

PANORAMA

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF BATHURST TEACHERS' COLLEGE
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
ISSUE No. 25, SUMMER 2013



THE PRESIDENT WRITES ...

Recently I was "talking" with a friend of mine from a long way back. We had each gone our own ways with life and had not been in touch for many, many years. After being 're-discovered' via Facebook, this talk with each other was had through the medium of email. The email communication allowed both words and pictures to be exchanged. The interpersonal communication was both quick and efficient.

Thinking back to a period some 50 years ago, such written communication was done with paper, pen, an envelope, maybe a printed photograph all topped with a stamp (now referred to as snail-mail). The immediacy of this communication was nowhere near that provided by email today. Time was taken with the written thoughts and such letters tended to be very newsy and bulky.

Then I thought again. In many ways I am still a 'dinosaur' in the varieties of interpersonal communication available in this day and age. We now have media such as Facebook, Twitter, SMS and Skype. I got to thinking ... Is it any better? Sure it's quick, immediate and relatively low cost. It, especially SMS, is good for brief messages where quick information can be provided or a speedy answer is desired. Yet it in many cases it seems to be more superficial and trivial. Who really cares that you have just cleaned your teeth with a new stripy toothpaste, or have just been revived with a double shot espresso? The two-way communication is there, but what is its quality?

Correct spelling, proper use of grammar conventions and considered wording of opinions and news – as the older generations were taught in English lessons at school – seems to be going by the wayside. Communication today seems to be much more trite, simple and less relevant. Many abbreviations are used (eg. CUL8R) in the interests

of brevity. Facial expressions, via keyboard keys :-), or use of emoticons ☺, are used much more frequently to seemingly avoid longer, worded expressions of feelings.

Where is all this 'progress' taking us? Will interpersonal communication, job interviews and work related meetings develop beyond conference calls, video hook-ups, skype and the like? How soon will holographic images of the communicators linked with electronic transmission of speech become the norm? The personal contact of 'real' people in a shared physical space may well diminish even further.

On this thought, the staging of reunions, may seem to be a little 'old hat'. However nothing, in my opinion, beats the personal interaction of people in the same physical space to get a more memorable and rewarding communication experience. Past experiences are shared with much humour (or sadness in some cases). These and other shared nuances tend to be missed in electronic communication.

There are several significant reunions coming up in the next year or so. These are detailed elsewhere in this publication.

See also a report from our 2013 BTCAA Scholarship winner, Lara Lambkin, on what the Scholarship has meant to her. Advertising is in progress for possible 2014 Scholarship candidates. See the report from CSU's Advancement Officer Stacey Fish for more information about the Scholarship program. Do you know of anyone who may be eligible?

In 2014 the annual AGM and BTCAA Luncheon is being held in Sydney at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel on Saturday 22nd February. This luncheon always has an interesting, notable Guest Speaker, and all alumni members are most

The operation of BTCAA as well as the cost of producing and distributing 'Panorama', relies on the support of the alumni. Please pay your membership to the Association using the form on page 11.

The annual Membership fee of \$25 includes 2 print copies of 'Panorama'. This will be the last print copy distributed to non-members.

welcome. to attend. Details about this meeting can be read elsewhere in this publication.

I particularly want to thank all the Committee members of the present BTCAA committee for their collegiality, their work as part of a great team, and the ideas that they come up with to keep the group viable. There's lots planned to happen in 2014 so everyone will be involved.

If you, as a *Panorama* reader/subscriber, feel you'd like to be part of a group that provides a communication service to all alumni, gets involved in fund raising activities for our Scholarship program and has some outings and activities together please let us know so your name can be included for our committee 'refurbishment' at the February AGM.

Best wishes to all for a Happy, relaxed and safe Christmas and festive season.

WAYNE BENSLEY

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Lara Lambkin, the 2013 winner of the BTCAA Scholarship is pictured below on the right, with the Alumni Treasurer, Gail Metcalfe and her mother, Gloria (née Moritz) Lara says:

I am writing to thank you for granting me the 2013 Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni Scholarship. I am extremely grateful for the financial support this provides for me as it will cover my subject fees for this year. This is particularly helpful as I am working part-time at the moment, rather than full-time as I have done previously, in order to give me more time to study in my Honours year.

