



A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS

TALKABOUT



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WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE ALUMNI FUTURE ASSURED



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It was in May 2011 my wife and I attended a WWTAA Meeting at Surry Hills and met this group of WWTC graduates who had successfully orchestrated an organisation which has brought together 25 years of people who attended Wagga Wagga Teachers College. We were greeted as “young ones” and I guess “the seed was sown” that “someone, not no-one” had a task to pursue. So “it came to pass” that two students from 1965-1968 vintage “took up the reins” to “keep the status quo” and deliver a “breath of fresh air to WWTAA”. A few phone calls later with a couple of emails other “young ones” “jumped on board” and here we are!

A new management committee has been elected and established to carry on the affairs of the Association. It was pleasing to have 17 members attend the extraordinary meeting with representatives ranging over 20+ years of WWTC. There has been shown a lot of support and encouragement from other members of the Association to continue the work and projects established by “The Stalwarts”.

All the previous positions which operated on the committee were filled and member representatives allocated to various tasks such as Scholarship Funding, Archival Liaison, *Talkabout* Editing and Constitutional Review. A major task is to continually update and broaden the contact list for WWTC graduates and students. In today’s society so much is done through the electronic media and having email addresses for alumni is imperative to communicate and broaden the role and effectiveness of the WWTAA.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

Firstly, I must begin this column by advising that as part of the recent transition to the new executive committee long serving editors of *Talkabout*, Lindsay Budd and Lew Morrell, have decided, like others who have served the WWTC Alumni for so long, that their time as editors was to draw to a close. Obviously it was not an easy decision but one that I am sure is respected and understood by the readership of this newsletter.

To Lindsay, Lew and to all those who supported and contributed to *Talkabout* can I express our greatest appreciation and recognition for all that you have done for the WWTC Alumni by keeping us connected and informed over the many years that have passed by since its first edition.

Lindsay and Lew, you will be missed. Your perseverance, editorial skills and genuine understanding of the purpose and need for an WWTC Alumni newsletter was greatly valued by us all. Thank you.

Fortunately Lindsay is assisting with this edition while we find our feet.

So as the interim editor I would like to request that you keep your stories, memories, situation updates and photographs coming through to us. For without your input there will be nothing to *Talkabout*.

Please forward your contributions and suggestions to:

Brian Powyer
(bpowyer@optusnet.com.au
Mb 0401181170

The Annual General Meeting of the WWTC Alumni will be held at 11.00am, 11 February 2014 at Teachers Federation House, Mary St Surry Hills

All members are invited to attend this meeting. The main agenda item will be to adopt an amended Constitution which will reflect the operational world in which the WWTC Alumni now operates.

This will include some variations to types of membership offered by the WWTC Alumni that will ensure that we have sufficient funds to continue the

regular publication and distribution of *Talkabout*.

All members are invited to join the newly elected executive and our special guests, the outgoing, long serving executive who managed the WWTC Alumni since its inception, at a special Pioneers' Appreciation Lunch which will follow the AGM in the nearby Calypso Café and Restaurant.

If you would like to join group special luncheon please contact:

Bruce and Lesley Forbes
bruceles@bigpond.com
Mb: 0408587065

INVITATION
WWTC ALUMNI PIONEERS' APPRECIATION LUNCH
12.30pm 11 FEBRUARY 2014
Calypso Café and Restaurant Surry Hills
RSVP: Bruce Lesley Forbes 10 February 2014
bruceles@bigpond.com Mb: 0408587065

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT CONT'D

It was decided that this edition of *Talkabout* should be distributed through the established channels with a decision to review *Talkabout* subscriptions and contributions to the scholarship fund put on hold until after the AGM in February.

Included in this *Talkabout* are the minutes and details of the meetings conducted on 13th August, an appeal for alumni to contribute to *Talkabout*, details of the AGM scheduled for February 11, 2014 as well as contributions from those who "strived to achieve".

