



A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

TALKABOUT



Volume 7: No 3

November 2004

THE THREE WISHES

In my dreams I was visited by the Good Fairy and she told me that she would grant me three wishes for the continued success of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni.
What should I wish for?

My first wish must be for the Committee! Perhaps that they enjoy good health, longevity, enthusiasm and inspiration. No, that is a selfish and narrow thought.

Our Committee has been a dedicated one but has consisted of ex-students from the first four or five years of the life of the College which was an institution for twenty five years.

So my first wish is that the students of the later years will be encouraged to make themselves available to attend the four Committee Meetings we hold each year where their thoughts and inspiration might rejuvenate the Committee. Any ex-student is eligible to attend and to vote on issues and to introduce suggestions by attending these meetings.

They are not onerous or long meetings and are held from 11.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. at the Teachers' Credit Union Office at Homebush. These meetings are followed by a light luncheon. The dates are advertised in Talkabout.

It could be that some may feel like taking an active role in our organisation - believe me, they will be warmly welcomed. Ex-students please think seriously about how you can contribute to our Association.

My second wish is for the continued success of Talkabout, but this can only be achieved by the continued contribution of articles. Again I appeal to those later year ex-students to regale us with some interesting aspects or memories of their teaching careers. Teachers like to compare experiences that they have had during their teaching years.

For my third wish I would like to see, not only more session reunions, but more regular whole College reunions. This can only be organised with greater communication between ex-students.

Remember, our next big reunion is in 2005 and then our 60th in 2007. There won't be many around to celebrate our 75th and none for our Centenary.

Lew Morrell

The Scholarship Fund is over \$40,000.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Diamonds are Forever", so goes the words of a popular song for a James Bond movie "007" of, I think, the same name.

What has this to do with the W.W.T.C. Alumni ?

60th anniversaries can be regarded as attracting the title of 'Diamond' and the year 2007 is such an occasion for our Alumni. Tenuous no doubt, but the importance of this milestone in 2007 is of the greatest importance.

Established in 1947, often overlooked or acknowledged, W.W.T.C. through the activities of its Alumni and the faithfulness of its alumnus, has gradually brought to the attention of the educational fraternity and the civic fathers, the fact that this was the beginning of an unique, valuable and successful experiment.

And so to 2007. Why so far ahead with our planning?

This should be a time of reunion that surpasses that of 1997 (50th anniversary) and encompasses all areas influenced by the activities emanating from W.W.T.C. and the educational institutions that followed. We have tentatively approached the C.S.U. Alumni for their co-operation in this venture and how best they can contribute.

The resources of Wagga Wagga itself must be harnessed and utilised. From all who have affiliation with our Alumni we are going to canvass for ideas as to how to make this 2007 reunion the success it deserves to be. It would be most beneficial if we could form a separate sub committee to control and organise through the W.W.T.C. Management Committee this reunion.

Volunteers will be most welcome. Please think deeply about this project and submit all your ideas in the first instance to me personally as our Secretary already has a full agenda. Later when we form our organising committee we will direct all the information to them.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Bob Collard.

TEACHING MEMORIES

SIDDY

On my return to Sydney after my obligatory country service in the mid 1950's, I was appointed to Carlingford PS where I was allocated an OB class; a small group of Years 3 and 4 underachievers.

However, it was an OB class in name only as in a true OB class students were supposed to return to the normal stream after making up for their deficiencies. In this class, I was stuck with the same group for the whole year. The reason for labeling the group an OB class was to enable the group to be small (around twenty-two, from memory). There was also a very good reason for having this small group. The only teaching space available was a semi-converted weather shed - the type usually favoured for the game of pussy-in-the-corner.

The conversion was achieved by the removal of the peripheral seating and the nailing of a few old notice boards to the front of the shed to give some protection from the wind; at least to about a metre from the floor. There were no windows or door as such, merely open spaces.

At least I can claim one success from the class as one boy, called Philip, later went on to become both school captain and school dux. However, the same cannot be said of Sidy. I have to admit that, even after a full year of my tuition, he was still unable to write his own name. Despite his lack of literary skills, it was he who stole my Parker 51 pen which was given to me by a grateful pupil, mentioned in a previous

anecdote, whom I had managed to get into Yanco; a competitive agricultural high school. As the crime was weeks old before the identity of the thief was revealed to me, I knew I had no hope of getting the pen back. Sidy's dad was in jail and his mum was of similar ilk to her son.

One advantage of Sidy's limitations was his lack of guile as the following incident will illustrate.

While my back was turned to the class, one of the little girls raised her hand and said, "Sir, Sidy just hit me on the head."

I immediately went to the cupboard to get my useful "teaching aid" (of the long, slender, yellowish kind) and called Sidy to the front of the class.

Unwilling to administer the punishment without Sidy's first admitting to his crime, I asked, "Why did you hit her on the head, Sidy?"

"I didn't, Sir," replied Sidy.

"But she said you did. She wouldn't say that unless you did," I explained. "Nup. I didn't," Sidy insisted.

Then I asked, "Did you hit her hard or soft, Sidy?"

"Soft, Sir," came the answer.

"Out with your hand, Sidy."

I have no idea what became of Sidy in later life but I hope, for his sake, that he did not follow his father into a life of crime as I am sure he would not have been very good at it.

Michael Austin 1950-51

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From the Secretary's Desk.



I am writing this after I joined the 1963-64 Alumni for their reunion in September in Canberra. I congratulated them on their organization and I am sure that anyone who came to that reunion enjoyed themselves. Some of the ideas they used could be used in future reunions. One such idea was the Hall of Fame in which **Marion Giddy** nominated **John Hargreaves** (1963-64), the actor, to be a member. Further details of her nomination are in another part of Talkabout. Have you thought of anyone else who might be nominated? Do let us know.

During the past three months the following have helped with addresses: **Helen Pearce** 68-69, **Helen Watson** 69-71, **Alan Mills** 63-64, and **Clair Boxwell** 59-60. Please don't rest on your laurels. That list is small when compared with those who are temporary lost and will need to be worked on next year.

From the last issue of Talkabout **Don Talbot** 51-52 did admit to being the "window opener". Unfortunately the number given to me to ring back was not clear so I could not return your call, Don.

Another admission came from **Alan Waters** 66-67, who admitted that he did get into some mischievous things while at college, but eventually became a Chartered Accountant.

In the July issue I asked about a student who is an artist. **Greg Buddle** 64-65 suggested that it was possibly **David Garth Rankin** (same section). We have found out that he is married, has children and possibly lives in New York. Has anyone kept in touch with

him so we can obtain an address and put him on the mailing list? Does anyone have the address of **Josette Vera Degetardi nee Yule**, 62-63?

The time has come for some of the early students to move to better accommodation which takes their health into consideration. **Jim Cleary** 54-55 has moved into a retirement village. **Ross Bree**, a Pioneer still plays Chess. At College he used his musical talents. He intends to move into a retirement village next year. **June and Bob Werner**, 51-52 have moved from Broken Hill to Valla Beach, Macksville. They look after a big garden on their block, teach and travel.

Carmel Dobbie 58-59 exchanged houses for a holiday in Canada, **Kathleen Lawton** 63-64 is still teaching in the Northern Territory. **Cavel Payne** 67-68 teaches Maths at Wooloware High School. **Rosemary Johnson nee Errington** 54-55 lives in Queensland. She taught for 13 years, has three daughters and enjoys Talkabout. **Colin Garner** and his wife **Susan nee Harvey** 67-68 both teach in Hong Kong Their daughter redirects Talkabout to them.

