

# PANORAMA



A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF  
BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE  
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY  
ISSUE No. 14, AUTUMN 2008



President Helen Egan and guest speaker, Dr Peter Wilson share a relaxed moment at the BTC Alumni AGM and luncheon on Saturday 16th February, 2008.

*Dr Peter Wilson, who is the ceramic sculptor selected to design and oversee the construction of the water feature to commemorate Bathurst Teachers' College, was introduced by Roseann Dale Dengate at the luncheon.*

*Peter has recently returned from Nottingham, where he had a working sabbatical and residency, not far from Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest. This culminated in a very successful exhibition, but Peter already has a string of successful exhibitions.*

*Since 1980, Peter has had twenty solo exhibitions from regional areas to Perth Galleries, W.A. Since 1998, he has had Residencies as Visiting Research Fellow, International Museum of Ceramics, Faenza, Italy, Visiting Professor of Ceramic Arts at Beaconhouse University, Lahore. Pakistan. and as*

*Artist-in-Residence, Rufford Craft Centre, Nottingham, U.K.*

*Peter's current position at CSU, Bathurst Campus is Senior Lecturer, Ceramics, Art and Design.*

## **SPEECH GIVEN AT BTCAA AGM. 16.2.2008**

With his mop of grey curls, twinkling eyes and restless energy, Peter Wilson looked ready to perform magic. He certainly cast a spell with his "show and tell" at the AGM in February. A potter and sculptor of great talent, with twenty solo exhibitions and several residencies under his belt, Peter was selected to design the commemorative water feature to represent the many years that the now Charles Sturt University was home to the college from where we began our working life. At present he is working on a \$10 000 project designing pots for the University collection.

Being a visual artist, Peter chose to show the progress of the project with a series of slides, beginning with a photo of the site of the original fishpond: college meeting place and centre for high jinks and protests. The preliminary sketches showed a ripple effect, representing the students going from the college into the wider world. Maquettes of the central sculpture were then submitted to the committee for approval, to be surrounded by an apron of hand-cut tiles engraved with designs chosen by college

alumni, the original fishpond being represented by a circular layout of tiles.

Peter then showed a slide of a sculpture he had designed for South Bathurst in the 2000 Olympic year as an example of his finished work. We also saw the various suggested locations, finishing with a mock-up at the actual location.

Fascinating to the non-artist, the next slides showed the transformation of idea to reality, first with a picture of the clay original, standing about two metres high, then the pouring of the slab after power and water had been installed, with the interior brass strengthening rod. The granite plinth was cut and polished in Eugowra, while the casting of the bronze was completed at a foundry near Anzac Bridge in Sydney, the same foundry responsible for the casting of the statues at either end of the bridge. Finally, a patina on the bronze and voilà – our sculpture was complete.

Peter had a retrospective of his work in Canberra the week before this address and showed slides of some of his beautiful bowls, many employing the *raku* technique which uses muted colours and lustre. Peter has developed his own glazes. Also on show was work done in collaboration with John Olsen, some of which are on display in the National Gallery, Canberra, as well as his 'meteorite' series. Recently Peter worked as Artist-in Residence in Nottingham, staying in the abbey once the abode of Friar Tuck.

At the close of his address, Peter thanked Gail Metcalfe for her tireless effort and attention to detail in the overseeing of the project, Dale Dengate and Peter Connolly for working on engraving the tiles and Michelle Fawkes for badgering and being on the case with the University authorities. The School of Education at CSU would like to use the sculpture as its logo.

Peter Wilson has given much time and energy free to this project. He has worked his magic and now it is up to the Alumni to bring this project to completion, hopefully by the end of 2008. It needs another \$5 000 in

our contributions as well as more donations for the tiles surrounding the sculpture. With a plaque of donors' names to go on a nearby wall it will be a permanent reminder of the hundreds of students who passed through the college in its first incarnation as a seat of higher learning.

CAROLE GOODWIN



*Photo above:*

*From R to L: Gail Metcalfe 60-61, Lew Ford 51-52, Alan Beggs 51-52 Marie [Sheehan] Grislis 58-59, Jenny [Hohnhorst]Hughes 58-59, Jennifer Gardiner 61-62.*

## REPORTS FROM BTCAA AGM

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last week I travelled by train to Orange. As railway tracks are laid on ground higher than roads, I had an extensive view of the countryside – green, green, green! Low-lying areas in the western suburbs had become lakes and water flowed in rivers, creeks and ditches. In fact, water was everywhere except in our Commemorative Water Feature that will replace the Fishpond at the Bathurst campus of CSU!