Any association is only as strong as the support it can engender. I would like to encourage all alumni to help track down those "mates" who have not added their names to the roll and are absent from class! Can I encourage you to pick up your pen or bash your keyboard then delve into those cranial recesses and photographic archives and become actively involved in contributing to *Talkabout* and your WWTAA.

Regards
Bruce Forbes (65/66)

**Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association
Extraordinary General Meeting
Tuesday 13th August 2013**

Venue: Federation House, Mary St Surry Hills

The meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m. In the absence of Bob Collard, Graeme Wilson took the chair.

Present:

Robert Haskew (1961-2), Colin Yarham (1950-51), Brian Powyer (1966-67), Graeme Wilson (1), Dot Tanner, Lindsay Budd, Graeme Wilson (1949-50), Mal Hanratty, Maureen Hanratty, Kyran Lynch (1963-4), Winifred Wilcox, Kevin Wilcox, Col Kohlhagen (1960-61), Lindsay Brockway (1965-6), Paul Gunning (1966-8), Lesley Forbes (1966-7), Bruce Forbes (1965-6), Carol Tankard (1958-9)

Apologies:

Chris Blake (1966-7), Jenny Blake (1966-7); Lew Morrell (Tanner/Wilson) Accepted

Minutes of the Interim Committee Meeting of 11th June, 2013

As the main purpose of this meeting was to provide for the election of office holders and the establishment of a new committee the opportunity for reports to be presented from the current presiding officer and other members of the committee should be provided. (Wilcox/Hanratty) Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Email (p. 2) of 1st July from Stacey Fish, CSU Faculty Advancement Officer and Contact Person for WWTAA

Reports:

No reports were presented to the meeting.

Declaration of Positions Vacant

Nominations for Appointment of Returning Officer

Bob Haskew. (B. Forbes/ Budd) Carried.

Election of Office Bearers

President : Bruce Forbes ((Tanner/Budd) - elected unopposed.

Vice President : Kyran Lynch (L Forbes/Hanratty) - elected unopposed.

Secretary : Lesley Forbes (Powyer/Wilcox) - elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Lindsay Brockway (Budd/Wilcox) - elected unopposed.

Interim *Talkabout* Editors : Brian Powyer (B. Forbes/Wilson) and Lindsay Budd (advisory) (L Forbes/Wilson) - elected unopposed.

Head of School Education or Nominee: Stacey Fish (TBC)

Other Positions

Scholarship Committee Representatives: Col Kohlhagen (B. Forbes/Brockway) - elected unopposed. Graeme Wilson (Wilcox/Hanratty) and (Lew Morrell (Tanner/Hanratty) elected unopposed.

Undergraduate Representative: left vacant

Post Graduate Representative: left vacant

Meeting closed at 11:30 am

MEMORIES OF TEACHING AT UPPER BURRINJUCK. Cliffe Cudlipp (50-51)

In the last Talkabout Cliffe Cudlipp wrote about his early appointments, one of which was Upper Burrinjuck. He was contacted by Nola Bindon (1963-64) who had some affiliations with the school. She asked him to write down a few of his memories of the year he spent at Upper Burrinjuck. Cliffe complied with her request and thinking that Talkabout readers may be interested has sent in the following article.

After completing my teachers college training in Wagga Wagga at the end of 1951, I received an appointment as assistant at Upper Burrinjuck in January. I was to travel by train to Bowning and then catch the mail car.

As we travelled, we delivered mail to the properties on the way. After we approached Burrinjuck the houses became less and less until we entered the catchment area of the dam. The mail truck ran on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays arriving at Upper Burrinjuck about 10 o'clock.

Upper Burrinjuck was a small settlement, where the labourers, both married and single, lived. The married quarters were simple fibro homes. The single quarters consisted of long galvanised iron sheds divided into rooms with a verandah at the front. Meals were available at two dry canteens one of which was leased by the Almond family. There was also a wet canteen and hall. There was a general store and post office. One collected the mail from the post office on the three days mail arrived and went out. The school building was a two roomed wooden demountable on the eastern side of the village right on the wa-

ter. The site was sloped towards the water with a flattened area at the front for assemblies and a flattened area about the size of a tennis court on the water side. The fencing was galvanised iron wire netting.

