



A PUBLICATION  
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WAGGA TEACHERS

# TALKABOUT



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Mr Salmon, of the Department of Education, planting a foundation tree at the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College 1948



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My report is based on that given at the AGM and is a little like “the Year in Review” .

Following the success of the “**70 Year Celebration**” in October 2017, 2018 has been a year with the focus on keeping people in touch through *Talkabout* with the continued contribution of alumni memories, stories and personal experiences.

There have also been several mini reunions bringing WWTC graduates together for morning teas, luncheons and a few drinks. Chris and Jenny Blake (66/67) organised the Canberra outing while Neville Keeley (70/71) was responsible for “The Enders” at The Rocks in Sydney. The Wilcox’s continue with their regular quarterly City Extra, Circular Quay luncheon. No doubt there are other groups who seek out each other’s company at various venues.

The WWTCFA Facebook page continues to attract photos and acts as a billboard for various events and for relaying details of activities. Hopefully more alumni will avail themselves of this opportunity to “stay in touch” and perhaps even record adventures and travels which tend to dominate in these retirement years.

Once again there were three editions of *Talkabout* with the April Edition celebrating **70 Years of Teacher Education WWTC 1947 – 2017**. It was a glossy coloured edition and contained a

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## President's Report Cont'd

DVD with over 800 photographs from the weekend. It was well compiled by our editor, Brian Powyer and it certainly captured the events of not only the weekend but the trials and tribulations of being at WWTC as a student through the decades.

The August and December editions of *Talkabout* featured the WWTC scholarship recipients from 2017 and 2018. These were Katelyn Rudd who graduated in 2017 and Molly Darrington (a 3rd year student) as the awardee in 2018. There were also the regular snippets which cross over the secretary's desk and the contributed articles of how it was at College or in those early years of appointment. Unfortunately, "In Memoriam" pages become all too familiar as we pay tribute and remember those who have passed through the doors of WWTC. As a committee we must continue to impress upon our members to make contributions.

With funds contributed through our Alumni, CSURA continues to upload relevant WWTC material to their Facebook page and other collections. These can be accessed through:

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

Once again consideration needs to be given to the allocation of

funds for further online accessibility to records from WWTC. It should be kept in mind that future housing of regional archives material will move to the Boorooma Campus.

Financially, under the impeccable scrutiny of our Treasurer, WWCTAA accounts are in a healthy position as there is a steady flow of membership payments and donations. Lesley, our secretary, continues to monitor payments for *Talkabout* and membership. This provides the ability to continue our funding program for scholarships, archives, printing, various expenses and donations to educational institutions. No doubt Lindsay's Treasurer's Report will quantify our position as he continues to call the bank to task for various errors and omissions. Larger contributions from members are duly recognised through thank you notes and *Talkabout*.

Despite efforts by our Alumni Relations Coordinator, the number of scholarship applications were below expectations despite five Bachelor of Education courses being offered. No doubt Sheridan is on the job and that there will be a greater choice for interview in ensuing years. Ceremonies will be held at the end of April/ start of May in 2019. Let us all hope that there is a list of well qualified high achievers

making application and that Bachelor of Teaching courses get students with high entry qualifications.

There was some consternation over the proposal circulated by CSU at the end of 2018 to undergo a name change. All WWTCAA members would realise our existence from June 1947 had morphed through WWTC to RCAE, RMIHE to CSU. There was a survey completed by CSU to gain feedback on the proposal and an overwhelming percentage of respondents opposed the change in name. Following our AGM the committee were invited to make comment on the re-branding proposal. Expressions were mixed but reflected that there was a need for a greater presence in the community but not necessarily a change in name.

On 19 February 2019 I received an email from CSU which states: *"We heard loud and clear through your stories that you are connected to our name and rich history and we think it's important we reflect the views of our community in our namesake. We intend to draw on our history and heritage to evolve our brand including our visual identity and logo to tell our stories. We are really excited about revealing our brand story in the coming months and sharing more about the progress of our University"*



Student Accommodation WWTC 1950's



Student Accommodation Sturt University 2019

*Strategy in delivering on all the things you asked us to improve—teaching, learning, research and community engagement.”*

May I take this opportunity to thank each committee member for their attendance, support and contributions throughout the year. Thanks to Sheridan for her assistance and support as the Alumni Relations Officer. A big thank you to Chris and Jenny who do a great job with the scholarship applications, to

Lindsay for his keeping and recording of accounts and to Lesley, who despite various arguments with data bases and mail-outs keeps our relationship an ongoing one. And finally, to our busy editor, Brian, who retired from teaching to work for the preservation of History, thanks for providing the quality *Talkabouts* for yet another year.

It would be remiss of me to not pay tribute to one of our foundation members. Sadly, this year

Bob Collard OBE, and a past president of WWTCAA, passed away after an extended illness. He was a great community member, family man, and a respected citizen and educator. Our sympathies are extended toward Olga and their family. He was certainly a man who in his final President's Report (March 2013) summed up his philosophy with the Pierre Corneille statement: *“Do your duty and leave the outcome to the Gods.”*

## ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK - Lesley Forbes



I would like to share this thank you note from Stewart House. It is nice to be appreciated and great to see institutions like

Stewart House continuing their traditions within a contemporary environment. Thank you for your support of Stewart House over the years.