I am also grateful for the honour of being recognised by the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni. My mother graduated from Bathurst Teachers' College in 1961 and it was her experience that influenced my attitude to tertiary study when I was growing up. She accompanied me to the Scholarship ceremony and we were thrilled to be able to share the day with Gail Metcalfe of the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni who was a member of the same graduating class as my mother. It was a special occasion for me and my family and I thank you for it.

At the completion of my studies I hope to work as a neuropsychologist to help people experiencing cognitive disfunction. This scholarship will help me on the way to this goal. I am extremely grateful for the support you have given me.
LARA LAMBKIN



IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the passing of John, husband of the long-time editor of *Panorama*, Roseann Dale Dengate (née Morgan), on 1 August 2013, at their Glebe home.

John and Dale first met as young teachers at the Burnside Central School, Parramatta, the beginning of a life-long partnership when, as well as pursuing their profession they both were active members of the Bush Music Club.

John became well known on the folk scene and was described by Warren Fahey in a eulogy in the SMH as "the closest heir to the legacy of Henry Lawson this country has ever known" because of his songwriting and poetry. He was a regular sight on the streets of the inner city as a busker, playing his tin whistle, singing or reciting. Dale, a fine singer herself, often performed with him at folk festivals around the country, as well as with her own group.

We extend our sympathy to Roseann and her family in their loss.

REMEMBERING ROD WELLS – BTC MUSIC LECTURER

25th April 1929 – 14th August 2013

Even before he was appointed as a lecturer to BTC, Rod Wells already had a significant effect on college students as Alan Beggs, one of the Pioneers, writes:

"Rod Wells is well remembered as a most impressive young demonstration teacher at Bathurst Primary. Speaking to several fellow 1951-52 BTC students on his passing, we readily recalled his time at the demonstration school. Like all good teachers, he made the lesson look easy. And I wonder how many of us realised that he was only a few years older than we were. But probably the most lasting impression is of a very well-presented, enthusiastic young man who was warmly admired by his students."

Those Alumni who were present at Bathurst Teachers' College at the time of his tenure as Music Lecturer will remember his skill and enthusiasm and some of their memories are shared here.

Ian Harpley (BTC 58-59) says: "Rod was one of the era who seemed to be great 'all-rounders'. They were gifted in many fields. They played sport well and they sang and played well too. Many of them had begun their educational careers in small schools or primary schools, progressed to

secondary, did their degrees part-time and then became Lecturers. This gave them a greater understanding of education and young people.

I was not a member of Music Option, or the Rugby Team but I did belong to the College Choir and I always credit Rod for my love of Sacred Music. I never hear *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* without thinking of him."

From the same cohort, Patrick Connolly writes: "I was one of the small number of fortunate students to have been a member of Rod Wells's famous 1958/59 BTC Choir which won the City of Sydney Eisteddfod Choir section against all odds and against the most notable choirs in Sydney at the time. He was very proud of 'his choir' and I'm sure of his own achievements with such a bunch of amateurs. Thank goodness for youthful enthusiasm! Rod was passionate about his love of music and it was this passion which he instilled in his students, sometimes in very difficult circumstances, especially when some students had no knowledge or experience, and indeed no interest in any forms of music other than what was in the Top Forty at the time. Fortunately this passion kept him going as well as his passion for Rugby Union. The First XV were very surprised that a 'music man' could also love, be passionate about, and have a high level of expertise in Rugby. He was highly regarded by these young football players as well as by the students in general. I know that at times he championed the causes of the students which in turn benefited the life of BTC. I remember him as a very knowledgeable and friendly man who was well grounded with a genuine spiritual dimension which at the time was probably not very fashionable but he remained focused and believed in what he did and how he carried out his lecturing responsibilities. Rod's overall contribution to both his personal and professional life was sincere, positive, genuine and knowledgeable."

David Mould was at BTC in 1959/60. He renewed his acquaintance with Rod and met Rod's wife, Roslyn at the reunion of the 1958/59/60 group at BTC in 2009 "At College I remember Rod as always the nice guy, albeit as a lecturer. Very popular and very humble.

The 1959 production of *The Pirates of Penzance* with Rod performing the orchestral music on a piano, together with his masterly direction of some absolutely beautiful singing (Margaret Banks performing *Poor Wand'ring One* stands out) was something that I shall always revere and recall with more than just fond memories. I get quite emotional thinking back to those wonderful days, and wish that I had been a more sensible young man, and involved with more of the activities on offer.