Frances Gavel nee McKeough 49-50 has felt the drought in Condobolin. **Noreen Brown nee Nevin** 56-57 lives in the Northern Territory. She enjoys Talkabout. **Donald Kelly** 58-59 and his wife have been overseas.

Dudley John Cowell 1956 finished his second year of training in Victoria and retired when he was fifty five.

Enid Monaghan nee Carter 48-50 lives on the Central Coast. She was aware that **Audrey Kirkland and Ruth Cowled** were both deceased, but do we know what happened to them?

In a letter from **Tiu Malo** 59-60 in Suva Fiji, he wrote that, after receiving Talkabout, many memories of Wagga Wagga, the Riverina District and the people of Australia came back He had come to Australia to do a Junior Secondary School Training School. (Section 597. He stayed in the loving, caring home of Mr and Mrs Wright at 41 Copland Street. Tiu was contacted by **Bob Teasdale** 59-60 who works in Fiji.

Thank you for contacting and for responding.

Patrick Hugh O'Neal 55-56 still teaches most days and enjoys it more and more. He wants to know where you are **Ron Lampert**.

Dennis Norris 1957 would like to contact **Garry Quinlivan** (is 1957 your year?) **Judy Schmidt** 62-63 would like to hear from her friends **Noeline** and **Carmel**. She lives in South Australia now.

For some years **Esther Simpfendorfer** ("Essie") a 1948-50 colleague living in Albury, has been suffering severe health problems that have resulted in major changes to her life style. Contact was made with her recently, during which she expressed her appreciation of Talkabout. On behalf of all who knew Essie, we send her our love and best wishes.

Rest in Peace

Lecturer **Joyce Wiley** died on 6th June 2004

The following deaths are confirmed, although they happened some time ago. **Pat Leahy**, lecturer in P.E.

Caroline Ann Carrigy nee Luton 1952-53.

Maurice Norman 1952-53.

Reginald George Byrnes 1952-53, from cancer on 19th August 1999.

John Michael Rose 1963-64 from colon cancer on 5th December 2003.

COMING EVENTS

WWTC ALUMNI LUNCHEON:

at Masonic Club
Castlereigh Street, Sydney
on Friday, 19th November,
2004.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 11 am on Tuesday, 1st February, 2005 at the Teachers Credit Union, Homebush, 1st Floor. All Alumni are invited to attend.

Snack lunch available plus tea and biscuits.

LETTERS PAGE

A Letter to a Forty-niner from a Sixty Niner.

Dear Ann,
Please allow me, through Talkabout to let Beth McDonald nee Seton know that her life which she describes as “fairly uneventful”, with no grand titles or outstanding achievements sounds to me like a life well lived. (See Talkabout July 2004).

As teachers, we don't aim to make our teaching achievements about us, but about making school and learning inspiring for children. Congratulations to those teachers who achieve the titles and acclaim which they deserve but for most of us the reality of our teaching experience has been that we teach, we take part in committees and the running of our schools and then we go home.

When I read your story, Beth, I saw a woman devoted to her family, friends and community. You obviously have happy memories of your great experiences—going to college—marriage and family.

Perhaps Beth and other readers in her area would like to come along to a meeting of the Retired Teachers Association which has now been formed in Wagga Wagga. We are meeting once a month with the idea of sharing our experiences and enjoying some social activities as well as discussing and addressing ongoing educational issues. I would be prepared to put Beth up for the night if the travelling is too much.

With regards
Helen Watson
6 / 54 Adjin Street
Wagga Wagga 2650

More about Tiu Malo

Dear Lindsay,
Greetings from an old girl of 1953-54. Thank you for Talkabout. It is always interesting and yesterday I was surprised to read about Tiu Malo. From 1963 to 1966 I taught at the same school where Tiu was teaching. The Lelean Memorial School at Nausori, Fiji was co-educational and multi-racial. A rare school in those days but a credit

to the Overseas Missions Department of the Methodist Church of Australia. In 1964 the Fiji Methodist Church became independent and took over the responsibility for churches and schools. “Mission staff” were fully occupied in the old days. No free periods during the day. Organised sport was held after school hours.

The boarders had to be supervised. Vegetables, the staple food, had to be grown. Work in the garden was required from all boarders. Tiu had large primary classes. He was quiet and well organised and so were his classes. My job was to teach English to High School students. The Fiji Junior and the Senior Cambridge were the big exams. The work was demanding but the students were keen and appreciative, self-reliant and happy.

Thank you, Mr Bob Teasdale, for news of Tiu Malo. I remember Bob as a young man. Now we are turning seventy and are grandparents! I will have to write and congratulate him on his impressive career.

Some of your readers will recall Nacanieli Rika and Ruth Frank. They were teaching in Fiji in those days. Each came to Wagga College for further training, and then returned to Fiji. Nacanieli became Principal of Lelean School in mid 1986. I'm sorry to say that Nacanieli and his Australian wife Dorothy each died some years ago. And some years ago I heard that Ruth Frank's sister had died and Ruth had married her widower brother-in-law and helped him raise the children.

Thank you again,

Margery Bonsor (Bollen) 1953-54



Tiu Malo

Reply from Tiu Malo

Suva, Fiji

Dear Ann,

I have stopped writing letters for quite some time but I found a pen and started it all over again. Thank you for your letter and those copies of Talkabout. They brought back beautiful memories of Wagga Wagga, the Riverina District and the people of Australia. Bob Teasdale was my greatest friend when I arrived at Wagga Wagga in 1959. He remains the greatest to this day. He is over at USP as Project Director of the Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of Basic Education (the PRIDE Project). I am so proud of Bob. To me he is from Wagga Wagga, not Australia. He is the Wagga model for commitment and hard work, so I see it that way.

I came to Wagga Wagga to do a Junior Secondary School Training Course, and Section 597 was doing just that. It was a great experience which enabled me to make a better contribution to teaching at the Junior level of the Church Secondary Schools in Fiji.

But the best of Wagga Wagga was at 41 Copland Street, opposite the Southern Riverina Electricity complex, the home of Mr and Mrs E Wright. This was the accommodation the Church found for me and it was this loving and caring home that made it possible for me to do that Section 597 course at Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

Best wishes,

Tiu Malo. 1959-60

Activity George

32 Amaroo Street,

Koorngal. 2650

Dear John (Riley),

Congratulations on the production of 'Talkabout'. I really enjoy reading it and then I pass it on to my father to read. Dad is Geoff Potter, who was the Principal of Mt. Austin Primary School from its inception in 1959 and then at Koorngal Primary School from 1961 until the early 80's. Dad had many dealings with the Lecturers from WWTC and the students during their

Prac. Teaching times. Sadly dad lost his lifelong companion when mum, (Mavis), who was the sewing teacher at these schools, passed away in July. Dad has just turned 85 and is mentally on the ball but his body is letting him down.

Dad read the article on George Blakemore and wanted to add to it. Dad and Mum went to Armidale Teachers' College and this is what dad says.

"I first met the late George Blakemore in 1939 when he was the Headmaster of the Armidale Demonstration School. Mr Blakemore continually emphasised the importance of pupil activity. At the end of 1939 a couple of students put two fleas in cotton wool in a box and sent the box to Mr Blakemore with the following message:-

'Activity George- The fleas will help with your activity'. This was where he got the name of 'Activity George'".

W.G. Potter

Past Principal Koorringal Public School.

In 2002 Turvey Park Dem. School celebrated 50 years of education and an

interesting booklet was published. If you think it would be of any interest I could photocopy articles from the booklet for Talkabout.

Regards and all the best with your great publication.

Fay Everson 1960-61.

The Chicken Pox Epidemic

Sawtell NSW

Dear Lindsay,

Having neglected to contribute to Talkabout (which I read with interest) in the past, I am forwarding a contribution to cover this year and last year.

