



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE ALUMNI OF  
WAGGA TEACHERS

# TALKABOUT



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November 2016



From the roof of the Administration Block, looking south-east towards a classroom block 1969

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Celebration of the Life of Ann Rae Smith

On 21<sup>st</sup> October Lesley and I attended Sacred Heart Church in Westmead for the service to celebrate the life of Ann Smith (Broadhead 1947/49). Ann was the true foundation stone for bringing together so many of our alumni to form the WWTCAA. She traced over 2800 addresses to provide the basis for our current data base which serves to unite our fellow college students from 1947 to 1971. Our condolences go to Julie, David and Peter and their families who identified Ann's journey from the daughter of the Post Office Manager at Bungonia to teacher, mother, super sleuth, parish archivist and historian and the family genealogist. She was a true lady of the community. We also extend our appreciation to John Cassidy, a fellow parishioner of Ann, for organising a wreath on behalf of the WWCTAA.

### Sliding Doors and Pathways

It is great to have such a number and variety of the paths which have been trodden by those graduates of our College being forwarded to our Editor for publication in *Talkabout*. From our 1965-67 reunion we have been able to compile over 150 stories as personal biographies of the students who entered and attended WWTC during these years. This book of over 140 pages will become, like *Talkabout*, an historical document and join CSU Regional Archives in Wagga with other biographical compendiums from our peers. Keep those biographies and stories coming.

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## EDITOR



Welcome to our third edition of *Talkabout* for 2016. As always I am sure that you will find some special moments in the stories and memories that others have written.

With publication of this edition we have included all but one articles submitted this year. This means I need a stack of new articles for the next issue. So, now is the time to put your fingers to the keyboards, send us your story - past, present and future. Don't delay any longer. All contributions welcome.

When submitting articles please consider sending along photos as they add to the story. A recent photo of the author/writer would be very much appreciated as it helps when introducing the story or article.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxed festive season and look forward to receiving your articles early in the new year.

**Brian Powyer**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd

### 2017 WWTC Celebration

The August *Talkabout* identified a proposed itinerary of events for the **2017 70 Year Celebration** of WWTC. Members were asked to consider the format and put forward other suggestions for the committee to ponder. It is hoped that the format will have a mix of formal events to recognise the contribution that WWTC and Education have made to Wagga as well as social reunion opportunities for the various cohorts. We also asked for the assistance of year group coordinators/volunteers to become involved in the planning. It would seem that the format proposed has a general acceptance and it now becomes a case of refining the activities in association with the Marketing / Alumni Division of CSU. **Please reserve the dates 27<sup>th</sup> October to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017** and make this a great celebration and reunion event. From early 2017 we shall be compiling definitive lists of those people attending to assist in venue selection and catering. It is anticipated that some funds from our association will be allocated to defray personal expenses. **Will you be there?**

### Archives

Thanks are extended to those members who are involved in a "de-cluttering" process and forwarding those pieces of WWTC and early teaching memorabilia for inclusion into CSU Archives.

One can reflect and reminisce with a few of those early readers and teaching guidelines and suggestions for art and craft. Please keep up the good work and consider the legacy we can leave on south campus. Material can be forwarded directly to CSU Regional Archives for their consideration and inclusion. Don't forget to check out the website by typing in **CSURA** on your search engine.

### Please Note:

Finally, in keeping this report brief, Lesley and I will have a change of address come November as we have decided that a return to a country lifestyle is more attractive than being swallowed up and overshadowed by the proliferation of high rise unit buildings in our current neighbourhood.

12 Silky Oak Rise KEW. NSW 2439  
Mob: 0408 587 065 or 0439 682 237

Being the final *Talkabout* for 2016 I wish you all well. Enjoy your Christmas, family and friends and may 2017 be the year you achieve another goal either in retirement or on the way to retirement. I can recommend it.



**Bruce Forbes**  
President

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

WWTCAA members are reminded that your annual membership fee for 2017 is now due. Full details of membership types and fees are included at the rear of this edition. To ensure that you receive your copies of *Talkabout* next year please renew your membership by 1 April 2017. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund and/or Digital Archives Project can be made at the same time. Thank You.

## ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK - Lesley Forbes



It has been a hectic time at the Forbes' household in recent weeks with our move from Point Fredrick to

Kew. Hopefully things will be back to normal by Christmas.

### **Bernadette Wright (Hogan 65-66)**

Thank you for thinking of me when you visited Marian. They are so far away and contacts are few and far between. When we lived in Adelaide and so often had to make that interminable trip back to Canberra, I sometimes sent a text message as we passed through Narrandera. I haven't been to the new house yet but it sounds lovely.