Dear Lesley,  
On behalf of Stewart House I would like to thank the WWTCAA for their generous donation of \$1000. We are very fortunate to have your support and that of the Education community.

Your kind donations made in August 2018 and March 2019 have been directed towards providing additional healthcare and wellbeing support for the children who come into our care, including:

- Access to counselling and mental health support from clinical psychologist
- If necessary, purchase of medication as subscribed by

health professionals

- Purchase of personal hygiene products (many children who come into the program do not possess these)
- Off-site excursions around Sydney including a ferry ride and access to Ryde, Homebush and Cook and Phillip aquatic centres

As you know, the children who come to us are experiencing difficult circumstances that are out of their control. The Stewart House 12-day residential program addresses:

- a) Basic physical health needs by health care professionals (dental, optometric, hearing and medical). In 2018, 1 in 5 children received reading glasses for the first time (a total of 315 pairs dispensed) and 1 in 3 were referred for BMI issues. 10% were referred for advanced optometric screening and 11% for advanced audiometric screening.
- b) The development of self-care skills and a sense of independence through the teaching and modelling of appropriate

personal hygiene practices and routines. In 2018, 68% of children said that they were better able look after themselves after participating in the program.

- c) Emotional awareness to better manage the children's personal circumstances. In 2018, 90% of participants stated that they felt safer at Stewart House; 95% were appreciative of the care staff gave them; 75% achieved the goals they set themselves by the end of the program; 75% learnt new ways to deal with negative emotions; 80% discovered something good about themselves and 90% knew who they could turn to for support when they got home.

- d) The development of social interaction skills practiced within experiential and educational learning experiences around Sydney. In 2018, 66% of children said they felt more confident joining in and playing with others; 85% learnt more appropriate ways



to interact with others and 99% said they learned how to make new friendships

If anyone from the WWTCAA would like to receive our regular monthly newsletter via email please let me know. It includes short stories and interest pieces

on what the children have been doing.

Thank you once again for supporting the work of Stewart House.

Kind regards,

Aimee Palfreeman



## HAPPY MEMORIES: ONE-TEACHER SCHOOL PART 2 - Kevin Stone

.....In my next year and final year at the Tirranna PS, the District Inspector was Mr Don Lawler. He was a very practical and insightful supervisor. On one occasion when I stumbled over reading the word 'plover' he detected a lack of knowledge on my part of birdlife. In the morning recess he proposed that we walk around the playground to see what birdlife existed. This resulted in me becoming a life-long observer of birdlife. And subsequently was able to educate many pupils in the delights of bird watching. In fact in this first school appointment and in my last school appointment it was a delight to observe Tawny Frogmouths nesting in the playground. I also had the advantage later of driving to and from school each day giving me the opportunity to observe local birdlife.

Besides visits from time to time of District Inspectors of Schools there was not a lot of interaction with other schools and teachers. I was more fortunate than many other teachers as I lived in Goulburn. Some I would see regularly in my worship at St Saviour's Cathedral, such as Laurie Howe and teachers like Beverley Holgate who assisted me with many lessons for infants. Mr Hennessy, Principal of East Goul-

burn School assisted me with matters of school administration. There were of course many small schools scattered around Goulburn and as small schoolies we would meet from time to time. There was also the Annual Collector Small School Sports. To my amazement and encouragement Tirranna won the Athletic Carnival at the end of my first year at Tirranna

It was during these early years of the 1970's that there was a real push by the Department of Education to close many small schools if you were low in enrolments. Fortunately Tirranna maintained high enrolments. It was during this time that Mr Don Lawler arranged to chair a meeting of parents to ascertain if

the school should be closed being so close to Goulburn. However many pupils had to travel a long way to even get to Tirranna. Pupils travelled from as far as Inverloch and as far west as the edge of Lake George. Over the years schools that were closer to these locations had closed. In my first year at Tirranna, schools at Springdale and Lake Bathurst had closed.

At the meeting that Don Lawler chaired, the parents were adamant that the school would remain open. And as the school exceeded nine pupils, the minimum number for a school to remain open, the parents were successful. In 2019 the school will be celebrating 150 years of education. It just so happened that I



was appointed in the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the school.

Other activities for the pupils in the time I taught at Tirranna centred on school excursions. The school was fortunate in having as the School Bus Driver for the Currawang Road, Mrs Dawn Relf. It was always possible to engage Dawn Relf in transporting pupils on day excursions. On one occasion the visit to Canberra including Tinbinbilla Nature Reserve was an outstanding success. Many of the pupils who were from local farms never got the chance to get away and to provide for these excursions was always very educational. On another occasion Mr Eric Sykes was able to arrange for the school to visit some outstanding geological formations in the area of Murray Flats on the northern side of Goulburn. There were of course nature rambles close to the school. On one such walk I was alerted to two tiger snakes that were in our pathway. I arranged for the children to walk further away from the snakes but one little boy was seen to walk in the vicinity of the snakes. Later I questioned him about what he had done. He replied that he had seen them but just jumped over them!

I had been the last of the two-year trained teachers from Wagga Wagga TC. However, because there had been numerous exposures to Demonstration lessons at both Turvey Park Dem School and at the one teacher school at Collingullie there had been solid ground made in lesson preparation and delivery. Plus there were the early and mid-year and end of year Practice teaching sessions, so that I felt that the training prepared us well. Placements at such schools

as Gurwood Street PS, Figtree PS, Kapooka PS and South Gundagai PS all helped to assist me in my training as a teacher.