As a matter of interest, do any other past students remember the Chicken Pox "epidemic" of 1957?

I was the second student to break out in the telltale spots. The first student lived locally and was sent home. I pleaded with matron to do likewise but as I lived in Sydney my request was refused and I was admitted to the isolation ward of

Wagga Base Hospital. It was an old cottage in the hospital grounds and all the windows were barred. When my friends visited they stood at a distance and talked to me through the bars. It was a lonely existence at first as I was the only patient in this "prison", but within a day or two I was joined by other students who had also succumbed to the disease. By now the initial feeling of illness had worn off and calamine lotion took care of the itch.

The isolation ward took on the atmosphere of an extended weekend house party as we talked and laughed together. After a week or so we recovered and returned to the normal routine of lectures.

Regards,

Judy (Steen) Woodlands 1957-58

SEEKING LOST ALUMNI

This is a list of those who had their names on the Data List (mailing list) but whose letters have come back unclaimed to the Alumni office and no replacement address has been found. If you know the whereabouts of any of these Alumni could you please contact Ann Smith with the details.

Margaret, Florance, Alexander, 1957-58
 Maxine, Elizabeth, Anderson, 1959-60
 Raymond, John, Anderson, 1958-59
 Robert, John, Anderson, 1957-58
 Cynthia, Rae, Armstrong, 1951-52
 Peter, Charles, Barclay, 1959-60
 Malcolm, Robert, Beazley, 1962-63
 Douglas, Gordon, Boughton, 1962
 Carolyn, Linda, Brogan, 1968
 Thea, Margaret, Burgess, 1958
 Noel, Alexander, Byrnes, 1965
 Pamela, Mary, Callaghan, 1965
 Marilyn, H, Cameron, 1954
 Kim, Patricia, Carr, 1968
 Robert, Charles, Carter, 1963
 Douglas, Edwin, Chapman, 1954
 Peter, Roy, Colwell, 1971
 Dianne, June, Cook, 1971
 Roger, Edward, Craig, 1965
 Lynda, May, Donnelly, 1967
 Ronald, James, Duffy, 1958
 John, Douglas, Duncan, 1970
 Gretchen, Gladwell, Edmunds, 1959

Margaret, Anne, Fielding, 1955
 Tony, , Foggerty, 1955
 Raymond, Arthur, Foord, 1961
 Noel, William, Fox, 1966
 Geoffrey, William, Giles, 1950
 Marcelle, , Guymmer, 1956
 Kay, Frances, Hastings, 1966
 John, Leo, Hennessey, 1954
 Anne, Sonia, Henzell, 1956
 Gai-Maree, , Hilditch, 1966
 Kerry, , Hollands, 1966
 Edmund, Francis, Hore, 1960
 Helen, Mary, Horne, 1970
 Noel, Francis, Hudson, 1966
 Sera, , Johnson, 1967
 Christopher, John, Lennon, 1965
 Vernon, Lazarus, Lilienthal, 1967
 Charles, Robert, Lucas, 1960
 Ronald, William, Lyons, 1971
 Neil, Keith, Macintosh, 1954
 Monica, Mary, Maloney, 1968
 Robert, Stanley, March, 1960
 David, , Martin, 1961
 John, Albert, Martin, 1971
 Leone, Mary, McInerney, 1963
 Elizabeth, Anne, McLaren, 1961
 Neil, Anthony, McPherson, 1957
 Bruce, Raymond, McWhirter, 1959
 Margaret, Anne, Middleton, 1958
 Joseph, Andrew, Moore, 1971
 Peter, John, Muldoon, 1965
 William, , Mullan, 1971

Margaret, Mary, Murphy, 1953
 Peter, John, Murphy, 1971
 Leslie, Raymond, Noon, 1953
 Geoffrey, John, O'brien, 1950
 Joan, Margaret, Peard, 1968
 Ian, James, Rasmussen, 1966
 Sandra, Ann, Rees, 1971
 Trevor, James, Richards, 1962
 John, Charles, Roberts, 1965
 Alan, Maxwell Joseph, Rosevear, 1965
 David, Frederick, Ross, 1963
 Kevin, Thomas, Ryan, 1950
 Annette, Therese, Sale, 1967
 Susie, , Sanderson, 1966
 Lesley, Jill, Saunders, 1962
 John, H, Shaw,
 Judith, Anne, Shepherd, 1967
 Judith, Ann, Spencer, 1971
 Valerie, , Stephenson, 1965
 Diane, Elizabeth, Strong, 1963
 Megan, Helen, Stuart, 1974
 Barry, Donald, Stumbles, 1968
 Joan, Marie, Tunney, 1971
 Francine, May, Voss, 1966
 Robert, Graham, Waters, 1961
 Kathleen, , Webb, 1971
 Kaye, Annette, West, 1962
 Diane, Barbara, Williams, 1971
 Patricia, Anne, Wilson, 1957
 Raymond, Francis, Wood, 1949
 Janice, Daisy, Woods, 1955
 Suzanne, Mary, York, 1966

REUNION PAGE



Lauren and Russ Warfield, David Giles, Marion Smith, Sue Upton, Gail and Jock Grant, Bill Frost and Colin Doherty

WWTC 63/64 REUNION – 40 Years and Still Going Strong!

A significant and memorable event occurred in Canberra over the weekend of 24th –26th September. Only in Astrological circles do such conjunctions occur. The coming together of the Canberra cup, Floriade and the WWTC 63/64 Reunion, a one in forty year event that brought with it all of the expected surprises, and what an event it was. The Age of Aquarius with less hair!

The long weekend began with a day at the Canberra Races on the Friday. Here early form was determined and the pattern for a fabulous weekend was set.

The fourth race heralded to all what powerful connections can do. A horse part-owned by one of the Alumni, Sue King (Upton), broke stride from a trot and galloped to a convincing win; much to the delight of the faithful who had backed the beast on Sue's confident predictions.

The second event was the spit roast get-together that night. This gathering was a mix of the young at heart and the stayers. The weight-for-age specialists were clearly saving themselves for the main event on Saturday evening. Nametags were in great demand and replaced at frequent intervals as they invariably peeled away and were consumed in the canapés and salad. Continual reference to these tags was required to keep the conversation flowing.

Lead-up meetings such as this serve to determine handicaps and to check on overall form and clarify the colours. There was a minor slip-up here, as several fillies were in black and white

stripes at the Canberra Club for Lunch on Saturday. Barrier positions were determined after the inevitable show and tell, brag and skite sessions, which were all necessary preliminaries to the main event.

Many starters for the main event on Saturday evening travelled great distances and, without the benefit of earlier renewals were reliant on the 1964 mug shots of the year group in order to gain some recognition. Even those who had the benefit of earlier meetings had cause to revisit the photographs throughout the night.

It has been recommended that all participants receive a wallet of photos with large names and a magnifying glass for the next gathering, in the style of an Edwardian dance diary, to be worn on the wrist for ready reckoning.

The dinner was well attended by over 100 guests, with close to seventy of the original population. It was opened to the strains of "God please don't harm us" (Gaudeamus) and the grand parade of WWTC 'colourfuls', with three originals being present. That Graeme Boardman, Brian Fone and Colin Sale had taken the trouble and time to share this gathering with the group is greatly appreciated. It stands as testament to the group and the very special qualities that many Lecturers from WWTC shared with their students. Thank you and we hope this continues. That such good people see fit to share our antics validates our nonsense of years ago.