Our Ipai friendships are all still in excellent order and that is mainly due to the good old Christmas cards when we were all scattered to the four corners of NSW. We seem to have been in touch much more frequently since we retired, which is great.

Jim's health continues to deteriorate and our European holiday was not without its challenges. Still, there were many positives and we have to be grateful for many things. You never know what is around the corner.

Jan Salter attended the reunion in good health and was shocked to learn, a few weeks ago, that she needed open heart surgery. All seems well now but it was a very scary time. We all get up in the morning and just expect that we will go to bed at night as normal. It is not always so.

Trusting this finds you both in fine form and congratulations

again on that magnificent reunion effort.

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

While I was saddened to read of the passing of Nick Best in the August issue of *Talkabout*, I enjoyed reading Kevin Riolo's tribute to him. Like Kevin, I have many great memories of Nick from the time we spent teaching together at Oak Flats High School in the late 60s and early 70s. One particular story involved Nick hosting a barbecue for his in-laws. With the T-bones sizzling away on the hot plate, Nick decided that it was time for him to make a quick trip to the nearby hotel to buy a case of beer. While he was away, his father-in-law was entrusted with the job of finishing off the steaks. Nick returned a short time later and was told by his father-in-law that the steaks were ready and that he had marinated them with some red wine which he found nearby. Imagine Nick's reaction when he discovered that the wine used as a marinade was one of the finest from his cellar. This was just one of the many tales which Nick loved to tell.

### **Graham Wright (63-64)**

Thank you for determining what I owed for the subscription for *Talkabout*. This morning I transferred funds to the WWTCAA account. My thanks again for forwarding the two most recent issues and for your continued efforts with the organisation. I know that there are many people who derive much benefit and pleasure from the Alumni.

**Janice Sunderland (Durham 61-62)** To all the hardworking people who produce *Talkabout* – thank you so much for all your hard work.

### **Terry Burke (1958-59)**

What a great job you do! I always read each *Talkabout* with great interest as they bring back many happy memories for me of 1958/1959, Ipai, W.W.T.C, and all of those wonderful people of those years, but also of all of the graduates of WWTC, many of whom I got to meet over the years, who contributed so much to education in this state.

Although I have not been a regular attendee in the past, I hope to be there in October next year.

Congratulations and thank you for what you do.

### **Kay Durham (68-69)**

Thank you for all the work you and Bruce do for the Alumni. It's a massive effort. Well done.

### **Jenny Atkins (Livett 56-57)**

My dear Jack died on 21 July while I was away on holidays. Our son and family were also away so the Funeral was not held until 2 August. It was a wonderful service - over 100 attended. We are thankful that he had been in excellent care and is suffering no more.

### **Jenny Briggs (Mould 57-58)**

Lesley – thank you!

Received latest *Talkabout* yesterday by 'snail mail' – had to fight my husband off for first read! When we are both finished I pass it on to Vera Swan. You may have known her as the librarian at WWTC in your time there. She is a resident here at 'The Grange Retirement Village', and of course the widow of our beloved Keith (aka



## ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK Cont'd

'Swanee'). I am hoping the enclosed cheque will see me through a couple more years' membership and maybe will meet up with you here in Wagga Wagga in October 2017.

### Cynthia Piper (Sutton 57-58)

Dear Brian, Bruce and Lesley, Thank you all for the work you do to keep us all informed, entertained and 'in touch'... I do enjoy my hard copy and refer to them from time to time ... wonderful memories.

### Bruce Wells (55-56)

Our class of 55/56 reunion at

Moss Vale was a great success. (The diamond jubilee of our graduation!)

At the reunion I agreed to be the contact for the 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations and members wishing to attend will contact me with their details. Some have family/contacts in Wagga and won't need accommodation whilst others will. Please keep me informed of developments so that I can pass them on.

We will still be having our class reunion at Moss Vale the second weekend in Oct 2017, so late

amendments will still be available.

### Mary Dunn (Crabtree 51-52)

Mary has recently needed to arrange care accommodation for her husband Gene as he needs assistance for mobility. She says she is managing well but it is an ordeal after 60 years of marriage. Best wishes from us all, Mary.

Lesley Forbes  
Secretary

**AGM MEETING PLACE**  
Uniting Church, 5 Garfield  
Street, FIVE DOCK

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS - Denise Shakespeare (Jarret) 66-67



With this year being the 50th reunion of my years at WWTC and the sad loss of my roommate Kerrie Tweddle

(Southwell) in March I thought I would share some of my memories from those years.

- Lining up outside the college dining room doors and knowing what was on the menu by the aromas coming from the kitchen. Dishes such as *Arab's Armpit* and *Train Smash*, come to mind and on



Self and Kerrie—Catching the sun

Fridays to cater for the Catholics... *Haddock* ... to name a few!