In my report last year, I said 2006 was the "year of the fishpond" and I have to report that 2007 also was the "year of the fishpond" but we have high hopes that 2008 will see the breaking of the drought! At this point I would like to thank Gail Metcalfe who has

given such consistent attention to the progress of this project; reporting to the committee and to you via 'Panorama'.

Thanks are due also to Peter Wilson, ceramic artist and member of the academic staff at CSU for his continuing participation in the whole project. Welcome Peter, and thank you for joining us today.

**Reunions** of various BTC sessions were held during 2007. Some were small lunch groups, while others were larger functions. '57-'58 session met at the Epping Club in November, '51-'52 session and a combined '66-'67 and '67-'68 group each held enjoyable weekends at Bathurst in November. Both these groups were full of praise for the facilities and catering at the Professional Development Centre on CSU campus and recommend the venue.

Ex-BTC-ites from the southern region of NSW met for a convivial afternoon at Murrumbateman and are planning their next get-together at Bateman's Bay this year. All ex-students are welcome to attend. '63-'64 session planned to meet in Sydney earlier this month. Information about these reunions

is advertised in 'Panorama' and by circular to the particular sessions. Make sure your address at the Alumni Office is up to date!

Members of the committee have all been involved in arranging reunions and are happy to give any help and suggestions to anyone planning similar functions. The Alumni Office at CSU is also a source of information and assistance.

According to an organiser of a school reunion chronicled in the SMH, "reunions make you feel young again". I guess that's why the 'Pioneers' are planning their fifteenth reunion in May, 2009.

At the **35th Graduation of teachers** In May, 2007, Gail Metcalfe and I represented the BTCAA from Bathurst Campus. It was well attended by family and friends of the graduating students, who all looked so young! Having been a graduand at the first ceremony at BTC I must say that the experience aged me greatly.

I would like to pay tribute to all my committee members for their consistent enthusiasm during the year. We enjoy our meetings in St Phillip's Church Hall in the city and it's very



*Photo above of BTC AA Executive Committee :*

*From R to L standing: Mary Herbert[ Kennedy] -visiting from Forbes, Ken Shadbolt, Denise Cramsie , Wayne Bensley, Lew Ford, Roseann Dale, Greg Woods*

*seated: Gail Metcalfe, Wanda Zaniewski, Helen Egan, Val Woodwood, Alan Beggs*

*Missing from photo: Peter Connolly, Stuart Ogg and Carole Goodwin*

convenient for public transport, so please join us – all members are welcome to attend these meetings.

**Thank you** all for your interest in the association, for your contributions to 'Panorama' and for your donations to our, at present, three appeals – 'Panorama', BTC Scholarship and the Commemorative Water Feature. Reports on these, will be given by appropriate committee members, later in the meeting. CSU and the Alumni Office continue to support our activities, particularly in arranging printing and distribution of 'Panorama'.

One of my daily activities as a senior citizen is to read the Sydney Morning Herald – well, most of it anyway. Recently I read the **obituary for David Asimus**.

With a background in farming and an economics degree, he pursued an extremely full life, promoting Australian pastoral interests here and abroad. He held many directorships, received honorary doctor's degrees and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. In 1989, he became the foundation Chancellor of CSU and was quoted as saying that the development of tertiary education in the regions was one of his greatest achievements. Many of you will remember his participation in a special ceremony to mark the inauguration of the BTCAA at Bathurst in 2001. His encouragement and friendliness impressed us all.

Articles on various **aspects of education** in the newspapers are usually followed by a spate of 'Letters to the Editor' and this week was no exception. I would like to read one response to the headline "Grades worse than in the 1960s" Ron Sinclair of Bathurst writes:- "It is unsurprising, if true, that literacy and numeracy skills are no better than they were when I was teaching in the 1960's. Blaming today's teachers and teachers' pay, though, is simplistic. The emphasis in the 1960's was solidly on the three Rs. Since then, teachers have increasingly become victims of role inflation. Driver education, drugs education, sex education, media literacy, financial literacy, computer education: many such

demands are made on a teacher's time. Having visited scores of schools as a researcher I have great admiration for the fine job being done in trying circumstances by an overwhelming proportion of those at the chalk-face."