Several attendees claim that 'Fanny' Bridges was there but we did manage to convince this group of past miscreants that it was one of our own who had adopted twitches and mannerisms to great effect. Others of our number

played favourite roles, presenting uncanny impersonations of Marie O'Donnell, Maurice Hale, Wimpy Wade, Mabel Milthorpe and Lonnie Large.

Observers of the parade were concerned that Percy and The Fone had both been nobbled. It would seem that this was self-inflicted within the confines of the club during an afternoon of reminiscing. Handlers will be available for future meets. However The Fone did make a temporary recovery and got a spring in his step when he recognised a female cast member of old and managed to covet this prize for the remainder of the evening.

A surprise event was the presentation of stayers' awards to all participants, presented by Prof. David Green on behalf of the CSU. Formal activities included a special tribute to John Hargreaves. It was also a time to reflect and remember absent friends.

The evening ended all too quickly but many dim memories had been rekindled and associations renewed. It was a great reunion.

The final fixture was brunch on Sunday morning, and here the stayers gathered around the trough for a post-mortem on the previous days' events and one last look at the "who the hell is that" picture board.

The Committee voted unanimously that as many as twelve dams should be on a much higher handicap at the next gathering unless they showed signs of reasonable wear and tear, commensurate with pentagenarians. Elegance, style and retained youth were not seen as mitigating circumstances.

Doug Walker 1963-64

HALL OF FAME

JOHN HARGREAVES



The Wagga Wagga Teachers College Hall of Fame has been established in order to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of past students in the fields of education, sports, science, the arts and community leadership. Tonight I wish to nominate John Hargreaves as a member of our Hall of Fame.

John was born in Murwillumbah in 1946 and later moved to Sydney where he was educated in the Catholic Schools system. He enrolled at WWTC in 1963, and quickly established himself as a spokesperson, leader and entertainer. As a member of the college drama group he gave memorable performances in "Our Town" and "The Lesson", both of which were directed by Brian Fone.

John was elected as President of the Students' representative Council for 1964.

After graduation, John was appointed to Mendooran Central School in the mid-west of N.S.W. He was later transferred to Crows Nest Boys' High School.

His acting career began with small parts in dramatic productions at the New Theatre in Kings Cross. He later enrolled in the National Institute of Dramatic Art and graduated in 1970. For a number of years he took part in theatrical productions at the Nimrod Theatre, the Old Tote and the Sydney Theatre Company.

His early roles included a stage production of *Biggles*, directed by John Bell.

In the world of television, John worked his way up from playing 'baddies' in "Homicide", to starring roles in series such as "Young Ramsay" and "Scales of Justice". He is probably best known on television for his portrayal of Jim Cairns in "The Dismissal".

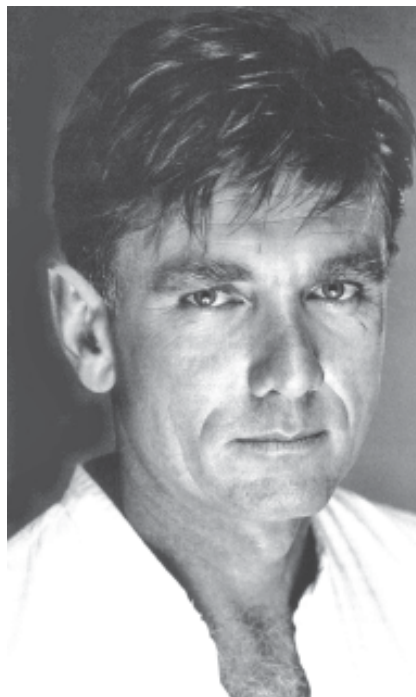
John launched his movie career with "The Removalists" in 1974. From there he went on to star in a number of Australian films including "Don's Party", "The Odd Angry Shot", "Emerald City" and "Hotel Sorrento". He also acted in a number of international productions.

In 1984 John won the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Actor for his role in "My First Wife". He also won awards for Best Supporting Actor for his parts in "Careful, He Might Hear You" (1984) and "Malcolm" (1986).

In 1995 John was awarded the Byron Kennedy Award, one of Australia's highest civilian awards that is given to people who exemplify the pursuit of excellence.

John Hargreaves passed away on 8th January, 1996.

Marion Giddy 1963-64



Some comments from his peers:

"The vitality, the life force, the grin, the infectious laugh, the caring friend and companion, the active political campaigner on behalf of the Australian film industry, and finally the huge talent which was never given quite the scope it deserved.

But what's even more compelling is the intelligence and honesty with which John remembers his own life."

David Williamson

"For me, he was Australia's most intelligent and foremost actor."

Chris Haywood

"He was a brilliant actor, one of our most exciting and daring."

Ruth Cracknell

WWTC OPEN REUNION

A reunion for all Alumni will be held in Wagga on the Weekend 30th September to 2nd October, 2005.

The Open reunion held in Bathurst in 2003 was a great success and many of those who attended expressed a desire to meet in 2005, this time in Wagga.

Michelle Fawkes from the Alumni Office will send initial information about the reunion to all Alumni in the near future.

Why not arrange with some of your peers to form a group to attend and meet up with friends and acquaintances you have met over the years.

POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

Since the last Talkabout several people have written in with a Potted Biography. These will be included in the Potted Biography started last issue. If you would like to let people know about you please send a short summary to one of the Editors

1947 - 1949

JOYCE TRINDALL

The most rewarding time of my teaching career was teaching children with various learning problems, in a "disadvantaged" school (Infants' Dept.). These children were most appreciative and responsive to the enjoyment of being withdrawn from the classroom situation (teachers were also appreciative) to play reading games with frequent immediate rewards. These children gradually progressed from exhibiting disruptive, insolent behaviour to friendly co-operative helpful children, eager to please and to achieve to the best of their ability.

KEVIN WILCOX.

SCHOOLS:- Kangiara 1949-51, Kelso 1951-53, Eugowra 1953-59, Bathurst High School 1960-66 Canterbury Girls' High 1967-72, Chester Hill High 1973-83, Casula High 1984-87. Retired from Moorefield Girls' High as Deputy Principal in Feb., 1990. Since retirement we have travelled in Europe and Britain in 1991, Canada and U.S.A. in 1997, took our nine years old granddaughter to Europe and Britain in 2001, again toured in Europe, Great Britain and Ireland in 2002. Have attended Adult Leisure Learning in Oatley since 1990— taking German, French, Calligraphy and Oil Painting. We have a large garden and spend many happy hours tending it.

WINIFRED WILCOX (WALSHAW)

Schools:- Emu Plains 1949-51, Bathurst Demonstration 1951-53, • Eugowra 1953-56, Hurstville South 1967-73, Cartwright 1974-76, Birrong 1977-80, Kogarah 1981-84. Retired in 1984. Children : Son 1957 Son 1961. For travels see Kevin Wilcox above. Excursion Committee for Royal Australian Historical Society 1981-1992. Attended and helped run Leisure

Learning Classes in Oatley - German, French, Archaeology, Australian Literature, Australian History, Decoupage. Still enjoy reading, many hobbies and crafts and have a large garden.

1948 – 1950

ELIZABETH (BETTY) PUNTON

Schools: Trundle Primary 1950, Lake Cargelligo 1951-53, Central Tilba, 1954-a reward for 3 years in the Far West! Narrandera Infants 1955-57, Wyalong Public School 1958-59 (and on the Promotion's trail), Narrabri Infants Mistress 1960-61, Narrandera East Infants' School 1962-68, West Wyalong Public School 1969-85 (List 3 '71), West Wyalong Public School Principal 1985 -Mar. 88. Joined the ranks of retirees . A good rewarding career. Since 1988 have been involved in community work, via Quota, church, Probus, History and heritage, travelled in Australia and once overseas. Garden, discovered cappucino! Meet with friends, talk a lot, and have maintained fairly good health. It's good. Wonderful to re-meet fellow 1948-50 W.W.T.C. people this weekend.

