



A PUBLICATION
OF THE ALUMNI OF
WAGGA TEACHERS

TALKABOUT



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Open Day 1962—The Percussion Band

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I thought it was appropriate for this edition of *Talkabout* for me to delve into the past and look at the time when the WWTC Alumni Association in its current format was formed. The very first *Talkabout* of the Alumni, published in December 1997, Volume 1, No. 1, relates the story as written by John Riley 1948/50.

“It was hoped that a large number would attend a meeting of Alumni in Joye’s Hall at 2 pm where it was hoped to establish the WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.”

This was on Sunday 15th June 1997 over 20 years ago.

Bob Collard OAM, also of the 1948-50 session, was elected as the first president of the Association. In his inaugural President’s letter he wrote:

“With the conclusion of the 50th Anniversary Reunion of WWTC, another page has been turned, another chapter written but the book has not been closed. Rather, a new era has commenced with the formation of the WWTC Alumni Association. Its major task will be to perpetuate those valued qualities of comradeship, caring and honest affection that have always been to the forefront whenever ex-students of WWTC get together.”

Cont’d p2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd

So here we are in 2017 on the threshold of the “**70 Year Celebration of Wagga Wagga Teachers College**”.

The response has been enormous with over 340 former WWTC students returning to Wagga in October “to perpetuate those valued qualities” and perhaps sadly, say farewell to south campus which provided Wagga Wagga with a coeducational residential tertiary education facility.

So are you coming?

The concept of bringing together as many of the alumni who attended WWTC over the 25 year period from 1947 to 1971 is likely to be a unique experience. No doubt it is one which deserves the recognition of Wagga Wagga

City and Charles Sturt University for the contribution which tertiary education has made to the fabric of Wagga Wagga as a regional city.

How is your recall, recounting and writing going? No more procrastination is allowed. Please make your contribution to future editions of *Talkabout* by putting pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard and relate your memoirs of college, teaching, family or just life in general for a future edition of *Talkabout*. Your contributions simply keep it going and will continue to “perpetuate those valued qualities”.

Bruce Forbes
President

EDITOR



Welcome to our second edition of *Talkabout* for 2017.

This edition, like those before, includes a rich diversity of personal comments, in-depth articles and general information relating to the Alumni and its operations. Thanks to all contributors for taking the time to forward your comments and articles.

When submitting articles please consider sending along photos. A recent photo of the author/writer would be very much appreciated, as it helps when introducing the story or article.

Brian Powyer

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK - Lesley Forbes



Dorothy Hogan (Davies) 1965-66. Once again, thanks for an excellent production of *Talkabout*.

To think the College has been going for longer than we have lived. In fact, many of us are almost as old as it. You and the team are doing a great job of keeping us informed. Actually it is more than that - you are doing a great job of working towards keeping the memories of those years alive. I look forward to reading more stories.

Joan Chaplin (Brown) 1953 - 54, Di Bridge and David Chaplin. Mum thanks you for the invitation to the WWTC Celebrations later this year in October, however at this stage she has indicated that unfortunately she will not be able to attend. We are sure it will be a wonderful event. Many thanks for your support and wishes Lesley.

John Pankhurst 1954-55. My wife and I moved to Katoomba 12 years ago. We enjoy the bracing climate, gardening and the stimulating community. It's an interesting place. People from all over Australia and the world come to see the beautiful scenery, the heritage buildings and quaint old people like us. We feel that we are a valid, free tourist attraction.

Lesley and Harry Rossetto (Tucker) 1949-50 and 1961-62. I have just completed reading my latest copy of *Talkabout*. As usual, a very good read.

The plans for the 70th Celebrations sound wonderful and I'm sorry we cannot attend. We both hold fond memories of our time at WWTC, although Harry, as a mature student, didn't attend until 1961/2.

I feel so proud that the Scholarship Fund has continued to grow and will continue to make a big difference to the lucky recipients. Every good wish for continued success.

Margery Bonsor (Bollen) 1953-54. Thank you and my thanks to your good husband.