HELEN EGAN  
President

**The next executive meeting will be on Saturday 24th May. St Phillips Church, York Street, Sydney.**



Photo: Pat Connolly and Roseann Dale Dengate (58-59) discuss retiring from over forty years teaching and plans for fiftieth reunion in 2009

#### **EDITORIAL REPORT 2007-8.**

Two copies of *Panorama* were prepared for BTC Alumni and friends; Numbers 12 and 13 being prepared early in Autumn and Spring and coming out later in those seasons. We continued to use 'iPages' and copy was delivered to the printers as a pdf file via Michelle Fawkes at the BTC Alumni office, and another placed on the Web as part of the wider website for CSU.

It was hoped that this would expedite the procedure and ensure copies reached Alumni in time to give them information about coming reunions. If we can ensure more people receive *Panorama* via email, costs should be cut dramatically as increases in price are something that have

given us concern. Additional material can be added quickly on the Web, also photos look more striking in colour. This is a good opportunity to remind those who graduated in 1958 or 1968 and 1959 or 1969 to plan early and let us know of these plans so we can inform the appropriate alumni. We also encourage those with access to computers to inform the CSU Alumni Office.

The two editions during 2007 covered the AGM, various reunions, brief personal details about the BTC Alumni Executive, other alumni, name lists of donors to various projects, the progress of the Scholarship Fund, the 'Fish Pond / Water feature in the BTC Common and information about the Ceramic Artist Peter Wilson, news from CSU and various memories as recalled by ex BTC students. The working day on the ceramic tiles with Peter Connolly at CSU, Bathurst was a good opportunity to take photos for *Panorama*.

There was some concern expressed that the reports of the death of many college friends was dominating *Panorama*. Discussion supported the view that obituaries were, a tribute to these ex-BTC students., and important to *Panorama* readership. Let me take this opportunity to remind you that what we can put in *Panorama* largely depends on what the Alumni send the Editorial Team.

My thanks are extended to the team: Carole Goodwin and Denise Cramsie and to all the volunteers who assist with the mailout. Carole and I usually put aside several days for preparation of typed material, photographs, formatting, adjusting the layout, checking spelling and important phone numbers or dates in 'Panorama'. Denise has a good eye for typos and errors that creep in and we've had some vigorous debates about contemporary grammar and acceptable syntax. Last edition was the first time the whole team managed to get together for a day to do the final check. Usually we rely on lots of emails.

We thank all our contributors and readers who let us know that the time we spend on *Panorama* is worthwhile.

ROSEANN DALE DENGATE



Photo; Denise Cramsie, Carole Goodwin, (58-59) Michelle Fawkes, Alumni Relations Officer

## TREASURER'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present my report for the calendar year 2007. I must congratulate and thank the many alumni who have sent in money to support the various arms of our fundraising. Many of you have supported the production of *Panorama*, the Commemorative Water Feature and the Scholarship Fund on a regular basis. This has helped the Association to produce two editions of *Panorama* per year and to help us fund our contribution to the Water Feature.

I feel as though I have extended my circle of friends because when I receive donations along with interesting little notes, it adds to the enjoyment of the position of treasurer. It is most informative hearing about the activities of other alumni.

A special thank you is extended to Mr Ron Jones of Nationwide Accounting who has so kindly audited the books for us without charge.

You will note that the total income for 2007 was \$7131.35 but that that expenditure was \$11,908.06. The "extra" expense was due to the fact that an account for *Panorama* Production for 2006 was paid in 2007. That said, the income to fund *Panorama* is currently much less than the production and mailing cost. This is of some concern to us as *Panorama* is our only means of

communication with members and in turn the donations to *Panorama* and other fundraising activities such as the Scholarship Fund and Commemorative Water Feature are only sent to us after people receive their copy of the magazine. It is almost a catch 22 situation. We have, where possible, encouraged people to elect to receive *Panorama* by email. This should lower the printing and mailing cost substantially if Alumni respond to this strategy. I encourage everyone who has an email address to take up this option.

Thank you to the members of the Committee and to Michelle Fawkes Alumni Officer for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for the Association.

GAIL METCALFE  
Treasurer



Photo above:  
From R to L: Gail Metcalfe, Daphne and Dudley Roth [51-52]

The audited Financial Statement 1st January to 31st December was handed out at the AGM and can be obtained from the Treasurer. The total income was \$7,131.35 and the total expenditure was \$11,908.06.