My love for Gilbert and Sullivan had always been strong following a performance my parents took me to at a local Public School in Roseville in

about 1950, but was enhanced that night at the Town Hall in Bathurst, and I always think back to those days when I listen to some G&S (which I do quite frequently here in Inverell with the Music Appreciation Group).

In 2009 when I was unloading the car at the beginning of our Reunion weekend, another car drew up in front and as the man, with considerable trouble, got out of the front seat, I asked, "And what year were you in here"? How embarrassing to be answered with "Oh, I was a Music Lecturer". That of course, was Rod Wells.

From then on my wife Shirley and I were in contact quite frequently with Rod and Roslyn, whose name "rang a bell" as I was sure I had heard of her performing either on radio or at various concerts. Indeed, she kindly sent me a CD of hers, which I was able to play when on Community Radio here in Inverell.

Such sad news, vale Rod Wells - may he rest in peace. With much appreciation from one of his students for some wonderful times."

Assisting Rod Wells with the musical accompaniment to *The Pirates* was talented student Robyn Wright (née Allen) who says:

"Rod Wells had a big impact on our development and training in music. He was inspiring in his musical knowledge and enthusiasm to push us to the limit. As a member of Music Option, I remember meeting before breakfast at times whilst the other students were crawling out of bed. We were given opportunities to perform in concerts and eisteddfods. There was always a goal. Of note was competing in the Choral Section of the Sydney Eisteddfod. We were awed that we were to compete against the illustrious Illawarra Choral Society. It was a big test for Rod and we felt for him. To our amazement, we came first, singing a very difficult song, *Norwegian Girls* by Zoltan Kodaly. I remember meeting at his home for supper and listening to a recording of the *Ink Spots*.

A happy experience was singing madrigals with about five other girls, including Carolyn Hall (née Dixon), training for a concert. One song was *The Nightingale*. The General Music Course gave us training in conducting, recorder playing (at times the women's dormitory sounded like an onslaught of buzzing cicadas), and musical appreciation and how to teach it.

The Gilbert and Sullivan production of *The Pirates of Penzance* was an amazing revelation of the students' vocal gifts. I enjoyed the experience of accompanying on the piano along with the two music lecturers, Nancy Bayley and Rod Wells. All of the above I have been able to use in Primary Teaching and leisure activities. I thank God for the contribution of Rod Wells to my music life training."

A very brief comment, but one that will resonate with those members of that famous choir

is from Leone Fairweather (née Curtis): "He taught us how to smile and sing, at the same time!"

The choir is pictured below with Rod sitting next to L.J. Allen in the front row. One reason for our success, apart from our youthful enthusiasm and those smiles, is performing the fiendishly difficult and unaccompanied *Norwegian Girls*. It takes a very brave conductor, with great faith in his choir, to have brought it off successfully.

Rod Wells will be remembered by all those who met him in his later career. The music at the Celebration of his life would have delighted him, especially when the combined choirs sang his arrangement of the 23rd Psalm. He will be missed by his wife, Roslyn, and by all who came into contact with him.

CAROLE GOODWIN



RETIREMENT – MORE THAN A WORD

Retirement – what a multitude of images one word can invoke – more golf, more bowls, travel, gardening, walking or whatever your interests lead to. I presume most of BTC's students have now faced this situation. Of course, the way you look at retirement depends on your state of health.

My interest dates back to just four years after graduating from the small school's course at BTC in 1954. After spending four years in a wonderful one teacher school which had 39 students up to Year 9, no electricity, no telephone, only a blackboard and chalk and very few books, I remember at the first school council meeting asking could I buy some library books and one gentleman moved that I be given five pounds. I asked which book he would like me to buy and he increased his offer to thirty pounds. The school was at Pine Ridge on the Liverpool Plains and was about twenty miles from Quirindi and as I had no transport the first year was quite lonely.

I spent the next three years in the idyllic climate of the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea where I developed a love of multicultural education. Again there were very few facilities and resources, so different from today's school environment but something we had learned to cope with.

Returning to Australia I married a South Australian whom I had met in PNG and we accepted a two teacher school, fluctuating between ten to fifteen students, on the edge of the Nullarbor Plains. This school served children of railway fettlers on the transcontinental railway. The change was dramatic – from heavy rain almost every day to rain on just two days in the first year. Again no facilities or resources.