During the year one night the wire disappeared, and a while later a house opposite the school had a netting fence. When the police investigated we were told "It's hard to identify holes in a netting fence!"

The principal's name was Arthur Cains. He, Mrs Cains and Lawrence, their youngest son, lived in the village.

I taught Lower Division, Kinder to Year 3. Mr Cains taught Years 4 to 6, and a few in Super Primary who were on Correspondence.

Mrs Cains taught the primary girls sewing. On Wednesday afternoon Mr Cains and I exchanged classes when I took the Senior Class for Art.

There was one family attending school that lived outside the catchment area who attended three days a week. They arrived about 10.30 in the morning and left about 2 pm on the mail car.

The Dam Reconstruction being undertaken was to strengthen and enlarge the dam wall and to buttress the wall, which was beginning to show some cracks.

The officers and engineers lived downhill at Burrinjuck itself where there were married quarters and single quarters. The single quarters consisted of a large house, with a housekeeper/cook.

The officer in charge was Mr Davey.

For those wishing to go away for the weekend there was a bus. Or rather a truck with roll up blinds like bagging and seats around the sides and front of the truck tray. This left for Yass after work on Fridays and returned on Mondays leaving Yass at 5 am.

There was also a one teacher school at Burrinjuck, Ted Netherly being the Teacher in Charge.

There were Church Services at both Upper Burrinjuck and Burrinjuck itself and a Sunday School at both locations. The Anglican Church held two services a month, the first being conducted by the Rector from Yass and the second by his assistant. These were on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at Upper Burrinjuck.

The Presbyterians (Rev Colin Mullan) held a service once a month at both locations.

There was a Catholic Church at Burrinjuck but it was not used. I assisted Mr Greenhill with Scouts, taught at the Sunday Schools and held a Junior Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship on Wednesday afternoons after school.

The District Inspector, Mr Bingham, came from Canberra and when talking to my class about one of their Social Studies subjects "Aboriginals", cut some boomerangs out of cardboard and flicked them around the classroom, while he questioned them.

We used the Schonell Reading Scheme. On one occasion I asked

Edna Bush (Year 2) to read “The Little White Horse” in Level 2.
Upper Burrinjuck Continued

She read it beautifully, with appropriate pauses at commas and full stops. I closed the book and asked her to read it to me again, which she did perfectly. She had practised the story so much that she knew it off by heart!

The class and I made a vegetable garden beside the school. We sold the vegetables for school funds

until someone stole the vegetables, so we stopped growing them.

I also taught the children who couldn't swim to swim, or dog paddle. As the dam dropped quickly this was quite a concern, especially when teaching to tread water.

Mr Cains and I regularly attended the meetings of the Yass Association of the NSW Teachers Federation.

I was only at Upper Burrinjuck for 1952. My fiancée Beryl visited once on a windy sleety day and stayed with the Greenhills family. As I was to be married in May 1953 I was transferred to June Central Primary. The Cains family also left at the end of 1952, and transferred to Pretty Beach on the Central Coast.

My time at Upper Burrinjuck was a happy one and 61 years later I still remember the year as most enjoyable despite the isolation.

GREETINGS FROM CHENNAI

Col Yarham. [49-50]

Warm greetings from a warm and humid Chennai, (once called Madras) India.

It really was heartening at the last meeting to hear of the new regime ready to move forward. We all fondly remember the time at Wagga and wish the links to continue on. Good luck with it all. My tasks often prevent greater participation.

At the moment I'm CEO of the NGO HEPI; on the management Board of a 112 year old Kodai Kanal International School at 7,000ft in the Palani Hills; have been appointed Adjunct Professor to establish a Centre for Health Promotion in a College/University for South India; working with government to further develop a syllabus to reach 10.3 million children in one state; and consultant to take it to other states including Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in India at 200 million.