The school lessons at Tirranna PS were still more formal with training in Reading, invariably using the old beginner readers, "David, Sue and Wendy" In other grades SRA had become popular. I was also helped having had Mr Arthur Trewin as my Lecturer in Mathematics. His excellent "Project Mathematics" were just being published about this time. Other resources like Maxine Sale's "A Teacher's Guide to Practical Science" was invaluable as was "Crafts in Education" by John W. Cosier. All had been lecturers at Wagga Wagga TC. I also had successfully mastered the Recorder under the excellent mentoring of Mr Kloessing and Mr Pulley and so for many years, beginning here at Tirranna, I was able to teach many pupils to play this instrument. For other lessons such as Singing and Folk Dancing the ABC broadcasts were invaluable.

There were also amusing incidents in my time at Tirranna. After the first year I did manage to buy a car and become successful in getting a driver's licence. It was not long after this that I began to collect the daily milk allotted for each school child. I collected the crate of milk bottles each day from the Dairy Farmer's Factory just beyond the railway line off the Braidwood

Road. Often at weekends there was always the sound of clanking empty bottles coming from the boot of the car which many of the passengers found amusing.

In my third and last year at the school Mr Lawler suggested I apply to teach at the newly established Wollondilly Demonstration School set up for the Goulburn Teachers' College. His reason was that it was better to have greater exposure to other teachers and because you could so easily in a one-teacher school retain a certain amount of isolated reserve, making it increasingly difficult to change.

So in the new year the appointment was made to Wollondilly Demonstration School where I stayed for three years before transferring to Newcastle. In my final years in Goulburn it became increasingly difficult to satisfactorily court the lady that I had got to know from Newcastle. We had met working on the Children's Special Service Mission at Fingal Bay. I was strangely rewarded with an appointment to Windale PS in the very large Housing Commission suburb just south of Newcastle with a Senior Remedial Class. On the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1977 I married Anne Lorraine Pavey at Hamilton Baptist Church, so it was



Mr Stone birdwatching with his students.



well worth the move!

Now more than forty years later I have semi-retired and we live in Palmerston, Canberra. After twenty years of teaching and with further appointments and promotions to Cobar, Rosewood, Ivanhoe, Werris Creek and Cat-tai, I left teaching to come to Canberra to pursue a calling to train for the Anglican Ministry. I studied at St Mark's National Theological College from 1990-92 and obtained a B.Th. Some people may have thought it was economic suicide to do so to take a wife and four young children

to be without a salary for three years and to a future that was unknown. But it was the fulfilment of a calling that had been with me from teenage years. As it turned out there have been innumerable blessings. Now, just over a twenty year period I have been Incumbent of the Parishes of West Goulburn, Cooma, Crookwell and Deakin. My ministry part-time now occurs at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn and the historic Church of St John the Baptist Canberra. We have four children, all married, two of whom are also ordained

clergy and two who are teachers; with so far nine grandchildren.

I look back on that first appointment of teaching at Tirranna PS as Teacher-in-Charge as very fulfilling in my life and calling. I am still in contact with some of the parents and pupils of those days and continue to be encouraged with the grounding they received in education at the little school at Tirranna. I hope to see more of them all next year as the school celebrates 150 years of education.

**Kevin Stone**

## **A FISHY TALE - Bob Gass (55 - 56), Jim Carolan (54 - 55)**

What do three young ex-WWTC students do when they return home from their teaching exploits around the state?

Naturally, they want to go fishing along the Darling River. They had heard tales of local fishermen going to that area and returning with huge catches.

These "boys" were Jim Carolan, Tom Payne (from the WWTC 1954-5) and Bob Gass (WWTC 1955-6). They used to come home to Narrandera every school holiday because their parents lived there.

This is their story of the BIG FISHING TRIP TO THE DARLING RIVER.

We decided before embarking on this fishing trip of a lifetime, we should make careful plans. Bait of course was a necessary ingredient for those poor unsuspecting fish which were waiting for the anticipated feast.

We collected a drum of worms, a big bucket full of yabbies, many shrimps, freshwater mussels,

about 60 frogs and about twenty witchity grubs. This took us at least a week to collect.

Next were the fishing lines. Besides a couple of rods we needed some fixed lines and the daddy of them all was a line to stretch right across the Darling River with one hundred hooks in place. We also found some scrap lead which we melted down and poured into a couple of our mothers' spoons to mold them into fishing line sinkers

Some of these items were placed on Bob Gass's front verandah. One early morning Bob's mother went out and made a loud shout of bewilderment. We had placed the 60 frogs in a hessian bag and left them on the veranda. We didn't check to see if there were holes in the sack. There

must have been for many of these frogs had escaped and were climbing walls and posts. We did manage to recapture this essential bait.

After our week's preparation we set "sail" in Big Jim's ute. It was his proudest possession. Our outward route took us to Hay, (Hell) and Booligal, Ivanhoe, Menindee. From Menindee we motored north for about twenty miles. Then we started seeking a spot along the Darling where the unsuspecting fish just lay in wait. We spotted the gates of a cattle station and decided to chance our luck. We went to the station house and met the



farmer's wife who pointed to a place where we could set up our camp. She also stated that her husband was away taking sheep to the market.