- Dormitory living - Spartan rooms with a bed, a desk and not much more.
- Fun times getting to know everyone and learning from the more worldly girls - second years - about all sorts of things.
- Ringer washing machines that often got clothes and sheets etc. caught including a girl's very long hair one time. Ouch!!
- People practising their recorders until a ban was brought in: **NO recorders after 7pm!!!**
- A community phone shared by all but only for incoming calls. One of the more enterprising girls worked out that if you tapped the buttons in the cradle of the phone you could ring out ... until she was found out I believe when

her parents received the phone bill.

- No boys allowed anywhere near the dorms - not that it stopped a few brave souls trying.
- Uncertain times for the boys when checking the Notice Board to see if their names had come up for National Service.
- The Night Watchman and his torch on his nightly rounds.
- 10pm curfew and all the couples lined up along Lover's Lane snatching a last kiss



Self



Nightlife in the dorm

- goodnight.
- Having to obtain written permission from parents to allow us to leave college for a weekend or to be out later than 10pm.
  - Hitchhiking into town or even home!.



Nightlife in the dorm

- First alcoholic drink - a gin squash!!
- Prac teaching and when you arrived finding out that you were the teacher because the real teacher was sick.
- Having to wear stockings and high heels for pracs and dem lessons.
- Lecturers - Mrs Ratnik and her creative dance lessons.
- Mr Worthington in his crisp whites and straight back demonstrating correct technique on a trampoline. Art/craft lessons with Mr Morris and Mrs Trewin and Mr Cambourne's psych lectures.
- Netball, basketball, college



Rugby match at Ag College

- and inter collegiate swimming carnivals and rugby matches.
- Going to the 'beach' to swim in the Murrumbidgee River.
  - 10 day swimming schools over Christmas holiday breaks.



SCOOTERAMA at The Rock

## ESTABLISHING 'BASIC' OR 'CORE' SKILLS - Gerard Say

When gender fundamentally decided our occupation for life and the main settings for work outside the home were either the field or paddock or one of the new-fangled town factories, then the task of defining what the basic skills should be in the school-curriculum was relatively easy.

However, today's schools, being buffeted by all the turbulence of the Digital Revolution by which they have

been engulfed, find it an almost impossible challenge to predict what should be the key concepts, skills and attitudes the children should be learning, especially when many of the roles these future likely centenarians will occupy have yet to be created.

Just as blacksmiths, farriers, coachbuilders and whip-makers declined rapidly as the combustion-engine replaced the horse so, in our own lifetimes, we have wit-

nessed the computer render obsolete most of the printing trade, transform the office with its previous typing-pools and stenographers and export our Telstra-support workforce to the Philippines.

Whenever I hear or read any debate about basic skills, my mind invariably flashes back to an afternoon in 1968 at Chester Hill North Public School in south-west Sydney.

As we watch the present fight between Canberra and Mac-

quarie St over who should fund the Gonski reforms, we must remind ourselves that it has been ever thus, from 1st January, 1901, in Commonwealth-State relationships.

I received the official line directly from the then Minis-

and Westbridge Migrant Hostels. Usually the Principal, the late Bill McCarron, relied on the list of key Year 6 Translators on his Office wall. As yet, there was no Turk.

Worse still, the Turkish Con-

for the session up to lunchtime. A mentor was assigned to each Turkish boy whose mothers were still well and truly on the premises.

After lunch was Friday-afternoon sport and cricket



ter for Immigration, one Billy Mackie Snedden MP, in 1969, when I approached him after a function to register my disapproval of how little was being done for the immigrant children. "Why?", said Mr Snedden, "we identify the migrants overseas, bring them to Australia and house them in the Commonwealth Hostels. It is up to the States to provide all the services once they have landed off the plane or ship."

So, without warning, one Friday morning late in 1968, about sixty Turkish mothers and their children were on the doorstep of Chester Hill North Public School down the road from the Villawood

sul-General who was supposed to be helping Mr McCarron had not arrived.

By Recess, the failure to communicate had taken its toll on international relations. As staff members came anywhere in sight passing his Office, the Boss insisted on each of us taking our quota of the now highly restless children.

As I was one of the five Year 6 teachers, in addition to my usual 38 students, I was responsible for an extra five tall Turkish boys who quite obviously should have been two blocks away at Chester Hill High. 6B greeted the newcomers and generously shared stationery with them

was the seasonal game for the Year 6 boys. I did my very best to keep the newcomers in the outfield but, on the basis of a fair go or just plain merriment, there was universal insistence that the Turkish boys at least have a go with the cricket bat and ball.