From there we went further southwest to a traditional Aboriginal community at Yalata, again on the Nullarbor. The people in this community were still living a traditional lifestyle and the children came to school, not from houses, but from wiltjas made from bush material. More



importantly they couldn't speak English.

(David, with Yalata students is pictured left.)

My staff, although experienced teachers, were not equipped to teach English as a second language but we developed

a successful curriculum, based on my PNG experience. Many of our students are still in touch although tragically many died young.

Next, a year in a pleasant rural setting and then off to the outback again. This time a stint at Marree Aboriginal School close to the shores of Lake Eyre on the railway line from Adelaide to Alice Springs where there was an interesting mix of students with Aboriginal, Afghan and a mixture of western cultures being taught in a three teacher school.

A couple of years later, twelve months' study leave followed by a twelve months' exchange in a predominantly Maori School in Rotorua N.Z. further built the love for multi-cultural education. In 1974 I took up a year's appointment at the Commonwealth Institute in London where I represented Australia for the Commonwealth Education Department visiting schools in the UK to support teachers of Australian Studies. This was a great experience visiting 250 schools throughout the country as well as having to teach a demonstration lesson for Queen Elizabeth II.

After three years in Whyalla, a rural industrial city, we had a respite as we endured city living in Adelaide while we ensured our four children successfully completed secondary and tertiary education. I also completed further studies.

Before retirement I was fortunate to be able to spend two years working with the Aboriginal Education unit and finally with the Anangu Education unit which supervises Aboriginal schools in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands in the far North West of South Australia. This included many trips to the Lands and interaction with the people in their remote communities south of Uluru (Ayers Rock).

Retirement from formal education in 1995 opened up a whole new field of voluntary

teaching in South East Asia. We were accepted as Australian Volunteers Abroad in 1996 and spent twelve months teaching in a private Muslim School in remote Punjab in Pakistan. I taught maths throughout the school and my wife tutored a young teacher who was to establish a preschool class. The owner had a dream and in a small, desert town had established a co-educational school following a Cambridge curriculum with the language of instruction being English. The boys' uniform was straight out of an English Private School – grey slacks, blazer, tie, cap and black shoes. This was worn, even on the hottest day when the temperature nudged 50°C. The girls wore *shalwar kameez* in school colours so were more coolly dressed. My wife and I were accepted, after a short time, as family members of the owner and thus were allowed to associate with the females in the family compound. We regarded this as a real privilege as it is rare for females to be allowed to associate with any males other than close relatives. We were even invited to family weddings and accepted by the extended families as honorary family members. During our time in Pakistan we were the only Westerners within 250 km of Jauharabad so were fully immersed in the Pakistani culture.

It was a challenging year as our teaching style was so different to the very strict discipline and rote learning of the local teachers none of whom had been formally trained as teachers but who were all university graduates. The students liked our more relaxed style but the teachers felt threatened when they weren't in full control which often resulted in quite brutal physical punishments for very minor misdemeanors. The students were the most cooperative I had ever taught and I never once had to reprimand any of them as they valued education so much. Even now we have frequent contact with ex-students and staff, especially through Facebook. It was also a great opportunity to familiarize ourselves with Islam which was just beginning to make an impact in the wider world.

Nine months in Nepal followed where we taught the children of expats from all around the world who were working as medical missionaries. It was like living in the mythical Shangri-La as the view from our house window was the snow-covered peaks of the Annapurnas especially Machapuchare (Fish Tail). Pokhara, itself was in a semi-tropical valley surrounded by snow peaks. Again, a challenging time as the curriculum was English based and many of the young students did not speak English as their first language.

Our next venture was the result of an invitation from our church which asked us to go to Sumatra to ascertain what the indigenous Church



Above: David and his wife, with students in Nepal.

wanted in the way of assistance in the teaching of English to its officials. They had realised that English was essential because of 'globalisation' as it was the only common language when the churches of the Asian Pacific Rim meet for conferences. This was our introduction to many years of working with adults who were seeking post-graduate tertiary education as well as English conversation. This involved coaching small groups in preparation for TOEFL or IELTS examinations which are necessary for non-English speaking adults seeking university education in overseas universities. We have been involved in six trips of three months duration to Sumatra over the years.

We have also taught English in Thailand, Vietnam and lately Cambodia. Cambodia has been particularly interesting as we first taught there in 2003 at a small Christian school of thirty students. That school now has an enrolment of over three hundred.