Here we set up camp. We cannot remember setting up any fishing lines that evening for we had to set up our beds. Bob and Jim each had simple stretchers but Tom, wishing to be a complete pioneer, did not bring such a luxury as a stretcher or sleeping bag. Instead, Tom found a slight depression in the river flat and with his tomahawk, cut down some saplings with leaves to provide some comfort for his bed.

After some haute cuisine dinner including some refreshments we went to bed. We remember that on this trip we had lots of tinned peaches but definitely short of other foods. In the middle of the night Tom let out a blood curdling yelp. He had made his "bed" on an ants' nest, the type that was about one inch in length. One, or more, of the ants explored Tom's body before deciding to bite in a very sensitive part. Hence the scream. Hence the laughter of his fishermen friends. There was no sympathy! The next morning we set up our fishing lines, including, "Big Daddy" the one right across the Darling River. We checked our lines regularly..... but no luck.

On the second day we did some rod fishing and caught an unlucky fish which was about eight inches long. In an attempt to deceive people back home in Narrandera we strung a line between two trees and dangled the fish down from it. Bob then retreated about twenty yards away and held up his hands in a manner set to indicate that a large fish had

been caught. No doubt the reader will be amazed at the size this catch.

Not much more happened. Bob can remember swimming in the River and observing a snake swimming along side him. He broke the Olympic 50m time in returning to the bank.

After about three or four days of great heat, flies and no fish we decided it was time to admit defeat. Go home!

We drove back to Menindee where we refreshed our palates with welcome drinks at the famous Menindee Pub. Then we set sail into the sunset and the wind was blowing hard. As we travelled along the main "road" at good speed, we came across these "rolling sandhills". The wind would blow the sand across the road in ridges about 12 inches high. They would appear quite suddenly. We just crashed our way through these impediments. Jim, our intrepid driver, remembers these conditions very vividly.

After driving for some time the weather conditions changed dramatically. A mass of dark thundering clouds enveloped us. It started to rain so we sought shelter. With amazing luck we found a railway shed at Gum Lake. That train stop was the famous "Hell's Gate" train stop. Hell's Gate Cattle Station is close by. Naturally we set up camp in the shed.

At some ungodly hour a train passed through sounding its horn

as loudly as possible. We all sat up wondering what was happening. Some of us thought the train was going to travel right through the shed.

Next morning! A large thunderstorm had passed where we slept. We believe it had rained over an inch.

As soon as Jim started driving we knew we were in trouble as bogging was a great possibility. What happened was Tom then Bob would run ahead seeking firm ground where Jim could drive and not get bogged. We travelled like this, successfully, until we came to a low depression where about three or four vehicles were hopelessly bogged to their axles. How could the intrepid fishermen overcome this problem? Oh, such resourcefulness, obviously drummed into us at WWTC! We were very close to the Ivanhoe Menindee railway line.

Tom went and looked at the line. For some reason steel sleepers had been laid and the surface between these sleepers was flat. We decided we could straddle one line and drive down the middle. Wow!

Soon we are shovelling some dirt close to the line so Jim could drive his ute into that position.





There were some wooden sleepers beside the track and on moving one of them we disturbed a large black snake. Someone said, "Get the shotgun!"

Bob then reached into the back of Jim's ute and retrieved the shotgun. We cannot remember if the gun was correctly in its case or just lying in the back. Anyway, Bob grabbed the gun and unwittingly allowed his fingers to meet the trigger. This was contrary to all the rules that his father had always stressed that, "A gun is always loaded"! Tom felt the wind of the shots as they whistled past his knee! He shouted quite loudly to Bob, "Give me that (expletive) gun!" In writing this part of our story, Tom never forgot that frightening experience whilst Bob conveniently expunged it from his memory!

Not being great believers in nature at that time, the unfortunate snake was dispatched to join his ancestors with a point blank shot from our shot gun! We believed it to be our civic duty to rid society of such a menace!

Once on the track Jim was able to drive down the line for about a mile when the flat steel sleepers were replaced by wooden sleepers and so, when Jim tried to drive over them the bumps were too steep.

What to do? We surveyed the scene.....it was too rough on the sides of the track we were on but a quick appraisal on the other side presented a smoother drive. So, we had to get the ute on the other side of the track BUT where was the shovel? We realized we had left the shovel where we first straddled the

track! "Never mind," said Bob, "I'll walk back and retrieve it." So off Bob trotted.

He got back to where we first mounted the track, found the shovel and picked it up. He proceeded to walk back to the ute, Suddenly, "Toot!, Toot!, Toot!"

Bob thought, "Oh no! A train is approaching! Perhaps if I pretend it's not there it will keep on going!"

BUT No! The train driver stopped the train and said, "Where are you going, mate?" To which Bob replied, "I'm walking down the track to where our ute is on the line.

"No worries", said the train driver, "Hop on and we'll give you a lift." So Bob climbed up into the engine cabin. When the train arrived at the spot where the ute had been on the track, Jim and Tom had managed to get the ute over on the other side of the track. The train driver, much to our surprise said, "Would you like a tow?"

In unison we said, "Yes! But we don't have a rope." Train driver, "Go and see if those bogged guys over in the ditch have a rope they can lend you."