England quite evidently had not penetrated the Turkish culture with the skills of Cricket but the American baseball definitely had. The third ball pitched at a ferocious pace came off the edge of the bat, wielded horizontally, and soared extremely high into the sky above the Infant School. With dread, I



watched the ball finally land with a crash on the tiles.

Within moments, the formidable Miss Perrott came rushing around the corner and out onto the field and let me know quite graphically the crime committed disturbing her little petals after lunch.

By Monday morning, evidently the Consul-General had arrived and all the tall boys had been re-directed to the High School.

At Chester Hill North, our learning resources were mainly annual-requisition fare together with a moderate PandC subsidy. However, we were proud of the large ceramic basins that had been built in the foyers between every two of the senior-primary classrooms for art, craft and science activities.

However, we were somewhat upset the next week when it became obvious that,

in addition to enhancing the creative arts and science, the ceramic facilities had fulfilled the role of a urinal for an anonymous few. It was to be several months later before Foreign Affairs finally admitted that a key decision-maker in the Australian Embassy in Ankara had misread the brief seeking two-thirds of the Turkish migrants from urban areas and one-third from rural settlements.

So the majority of our new immigrant students facing all the huge challenges of living in Sydney with its four million residents had a new one. There was no simple hole in the ground when their bladders or bowels demanded to be emptied.

The Boss, eager to resolve the quandary, quickly arrived on the scene. As we assembled outside the classrooms after lunch, he appointed my colleague Judy and I to gather all the Turk-

ish girls and boys together, respectively, and lead them to the toilets for a very special Basic Skills lesson while other colleagues cared for our other students.

For me, the next half-hour was quite a unique time as about twenty-five young Turkish boys, with keen interest, followed my fully-clothed body-language as I attempted to lead them into the mysteries of using the stainless-steel urinal with minimum spillage, the sedentary pose with the down position of the toilet seat, the flushing-button, toilet-paper, hand-washing, liquid-soap and paper-towels.

Still now, in 2016, I only have to hear about basic skills or the core curriculum or essential outcomes and the memories come rushing back. Cheso North definitely fulfilled its educative mission, in the basics, at least.

**Gerard Say**

## LONG OVERDUE CATCH-UP - Marion Greene (Taprell) 1962-63

After leaving college I have unfortunately had very little (virtually none) contact with any of the students of my years even though, whilst at college, they were my close friends and like my family away from home.

That was until November last year .....

Whilst visiting my son in Adelaide last November I was able to reunite, after 52 years with two of my closest friends at college (one, Carmel, being my roommate).

We had not been together since our last day at WWTC in November 1963.

I had known Carmel Hansen (née Piltz) had been in the Adelaide region for a number of years and Carmel was able, through various means, to track down Judy Schmidt (née Paech) who also lived in Adelaide.

We were all country girls before College, Judy from Walla Walla, Carmel from Jindera near Albury and I, Marion Greene (nee Taprell) was a Junee girl.

Following college we taught initially in Country NSW. Carmel's first appointment was Mangoplah for 3 years then



Carmel Piltz and Marion Taprell  
1963 Graduation

Canberra for 1 year then onto Yalata on the Nullabor Plain.

Carmel continued with the out-back and taught at Nhulunbuy and Katherine as well as 12 years in remote Aboriginal Schools.

Judy stayed "country" too and taught in inland NSW and SA following her Lutheran Minister to various locations.

I began my teaching career at Junee Infants where I had attended and taught in the same Kindergarten room where I had started school 15 years before!

Following Junee and marriage I taught at both North Wagga and Mountain Austin Schools in Wagga before going towards Sydney and two years off for babies then a year at South Windsor Primary before heading to the North Shore of Sydney and Lindfield PS for 15 years commencing there in 1970.

At the beginning of 1986 I became Assistant Principal at North Strathfield PS for three years before a transfer to Milson's Point PS (just near The Sydney Harbour Bridge) as Principal.

Sadly, this school was closed after only two years of my tenure and is now St Aloysius Junior School.

My final position was as Principal of Crown Street Public

School in Surry Hills in the inner suburbs of Sydney. I retired from Crown Street at the end of 1999 after ten years there.

I thoroughly enjoyed all my schools and teaching career and now live on the lower North Shore of Sydney with my husband, Brian Greene who retired as Principal of Homebush Boys HS in the same year.

We enjoy a retired life full of overseas travel and involving ourselves in the lives of our grandchildren.

Back to the reunion of last year ...

Carmel, Judy and I had 52 years to catch up on and talked our heads off about our school expe-

riences, our husbands and our children and how we spend our retirement.

It was a very happy occasion and we hope not to wait too many years before we can meet up again.

