

PANORAMA



A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
ISSUE No. 10, AUTUMN 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I present to you the Report of BTCAA activities for 2005. During 2005 your committee met four times with many phone calls in between. Each member has been concerned with certain matters and I thank them all for their diligence and loyalty.

We are fortunate to continue to meet in St Phillips Church Hall near Wynyard. It's a most convenient & congenial place. Any alumni member is welcome – meetings are held on the last Saturday morning in May, August & November at 10 a.m.

The mentoring of first year out teachers has been in the news lately. We're all well aware how difficult that first year can be. After the meeting at Katoomba in 2004 we were enthusiastic about offering our services and we wrote to the Education Faculty on more than one occasion but to date we have received no reply. A pity. There are obviously teachers calling for help.

On Friday, 10th February Gail Metcalfe, Alan Beggs, Peter Connolly & I travelled to Bathurst to meet the new head of CSU Bathurst Campus, Associate Professor Greg Walker. We wanted to clarify with him two items from last year's AGM which the committee had discussed during the year:

The naming of an area at CSU to commemorate BTC.

It was suggested by the university that the area bounded by Heffron Building (our Admin block), Cunningham House (Girls' Dorm), Ponton Theatre (Common Room) and Allen House (Tennis Courts) would be appropriate as that was a central area for our college. The name *Bathurst Teachers' College Common* or *BTC Common* received general approval.

Re location of "the fishpond". Only the library wing of that U-shaped square of lecture rooms remains

with a dilapidated "fishpond" in the middle. The whole area is to be turned into a car park. The fishpond, as it is still called by some of today's CSU population even though there hasn't been water in it for years, will be relocated to a new site on BTC Common. Gail Metcalfe and Alan Beggs will give you more details about this.



The cow shed also received attention and Ralph Rawlinson will give you more information about it.

During 2005 Southern BTCAA held another successful get together for people from the South Coast, Southern Highlands and Canberra at Nowra thanks to organisers June & Bill Thompson.

In 2006 the southern area function will be organised by Tom Partridge at Bundanoon on Saturday 8th July. All Alumni are welcome. Details will be in *Panorama*.

The '54 - '55 group celebrating the 50th anniversary of graduation had quite a roll call of former lecturers – Frank Atchison, John Gunn, and John Cassim - to join a large gathering for lunch at City Tats.

The '64 - '65 group met for the first time since leaving Bathurst with such enthusiasm that I think they're planning another reunion in the near future.

Our lifeline *Panorama* has continued to keep us all in touch and we are indebted to the contributors and in particular the *Panorama* committee who give so much of their time and skill to the publications. Carole Goodwin will report later for the *Panorama* editorial committee on behalf of Denise Cramsie and Roseann Dale Dengate.

Donations to our BTC Alumni Association are used mainly for the production of *Panorama*. To date this has been partially subsidised by CSU. Unfortunately that will not be the case in future and we will be responsible for production AND postage. So I do urge you to consider this and contribute to our fund as we must continue this vital link with you.

The BTC Scholarship Fund to which about 230 ex-BTC-ites have donated a total of over \$10,000 is handled by the CSU Foundation. Your committee decided that in 2006 an amount of \$2,000 would be made available to a first year student in the Faculty of Education at Bathurst. The student who will need to be a descendant of a BTC graduate will receive \$1,000 at the beginning of the year and \$1,000 half-way through the year.

The final selection committee at CSU will have a member of our Alumni Association on it, namely Alan Blanch. This scholarship may not necessarily be given annually as it depends on the funds balance, but it will be discussed by the committee later in the year.

I thank CSU for its support and in particular Michelle & Pam. Their office has been moved once again, to The Grange and Pam is no longer a member of staff. The position, in fact the very existence of the Alumni Office, seems to have been whittled down to almost nothing in the last few years. What has happened to the grand plan for displays of memorabilia and a drop-in centre for former graduates of BTC, MCAE, and CSU?



Pictured at the AGM our President, Helen Egan, with the Mayor of Mosman and ex-BTC-ite, Denise Wilton

We have a strong BTC Alumni Association and no doubt Mitchell and CSU graduates have or will form similar groups in time. Alumni Associations are made up of people and they are a very important part of any organisation or institution. I hope CSU reconsiders what seems to be its present attitude and that we can help be part of its great future for generations to come.