1949 - 50

GEORGINA RUTH HUTSON

My first appointment was to Albury Primary School where I had a 4th Class of 50 girls. I was the baby on the staff, as the other teachers were 50 plus. I had three beautiful years there socially – water skiing on the Hume Weir and snow skiing in the winter at Falls Creek. I also played hockey and tennis. In the fourth year I got a shock move to Tumbarumba Central School and was presented with a First Class of 55. I didn't know how to teach them as I was primary trained BUT after three years there, with help from the Kindy teacher, booklets from Ian D. Renwick and courses in the holidays, I learnt. The staff there were all young. We played tennis, and golf, formed a Drama Club and put on a few shows for the locals. I was one of the sisters in "Arsenic and Old Lace". Then I received a move to Granville Infants. I became interested in Remedial Education and received a scholarship to Queensland University to do a course.

When I returned to Sydney I did Itinerant Remedial Teaching in Metropolitan West area for three years. After those three years at Hassall Street School for Mildly Mentally Handicapped children I found it mentally fatiguing so I resigned and was fortunate to get a position as a Junior Red Cross Organiser. I did this for two years. I could not afford to stay after that so I went back to teaching. I got my "mark" at Rosehill Primary School and moved to Girraween as Deputy Mistress. At age 45 I resigned again and went overseas for a holiday. When I returned to Parramatta I sold my home and moved to Kiama. At the age of 71 I came here to St Lukes Village Hostel at Dapto.

1951 – 1952

ROY PARKER

I've had a unique teaching career. From February, 1953 to Easter 1953 I was a staff member at Eugowra P.S. From then on I was T.I.C. in small schools to Principal 3 schools Principal Class 2 then Principal Class 1. For only three months was I not my own boss in schools. Since retirement I reside in Wollongong, play lawn bowls and till recently was an active member of the W.W.T.C. Alumni. Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1952 is where I met my wife — this was the greatest year of my life.

1955 – 1956

LYLE DUNN

My first 3 years of teaching were at Birchgrove Primary, after which I went to Granville Boys' High as Music Teacher. A year, 1964 was then spent on teacher exchange in Portsmouth, (G.B.). Returning in 1965, I was appointed to South Sydney Boys' High, I retired in 1985, having spent the last few years on the staff of the English/History department.

1957 - 1958

DOUGLAS BOOKER

Graduated U.N.E. 1961. Assistant Appointments : Bankstown Cent, Tec., Crookwell District Rural, Hunter's Hill High, Forest High. Head Teacher History - Chatswood High 13 years. Deputy Principal Balmain High 6 years, St Ives High 8

POTTED BIOGRAPHIES

years. Retired in 1995. Currently running a small sheep property and researching early records of white contact with aboriginal people. Executive HTA 3 terms. Chaired HTA History Committee 10 years. Syllabus Committee Ancient History 3 terms. North Sydney Region Secondary Audio Visual Advisor 3 years. Interested in assisting C.S.U. Teacher Education Program in any possible way, e.g. Student mentoring, Group discussion, Concept development.

1960 - 1961

KAY KILLICK (HARRIS)

First appointed to Yoogali. Married Brian Killick 1963, appointed to Book Book. Had two daughters. Moved to Canberra and taught at Red Hill, Griffith A.C.T., Scullin, Flynn and Higgins before retiring in 1994. Moved to Tomakin where we swim, fish, work for church and charities, involved with U3A, lots of travelling O.S. and around Australia with caravan.

ROSS HOSKING

One of the immortal thirteen kicked out by Maurie Hale. Despite his (wowseryish) endeavour to discredit us, I managed to have a fairly successful and satisfying career. Captains Flat (62), Monaro High Cooma (62-63), Queanbeyan (63-84, being Head teacher English from 1974), Batemans Bay (88-98 as Head Teacher Eng/His.), then retired. Exchange teaching at Bramtford Ontario (79). Married Joan Crackanthorp from my session at WWTC, and are still married with three kids. We live at Broulee by the sea – Canberra's playground.

JOAN CRAKANTHORP (now HOSKING)

First appointment Captains Flat Infants 1962, Moss Vale '63, Picton '64 Married Ross Hosking '65 Queanbeyan. Three lovely children. Teacher/Librarian '78, Canada '79, Qbn Isabella Street Library '80 – '88. Sunshine Bay Infants '89-'95. Retired. Took up golf. Devoted grandmother of three.

BETH McNEIL (HUDSON)

Taught in Pambula, Bega, Gladesville, London (U.K.), Princeton and Hope

B.C. Canada, Eden, Bega. Recently Kingswood South - casual. I've had other careers in between : Sales Management (Royal Scandinavia), medical practice runner? Marketing business. Semi retired in Drummoyne. Farming cattle/deer, Bega. Parented six kids in amongst it all.

GWENDA STARLING (ZAPPERT)

Thank you Mrs Whittaker — the best Infants' lecturer ever. Her wisdom helped me "survive" my headmistress and teach the "WHITTAKER WAY". I live in Sydney and am "long" retired from teaching.

1961 - 1962

JULIE HUGHES (GIBBES)

Appointments : - 1963-65 Engadine West infants' - Tremendous start ! Enjoyed every day. Moved by Dept 1966 to Loftus - suddenly more difficult Kinder. Applied for Moss Vale but given 1967-68 Tarago - Composite K -3 - challenging. Resigned, married Rev. C. Hughes. 1969-71 Voluntary Children's work Mission Station Arnhem Land. 1974-82 occasional relief teaching International Mission School Inland IRIAN JAYA. 1983 N.S.W. Scripture Teaching. 2000-2003. Casual Teaching Karuah Public School and Medowie Christian School. Presently retired to Karuah in 1994.

1963 - 1964

ROBYN WHEELER (WHITLEY)

Public Schools from K - 6 including Spec . Ed. O.C. Class 91-2001, 2 years in Canada teaching. Retired. Re-employed in private system.

SUE KING (UPTON)

Taught for five years, married and went into Printing Business in 1971 - still going! Board of Canberra Racing Club. President of Women in Racing. Absolutely loving it all !

LENORE GRUNSELL

Retired in 2000, and lasted six weeks, I missed my work school counselling and I'm now re-employed full time permanent !

COLIN "JOCK" GRANT

W.W.T.C. 1963-65 (I repeated) Won Neil Sainsbury Dramatic Art Prize (1965). Heavily involved in Drama with the great Brian Fone who directed me in "The Glass Menagerie". Deputy Principal in Armidale. Retired at the end of 2003. Great memories of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College.

ROBERT ARMYTAGE

I married June Alden (1963-64) in 1968. My first appointment was Corowa PS but I was transferred 18 months later to make place for a Canadian Exchange teacher, ending up at Gundagai PS. I spent several years there and another 3 years on the Gundagai Relief staff (remember them?).

A short while at a one teacher school at Tarrabandra (near Gundagai) was followed by 5 years at Talbingo during the SMA construction of the dam and power station. I have many memorable recollections of my time as Electoral Returning Officer with many non English speaking immigrants who wanted to vote! (but had, in many cases, only been in Australia for a few months).

Since 1974 I have taught at Edward PS in Deniliquin.

I have been involved in the writing of Basic Skills Numeracy Testing Program questions for over nine years, which is an activity I have enjoyed doing and have had great satisfaction being involved in the program.

June taught at Balranald and has also worked in Deniliquin.

She currently teaches at the Conargo Public School. (Yes, the Ute sticker capital of the world).