I have managed to locate a photo of Carmel and me in our graduation ball dresses back in 1963 and I include a photo of the three of us taken at our reunion lunch last November.

It was a lovely day and a marvelous excuse to relive the two wonderful years we spent together at WWTC during the years 1962 and 1963.

**Marion Greene**



Carmel, Judy and Marion back together after 52 years - November 2015

## **I WAS ONLY 18 WHEN SENT TO THE ROCK - John Maskey 48-49**

5th June 1948. It was my mother's 45th birthday but I wasn't anywhere near home to wish her a happy birthday. At 5.00 am, and in the middle of winter, I had my introduction to Wagga Wagga, a city of some 16,000

people – though in those days the population was somewhat transient. The Melbourne Express, which was scheduled to reach Melbourne at a reasonable hour, arrived in Wagga at anything but, especially in winter!

At 5.00 am it would be pitch dark for at least another hour.

There were a couple of other first year teachers college students at the station and we made each other's acquaintance. My



father had instructed me to take a taxi straight to the college, and I would have gladly obeyed him except there were no taxis. At least not when we arrived. We spent quite a cold few hours waiting and hoping that one would turn up. I rugged up in everything I could put on, and wore my travel rug around my shoulders to try and ward off the all-invading cold of inland New South Wales.

Finally, about 8.00 am, a taxi arrived. We made it to the college shortly after, only to find that the office did not open till 9.00 am. We sat around once more in the cold and waited. Although I was 16, I was missing the folk at home already.

Eventually my accommodation was organised in one of the dormitories and I had time to look around. Two other students shared my room. There were five rooms in our building, each with three beds, and three other similar buildings close by. Other male dormitories were scattered about like Brown's cows. The college accommodated about 150 male students and a similar number of females.

The girls seemed to fare much better than the boys, though I must admit I only once had a glimpse inside the girls' dormitories. The rooms were much bigger and centrally heated.

The college, having only started the previous year, was in a very rough state. There were no paths and no gardens. It had been an army hospital during the war.

As a college, it left a lot to be desired. The largest building served as a gymnasium during the week, and a hall for concerts and the like at weekends for anyone who wished to rent it. At a later date, and in this very gymnasium, I was to play and sing the part of Ralph Rackstraw in Gilbert and Sullivan's musical *HMS Pinafore*.

Evidently I had a good singing voice, though I didn't realise it at the time. At our first music lecture, Miss Elvie Cornell and Mr. Ray Pople assessed our musical ability. We were told to stand and sing a couple of bars of any song we knew. I was second on the list while the first person was my roommate Bruce Robinson. He really set the tone by rising to his feet and bellowing,

*"In a canyon, in a cavern,  
Excavating for a mine  
Dwelt a miner, forty niner,  
And his daughter Clementine!"*

He was stopped in mid flight and thoroughly chastised by Miss Cornell, who was seated at the piano. How dare he make a noise like that. She flew into a rage. I don't know why. I rather liked the song. Maybe it was the presentation.

Ray Pople then called, "Mr Maskey." I had never been called "Mr." before, and now, in the midst of so much unfamiliar territory, I had to rise and sing.

I quietly got to my feet and sang as sweetly as I could,

*"Down by the old mill stream,  
Where I first met you ..."*

I was stopped and called out to the front. By now I was trembling and wondering if I was going to be caned. I didn't know if teachers college students got the cane or not. I knew that fifth formers at high school did. I had enjoyed that privilege in my final term there, just two months prior to leaving for college.

Ray Pople was smiling and asked if I had ever had my voice trained. I replied in the negative, at which point he forgot the rest of the section (as we were collectively called) and proceeded to get me to sing various notes that he hit on the piano. He said nothing, but looked at Elvie with a strange glint in his eye. I wondered what I had done wrong this time! Finally after about five minutes of embarrassment that seemed like a week, he said to me,

"You have just joined the tenor section of the College Choir."

Then he added, "I want to see you after we have finished with the section."

This was to be my introduction to musicals and Gilbert and Sullivan who were, to that point, totally unknown to me. On the spot I was auditioned for the part of Ralph Rackstraw (whose name I was assured was pronounced "Rafe"), and told to make sure I pronounced it correctly in the future. More of that later.

**John Maskey**

**AGM MEETING PLACE**  
Uniting Church, 5 Garfield  
Street, Five Dock

## UNIVERSITY TO SELL OFF COLLEGE SITE - Jack Morphett

Members will have a strong interest in the attached article from the *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser* 4 November 2016.

### Charles Sturt University to sell off 13 hectares in Turvey Park

The government has rubber-stamped the privatisation of an iconic parcel of land in the heart of the city.