*The fact that expenditure exceeded income was largely due to the cost of printing Panorama, which was \$5,161.15 and postage which was \$2,009.00. (Ed.)*

## BTC COMMEMORATIVE WATER FEATURE REPORT

Let me begin by thanking every Alumnus who has contributed to the appeal for the Commemorative Water Feature. Without your support this project would not be proceeding.

During the year Professor Greg Walker changed positions and the oversight of the project was delegated to Professor John Hicks. I had a very productive meeting with Professor Hicks, Peter Wilson and Toni Wright on the 17th July 2007 at which the essential elements of the project were confirmed. A grant of \$10000 from CSU was organized by Professor Hicks to ensure that the project could be progressed.

Members would be aware that a decision was made initially by the Association to commit \$10,000 to the project. As funds were not coming in as quickly as anticipated, it was agreed that a target of \$5000 was more realistic and that anything over that amount would be a bonus. I am pleased to report that donations now have reached \$7645. This figure includes specific donations to the tile project received by CSU. (2006 \$3200, 2007 \$2760, 2008 \$185, tiles \$1500)

Peter Wilson has completed the sculpture which has been bronzed. The granite plinth and concrete apron have been installed. Many tiles have been inscribed thanks to Peter Wilson, Peter Connolly and Roseann Dale Dengate. Approvals for signage, lighting and landscaping are pending. There is an opportunity for individuals to donate garden seats for the Common as part of the landscaping. It is anticipated the cost for seats would be \$250.

A completion date for the project has not been set but adequate notice will be given to Alumni so that they may have the opportunity of attending the opening ceremony.

The original idea to repair the old fish pond of Bathurst Teacher's College days grew into

this work of art which will be a wonderful feature at the University for the future and a reminder of the humble and energetic beginnings of a now progressive and successful University.

GAIL METCALFE  
Commemorative Water Feature Committee



### THE STORY OF THE TILES

ROSEANN DALE

Many of the tiles suggested by ex-BTC carry a specific reference to events or experiences during those years between 1950-1979. Initially the design on the tiles were abstracted forms and symbols, but as we worked through the 300 odd ceramic surfaces the images changed.



Photo above: Eric and Pam Spurr with Stuart Ogg discuss memories at the BTCAA AGM.

One example is based on Pam Spurr's bike. As a lass from Kelso, she rode her bike to lectures each day. In the 1951-52 Year photo, the front handle bar with basket, pump and bell can be observed leaning on the wall to the far right, if you have excellent eye-sight. Pam sent me a photocopy and sketch with 'apologies to Miss Rees who kindly passed me in Art'. After studying further photos of push bikes, various bush nuts and metal discs were selected as tools and the design took shape.

As many of us used bikes for transport around the district, even to Dems and Church, I've included wheels, pedals and chains, which laddered stockings unmercifully. Of course, that was not what worried Peter Grislis as he took four of his mates upon his bike down Williams Street. I gather a policeman felt that five on a bike, even one that carried a family across war-torn Europe, was a few too many.

Peter Connolly, after designing some aesthetic Bathurst landscape tiles, got a twinkle in his eye and started recalling memories in cartoon style. Among these is a scene of Saturday night singing under the shower, sleeping-in on Sunday morning and a lecture class. We have references to sport, art, drama, music including choir and recorder.

Within 300 tiles you can imagine there are many different images. Not all have been covered by a donation, but we decided to do the work anyway – as we have confidence in the future, as many ex-students say : thanks for the memories.





Photo above: Peter Connolly designing tiles recalling a variety of messages.

**LAST CHANCE TO SECURE A TILE.**  
**send fifty dollars and secure an individually designed tile and help complete the commemorative water feature.**

**Apologies** to Raymond Mullins who we deprived of forty years wisdom by placing him as a student in '1993-94', rather than an ex-student from 1953-54 in the donations list. If we could promise all donors would shed forty years of old bones and joints we might have enough funds for all our visions and ventures. Suffice to say your memories in the tiles remain young.

**BTCAA 2008 GET-TOGETHERS**



Photo above: Jan and Ken Shadbolt at the BTCAA AGM discuss plans for the next reunion.

**1952-53 REUNION**

All welcome on Sunday 16th November, 2008 at midday to Mountain Heritage Hotel and Spa Retreat at Katoomba,. It is close to the station and there is parking available.

Three course special LUNCHEON with tea and coffee to follow at \$65 per person.

RSVP by 30th May, or as soon as Panorama arrives.