We have two daughters and a son. We have as well a beautiful grandson.

1966 - 67

PETER POLLOCK

Teaching career - 10 disastrous weeks in 1969 - 26 years in Commonwealth Student Assistance (TEAS, Austudy etc) - voluntary redundancy in 1996, followed by third (current) career as a courier — in awe of anyone who saw out life as a teacher.

TEACHING MEMORIES

John Woodger (1950-51) has contributed some recollections of the various schools in which he taught.

1952 Curriba (via Tullibigeal)

Having spent one week with Charlie Thomas in mid to late January and not having received any appointment at that point, I reckoned my first job would be west of the line. I returned to Central from the Moss Vale area and rang home from the station. Dad informed me that there was a telegram, which he had opened and read – “Appointed teacher in charge Provisional School Curriba via Tullibigeal”. I wandered across to the huge state map with all rail lines and stations in Country NSW (sadly no longer in existence) and endeavoured to track down Tullibigeal. No luck! I tried an Assistant Station Master but had no luck there either. However he pointed me further up the line and I found that I would have to leave Sydney on the Temora mail on Thursday night 8pm and arrive at Tullibigeal on Friday evening around sunset to allow me to start work on the Tuesday.

Got organised and sent the necessary telegram to Mr Bill Worland, the P&C President advising him of my impending arrival and set forth on Thursday’s Temora mail. After Temora the train split up and by the time I arrived at Tullibigeal it consisted of a steam engine, goods wagon and a dog box/guards van.

Arrived at Tulli about sunset. The sign appeared longer than the siding. As the train steamed off to its final destination of Lake Cargelligo, the only person on the siding glanced at me then looked off after the departing train. I walked across to him and asked in a hesitating fashion, “Mr Worland?” Response, “Yes.” “I’m John Woodger.” Pause, and an up and down glance, then, “They’re sending us kids now.”

Welcome to teaching and more particularly to three great years at Curriba Provisional School whose enrolment varied from 10 to 14 over three years. I’m pretty certain that parents made sure their kids were literate prior to enrolment.

What a life – good kids at the school and plenty of sport. A teacher’s life could be pretty tough if you didn’t play sport in the west. Rules on Saturday (Four Corners), league on Sunday

(Tullibigeal) in winter and tennis (Tullibigeal) and cricket (Bygalorie) Sunday in summer. Balls were held on Thursday night so as not to interfere with the weekend sport.

Married in August 1953 to Anne Austin (WTC) and staff from Tullibigeal Central often visited our little cottage for tea and games of penny poker. Fond memories of Mal Hanratty crouched over a saucer of milk and playing his beloved recorder trying to entice a tiger snake from under the house. I don’t think we’d thought of step two. The snake had headed towards the house after Anne had tried to shoot it. It must have been a sight with a babe in one arm and firing a .22 single-handed while the dog tried to interfere-made me jump the fences fast as the shots rang out. Tully staff turned up for tea and Mal had the answer.

1955 Bunnan (west of Scone)

Having left Curriba Provisional School with ten to fourteen kids we arrived at Bunnan to find a residence which had been described to me by the occupant who was retiring as being “Quite good.” He even wanted to sell me the peach tree and lean-to garage. I found it to be in shocking condition. It had been an original schoolroom and residence in one. Built from sandstone blocks it was now sinking into Wy Bong Creek Flats and the timber was totally white ant eaten. The new school was of mid forties vintage and big enough to accommodate the forty plus kids from K – to age 15 or so. After Curriba it was quite a challenge.

Two of the older pupil’s 13 plus and 14 plus years were lads whose father had moved to Bunnan and worked on one of the cattle stations in the area. The village of Bunnan housed most of the workers on these stations. These lads had come from the inner city and had spent most of their holidays burr cutting. So they were young, strong and not really motivated for the type of pamphlet education that was available in small schools for older pupils who could not get to high schools. The young blokes were enjoying themselves up the back of the room (probably doing something drastic like playing noughts and crosses) and distracting the other pupils, so stern measures were called for.

Having been summoned to the front of the class and admonished, the ‘so what’ response was evident. What to do? Inspiration – tacked onto the back of the residence was a laundry and above the fuel copper I had noticed 5 or 6 canes. So the order “Go over to the house and ask Mrs Woodger for the canes above the copper.” They did! And returned with the bundle. By this time everyone is sitting up and paying total attention. I warned these two malefactors that as they’d broken the rules (?) they would have to be punished. At Curriba I hadn’t ever had to raise my voice so here I was in new territory, - caning. The ‘so what’ response was still evident so in front of the whole class (whole school) I said, “Put out your hand.”

Have you ever seen a large fourteen year old’s hand after six weeks of burr cutting? Solid leather couldn’t match it and the laconic ‘so what’ prevailed. However I’d spent two years at one of the private schools’ finest and suffered the indignity of four across the backside by the house captain. So once again inspiration. “Turn around! Bend over!” Hell, he did. I raised the cane and gave him a two iron across the backside. The cane, having been above the copper for years had ossified and when contact was made it exploded. Deathly quiet. He turned grey/white (I think I did too). Motioned his brother for the same treatment, same result. Not a sound from the school for the rest of the day. School dismissed, and lessons organised for the next day.

I went home for tea and there was a knock on the front door. “Are you the teacher?” I said, “Yes.” He said, “You caned my kids today?” (good-bye career.) “Yes.” He said, “Well done mate. They thought they’d been shot. You learnt ‘em!”

Didn’t have to raise my voice in Bunnan for the remainder of the year.

1956 Carlingford

Transferred to Carlingford Central in 1956 (Hard to believe a Central school in the heart of Sydney. Big too, — A B C D E F classes K-6 and large secondary). A real shock after four years in a one-teacher school. I was assigned to 5A (35 kids with an IQ of 130 plus and buzzing). This boss (Mr Waters) knows a good teacher when he sees one! What a ball. Two or

TEACHING MEMORIES

three days before Easter, a knock on the classroom door. Mr Waters with a tall bloke. "Mr Woodger. This is Mr Ridley. He's been appointed as Assistant Principal after Easter. He will be teaching 5A and Mr X from 5F will be transferred. You will be taking over 5F." I said, "No way!" (or equivalent). So after Easter on 5F, mainly boys from Church of England Boys Home who needed ++ care. To add insult to injury I had to take 5A and 5F boys for craft (50+ students). 5F slaughtered me – wrong I let them down. The upshot was, in November an Inspector turned up (out of the blue) summoned by my boss to inspect my efficiency. Toughest inspection I ever had. The result was I was asked if I would like a transfer out of the school. I replied, "Yes please."

1957-61 Glebe/Haberfield

I was appointed to Glebe Boys and after a settling in period things sorted themselves out and a few good years followed. One morning in the late 50's I was summoned to the Boss' office and told to "hop on the tram and go to Haberfield Dem for the day. I've organised with Mr Holt (Headmaster) for you to look at their reading scheme and bring ideas back to us." I said, "I'll just slip across to my room and get my smokes first." Boss, "There's a tram coming up the hill now. Forget your smokes and get on that tram." I spent the day at Haberfield and wasn't too impressed by their schemes. "No better than ours", I told the Boss the next day, implying that Dem teachers were a bit "up" themselves. In the first week of the following year I was appointed to Haberfield Dem. This was handy as we were living at Haberfield. I arrived at the school and was allocated a 3rd class and settled in. When morning tea came I headed for the staff room and lit up a smoke. I couldn't figure out the strange looks the staff gave me. Suddenly "Who's smoking?" from Bullet Holt in the doorway. "I am", I answered. "You didn't smoke when you were here last year!", he said angrily. In those stricter days Bullet Holt wouldn't have teachers with two "faults" and smoking was one of them. On such small things careers were

built. I was regarded as a bread and butter man in the Dem. Lesson area; you know, reading, maths, spelling, P.E. and was only occasionally let loose on the esoteric subjects. I remember one social studies (history?) lesson – the First Fleet, England and Terra Australis. A thirty minute lesson and after 25 minutes just docking in South Africa and after 28 minutes landing in Botany Bay – it still holds the record for the quickest Indian Ocean crossing – the student teachers were quite astonished.

