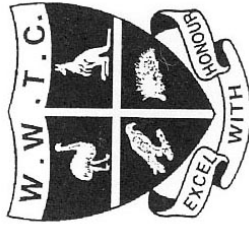
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I would prefer to receive my Talkabout
by email

November 2010
Volume 13 No 3



November 2010
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