Helen Egan
President
BTCAA

PANORAMA EDITORIAL

Since 2001 we have prepared two 'Panorama' per year and have kept to this record for 2005. There have been some minor problems encountered after preparation of the magazine and before receipt of the magazine by Alumni, so we are changing the way we prepare the copy for the Bathurst Printer. We have invested in a program *Apple iWorks* which includes *iPages* and hope this will enable speedier communication between Alumni. We aim to advise Alumni of Regional Get-togethers, then print reports which will hopefully encourage more gatherings. Thanks to all the contributors who sent interesting reports of reunions, recollections from their past College days or early teaching experiences. The strong emotional ties to BTC expressed by many, recalled the special times shared many years ago. Some of the Alumni, who unfortunately are no longer with us, were remembered through friend's recollections.

In the days of BTC, many of the ex-students were sent to rural areas. Still today, graduating students frequently return to the rural areas where they provide services for the community as so many teachers have done. These days, Charles Sturt University is the largest regional university in Australia and is still providing many valuable courses. Hopefully our contributions to the scholarship fund will support some of these students, especially those who are related to ex-students, now BTC Alumni.

This first edition for 2006 will give coverage of the AGM for those unable to attend.

Once again my thanks to the other members of the Editorial Team Carole Goodwin and Denise Cramsie for their reliable support.

The support of Michelle Fawkes, Pam English in the Alumni Office and the CSU volunteers has ensured that the magazine has been sent to all Alumni. Please help them by notifying changes to address, or other details.

Roseann Dale Dengate

CSU REPORT TO BTCAA AGM February 2006

Another year has passed and the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni Association Committee has put a lot of hard work and dedication into advancing the aims and objectives of the Association and on behalf of Charles Sturt University, I would like to thank you all.

During 2005 the Alumni staff moved into *The Grange* and we are now fully integrated into the Office of the Vice-Chancellor - Alumni forms part of the Stakeholder and Community Relations Team. This year however, has started on a sad note. Due to funding constraints, we have lost the services of our casual, Pam. We are hoping though that as resources become available, we will be able to get her back to continue working with our alumni.

This shortfall in funding will also impact on the distribution of *Panorama*. The BTCAA will now have to cover the cost of both printing and postage. I understand that this will have a significant impact on your resources. However, we are working on a way of meeting these costs and will advise the Committee in due course. We strongly believe *Panorama* to be the number one communication tool between the Association, its members and the University and we will endeavour to do what we can to support its continuation.

The Editorial Committee for *Panorama*, Roseann, Carole and Denise, excel in their production of the magazine and the program purchased last year will greatly simplify the production and editing tasks. I thank them very much for all their work.

The Stakeholder and Community Relations team are currently in the process of establishing a new website for Alumni. This will provide better networking and communication capabilities for all of our alumni groups. I urge everyone to notify the alumni office of their email contact so that they can take advantage of this new technology when it becomes available.

Over the past year, the Bathurst Teachers' College Scholarship Fund has grown to a total of \$10,705.20. This has allowed a **Scholarship to be offered in the name of the BTCAA. The criteria - a student who is a descendant of a graduate of BTC and who is studying on the Bathurst campus;** if no suitable applicants, then a student who is studying in the Faculty of Education on any campus of CSU. The Scholarship is valued at \$2,000 for one year. Congratulations on reaching this wonderful milestone in your march to the overall target of \$25,000.

In regard to the memorabilia display, hopefully the large display cupboard from the Founder's Cottage will move to the Dining Room. Here it will be seen by current students, past students and staff. I hope this will be a great move and encourage interest in all things alumni.

Alumni staff again assisted with three reunions during 2005: the highlight being that it was my pleasure to be in attendance at the class of 1954-55s 50th anniversary reunion early in the year at the City Tattersalls Club. There were 83 people in attendance among them were three ex-lecturers - Frank Atchison, John Cassim and John Gunn. The group was presented by the University with commemorative plates to mark the occasion. Other groups to celebrate reunions last year were the class of 1957-58 and the Pioneers. The Pioneers are already in planning for their next big event on 5, 6 & 7 May this year.