In 2012 and 2013 we returned there to live in a Christian hostel for university students, all young adults undertaking undergraduate studies in many disciplines including medicine, law, engineering, IT and theology. They were from the far-flung provinces and living away from home for the first time – reminiscent of my early years at BTC. Their English was extremely basic so we taught simple English conversation to a very responsive group of young people. I feel quite a deal of sympathy with Archie Miller, our dorm supervisor at BTC as we also lived in a small one-room apartment among the students. It was on the third floor so we had plenty of exercise as we climbed up and down at least ten times every day. Last year we shared a bathroom with twelve young lads but this year had our own simple

ensuite. Facebook has again been well used by our students.

I believe the small schools training that I received at BTC prepared me to live in the open community and opened my eyes to a wider world. Thank you BTC. Sadly, living in South Australia has isolated me from my fellow students at BTC as Australia is so east coast centric. We have been privileged to be able to serve in so many diverse situations and really value the friendships of our neighbours in the wider Asian region.

DAVID CRAIG BTC 1953-54

REUNION NOTICES AND REPORTS

BTC PIONEERS' REUNION IN MAY

A group of BTC Pioneers gathered at Leura from Monday, 20th May to Wednesday, 22nd May to celebrate their first coming together sixty two years ago. Among the thirty two or so participants were some who had made a big effort to attend: one from Victoria and two from Tasmania. Many others drove long distances from all directions in NSW to be present. There were apologies from more than twenty people who would have liked to participate but were unable to because of illness or prior commitments.

Most people chose to stay at the Fairmont Resort while others stayed at the nearby Waldorf. By Monday afternoon there was a sizeable contingent gathered at the Fairmont and this group later adjourned to the Leura Golf Club for a most enjoyable dinner.

On Tuesday, after leaving a message about our whereabouts for new arrivals, we travelled in convoy to Everglades – a charming art-deco house set in beautiful gardens designed by Sorenson. The weather was crisp but sunny and we all enjoyed strolling around the house and garden. Later we visited the Leura shopping area. After lunch we drove to Katoomba where the more intrepid among us rode the Scenic Railway, Scenic Skyway and Scenic Cableway. The less venturesome enjoyed coffee, went on to Echo Point, or found other ways to relax.

The formal dinner was held in a function room of the Fairmont on Tuesday night. Julia Noon welcomed all the participants, including Gail Metcalfe who is our very supportive Alumni Treasurer and Honorary Pioneer. Julia outlined the evening's program and Helen Egan (née Long) spoke briefly about our long-standing support of the Charles Sturt scholarship fund and read out an

apology from Betty MacDonald (our PE lecturer all those years ago). Alan Beggs, with great flair, introduced our speaker Ralph Rawlinson. Ralph's address, *Behind Closed Doors*, revealed in entertaining fashion many of the experiences and personalities that made his time at Head Office anything but dull. Lew Ford proposed the vote of thanks to Ralph and to the organizers of this reunion: Julia Noon, Helen Egan and Ralph Rawlinson. The evening concluded with Lesley Johnstone presenting OBE certificates (Over Bloomin' Eighty) to those who have reached octogenarian status. At this stage some wit was heard to say that we will continue to have reunions so that we'll know who's the last man standing.

On Wednesday morning Gail invited us to her charming house and gardens. Here we walked around her extensive garden before gathering indoors for Devonshire tea and the cutting of a cake specially made by Gail to honour our octogenarians. Plans are already afoot for another reunion early next year.

AND THE PLANS ARE ...

WHERE: Coonabarabran – June McWhirter (née Wood) is hosting this reunion in her home town.

WHEN: 7 –10 March 2014 (including travel time: arrive Fri 7, depart Mon 10)

HOW: details re methods of travel – car, coach, train – plane – being considered.

MORE INFORMATION: To be sent if you have replied to information sheet sent in September,

ENQUIRIES: Julia Noon (0416 243 383) June McWhirter (02 6842 2800) or Ralph Rawlinson (02 9743 4117)

How MANY ENDS Did We PLAY?

Actually none, either outdoor or indoor, at the Bomaderry Bowling Club, a marvellous venue without ghosts or poltergeists where BTCAA (Southern) held its annual *Get-Together* on Wednesday 31st July 2013. This was our tenth meeting, the first one being at Gundaroo in 2004.