Tom went off and managed to borrow a rope. We tied the rope to the bumper bar of the ute and tied it to some anchorage on the train. The train huffed and puffed, the rope took the strain but, catastrophe, the rope broke!

No worries," said the train driver, "We have a steel rope in the guard's van. We'll drive the train forwards, get the steel rope, reverse the train and we'll tie you up again."

This happened and Jim's ute was attached by steel rope to the train.

Jim stayed in the ute and managed the steering wheel. Bob sat on the ute's bonnet with his feet against the train to stop the ute being pulled onto the train. Tom acted as supervisor and made sure the project was going to plan.

Huff! Puff! The train and the ute started to move. The train got us as far as a culvert filled with rocks. The driver thought for a while but decided to proceed. Jim's ute bounced up and down but eventually we were over the culvert.

We thanked the driver and the crew. The train proceeded on to Ivanhoe. We were now at the small town of Darnick but the road ahead was navigable. We drove in to Ivanhoe.

As all three of us were teachers we believed we had a right to sleep on Ivanhoe Public School verandah. This we did. Before we settled down for the night we





discovered that the sheep were being unloaded into holding pens. We went down and offered our services to those unloading the sheep. We were amazed to discover that the sheep had come from the station where we went fishing north of Menindee and the guy who lent us the rope was the husband and owner of that property.

Our great fishing trip had one more trick up its sleeve. A large amount of rain had fallen in the area we had just traversed. During the night a wind developed and there was a refrigeration effect on it. Remember, our pioneering mate, Tom, had no blankets or sleeping bag.

In the night, Tom exploded with the words, "Jim and Bob I'm freezing!" A sympathetic Jim and Bob exploded with laughter and uttered words like, "Get back to sleep, Tom".

One final point from Jim, "I suspected there would be damage under the ute from being dragged through the mud and rocks by the train.

When we got back to Narrandera, I hosed the mud off the truck, including the underneath part. I found no damage, but underneath the ute, it was perfectly clean, no oil or grease or mud anywhere !! Just the metal showing ! It never was that clean underneath since it was made ! Also the ute did not need a wheel alignment !"

This is the first time Tom and Bob have heard about this good report on Jim's ute! We were always too afraid to ask him about the state of his car. That, of course, in those days, the Holden ute was tough!

The remainder of our trip back to Narrandera was uneventful. In future our holidays at our home

town were swimming, golfing, shooting ducks (if they were unlucky), going to the RSL ..... drinking, playing the pokies, playing table tennis and billiards. At night a serious game of solo was undertaken at Tom's parents' house.

If we ventured away from Narrandera it was to Moruya. There we met up with Mick and Joel Colefax and Dave Crackanthorpe (all 1954-5 WWTC). Here our exploits included surfing, beach running, beach cricket, golf at various courses, Moruya Golf Club House with many creature comfort.

At this stage none of us was involved in a serious relationships. We were joined by other friends who also came on these trips.

Oh! The joys of young bachelor holidays!

**Bob Gass  
Jim Carolan**

## **WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2019 - Chris and Jenny Blake**

Having read the applications and interviewed the applicants for the WWTCAA Scholarships we are in a very happy position to announce the recipients for 2019.

It is exciting to report that Patrick Harris, the grandson of Pam Harris nee Abbetson, a WWTC graduate from 1958 is one of the WWTCAA scholarship recipients for 2019.

Patrick's mother is also a graduate of CSU so he will be the third generation to attend Wagga and the first descendent of a WWTC graduate to receive the scholarship for some time. This is a post graduate degree for Pat-

rick, having completed a Bachelor of Commerce at Macquarie and returned to Wagga to study Education. There will be more on Patrick when we meet his family.

Amanda Reid, from Grenfell, is a mother of four who did a Bachelor of Nursing at Wagga fifteen years ago. She will complete her Primary training this year and intends staying in rural NSW where she is heavily involved in community affairs. Amanda already works part time as a teachers aid and cannot wait to be more involved with teaching.

Both these candidates inter-

viewed very well and we are looking forward to meeting them and their families in Wagga for their presentation in early May.

For the first time we interviewed a First Year student, Lily Graham, and offered her a small scholarship which she accepted. Fortunately for her she received a late offer of a larger amount which shows she was a sound choice.

Congratulations to Patrick, Amanda and Lily. We look forward to hearing of their progress throughout the year and into the future.

**Chris and Jenny Blake**

## IPAI 1958-59 : RESPONSES - Jim Roche, Margaret McGowan

Hi Tom,  
Enjoyed your dialogue on the Ipaï boys from 58/59 WWTC. Many of the guys you mentioned were good mates of mine though I was a year behind your cohort.

Some of my most enjoyed memories relate to our first grade Rugby side of 1959 in which you mentioned quite a few players and I was fortunate to be the right wing playing outside Warren Bingham who was a most brilliant and underrated centre. He gave me plenty of opportunities to score tries which resulted in me being picked on the wing in the Riverina side (along with Phil Pryor) playing outside Jim

Lenahan and Berea Elwood who were ex Wallabies playing with Wagga Waratahs

Teachers most memorable win of the season was our shock defeat of the visiting star studded Sydney Teachers College team before a packed and enthusiastic home crowd of fellow students and loyal lecturers. "Chunky" Ted Kaye and Paul Slater were the only try scorers in our 8-0 win !!