The horrendous erosion of the well-being of young people through ignorance, misuse of drugs, starvation, malnutrition, obesity, disease, malaria, tubercu-

losis, incidence of HIV/AIDS, low levels of immunisation, self-harm, violence, disasters, floods, risk management, suicide, emotional problems, bullying, road deaths and in abuse and maltreatment is causing anguish worldwide. All the deprivation we've seen has made all the “Health Education & Promotion International Inc.” (HEPI) team of volunteers, from many countries, more determined to do something about it.

With India's population estimated to have reached 1.2 billion persons with 40% in the under 24 age groups, we have millions of children and youth facing a more traumatic, more chaotic world than ever before. As a consequence, violence is becoming pervasive.

Attacks on women and children, harassment, emotional pressure, through to assault and rape have become widespread in the world and endemic in India. One data source suggested a rape occurs in India every 21 minutes. Punitive action against perpetrators, legal threats and death penalties, in the end, do little to change behaviour.

As proclaimed by the UN, Health Literacy is required with a comprehensive, holistic total health, lifeskills and social development syllabus with a focus on physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual health areas and which particularly confronts *attitudes, values and skills of human relationships is needed* (ex-President, Dr S. Radhakrishnan).

To meet this criteria, the 'Schools Total Health Program' [STHP], has been clearly shown to be effective in bringing change to the students.

A UNICEF independent evaluation of 165 schools found that they in turn become change agents in their homes and communities and that there was 90% increase in enrolment, attendance and retention of the girl-child after the Program's introduction.

HEPI has been in Tamil Nadu coordinating the development and implementation of the STHP for 16 years, where it is now required by Government Order of 2004 to be taught for two periods per week in grades 1 to 12 of all

Chennai Continued

54,000 schools through 404,000 teachers to reach some 10.3 million children.

'It is better to prepare the child, rather than repair the child.'

Following a visit to India, two Russian Professors declared, at the Mexican World Conference on Health Promotion that STHP is the 'best school program in the world' and at the invitation of Russian Federation Minister for Education and the World Health Organisation, I introduced the Program to 600 professionals from across Russia where it has been so appreciated that my Russian confrere, Professor Kasatkin, received a medal from President Putin for introducing our Program.

The Program has also started in Malawi where it is conducted by the Ministers for Education across 32 Countries under leadership of the African Union. Some work has also been undertaken with an Aboriginal group in the Kimberleys in Australia.

I have travelled a lot and met some great people, and have seen some amazing things in China, India, Africa, US, Europe, Israel, Egypt, etc.

I've lost my eldest son to pancreatic cancer; and each of my grandchildren come to actually work and travel with grandpa for 6 months or a year when they finish school — and that's special.

This has ended up being a long diatribe, sounds all very altruistic, but the need is so great, and even at 83 years I am in position to do something. It's just 'for the love and care of children'

Col Yarham.

[49-50]

MIKE ROWLANDS OAM MR MUDGE REMEMBERED



This week I welcome this tribute to a respected colleague and highly regarded member of the Mudgee community. An obituary was published on Mike in the July 2006 edition of *Talkabout*. Chris Blake

signage on the avenue of trees outside Mudgee recognising Mike Rowlands.

Approval for the sign occurred following Mike's death in 2006 and I am sure that there are many who remember Mike and would



VALE: MAURICE RYAN

On 10 September, 2013, the (Maurie) Ryan passed away on WWTC Alumni was advised that 29th April 2013 in Lismore NSW. Maurice Ryan had passed away. He had fond memories and deeply cherished the friendships he made whilst attending Wagga Wagga Teachers' College in 1952 / 1953. Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of Maurice and we share their loss and sorrow for a valued colleague.

I wish to advise the WWTC Alumni that my father Maurice Regards Grant Ryan (son)

**WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE ALUMNI
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014
11.00am 11 February 2014**

Teachers Federation House, Mary St Surry Hills

**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL**

**WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE
ALUMNI MEMBERS**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT NEW YEAR
and
PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR THE WWTC ALUMNI**