This year's event was hosted by Bill and June Thompson where twenty seven members accepted the invitation and nine apologies were received. A special welcome was extended to first time attendees Tony Hepworth 56/7, David Pain and Greg Woods 65/6 and Wayne Chandler. Leon and Robyn Brett 56/7 from Gosford who have been coming to our get-togethers for many years were especially welcomed as it was Leon's 80th birthday. He must have been a mature age student or "oldie" when at College. Nevertheless, this group was the best represented again.

We were humbled when Bill announced the arrival of a royal presence in the persons of

George and Betty, from the House of Windsor. Is he George VII, or VI.5, ahead of the little George belonging to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge? But it was our George who had been invited to speak of his passion for the performing arts.

His commitment to these arts during his working life continued into his retirement particularly as President of the Shoalhaven Eisteddfod and working for the Board of Studies. In his presentation he applauded John Cassim and Arch Miller for their encouragement. He outlined a history of eisteddfods and their contribution to intellectual life in England and Wales. Contrary to some views, he had observed an increasing interest in music and poetry performances at eisteddfods especially in the South Coast region. These gave many children the opportunity to perform in public without necessarily being a star. This particularly applied to special needs children and it always gave him great joy in watching them become so alive and absorbed. He agreed with opinions that the decline in music and the arts, as opposed to NAPLAN subjects, was leading to a suppression of creativity. There is evidence to show that these subjects enhance basic skills learning.

It was suggested that at future gatherings we include a segment focussing on some interesting commitment made by graduates in their retirement. Also posing the question "What impact has BTC had on your professional and/or personal life?" should bring varying replies from us all.

As next year will be our tenth anniversary a return to our beginning at Gundaroo would seem appropriate. Unfortunately, our original venue and others are no longer available. We have not yet met in the same location or venue twice but now might have to start. We should continue to alternate between the tablelands and the coast as previously agreed.

REG HALLIBURTON

The annual get-together for 2014 will be at Bungendore on the last Wednesday of July ie 30th. The venue will be advised closer to the date.

Further information: Reg Halliburton
40 Cameron Rd Queanbeyan 2620
ph 6297 1859 email- jan.reg @bigpond.net.au

ANNUAL REUNION AT THE EPPING BOWLING CLUB ON TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

These informal reunions, held on the 3rd Tuesday in November, were initiated by John MacNeil and Dennis Burke and are usually attended by thirty or more past students who enjoy the informal nature of the occasion. They mix freely and do a lot of

catching up with their friends. There is lots of reminiscing and it has become a treasured day in our passing years.

BERNARD STAPLETON (BTC 57/58)



Pictured above are L - R Hal Wood, Ross Wickham, Peter Foss, Ken Stafford, Bernard Stapleton Photo by Barbara Alekna (nee Mitchell)

BTC 1962-1963 SECTIONS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 50th Anniversary of the entry into the "real world" of our 180 members is being held over the weekend of Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February 2014, centred around the Bathurst Campus of CSU (naturally!).

The program includes time for informal chats as well as an historical tour of the Campus and Bathurst City, a wine tasting, and a formal dinner in the James Hardie Room.

Invitations and full details have been sent out to all colleagues, and this is the final reminder notice, with preliminary bookings closing soon. For further information contact Tony Lane by Phone: 0428 524 266 or Bruce Fairhall by Email: bruce@fairhall.id.au

REUNION 1964-65 BTC STUDENTS

In March 2014 a get together of many of the students who started at Bathurst TC in 1964 is being held in Bathurst. This 50th anniversary/ reunion is being held over the weekend of 29/30/31 March. Planning for this significant reunion is well under way. If you are not yet aware of this gathering please contact David Bales by email (sdbales@gmail.com) for further information.

On page 10, details are published of the AGM of the Alumni Association. Two groups wish to make this the focus of their reunions.

1954-55 BTC STUDENTS 60TH ANNIVERSARY of starting at BTC on 1 March 1954

Make every effort, spare no expense, to attend the lunch on 22 February 2014 at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel.
(Special accommodation rates:
Freecall 1800 801 576)

CALL TO ALL ALUMNI OF 52/53

Come to the 2014 Alumni AGM special lunch on 22nd February at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel at 11am. Make it a pleasant occasion to catch up with old friends and acquaintances. We all have tales to amaze and surprise. Share the memories.