What a lot of work goes into an issue of *Talkabout*. You do a wonderful job. Thanks Brian Powyer, the editor. I'm glad you're enjoying life at Kew. This is a beautiful part of Australia. I say this as I am now looking at the green paddocks, the river and the mountains.

Bobby Chaplin and wife Joan Brown were in my section 531 and Noel Haberecht, the BRAIN in 532. Thanks for the news. They have all visited me here.

Norma Davey

My husband Les attended WWTC 1949/50. However, in the early 70's our son was at the College, then called Riverina College of Advanced Education. His name was Anthony (Tony) Davey. Sadly he passed away (Cancer) in 2010.

Les and I have been considering the 70th celebrations but have decided it would be too much for him because of his mobility problems. If you would like some of his "History" for your magazine please let me know. He enjoys *Talkabout*.

Les is 87yrs old and we live in a retirement village in Kiama. He spent 39 years with the Department of Education. Several years on Kiama Council (4 years as Deputy Mayor) and in 2006 was awarded an OAM for his services to the community, local government and teaching.

Good luck with your plans for the 70th celebrations. I feel sure

it will be a wonderful time. We attended the 50th Anniversary.

Best wishes.

Judy James (Wilson) 1964-65

I am wondering if it is possible for you to let me know how I could contact Terry Hanlon from Years 64/65. She was Secretary in 1965 with Ray Griffiths as President. She was in my dorm (Buuna) and we were quite good friends. Someone did tell me her married name and said she was living in Bathurst. Of course, I didn't write it down and now I have forgotten. I would very much like to know if she will be attending the celebrations in October. Hope you can help.

Jim Power 1948-49

First of all, thanks for all the work you do for us. I am sorry I can't help you with details of Terry Hanlon who would have been in College much later than my wife, Betty who was in the 1948 session. She was Betty Barnes. I was in 1949 session.

Betty, now aged 88 and I, now 89, are leaving for Tawau, Sabah Malaysia on 4th July. I was Principal of an Anglican Missionary School there from 1957 to 1965. We are going to help them celebrate their centenary.

Jack Tierney (1960-61)

Thank you for your note Lesley. I thought connections had been lost but would be happy to keep in touch if okay. Cannot help with Roger Griffin.

All is going well in my world, with children and grandchildren

in the clan, and am keeping well myself, but still not always behaving all the time (that's just me – no worries). But life is really beaut.

Hope you are keeping well yourself and thank you so much for keeping in touch. Best wishes to you.

Kerrie Richardson 1967-68

Thank you for the important and wonderful job you are both doing with *Talkabout* and to all those people who work with you.

Unfortunately I am not able to attend reunions etc. but wish everyone who does safe travel and lots of enjoyment.

Di Bridge (Bob Chaplin's daughter) Thank you very much for the latest *Talkabout* issue, which Mum will enjoy reading.

We greatly appreciate that you were able to include the Obituary for Dad in the last issue, (from the Young Witness), and also my previous message to you, regarding Dad's passing. I will also send this issue onto my brother, David, in Melbourne.

That *Talkabout* will be an especially treasured one.



INVITATION: WWTCAA LUNCHESES - Winifred Wilcox

Members of the WWTCAA are invited to join with other members on 3rd Tuesday of February, May, August and November for WWTCAA Lunch. Meet at 12 noon, at City Extra, Circular Quay.

Phone Mona Lynan 02 9345 14744 or Winifred Wilcox 02 9580 5916

A LASTING FRIENDSHIP Joan Kirkham (1959-60)

I thought I would give you an update on my/our current status.

I had not been keen on reunions, nor re-visiting actual places associated with them. So, when I was made aware of a 1959/60 reunion in Mittagong (2010) I originally wasn't up for it, nor was my "roomie" Anne Sheerin.

However, our other 59/60 friend, Barbara Sargent (Hobbs) was convinced by her husband, John, that she should go, as this opportunity might never happen again, wise words. Barb realised that he was right. Anne and I agreed and decided that we should go.