Also during the year, there were many inquiries regarding the "fishpond" and its current state of disrepair. As you would have read in *Panorama* the BTCAA together with the University are working on a project to dedicate an area of the campus in which a special water feature will be established to commemorate Bathurst Teachers' College. This is an exciting project which will need all of your support and assistance. Keep your eyes on *Panorama* for updates and news.

The position of Manager, Stakeholder and Community Relations is being filled by Ms Jan Hudson while Narelle Stocks is on maternity leave. On behalf of both Jan and Narelle, I would like to thank everyone involved with the BTCAA for their tireless support of Alumni activities throughout the year. I look forward to working with you during 2006 to maximise all opportunities to benefit BTCAA and Charles Sturt University.

Michelle Fawkes
On behalf of
Jan Hudson
Manager, Stakeholder and Community Relations

Alumni Office contact details:

The Alumni Office
Charles Sturt University
Panorama Avenue
Bathurst NSW 2795, Australia
Phone: 02 63384629 **Fax:** 02 63384766
Email: alumni@csu.edu.au
Web: www.csu.edu.au/division/alumni

GUEST SPEAKER AT THE AGM

Ralph Watkin Rawlinson B.A. (Hon), Ph.D., HonDEd, F.A.C.E.



After completing his Teacher's Certificate at Bathurst Teachers' College in 1952, Ralph went on to teach in small and staffed schools over the next seven years. In 1959 he was appointed by the Department of Education, firstly as a Senior

Research Officer, then as Chief Curriculum Officer. During this time he completed a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours and the University Medal for Education at the University of Sydney in 1961. He was later awarded a New South Wales Public Service Scholarship, enabling him to study in the United Kingdom where he completed a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Birmingham in 1967.

On returning home, Ralph set up the Centre for Research in Learning and Instruction in the Department and was Chief of the Centre for three years. The focus of Ralph's career shifted to higher education in 1973 when, as Assistant Principal, he contributed to the academic development of the new Cumberland College of Health Sciences. In 1974 he was appointed Principal of the Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education, a position he held until 1980 when he became Foundation Chairman of the Education Commission of New South Wales. In 1987 and 1988 Ralph was Planning Vice-Chancellor for the proposed Chifley University, subsequently renamed University of Western Sydney which replaced it.

For the past 17 years Ralph has been involved in overseas consulting in education. During that time he has been contracted by AusAID, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and a number of governments, in Pacific and South-east Asian countries, involving some 150 return trips. Of more recent times, Shirley, whom he says is the wind beneath his wings, has been accompanying him to ensure that he can find his way home!

Ralph has been a Fellow of the Australian College of Education (F.A.C.E) since 1968, and, as you are all aware, in 2001, he received an honorary doctorate from Charles Sturt University for his contribution to education.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND CONVOCATION MEMBERS CONFERENCE

On behalf of BTC Alumni, I attended this Conference. The key speakers and discussions addressed the issues faced by Alumni groups.

Universities have become businesses with Uni Boards comprised of business people. These are often managers who are not interested in Education or making the best use of volunteer contributions. Alternatively what the Alumni was getting out of the 'relationship' with the Uni was examined. Our Alumni is a very diverse group spanning teachers' college, CAE and long distance education at CSU. Discrete professional groups, such as law and medicine groups work well.

I have noted among our BTC Alumni expression of strong emotional ties to BTC and the fellowship of students. R.D. Dengate

VALE BARBARA STROUD

In December, 2005, Mary Kennedy rang the Editors with the sad news that Barbara Stroud [BTC 1958-59] had died from Pancreatic cancer. Barbara had been very active in the district of Wagga and will be sadly missed by that community.

1957/58 BTC get-togethers

Enjoyable [unofficial] get-togethers have been held at the Epping Club [not far from the station] for the last two years. 30 to 40 have been turning up.

Again in 2006 it will be held at the same venue on the second Tuesday after Melbourne Cup Day. Arrive 11 a.m. to 12.