After 70 years as a site of education excellence, the 13.32 hectare Charles Sturt University (CSU) South Campus will be up for grabs in February.

Wagga's key planning document – which will be rewritten by early 2018 – mandates the Turvey Park site be used solely for education but it is common practice for governments to overhaul zoning to maximise privatisation profit.

Real estate experts predict the sprawling acreage will be chopped up and turned into houses, with developers tipped to pay anywhere between \$4 million and \$10 million depending on the density of any future rezoning.

Head of Campus at CSU in Wagga, Miriam Dayhew, does not know whether the windfall will be reinvested in the main CSU Wagga campus or stashed in government coffers.

The Kay Hull Veterinary Teaching Hospital – on a separate land title – will be retained by the university and the regional ar-



chives will be relocated to the main campus at Boorooma Street.

Question marks hang over the futures of Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges and the Riverina Conservatorium of Music.

Property valuer Chris Egan said, “Wagga’s established suburbs had been crowded out, which would make the university campus hot property.

Based on general residential zoning you get 10 lots per hectare, which would mean there’d be 130 lots.

Undeveloped residential land can sell between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per lot, which means the site will have value of between \$4 million and \$5 million.

The government has an obligation to make most of this asset, so if it’s zoned high density residential, it will fetch in the order of \$8m to \$10m.

If the government’s smart, they’ll break it up into 20 to 30 lot subdivisions because there’s

only a few players big enough to buy the whole site.”

Wagga academic Dr Graeme White, who discovered the comet, White-Ortiz-Bolelli, has called on the government to resist the temptation of salivating property developers and build a technology park to combat the city’s “brain drain”.

“My question would be, what’s in it for Wagga?” Dr White said.

“It would be a great shame if this piece of land belonging to the university is flogged off for more bloody housing.

With the NBN there’s no reason you can’t attract tech industries like those in Silicon Valley (San Francisco), creating the tech capital of Australia.

Our smart kids go the city and disappear and they won’t come back unless there’s a bloody job for them.”

<http://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/4273297/charles-sturt-university-to-sell-campus/>

### CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE

#### WWTCAA AGM

11.00am 14 February 2017

**Uniting Church, 5 Garfield Street, FIVE DOCK.**

## FOR THE RECORD - Winifred and Kevin Wilcox 1947-48

Dear Lesley and Bruce,

Following the discussion at yesterday's meeting, I've put together the following:

I have read through my copy of *South Campus: a History*, published in 2015. Could I add a few comments to set the record straight in a couple of matters?

Wagga Wagga Teachers College commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1947 with the arrival of 146 students from all over the state. The original, may I say, pioneer staff on page 15 were:

Standing L to R: Walter Wilson (Art/Craft), Arthur Cornell (Biology), Ian Renwick (Psych/Ed), Eric Hawcroft (P.E.), Ray Pople (Music), Ken Levis (Literature).

Seated L to R: Betty Kilgour (Geography), Joan Moore (Drama), Griff Duncan (Deputy Principal/Mathematics), Joyce Wylie (Women's Warden/History), George Blakemore (Principal/Ed), Joan Readman (Biology), Pat Webb (Librarian).

Executives:

Principal – George Blakemore 1947-58

Deputy Principal – Griff Duncan 1947 - 48, became 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Newcastle TC 1949

Lionel Allan 1949 - 50, became 1<sup>st</sup> principal Bathurst TC 1951

Registrar – Joe Lonsdale.

During my time as a pioneer student (I just had to get that in) the college began what became a tradition. This was the production and presentation of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and major

dramas.

The first of these was staged on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> April 1948 and played to sell-out audiences. The GandS production was *The Gondoliers*, Musical Director was Ray Pople; Production and Ballet: Joan Moore; Musical Artiste: Elvie Cornell (piano).

The cast: Marjorie Abraham, Barbara Bosler, Norma Nielsen, Bette Lonergan, Margot McInerney, Beth Denton, Morton Rawlin, Ray Poole, Don Davis, Arthur Kennedy, Bruce Logan, Kevin Quinn, Keith Willard, David Rummery, Miriam Bowers, Marcia Evans, Mark McLaughlin, Veronica Reen plus a chorus of 12 women and 12 men.

Make up: (Dramatic Art Option)  
Stage Crew: (Dramatic Art option – Males)

This was followed by a play presented by the Dramatic Art Option – *Pygmalion* – by George Bernard Shaw. It was produced by Joan Moore and staged on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September 1948.

The cast: Margot McInerney, Bonnie McIntyre, Colin Taylor, Kevin Wilcox, Barbara Bosler, Tom Hodges, Maureen O'Neill, Doreen Manwaring, Marjorie Abraham, Bette Lonergan, Jim O'Ryan, Jack Collins, Jill Noble, Henry Gibb, Veronica Reen, Jean Johnson.