Next year will be an opportunity for some-

one to organise a 60 year reunion of the 59/60 cohort and maybe some of the 58/59 might attend as there were many who shared close friendships between the 2 cohorts. Cheers.



Jim Roche with partner Joan Kirkham (née Robinson) of 59/60 WWTC

### ADDENDUM IPAI BOYS

In regards to Tom Richmond's article in the previous *Talkabout* please add this record to his list of Ipaï residents.

**Brian McGowan 57-58** taught at Tocumwal Primary, Shepards town Small School, Nowra High School, completed B.A. as External Student of Armidale University, transferred to Eng-

lish/History Master The Entrance High School, then to History Master.

Elected the Member for Gosford NSW Government where he served for 12 years, during which time he lobbied and achieved major Public Works in infrastructure, environment and education. At the end of his Parliamentary term elected to

the Gosford City Council until his death in 1994.

The Brian McGowan Bridge, at main entry point to Gosford, named to commemorate the work he did for the area. Died 1994. His widow still lives on the Central Coast.

**Margaret McGowan 57/58**  
(nee Jackson)

## Dr TERRY BURKE: A LEADING EDUCATOR FROM WWTC Tom Richmond, OAM 58/59

Professor Terry Burke, AM, BA (UNE), M Studies Education (Uni of Wollongong), MEd Hons (Uni of Wollongong), PhD (Oregon Uni), FACE, was a member of our Ipaï Minor dormitory in 1958. We knew him then as "Beaver" and we still, know him as "Beaver". Terry graduated at the end of 1959 and, in a career stretching through five decades, rose to the position of Deputy Director General of Education in NSW

"Beaver's" career is one of massive achievement. His first appointment was to Connells Point Public School, where he served from 1960 to 1962. His potential was first recognised with his appointment, in 1963, to Fairy Meadow Demonstration School.

By 1967, he was ready for promotion and became the Assistant Principal of Ashford Central School in 1967. Over the next few years, he was to discover

parts of the State that would remain a mystery to most of us. Ashford is a remote village north west of Glen Innes and Terry served in this K-10 school until 1968.

From there, he advanced to Deputy Principal of Barraba Central School, which was a K-12 school. Barraba is north west of Tamworth and was an asbestos town at the end of a branch railway line. It was a significant pe-



riod for Terry because he married in 1970 and also completed his degree in the same year.

In 1971, Terry became the Principal of Hillston Central School. He was continuing his exploration of the remote corners of the State because Hillston is a small town on the banks of the Lachlan, north of Griffith. Terry served there until 1974, when he received an appointment as Principal of Lalor Park Public School, a position that he occupied briefly while waiting to take up an Inspector's position.

He became District Inspector of Schools in the Nowra District, holding that position until 1979, when he was appointed as Regional Inspector of Schools (Services & Studies- Curriculum and Training and Development) South Coast Region. It was at this time that he undertook post-graduate study at the University of Wollongong. In 1980, he completed a Master of Studies (Education) degree, and in 1982, a Master of Education (Hons).

With both his academic credentials and his educational experience blooming, he obtained a scholarship for further study at the National Centre for Educational Policy and Management, University of Oregon, U.S.A. He returned with a PhD.

From 1984 to 1985 he became a Staff Inspector in the Policy Research Unit, NSW Department of Education, Sydney, including Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island schools. In 1986, he became Director, Schools Directorate, including Special Education, Special Programs, Early Childhood Education, School Sport, Aboriginal Education, Distance Education, Student Welfare and the Registration of

Non- Government schools.

From 1987 to 1990, he served as Assistant Director General, in charge of Operations of the ten Educational Regions. He also had responsibility for the National Art School and was a member of the NSW Board of Studies.

From 1990 to 1993, Terry was Assistant Director General, South Coast Region. From 1993 to 1997, he became Deputy Director General, (Teaching and Learning.). Finally, from 1997 to 2000, he was Deputy Director General (Operation of the ten Regions plus ten TAFE Colleges). At various times he relieved as Director-General.

During Terry's career at the higher levels, he was, from 1987 to 2000, a member of The NSW Board of Higher School Studies. From 1987 to 2003, he was a part time Member of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal (General Division).

In 2000, he retired from the NSW Department of Education following a stellar career that had taken him a long way from the halls of Ipai Minor. He had not, however, finished his working days. From 2000 to 2005 he became the Professor of Educational Leadership and Management and the Inaugural Director of the Australian Centre for Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Wollongong.

Terry's influence spread internationally because at various times between 1997 and 2005 he acted as a consultant (usually through AusAid) to the governments of Indonesia (Quality of Education and an Accountability Framework for Universities); Papua New Guinea (Leadership and

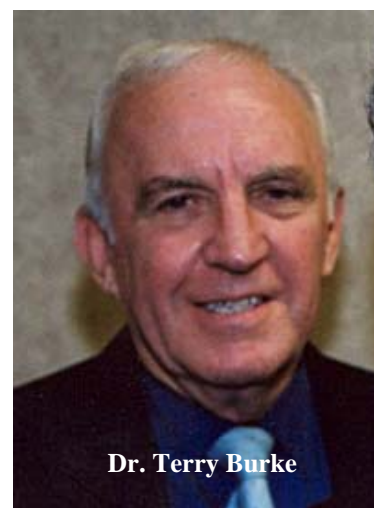
Management of Government Departments); Kenya (Needs Assessment of Education System); ABAC University, Thailand, (Framework for the establishment of Doctoral Courses).