If you wish to have lunch at the Club please advise me so catering arrangements can be made.

denisburkeads@hotmail.com

BTCAA SOUTHERN GET-TOGETHER 2006

Saturday 8 July 2006 (2pm – 5pm)

at

Bundanoon Country Hotel
(adjacent to the village railway station)

Come for the afternoon, or even better, for the weekend in lovely Bundanoon where bush walking, and bike riding in the Morton National Park are highly recommended. Bikes are available for hire in the village.

Suggested accommodation:

Bundanoon Country Hotel, established 1922.

Contact on 02 4883 6005 or HYPERLINK "<http://www.bundanoonhotel.com.au>" for bookings.

Tariff:	En-suite rooms & breakfast	\$70 pp
	Room with shower & breakfast	\$58 pp
	Room only & breakfast	\$55 pp

Log fire in lounge, tennis court, billiards and table tennis available to guests. Usual pub fare at bistro.

Bundanoon Country Inn Motel is only 500 metres walk to the Hotel.

Contact on 02 4883 6068 or HYPERLINK "<http://www.countryinn.com.au>" for accommodation.

Tariff: \$125 per room

Log fire in lounge, tennis court, and licensed restaurant.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Call Tom Partridge on 02 4883 6895 or email HYPERLINK "<mailto:tombevpartridge@dodo.com.au>" to acknowledge your attendance, so numbers can be finalised.

See you there.

Tom Partridge
54 Garland Road, Bundanoon, NSW 2578

CREATING A PIECE OF HISTORY

Alumni would be aware that the BTC Alumni Association Committee has been keen to negotiate an area of Charles Sturt University (CSU) to be dedicated to Bathurst Teachers' College. There was also some discussion about the old Fish Pond, which was a feature in the quadrangle near the lecture blocks, being restored and refurbished. The restoration idea proved to be an unworkable proposal because the old lecture blocks have been demolished and the area where the defunct 'fish pond' stands is now a dedicated car park for a student accommodation block. In addition the structure is in very poor condition and would take an enormous amount of time, money and effort to restore. See Photo page 1.

The good news is that an area bounded by the Ponton Theatre (one time common room and the Little Theatre), Heffron House (the Administration Block), Cunningham House (originally the women's dormitory) the Allen House (once a women's dormitory in the 60's and now the School of Education Block) has been generously allocated by CSU as the *Bathurst Teachers' College Common*. This has inspired Alumni members to initiate the construction of a permanent memorial in a prominent location in the Common.

An informative and enthusiastic meeting on site with Greg Walker, Head of Campus, Michelle Fawkes, Alumni Relations Officer and five Alumni was held on 10th February. It was agreed that a commemorative water feature should be built within the precinct of the Bathurst Teachers' College Common. The submission of several drawings for a water feature by Peter Connolly 51/52, the assistance with local liaison offered by Spencer Harvey 51/52 and the proposed



involvement of Dr Peter Wilson, also an alumni, as well as an acclaimed artist/sculptor, have all inspired the Committee to action.

Those who attended the Annual Luncheon and AGM in February this year enthusiastically endorsed the proposal to proceed with a commemorative water feature to replace the old fish pond. At this stage it is proposed that the commemorative water feature will incorporate local stone work and the artistic creations of local ceramic artist Dr Peter Wilson. It is proposed that the costs for the commemorative water feature will be shared by the university, the Mitchell Foundation and the BTC Alumni Association. The target date for the official opening is Saturday the 11th February 2007.

We are committed to contributing \$10000 towards the project. All BTC Alumni are called upon to offer a one-off generous contribution to this exciting initiative. Those who contribute will know that there is a special part of CSU that is forever BTC. They will also have their name inscribed on a plaque to be placed on the wall of the historic Heffron Building.

Why is this BTC student in the fishpond in the middle of Winter?

✂-----

YES I would like to contribute to the appeal for the erection of the Commemorative Water Feature. I enclose a

donation of \$_____. Name_____ Years at BTC_____

Address_____ Phone number_____

I require a receipt and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

On receipt of your contribution your name will be entered in a draw to win your choice of a weekend for two in Bathurst or a case of CSU wine.