The third production was in November, 1948. It was the second programme of Gilbert and Sullivan, *Trial by Jury* and after a short interval, *H.M.S. Pinafore*. I have not been able to find any-

where – research through original *Talkabout* volumes etc. –the actual dates and cast lists. If someone has a copy of the programme, could you send it to us, or a copy of it, so we can complete the archival record?

In March 1949, the Second Year Dramatic Art Option presented the Australian play, *Quiet Night* – a hospital drama written by Dorothy Blewitt. It was produced by the drama lecturer, Joan Moore.

Cast: Marjorie Abraham, Kevin Wilcox, Doreen Manwaring, Colin Taylor, Jean Johnson, Bette Lonergan, Bonnie McIntyre, Maureen O'Neill, Veronica Reen, Barbara Bosler, Jill Noble, Joan Moore.

This covers my time at WWTC from June 1947 to May 1949.

We need to receive information, programmes, newspaper clippings etc. of the productions after that time. It is essential to have this record added to archives of Wagga Wagga Teachers College – now held in the CSU archives in the Blakemore Building at the old South Campus.

These archives now form the only factual record of the institution that gave so many of us the opportunity and skills to enter a very rewarding profession.

The college also produced literary magazines. It became *Baringa* in 1953. Any information or records on these would be much appreciated.

**Winifred and Kevin Wilcox**

**WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

**Go To - CSU Regional Archives**

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



## Dr COLIN YARNHAM (FACE) – HIGHLY DESERVED FELLOWSHIP



The following citation was given for former WWTC student, Dr Colin Yarham, at the 2016 Awards Ceremony of the Australian College of Education. Colin had previously been made a life member of ACE.

Dr Colin Yarham has been strongly committed to the welfare of children throughout his life.

He has worked with numerous Health and Education Department committees, Higher Education boards, and the World

Health Organisation. With a breadth of experience in teaching special needs children, Colin's success in developing and instituting sustainable preventive health curriculum policy and practice has been remarkable.

Colin was Head of Department of Health Studies at the University of Technology Sydney for 25 years. A long serving member of the Board of Trustees of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (Paris), he represented this union in different places around the world, in serving as an international consultant. He has worked with WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT, Delhi) in the field of school aged child and youth in education, health promotion, life skills and social develop-

ment.

His research in Observation and Conference Techniques for Effective Supervision using television has been widely used internationally in teacher education.

As school principal and Head of Department in CAEs and UTS, Colin became a highly committed advocate of Health Literacy for the school aged child and youth in 30 different countries.

With the Tamil Nadu Government India, Colin developed the health, life skills and social development syllabus "Schools Total Health Program" which was required to be taught in standards 1 to 12 of 53,000 schools to reach 8.3 million children. This syllabus has been widely introduced globally including in Russia, China, India and Africa.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Ann Smith (Broadhead) 48-50.** I am writing this email to make contact with people who knew Ann Rae Smith (Broadhead). Ann passed away on Friday night in her sleep and will be remembered in a Church Service later this week.

She has been the loving Mother to Julie, David and Peter. She will be remembered for her great

work in education and genealogical involvement.

**David Smith**

**RUMMERY John Anthony 48-50** Died peacefully at home in Armidale (12.10.16). Loved and loving husband of Val (50-51). Father and father-in-law of Anne and Ian, Mark, Joan and Rod, Kay and Allen, Ian and Maria, Ruth and Gavin. Grandfather and great-grandfather of their children. Brother and brother-in-law of George and Barbara, David (dec) and Waltraut, Dick (Brother Gerard), Ray and Barbara, Con (dec), Bill and Dolour, Paul and Josephine, Bob and Maureen, Mary and Doug, Austin and Jackie, and

Tom.

**Bruce Forbes**

**Milgate Nancy (Rhodes) 49-50**

I have been a bit remiss and sadly inform you of the passing of my mother. Nancy Milgate (Rhodes). Mum passed away on the 4/6/2015.

Mum was extremely proud and extremely fond of her time at Wagga Wagga Teachers College. We did use photos of her time at college at her service which I am sure she would have been delighted with. She received the *Talkabout* with pleasure and I take this opportunity to thank you for your publication.

**Simon Milgate (son)**

## ANN SMITH - TRIBUTE

**Ann Smith (Broadhead 48-50)**  
(Taken from the citation to Ann delivered by Lawrie Willett at the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2007).

Ann Smith was among the first group of students to attend Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1948. She graduated as an Infants teacher in 1950 with her first appointment to Guildford Public School.