TO: David Bowner 9498 5163

Ruth Doyle 9953 5104

Ken Shadbolt 9977 37

**CELEBRATE WITH 1958-59 in 2009.**

**1957-57** and **1959-60** are invited to join **1958-59** next year, to celebrate 50 years since graduation at Bathurst,. Events to be held at Bathurst over first weekend, **November 6-8th, 2009.**

Contact Roseann Dale <[dengate@ozemial.com.au](mailto:dengate@ozemial.com.au)> or Carole Goodwin [[02] 4751 2680

**SOUTHERN GET-TOGETHER IN 2008**

Reg Halliburton (52-53) is the organiser and can be contacted on 02 6297 1859, OR at 40 Cameron Rd Queanbeyan 2620 OR by email at: [jan.reg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jan.reg@bigpond.net.au)

**The 2008 get-together** will be held in Batemans Bay on Saturday 26th July at 2 p.m. for afternoon tea.

Venue: Batemans Bay Bowling Club, Princes Highway

## Do you remember the Communion Table in the Cowshed?

The story about its genesis was recounted in Panorama 7. This beautiful carving depicts a World War II POW camp in the Malayan jungle. If you have any stories to share about the Cowshed, which dates from 1908, send them to *Panorama*



### BTCOA SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

The criteria for the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni Association scholarship are being expanded to include any descendant of a BTC graduate studying any course in any year. If you know anyone who may be interested in studying at Charles Sturt University encourage them to get on-line for details of the Charles Sturt Foundation Scholarship Application Form.

### STOP PRESS CONGRATULATIONS

the first BTC scholarship has been awarded this year to Emma Louise Davis who is in her first year studying Education at the Dubbo campus of CSU. She is the granddaughter of Helen Ferguson (Bouberet), an active member of the Pioneers.

Emma will receive her scholarship of \$2000 at a ceremony in Dubbo in May

For further information contact:

Michelle Fawkes - Alumni Relations Officer  
email, <[alumni@csu.edu.au](mailto:alumni@csu.edu.au)

Phone: 02 6338 4629 [ CSU - Bathurst

## CSU News

See Panorama in colour.  
Get Connected to CSU Alumni

Charles Sturt University has launched a new Alumni Website

Everything you need to keep you connected with the University and Alumni can be found at

[www.csu.edu.au/alumni](http://www.csu.edu.au/alumni)

The Alumni website also offers - Alumni and CSU News, a special Alumni Spotlight feature as well as access to all alumni publications including Panorama.

The CSU website also offers an on-line community - Your Alumni.  
Your Alumni will:-

- ` let you search for alumni by country, state, campus, discipline or name
- ` provide a calendar of CSU and Alumni events
- ` provide a bulletin board
- ` give you the opportunity to post a Diary message
- ` provide a business network that lets you tap into alumni within your industry or specialist area

Log on and register NOW

Click on *On-Line Community*



DATE OF WATER FEATURE OPENING TO ANNOUNCED SOON.

✂-----

**BTC COMMEMORATIVE WATER FEATURE**

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**WATER FEATURE DONATIONS**

YES I would like to contribute to the appeal for the erection of the commemorative water feature.

I would like to contribute \$50-00 for a tile and would like a sketch or words to be included as on enclosed diagram.

I enclose a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_

Years at BTC. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact details.  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email  
 I require a receipt and enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. Yes / No

I wish to claim tax deductibility Yes / No.

Please send cheque/ money order for the *Commemorative Water Feature Appeal* **made out to BTCAA** to:

Gail Metcalfe, Treasurer, 14 Banksia Park Road, KATOOMBA 2780.  
 Ring Gail on: (02) 4782 1573 to enquire about availability of Credit Card facilities.

## **LATEST PROGRESS ON WATER FEATURE AREA.**

Gail and John Metcalfe had a wonderful day visiting Mary and Dan Herbert to get timber from their property for a trial seat to be placed near the Water Feature. At the last AGM, Mary [nee Kennedy - BTC 1958-59] offered to donate special timbers they had on their property to be used for seating.

The students at Bathurst High School will be constructing the seats as part of their curriculum. After careful and prolonged selection of the timber we delivered it to Patrick Ford in Bathurst. He was thrilled with the samples as was the head industrial arts teacher. They are so keen that Pat rang me tonight to advise me that they will commence work on the "sample" this week!. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm with which the school has taken up the project.