✂-----

BTCAA Management Committee 2006

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| President: | Helen Egan |
| Vice Presidents: | Alan Beggs,
Wayne Bensley |
| Secretary: | Wanda Zaniewski |
| Treasurer: | Gail Metcalfe |
| Minutes Secretary: | Val Woodward |
| Panorama Sub-Committee: | Roseann Dale Dengate,
Carole Goodwin,
Denise Cramsie |
| General Members: | John Middenway,
Peter Connolly,
Lew Ford,
Stuart Ogg,
Greg Woods |

Please send cheque/money order for the Commemorative Water Feature appeal made out to BTCAA and addressed to:
Gail Metcalfe, 14 Banksia Park,
Katoomba NSW 2780



BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

HELEN EGAN (née LONG) (1951 - 52)

I remember my two years at BTC with affection. We were all prepared to live, eat, attend lectures, join clubs and generally be happy in crowded (some might say sub-standard) conditions. But I think that's why such strong bonds of friendship were forged. After graduating I taught at Camperdown, Cowra and Mosman Public Schools. and for about six years I was Liaison Officer for PSAAA (now PSSA).

On the home/family front sons and a daughter, daughters-in-law and grandchildren keep me busy. My daughter, Jane, also graduated in Primary Education from CSU (Bathurst) but has now followed a career in accountancy (CSU Wagga Wagga).

Over the 50 plus years I have enjoyed many Pioneers Reunions and am proud to be the current president of BTC Alumni Association.

LEW FORD BTC (1951-52)

First teaching appointment, Blakehurst Public School 1952 -4, then a one-teacher school, Berrioye via Boggabri. Wentworth Central School (far west), Mortdale PS and Hurstville Boys High School teaching GA or remedial classes.

Completed a BA course, Uni of Sydney (evening) in early '60s, Hurstville BH English/History dept., Heathcote HS, History Master, Maroubra GHS, Dep. Principal, Endeavour HS, Dep. Principal, Newtown BHS, Principal, Blakehurst HS Principal.

Retired 1992

Currently involved in voluntary work, training, St Vincent de Paul Compeer program.

Married Pauline (Grady) Black Springs via Oberon.

Son, Patrick 35, daughter Penelope 33.

VAL WOODWARD (1966 - 67)

Graduated BTC in 1967. Fond memories of my 2 years in Bathurst.

Presently teaching at Bateau Bay Public School involved in Reading Recovery and the Early School Support Program.

Enjoy being part of BTC AA Committee.

WANDA ZANIEWSKI (1964 - 65)

Trained as Junior Secondary Teacher. Completed Bachelor of Arts at University of Sydney and Master of Educational Administration at University of New England,

Taught in Sydney schools from 1966 until I retired in January 2003. I specialised as a Social Sciences teacher teaching Geography, Commerce, Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Business Services. I have also been a member of the Higher School Certificate Business Studies Syllabus Committee and Examination Committee. I retired as Deputy Principal and am now enjoying life, line dancing and rock 'n rolling five days a week.

PETER CONNOLLY (1951 - '52)

Leaving Certificate 1947 and 1948

Worked in Sydney 2 years before BTC. Loved dancing/piano playing/The Revue. Played piano at Knickerbocker Hotel for dinner (6-7 p.m.) L.J. Allen got me the job. 10/6 for the hour + meal

'53 - '56 - Blaxcell St, Granville Primary School (Boys Dept). Went to East Sydney Tech. (Darlinghurst) three nights a week to do Art classes. Continue with piano lessons and singing lessons.

'57 - March '60 - Toombang Central at Mittagong (originally Mittagong Boys' Home School)

Overseas '60 - March '62. Taught in London for 20 months.

'62 -'69 - Mosman High School Art Teacher

'70 -'74 - Art Master Chester Hill High

'75 -'82 The Entrance High

'83 - '87 Dep. Principal Woy Woy HS. Retired from State system.

'88 - 6 weeks in South America

'89 - Europe/Great Britain Trip with 2 sisters

Sept '91 - July 2000 - taught in Catholic Secondary School at Tuggerah

- Art lessons with Long Jetty Senior Citizens Club. Play organ at Nareen Gardens Dementia Lodge and Reynolds Court for Masses.

Have recently done some black and white drawings of my own.

Note:- With Helen Long, Linda Lahey, Ken Shoebridge and Gillian Thacker ('52 - '53) started the BTC Ex-Students Union meetings, held in Ushers Hotel and Carlton Hotel.