Terry became a Member of the Order of Australia in 2002. In 1996, he became a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, in 2001 a Professorial Fellow of the University of Wollongong and in 2005, a Fellow of the University of Wollongong. At Wollongong University, the *Terry Burke Oration* has been named in his honour.

Today Terry retains the humility that we all remember as part of his character in the 1950s. He has preserved a strongly humanitarian attitude in life and over the years has contributed to a variety of charitable organisations. Among his interests are painting in acrylics and oils, music and travel. His family includes nine grandchildren and one of his sons carries on the teaching tradition.

The old Wagga Teachers' College can be proud of "Beaver" and his remarkable achievements for the youth of this State.

**Tom Richmond, OAM**



**Dr. Terry Burke**

## AGED CARE CENTRE PLANNED FOR WWTC SITE



## IN MEMORIAM

**Joan Stanford (nee Kuskey) 47-49** sadly passed away on September 6th 2018. Her time at Wagga was a highlight and a treasured memory. Joan re-



mained a passionate and dedicated teacher. She made lifelong friends during her years at Wagga and continued to connect through *Talkabout*.

**Susan Storr**

**Keith Smith (1951-52), SRC**  
President 1952 passed away in

February 2018, after a long illness.

**Robert Arthur Etherington** We have been advised of Robert's burial on 11 February 2019. No further details.

**Lesley Forbes**

## VALE: JAMES (JIM) STEWARD JOHNSON 53-54

**James (Jim) Steward Johnson 53-54** It is my unhappy job to inform you that my wonderful husband of 52 years James (Jim) Steward Johnson died on the 19 December 2018.

He really enjoyed his two years

of college 1953/1954 and always spoke about it with great delight.

His two room mates Paul Christopher (dec) and Ron Baird became life long friends. Ron visiting Jim late November.

His last appointment was as Principal of Meadowbank primary but the school that won his heart was Thornleigh which the government closed and sold. At Thornleigh he set up the first School Council of parents and teachers and at Meadowbank

### WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE ARCHIVES

**Go To - CSU Regional Archives**

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



established the first pre school in a government school. He did this with the help of Kay Doyle. His school reaped the benefit of a substantial payment which was spent on the school for the betterment of the students.

Jim was a strong unionist and

fought hard over his teaching years (and beyond) for the betterment of teachers and children. Jim always was a fighter.

One of the last things he did was to get our son to pay his dues and leave a donation to WWTCAA for this year. He al-

ways looked forward to *Talkabout*.

Thank you for all your work it certainly brought Jim a great deal of pleasure.

PS I also enjoyed reading *Talkabout* as I am an old schoolie.

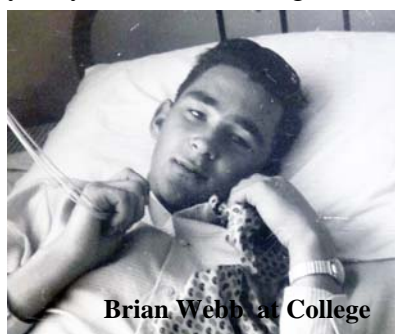
**Kay Johnson**

## VALE: BRIAN WEBB OAM 1959-60

**Brian Webb 59-60** 20 September, 1940 – 5 December, 2018.

Brian was a student at St Edmunds College, Canberra before he began teacher training at Wagga Wagga in 1959. He brought with him some useful athletic skills and was a star winger on the college Rugby team. He also loved dancing.

After graduation he was appointed to a one-teacher school at Monia Gap and later moved to Sydney before returning to Can-



Brian Webb at College

berra. Having completed a BA Degree though UNE, he became a teacher of Mathematics at Woden Valley High and Phillip College. He married Carol in 1969 and lived in Torrens where Brian kept a nicely manicured lawn. Brian and Carol had three children: Michael, Leanne and Melanie.

In 1990, Brian suffered a serious stroke that immobilized the right side of his body. However with incredible will-power, assistance from the medical profession and strong support from the family he survived another 28 years. He played and taught lawn bowls, learnt how to drive again and travelled regularly within Australia and overseas. Brian was awarded an OAM for his work in

teaching lawn bowls to people with a disability.

His loving marriage to Carol lasted 49 years and I will always remember him as a kind and caring person with an indomitable



Neville Jennings Brian Webb

will and an infectious sense of humour.

**Neville Jennings**  
(Murwillumbah)

## WWTCAA FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

The Annual Financial Report of the WWTCAA is presented below.

### Audited Accounts

The accounting records of the Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Association in respect of the year ended 31 December, 2018 have been audited and found correct.

### Balance

Continued support for the Association enabled our funds at 31/12/2018 to have a credit balance of \$18,208.44.

### Income

Total income for the year was \$7,935, which included membership contributions of \$3,620 (\$5,970 in 2017) and donations to the Scholarship Fund of

\$2,200 (\$3,355), to Alumni Projects of \$1,010 (\$2315) and General Funds \$1,065 (\$2145). South Campus Book purchases \$40.