Ruth Doyle (MacGregor) and Ken Shadbolt, your representatives on the BTCAA Committee

News from CSU

Bathurst Teacher's College Alumni Fundraising



The Bathurst Teacher's College Alumni (BTCA) Fund currently sits at \$31,410.55. This is a long way from Carole Bennett's first donation of \$20 in August 2002. A Scholarship valued at \$2,000 has been awarded in the name of BTC for the last six years, a total of \$12,000. The BTCA Scholarship for 2014 is currently being advertised to CSU students via the CSU web site www.csu.edu.au/scholarships. The primary criteria for the BTCA scholarship is that the student be a descendant of a BTC graduate studying in any year (preference first year), in a course within the Faculty of Education. This scholarship is an enormous assistance to a student paying escalating study and living expenses and helps them to achieve their education goals.

If you are aware of a descendant of a BTC graduate who is considering enrolling in a course within the Faculty of Education at CSU in 2014 or is an existing student, please encourage them to apply via the CSU web site.

All members of the BTC are encouraged to continue to send your gift for support to the BTCA Fund to the **Charles Sturt University Foundation Trust c/o PO Box 883 Orange 2800 NSW**. Alternatively, you can make an online donation at: <http://alumni.csu.edu.au/get-involved/supporting-csu>, select the Bathurst Teacher's College Alumni Fund.

Teacher Education Alumni Newsletter

Teacher Education has launched their first issue of their Alumni Newsletter. The whole publication and further information regarding the below two stories can be viewed on the CSU Alumni web site: www.csu.edu.au/alumni/publications

Restructure of our undergraduate teacher education programs

As educators, you will be aware of the constantly shifting nature of education. CSU is responding to the current changes in workforce needs with a dramatic restructure of our undergraduate teacher education programs. Beginning in 2014, we no longer offer a standalone primary teaching course. Rather, we are implementing two exciting new dual qualifications courses which will see our graduates qualified to work in either Early Childhood settings and Primary Schools or Primary and Secondary Schools.

Award-winning research on early classroom experience for teaching students



CSU are delighted that an innovative research project conducted by the School of Education's Dr Christine Edwards-Groves and Ms Rhonda Hoare looking at practical

experience has been recognised nationally.

The pair (pictured left) received a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning from the Australian Government's Office of Student Learning and Teaching at a ceremony in September.

The project, *Talking to Learn*, is a collaborative venture between CSU and the Catholic Schools Office Wagga Wagga and gives teaching students practical experience in the classroom in the very first weeks of University.

"Previous experience showed that first-year teacher education students find it difficult to connect their theoretical university learning to the practice of teaching and often begin their first practicum underprepared and lacking in confidence for working with children and their associate teachers," Ms Hoare said.

"Therefore, it was proposed that immersing pre-service teachers into the everyday life of classrooms from the very first weeks of University to learn the importance of developing skills for engaging in quality communication for learning would provide a strong foundation for them as emerging professionals."

Remember to register your email with CSU

Please make sure your email is up to date with CSU by registering online at www.csu.edu.au/alumni. Remember that CSU's Free Member Benefit Programme is available to you.

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone, from the CSU Advancement Unit.

STACEY FISH

AUTUMN OPEN GARDEN

The Anzac Weekend 2014

Friday 25th April, Saturday 26th April, CSU Sunday 27th April
10.00am – 4pm

at

Edgemount

14 Banksia Park Road Katoomba

Entry \$5 per person
Devonshire Teas available.

Come and enjoy the magnificent views and an acre of landscape

and at the same time help support
the BTCAA Scholarship Appeal

FRIENDSHIP

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones

LUNCH

Saturday 22 February 2014
on 4th Floor

The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

169 - 171 Castlereagh St, Sydney
(between Park and Market Sts – closer to Park St)

11am – 3pm
Brief AGM prior to lunch

GUEST SPEAKER

to be advised

\$50 p.p.

*Please send payment with the slip below and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
Mrs Gail Metcalfe (Treasurer), 14 Banksia Park Rd, Katoomba 2780
to arrive by: Monday 17th February 2014*

I enclose payment of \$50 pp for _____ person/s to attend the BTCAA Lunch on Saturday 22 February 2014.

Please tick method of payment:

Cheque

☐

Money Order

☐

Direct Bank Deposit

☐

BTCAA Bank Account Details: Commonwealth Bank BSB 062300 A/c No. 1013 3521

Please include your name when depositing directly to the BTCAA Bank Account

Name: _____ BTC Year: _____

Address: _____

I require a receipt Yes / No (Please circle)