WAYNE BENSLEY (1964 - 65)

I came to BTC in 1964 from the country town of Gilgandra. It was a big "adventure" in the metropolis of Bathurst. I was the youngest male in my intake. I graduated in 1965 and went off to my first appointment in Jerilderie (Riverina). National Service (conscripted) got me for 2 years and I did my service in New Guinea. After the army came a few years in Armidale (at University of New England). I then taught in Gunnedah, Belrose, Norfolk Island, Newport, Normanhurst West, Brooklyn and Neutral Bay. I then became Principal of Maroubra Bay, Vaucluse and now currently at Middle Harbour (Mosman). Forty years of DET service has passed eventfully, quickly and with great satisfaction. I am married to Noni and have a hairdresser daughter, Chloe. We live at Allambie Heights on the northern beaches of Sydney.

GREG WOODS (1965 - 66)

After attending BTC in 1965/66 I taught at Turondale, Milperra, Revesby South, RAAF School Penang, Holsworthy, East Hills, Coolah Central and Gunnedah South.

Finished career as State President of New South Wales Primary Schools Sports Association and am now building a Bed and Breakfast at Sanctuary Point on the South Coast.

JOHN MIDDENWAY (1954/55)

I was involved with the planning committee that led to the formation of our Alumni Association. For the first few years I was treasurer.

In January 1989 I took early retirement from the Deputy's position at Parramatta High School. Freedom to get involved in Probus activities and OMNI meetings is much appreciated and I enjoy the company of my wife Barbara and my two daughters and their families.

GAIL METCALFE (NEE MCGILL) (1960/61)

I was born in Bathurst in 1943 the youngest girl in a family of seven children. I attended St Mary's College Bathurst from Kindergarten to fifth year gaining my leaving certificate in 1959. Although I applied for teachers' colleges other than Bathurst it seemed it was more economical for the powers that be to grant scholarships in one's home town. So Bathurst Teachers' College was allocated to me. There were, I think 12 locals or "day students" in our year.

My first appointment after graduation was to the then

small village of Mulgoa which boasted a two teacher school. There are many tales that can be told about that experience. I guess one of the most significant ones is that I met my husband there in 1963. From there I moved to Russell Lea a great little Infants school near Five Dock and then on to North Rocks School for the

Deaf. I had no training in teaching hearing impaired children but that didn't seem to matter to the Department.

After the birth of my first child I taught at Warragamba Public School. Then, following a move to the Blue Mountains "for a few years" some 36 years ago, I had five more children and only did casual teaching for some years at the many State and Catholic schools in the area until 1988.

Concurrently, as one of my children was severely disabled, I became involved with a local accommodation service which was operated by a very dedicated woman, Elizabeth McDonald. When the parents formed a trust and purchased the facility in 1975 I began volunteer administrative work for the organization. When it was decided to build a new modern facility my husband & I were challenged with fund raising and managing the project. The new

facility was opened in 1984 by the then Minister for Health Ron Mulock. In 1989 I was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the organization which provided long term accommodation for 38 profoundly disabled children and young adults.

Having retired from that position in 1999 I have enjoyed voluntary work with Save the Children, St Vincent de Paul, BTC Alumni Association and my local church. I also belong to a Book Group, Blue Mountains Bird Watching Club and go camping, walking and mountain bike riding whenever possible.

My six and soon to be seven grandchildren keep me on my toes when they come to visit the Mountains or when I visit them.

BTCAA SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The BTC Alumni Association Scholarship will help the child or grandchild of an ex-BTC student reach their goal in attending Charles Sturt University and attaining their degree.

Please see the inside back cover on how to make your donation, or for more information you can contact the Alumni Office on 02 63384629.



Acknowledgment of contributors to the Scholarship Appeal will be included in the next *Panorama*.

NEWS FROM CSU

COST OF DRUGS CAN BE A HARD PILL TO SWALLOW

Story by Elizabeth Heath

The pharmaceutical business is often described as one of the the most profitable industries on the planet. And Australian drug prices are amongst the most expensive in the world.