The appointment was followed by positions at Darcy Road, The Meadows, Oxley Park, Parramatta West, Ringrose and Windermere Schools. Ann's successful career spanned 36 and a half years: 23 years of which encompassed the responsibility of a Mistress or Deputy Principal. A highlight was her role in setting up of the Metropolitan West Publications Unit.

Over the last ten years, the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association has played a major part in her life. At the inaugural AGM, Ann was elected as Secretary, a role which involved not just the usual Minute taking but also tracing missing

alumni. It soon became evident that this required a full time effort and the position of Records Officer was created. Ann was elected into this new role and held it for many years.

Ann became the bounty hunter of the Association. She took to her mission of tracking and recording all those who had passed through the College from 1947 until 1972 with the passion of a true believer.

The Association's records of students from the College blossomed under her stewardship. Ann has contacted more than 2800 alumni. This has been a true demonstration of the "spirit" of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

Ann's dedication and her ability to infect all of those around her with her passion have helped to strengthen the ties which bind together all Wagga Wagga Teachers' College alumni.

The success of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association in raising over \$60,000

for Scholarships can in part be attributed to Ann's dedication.

There have been 10 Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Scholarships awarded over the past five years with a combined value of \$20,000. Each Scholarship has helped to enable a young student to achieve their goal to be a teacher.

In 2001, Charles Sturt University initiated the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award is presented to an alumnus whose dedication to, and affinity for, their profession has shone throughout their career.

Ann Smith epitomises the values and principles that this award represents.



*Ann Smith received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Chancellor Lawrie Willett AG.*

## WWTC 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### 70 YEAR CELEBRATION WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE 2017

In a little less than a year, October 2017, the WWTCAA will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1947.

Put the dates into your diary for the **27th, 28th and 29th of October 2017.**

It is planned to celebrate this occasion in grand style and it will be supported by the Charles Sturt University and Wagga Wagga City Council.

It should be noted that members will need to arrange their own accommodation for the event. It is recommended that bookings be made by early next year to ensure that you secure your accommodation.

If you have any suggestions for activities, venues or just great ways to celebrate please contact the Secretary who will pass on your ideas to the organising committee.

A booking and events form will be forwarded to all members early in 2017. **Put it in your diary**

## BOOK ORDER FORM

Copies of **South Campus: A History** by Nancy Blacklow can be ordered using the order form (opp) or by direct contact (phone/email) to the Secretary. If payment is by electronic transfer please include "NameBook" e.g. "ForbesBook" as reference and then email Secretary.

**NB: South Campus** was the site of WWTC.

## MEETING DATES - WWTCAA

### ALL WELCOME

WWTCAA quarterly meetings are held at 11.00am at Teachers Federation House, 37 Reservoir St. Surry Hills. **NOTE: AGM to be held at Uniting Church, 5 Garfield Street, Five Dock.**

### Future Meeting Dates:

14 February 2017 (AGM)

9 May 2017

8 August 2017

14 November 2017

**South Campus: A History**  
(South Campus was the site of WWTC)  
Cost \$20.00 (including postage)

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment**  (tick one)  
Cheque  or Direct Deposit

The Secretary WWTCAA  
12 Silky Oak Rise  
KEW. NSW 2439

**Cheques Payable to WWTCAA**  
Electronic payments please indicate

## REUNION ROUNDUP

Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga  
Teachers' College

### REUNION NOTICE

#### REMINDER

WWTC 1961 – 1962 (+or-) SESSION

February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

LOCATION : FORSTER

TO BOOK  
OR  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### CONTACT

Terry Dwyer - [terence.dwyer@bigpond.com](mailto:terence.dwyer@bigpond.com)

Mick McGrath - [mickrob@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mickrob@bigpond.net.au)

Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga  
Teachers College

### NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY

70 YEAR CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
FOUNDATION OF WWTC

27-29 OCTOBER 2017

ALL SESSIONS 1947-1970

#### CONTACT

Bruce and Lesley Forbes

12 Silky Oak Rise

KEW. NSW 2439

Mob: 0408587065

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





# The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2016 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 2017.

### 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 2017.

## WWTCAA CONTRIBUTIONS 2017

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 2017** \_\_\_\_\_

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 )**

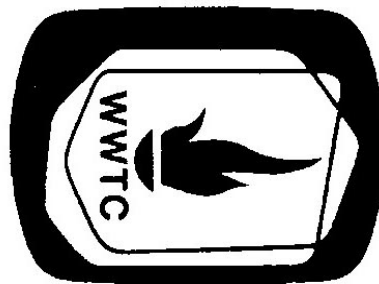
Please email contributions for *Talkabout*  
to

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

Or mail to

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November 2016  
Volume 19 No 3



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