### Expenditure

Expenditure for 2018 totalled \$22,561.42 Major areas of expenditure included; Audit Fees \$275, Postage including *Talkabout* \$2,263, Printing *Talkabout*

(3 editions) \$3,653, Stationery \$154, General Expenses \$420, Donations to Teachers Federation for use of rooms \$200, to CSU Archives for digitizing WWTC files \$3,000, to Stewart House \$2,000 and to Abbot-sleigh Indigenous Scholarship \$400. Contribution to the WWTCAA Scholarship Fund was \$6,000. Final payments for the 70 year Celebrations October 2017 totalled \$4,196. Postage and Printing included the extra costs associated with the Special Edition of *Talkabout*, highlighting the 70 year Celebrations.

### Adjustment Notes

Further to the Financial Report for the 70 Year Celebration, (page 30, *Celebrating 70 Years of Teacher Education WWTC 1947-2017*), the following adjustments need to be noted: Photographer costs totalled \$1,471;

Refunds totalled \$2,135 and the special edition of *Talkabout* was \$3,460, making a total expenditure for the celebrations of \$37,076. This was funded by donations of \$1,025, payments and registrations of \$34,285, \$638 being the surplus from the 50 year Reunion in 2016 and \$1,128 from Alumni General Funds. (The committee had previously agreed to support the celebrations to a maximum of \$3,000).

### Scholarship Fund

The WWTCAA Scholarship Fund held by CSU Foundation received donations totalling \$6,200 during 2018. The Scholarship payment for 2018 was \$9,000 which was fully offset by the Corpus Income (Fund Interest) for 2018 (\$9,000). Balance of the Scholarship Fund 31/12/2018 was \$110,252.80.

### AGM Fees

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) resolved that the membership fees for 2019 remain unchanged, that is, \$10 to receive *Talkabout* electronically and \$20 for postal delivery. The AGM also resolved that the following payments be made from funds: \$200 to the Teachers Federation, \$4000 to the Scholarship Fund, \$2,000 to CSU Archives and \$1,000 to Stewart House.

The Alumni Committee continues to be appreciative of those alumni who have maintained membership and regular contributions to the various Alumni causes. The Alumni Association acknowledges the following members, who have contributed substantial amounts above their membership fees, during 2018 up to March 2019.

C. and J. Blake  
T. Burke  
O. Collard  
A. Foggett  
R. Grace  
G. Henry

B. Lawrence  
A. McNaughton  
J. Maxey  
C. Martin  
R. and W. Midgley  
J. Mueller

K. Richardson  
R. Robinson  
G. Say  
J. Scarboro  
W. Semple  
K. Solomon

J. Thompson  
S. Truin  
P. Van Bergen  
M. Walsh

**Lindsay Brockway**  
**Treasurer**

## EDITORS COMMENT Brian Powyer

I hope you enjoyed our first edition of *Talkabout* for 2019. I am sure that 2019 will prove to be

another great year for *Talkabout* as it continues to connect those of us who shared those special

years together whilst attending Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.  
**Brian Powyer**

### MEETING DATES - WWTCAA

#### ALL WELCOME

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

#### Meeting Dates for 2019:

12 February 2019 (AGM)  
14 May 2019  
13 August 2019  
12 November 2019

### INVITE: WWTCAA LUNCHES

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

**Meet 12 noon ,  
at  
City Extra, Circular Quay.**

**Phone Winifred Wilcox 02 9580 5916**





# The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2018 TO SECURE THE FUTURE



## IMPORTANT NOTICE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

To ensure the continued financial viability of the Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association the following membership contributions and services will apply from 1 January 2019.

### a) Electronic Membership:

Receive all information and three (3) copies of *Talkabout* electronically. \$10.00 p.a.

### b) Standard Membership:

Receive all information and three (3) printed copies of *Talkabout* via standard mail.  
\$20.00 p.a.

In addition to either Electronic or Standard Membership members may choose to make additional contributions from the options below.

### c) Additional Contributions:

- general donation to the Alumni for ongoing projects e.g. digitise archives from \$10.00.
- specific donation to the WWTCAA Scholarship Fund from \$10.00.

Opposite is a contribution slip for 2019.

## WWTCAA CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make cheques payable to:

**WWTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Send Your Contribution To:**

Secretary WWTCAA  
12 Silky Oak Rise  
KEW NSW 2439

## ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

To credit of  
**WWTC ALUMNI ASSOC**

**Commonwealth Bank Casula NSW**

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

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

Please send a Remittance Advice to:

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

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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

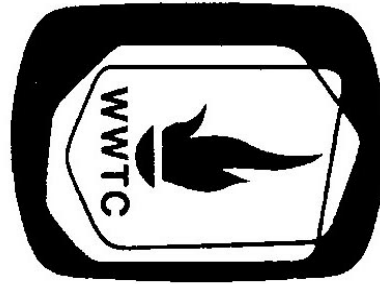
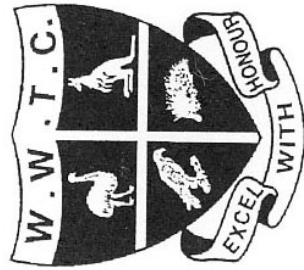
Please email contributions for *Talkabout*  
to

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

Or mail to

The Secretary WWTCAA  
12 Silky Oak Rise  
KEW NSW.2439

April 2019  
Volume 22 No 1



April 2019  
Volume 22 No 1

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KEW NSW 2439