As Federal Cabinet considers radical plans to bring down the costs of pharmaceuticals, Professor David M Jackson from Charles Sturt University's (CSU) School of Biomedical Sciences explains why the price of drugs in Australia is too high.

According to Professor Jackson, part of the problem is a lack of competition between pharmacies. Recently, the pharmacy industry fought, and won, a battle with the major supermarkets who wanted to open chemist shops in their stores.

"You can buy small quantities of aspirin in a supermarket, and that's cheap," says Professor Jackson. But that's where the bargains end for the consumer. "What you pay depends on the wholesale price plus the mark-up, which can vary between 40 and 70 per cent."

At the moment, the pharmaceutical companies can virtually set their own price for a new drug. One example is the relatively recent statins...drugs for controlling cholesterol levels. "The patent life is about 14 years, and they can charge whatever the market will bear until a generic drug comes along. Australia spends one billion a year on statin drugs, that's phenomenal," says Professor Jackson, "New Zealand spends just fifty million a year on statins." How come?

"Because New Zealand has a tender system. It says, we have a certain budget, we do not need six different statins. They tender it out.

"So effectively what New Zealand does is say, well, we haven't got the money to subsidise these very expensive statins, we'll subsidise one statin."

It's a good system for bringing down the price of pharmaceuticals, but it doesn't explain the high cost of generic drugs in Australia.

"They cost next to nothing to make, why are they only a bit cheaper than the brand name? The government negotiates the price, and they have to balance the conflicting needs of the pharmaceutical industry, the consumer, the pharmacies."

If Federal Cabinet adopts the New Zealand model, could there could be a backlash from the powerful pharmaceutical lobby?



Professor David M. Jackson from
CSU School of Biomedical Sciences

"It's hard to say. In New Zealand, some researchers say it's harder to get research money. They also say a lot of clinical trials are now no longer done there, but I don't really believe that. But what has happened is quite a few pharmaceutical companies have closed their doors and moved offshore.

"But I worry about the consumer. I don't care about the Federal Government, I don't especially care about the drug companies. Australia is going the way of the US, where people in a lower socio-economic group don't have access to drugs (they need)."

Breaking News:

BTC Pioneer lecturer, Mr John Cassim, has recently donated *The John Cassim Music Scholarship* to the CSU, to be presented for the first time in 2007.



Win a case of CSU wine
or a weekend for two in Bathurst.
See page 6 for details.



This photo was sent by **John French**, who attended BTC 1956-57 and 'found his fellow students a great bunch of people.' He was wondering how many resigned before retiring age and hopes not too many have passed on. He retired to Port Macquarie and is thoroughly enjoying his leisure years. The only pity is that the body has also retired as far as physical activity is concerned. He sends his regards to the BTC ex-students, whom he hopes are now enjoying the company of friends, children and grandchildren.

Bathurst Teachers College Staff 1957

John did not include names. Fortunately I was able to recognise a number of faces, but was helped by locating my 1958 BTC Calendar and *Scriblus*. These certainly brought back a number of memories.

Back Row , L-R: N. Raymond Cattell B.A. [English] Theodore Barker, B.A., Dip. Ed [History] Richard J. Whitbread, B.Sc., Dip. Ed [Mathematics] John S. Gunn M.A. [English] Ian C. Smith, B.A. [Education] Jack McDonogh [Art and Handcraft] Margaret Holt Craft (?) Archibald R. H. Millar B.A., Dip. Ed [English-drama] R. Dixon [Art] Raymond Meyer B.Ec. Dip P.E. [Physical Education] Janice Horder B.Sc, Dip Ed [Biology]

Front Row L-R: John W. Campbell B.A., Dip. Ed [English] Bernard Greaves M.A. Dip. Ed, FRGS [History/ Geography] Betty A. Jarvie, Dip P.E. [Physical Education] Maurice E Hale M.A. [Education] Lionel J Allen B.A., B.Ec PRINCIPAL, [Education] Nancy Bayley LTCl, ATD. [Music] Thomas Mason B.Sc, Dip Ed Wales [Biology] Alicia E Ree, ATD [Art] Charles (Sandie) McCausland, M.A., Dip Ed [Geography], Rose Stafford BA Dip Ed, Dr Judith Weaver or Dr E. Winsome Seward [Hygiene].