However the top of the crop involved music. The new music syllabus was being introduced, and to demonstrate that anyone (any clown) could teach it here was I. This was the era of music appreciation and themes and to demonstrate how simple this was, give it to someone who had no musical ability and let him/her demonstrate the magnificence of the new syllabus. Knowing bugger-all about music and the syllabus I naturally turned to the music experts on the staff (young Phil Bridges and John Peart) for assistance. We sorted out the theme of the music for the dem, set it down to play on the chime bars and organised record etc. for the dem. The dem went like a charm – played the piece (from memory – the Hall of the Mountain King), isolated the theme, played it on the chime bars, taught it to the class, and culminated in the playing of the piece with the pupils indicating every time they heard the theme (they did this often and well). The student teachers left quietly and obviously bemused. The lecturer waited and said quietly before leaving "Who helped you?" Down the hall were Bridges and Peart doubled up laughing – It was the wrong theme!

1962-4 Norfolk Island

What a sublime appointment. Got lucky as Education II in 1961 included a large segment on the Wyndham Scheme to be introduced in 1962. Anne and I and Stephen, Graeme, Kim and Deborah flew in, in January 1962 and were settled in the rambling 'masters' residence adjacent to the school. Norfolk at that stage was a five teacher, 3rd class Central School. 150 + kids

and 30 + in secondary (year 7 the new Wyndham Scheme and 2nd and 3rd year did Intermediate Certificate.) Thank goodness for small schools background and knowing how to keep seven balls in the air at one time.

A few days after arriving on the Island we were invited to 'drinks' at the Government House with Mr Kay (administrator) and Mrs Kay and guests who flew in on the Saturday plane. I was asked by Mr Kay "What's new on the political front?"

I replied, "There's a new bloke that looks good. He'll be PM one day" "Who?"

"Gough Whitlam".

This was followed by a dead silence — it was 1962 after all.

What a great school with good kids and staff. By the end of 1962 we had implemented the Wyndham system in all its glory. This to such an extent pleasantly surprised Dr Wyndham when he arrived on Norfolk Island in August 1963 for the school triennial Inspection. I picked him up from the airport and Saturday afternoon having rushed and lost the semi final of the B Grade club championship as the plane came in to land, introduced him to the Golf Club members (Norfolk Islanders were natural sports men and women – most of their handicaps were in single figures).

He was welcomed to the school on Monday morning and I offered him the only decent chair in the office to be told, "Mr Woodger, that's your chair, I am your guest in this school — all my inspectors are guests in the schools. So tell me what you want me to do and show me how my schemes are going here." (Radical eh!!!)

We spent five days with D.G. as Inspector — nature's gentleman. His approach influenced me for years afterwards, and caused some problems here and there.

In the 2nd week Dr Wyndham declared himself on holiday. I lent him my car (Morris Minor) which he drove to areas of the island I wasn't game to drive to and took phenomenal photographs – his hobby.

I made a mistake and left after 3 years, – not really, it was a three year posting. What a pity!

John Woodger 1950-51

TEACHING MEMORIES

DOWN MEMORY LANE

I was appointed to Caricolla Provisional School in June, 1949.

The Maitland floods were at their height, so no trains (steam) could get through. At last the flood subsided and there was standing room only to Taree. A fettle walked in front of the train at Maitland, swinging his lantern to and fro, indicating that the train could proceed at his pace.

In our Small Schools' Option, Arthur Ashworth left us with three points of wisdom: enjoy your time as Principal, it will probably be the only time you will be one; don't learn to milk cows; and, in your first assembly, blow your whistle as loud as you can. Well I did that – and the eight children (and the surrounding farmers) were very impressed.

About two weeks later three horsemen pulled up at the school: "Hey schoolie, come out, I want you to meet someone. This is Gordon Kirkpatrick. You might know him as Slim Dusty".

Like all first year outs I boarded with cow cockies. There was no electricity and just the one telephone line for the entire district. The home was a slab hut, slab floor no lining, and my light was a Tilley lantern, which provided light for the rats as they ran down the wall and across my books, (as I was reading!)

The school had been built by locals and consisted of one room, a small verandah and a tank. Then after intense one-to-one teaching I registered my first success. The little boy ran home as fast as his legs would carry him, "Mum, Mum, listen to this, I can spell, Dad, D-U-D, Dad"

Shortly after this success Horace Rose appeared on the school steps. Horace did not have a tooth in his head, had never visited a dentist, wore no shoes, and puffed on his blackened pipe.

"Hey Schoolie, I've come for me winders!"

"I beg your pardon?"

"I've come for me winders. I donated them winders, me kids have finished school, so, I've come for me winders!"

"Roy", I called to the biggest boy, "if Mr Rose sets foot on the verandah, run home and ring the police".

"Ah, it's all right, schoolie, you can keep the winders".

One night the bus pulled up, "Hey schoolie, I have a present for you", and there it was, a battery operated wireless. The next day it took two boys ALL day to find a suitable sapling for the aerial pole, and the following day we listened to Kindergarten of the Air, Sing Along with Terrence Hunt, Current Affairs with H.D.Black, and the dramatised stories. That present from the Department was a boon.

Polling Day arrived. There I sat from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on my own and still too young to vote. Gradually the voters arrived and I was shocked to discover that one of the men could not read. In my innocence I assumed everyone could read, and, here was a man who could not even write his name! Then a voter sauntered in from the timber mill. He had walked three miles to cast his vote.

"Gooday schoolie, I've come to vote for the boys".

"I'm sorry," I stammered, "the boys will have to vote for themselves".

"No it's all right schoolie, we all vote Labor".

However, he trudged the three miles back to the mill to fetch the boys, who duly arrived rum bottle in hand.

"Learn us somethin', schoolie" as they banged the bottle on the desk, "learn us somethin'!"

Fortunately the boys tired of this chorus, and walked the three miles back to the mill, (having cast their vote after a fashion)

There was a Cleaning Allowance of ten shillings a week, which I spent on books so we could have a tiny library. On the last day of term we had a picnic, with games, races and a concert.

It was at Caricolla Provisional School where I learned my trade as a teacher, and, in 1987, I retired as Principal of Blayney High School.

Kevin Quinn 1947-49

EDITORS' NOTE :

Caricolla is on the Nulla Nulla Creek 46 miles from Kempsey up the Macleay River. What memories this conjures for those of us who were small schoolies !

Coming to Queensland

Another chilly morning in Bowral!

Dragging on a pure woollen coat over my mismatched skirt and blouse I prepared to enter the cold formality of the Inspector's office. But within seconds he exclaimed, "Wagga Teachers College! I remember you!" And with a broad smile he welcomed me back to teaching. Our time at College coincided.

A few weeks later, in Brisbane, imagine my shock when I was told that I was unqualified! For Queensland that is!

I had rung the Queensland Teachers Union from our home in NSW to see if they were employing casual or supply teachers, and they said "Yes!" To make sure, I rang a second time.

Later at the orientation meeting for upgrading, there were hundreds of us! We had to summarise the Syllabus in every subject from first to seventh grades and to practise at two schools. After much door-knocking I was welcomed by a Catholic School. The first teacher said, "If they need teachers you're in like a shot!"

As time went on, we were asked to promise that we would complete a Bachelor of Education. Even people with recent degrees were not being employed so I stayed home and enjoyed looking after the family. We survived more by God's grace than by good management. In fact we thrived!

Brisbane is a great place to follow the Arts! These days I'm lost in the wonders of Watercolour painting. Even sold a few in Art Shows!

I have two married daughters with families of their own, and our youngest daughter is working and studying. None of our children wanted to become a teacher. Do you blame them? I was allowed into schools with the Religious Instruction programmes, and was welcomed as a tutor in English at a High School. No pay, of course!

A big cheerio to those who remember me! Six of us in one room! (Kumbu, I think.) No arguments either.

Those were the days!!

Rosemary Johnson
(nee Errington)
1954-55.

IN MEMORIAM



REMEMBERING STAFF OF WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE

Dr Joyce Fyfe Wylie OBE

Joyce Wylie joined the staff of WWTC when it opened in 1947 and, as a residential member of staff, had the responsibility of administering the women students' residential section of the college in addition to her role as a lecturer in Education. She moved from Wagga at the end of 1949 to continue working in Teachers' Colleges in the metropolitan area — Balmain and Sydney. I had the pleasure of meeting her before she left Wagga at the beginning of 1950 when I arrived to take up a position at the College and to become a part of the residential staff. When I moved to Sydney in 1955, Joyce's name was often raised in conversation by members of the staff of Sydney Teachers' College. She had obviously made an impression there, although she was on leave prior to taking up an appointment in the University of Sydney, Faculty of Education in 1956. Her contributions to education were wide ranging as appointments took her to far off places such as Lagos, Nigeria and the Philippines. She was a much travelled person and could interest anyone who cared to listen, with vivid descriptions of the interesting places she had visited and the even more interesting people she had met.

Later when I began studies towards a Master of Education degree, I was pleased to be able to enrol in two of the Seminar courses which Joyce Wylie conducted in the Master's programme. She was indeed a most stimulating lecturer, one who could always link theory and practice, effectively direct

discussion and encourage thoughtful analysis of the topic being studied. She was a superior academic with her feet on the ground! It was evident why her seminar courses were so popular! I was delighted that she agreed to act as the supervisor of my Honours thesis. She guided the process without imposing her thoughts and certainly provided every opportunity for the student to meet her high expectations. Her sabbatical leave interrupted this supervision so that she needed to arrange for another to deal with the final stages.

I have been most grateful for having had the opportunity to work with such a highly regarded educator.

After her retirement from Sydney University Joyce gave her time and energy to other aspects of tertiary education, in particular to the development of Milperra College of Advanced Education, when she became the Chairman of the inaugural Council of the College. Her expertise in leadership and administration has been recognized by those who worked with her to develop and direct a new independent tertiary college which later became a part of the University of Western Sydney. She continued to foster her interest in travel and was always ready to take part in challenging discussions across a wide range of topics even in the latter years when her physical health had begun to deteriorate.

It was indeed a privilege to have known Joyce Wylie. Her death on June 6th 2004 was sudden and closed a chapter in the life of a memorable educator.

Ruby Riach

To add to Ruby's perceptive account I would like to report some of the memories of her career mentioned by speakers at her funeral. Joyce Fyfe Wiley graduated from Sydney University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. Her first appointment was to Marrickville Boys High School. She was the only female teacher on the staff of twenty five. One of the male staff remarked on her appointment "At last we've got somebody to make the tea". Joyce did not make the tea! After eight years of teaching she was appointed Deputy Head of Newcastle Girls High School - a meteoric rise. She secured

her Master of Education and then her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Illinois. She was a great traveler, touring the length and breadth of South America, Africa and the Polar Regions north and south. She had a pilot's license before she held a driver's license. She flew with Dick Smith over the North Pole. Joyce contracted malaria during her travels and her doctor, lecturing to his medical students, informed them (in French) that she would never walk or talk again. He was unaware that she understood French and she was determined to prove him wrong, which she did by forcing herself to converse with visiting sparrows on her window sill. She was indeed a most remarkable person.

Vale, Doctor Joyce Fyfe Wiley, OBE.

Lew Morrell.

Patricia Mary Lahy AM was appointed to the staff in 1951/2 to lecture in Physical Education. She lived in residence during her time at WWTC. She transferred to Balmain Teachers College in Sydney and undertook part-time evening studies to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts- Psychology Honours at Sydney University. She was appointed to the University of Sydney as a senior Tutor in the Psychology Department. Study leave in 1970 took her to Queen's University, Belfast where she undertook studies and was granted a doctorate in 1975. She returned to Sydney and was elected Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1979 serving three terms in that position. She was appointed executive assistant to the Vice-Chancellor in 1986 and a year later was selected for the new position of pro vice-chancellor with responsibility for organizing the structure of Chifley College later to become part of the University of Western Sydney. Her administrative ability was highly regarded by all those who had worked with her and her contributions to academic institutions had been many and varied during her working life. The universities of Sydney and Western Sydney honoured her with an honorary Doctor of Letters and her services to higher education were acknowledged when she was made a Member of the Order of Australia. She died suddenly at the age of 75 following a few years of failing health.

CSU INFORMATION



The Wagga Wagga Teachers' College Alumni Association Scholarship Appeal



KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2004 TO SECURE THE FUTURE

The WWTC Alumni committee is seeking your continuing support for the Scholarship Fund in 2004. Although we have reached our initial target of \$25,000, we are keen to see this expand and allow us to either have an additional Scholarship or to make the present one more prestigious.

It is an important project as it serves not only to assist students who may have affiliations with our members but also to perpetuate the spirit and comradeship which was established so long ago and still exists. The WWTC Alumni Association will have direct input as to how this Fund is managed and where the Fund will expend its monies. All information pertaining to activities of the Fund will be communicated to our membership through 'TALKABOUT'.

Your willingness and courage to 'secure the future' providing for the best possible education for members of the WWTC Alumni family is an outstanding goal.

**Scholarship Fund donations must go directly to the CSU Foundation at:-
The Grange, Charles Sturt University, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795**

As you know, we pay for the printing of TALKABOUT and even though the Alumni Office covers the cost of postage, the Association still incurs fairly large expenses. It has therefore been decided that an annual contribution of \$10 per member is required and that this will fall due at the time of the March "Talkabout".

Talkabout contributions should be sent directly to the Treasurer of the WWTC Alumni Association:-

Lindsay Budd, 4 Flemington Close, Casula NSW 2170.

If you require a receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The Alumni Office over the years has been a great supporter of the Association. Postage costs for Talkabout are approx. \$1350 for each issue. To assist them to cut costs you can opt to receive your "Talkabout" by email. Simply tick the box on the bottom of your contribution form. The Alumni Office will appreciate your help very much.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Alumni Office on 02 6338 6016

**I want to support the WWTCAA Scholarship Appeal
(All gifts over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTABLE.)**

My gift for 2004 is: \$ _____

Please find my cheque for \$ _____

Surname: _____

Former Name: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Years at College: _____ to _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

**Here is my annual contribution to the production of
TALKABOUT.**

My contribution for 2004 is: \$ _____

Surname: _____

Former Name: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Years at College: _____ to _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

I would prefer to receive my Talkabout
by email



If undeliverable please return to:
The Alumni Office
Charles Sturt University
Bathurst NSW 2795 Australia

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Place address sticker here.

Change of Format

In order to reduce costs and simplify the mail out the format of Talkabout has been changed. The back page now has postage information and a space for the address label. The Scholarship form is inside the back page so that the contribution form can be cut out without losing any Talkabout content.