What followed was a fantastic weekend reunion with college mates/friends. It was so good to be able to catch up and of course, there was never enough time. Saying goodbye after Sunday breakfast was almost like leaving college all over again, 50 years later.

Jim Roche from Ballina was there. He and I had been "an item" in 1959 for a while and then again in 1960, for a few weeks. We had no contact for the following 50 years.

I lived in Queensland since 1985 and I knew he lived in Ballina

(from Deanne Churchill). They were both 597 section and had a few 597 reunions in latter years.

In the brief time we had together in Mittagong, we had one dance and a brief chat. We had no intention to keep in touch. Both of us had spouses who were battling cancer.

Jim's wife, Merrilyn passed away in 2012, after a 3 year battle with ovarian cancer. My husband Graham passed away in 2014, after 45 years of marriage, including his 11 year battle with Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Somehow, over coffees, we became each other's grief counselors. Just two old friends, helping to prop each other up. We both felt so comfortable and relaxed with each other.

It was definitely the WWTC background, which we kind of describe as a "family thing". We both felt that we had been drawn together in our times of need/grief/loneliness. So, now we are actually real life partners and couldn't be happier.

Deanne Churchill understood the connection and summed it up by saying, "he wasn't a blow-in".

Judy Morrison (Noble) said, "two lonely people, one happy couple!"

Those two comments sum it up totally.

We are both extremely grateful to Barbara's lovely husband John (very recently deceased) for being the original catalyst in bringing us together (unknowingly).

Jim and I had been in Wagga recently, having lunch with Barb and John, before waving them goodbye, as our train departed from Wagga, only two days before John's unexpected passing.

I mentioned this to Barb on the evening before John's funeral. Were it not for John, Jim and I might never have met up at all. This gave Barb something lovely to reflect on. She was so happy and appreciative, over something we'd never actually realised before.

So, now we look forward to the WWTC reunion in October. I know of two other WWTC couples who eventually ended up together, after marriages to others. Quite possibly, there might be more "out there."

AMAZING TIMES - GREAT MEMORIES Tony Baker (1949-50)

I have 'umd' and 'ahd' over the reunion in October but have decided that I will not be able to attend.

I am a 49/50 and I am certainly amazed at what we did and what we achieved in that truncated session.

I played in College teams for Table Tennis (with Bob Howe) and Hockey. We held two Gilbert and Sullivan shows – *The Pirates* and *Mikado*. We were in Choir Festivals in town and managed to have a social life plus Intercols, Grads and Balls. Don't know how we found the

time to study and finally graduate.

In 1951 I was posted to a one-teacher school at Kerarat and was fortunate to have Charlie Ebert as my inspector until he was given the North Coast Region.

I had 10 years at Kerarat and the school grew with me. I married a local girl and the Department built a residence for us in 1956. I left there in the end of '59' to go to PNG on secondment and ended up there for 16 years running into Charles Ebert, Harold Wyndham and others who travelled to PNG

to check up on us.

In the early days of our WWTC revival I was in touch with Lou Crabtree and Lewis Morell and I did submit a piece for *Talkabout*.

Over the years I have crossed paths with Don Christie (then in

Wagga as Director) Col Yarham, Trevor Broomfield, Peter Herden, Bob Foulcher and can still think back on our times in Dorm 9 and it would be good to 'catch up' but my health makes it a problem.

Thank you for keeping us informed.

A VALUED CONNECTION **Suzanne Garigliano (Donnison 1965-66)**

As usual it is such a pleasure to hear from you and to know that *Talkabout* is still happening.

As you know, I live a very long way from the delightful, nostalgic realities of WWTC, and have a very strong connection to our Alma Mater. For me it goes back a long way.

Some of my father's students from the first session in 1947 (Norm Donnison, Arts and Crafts lecturer 1947 -1953) may not be around now. My twin brother and I were 6 months old when we arrived in Wagga Wagga. I can still remember a good number of Dad's colleagues from when I was a child - Brock Rowe, Victor Couch, Dorothy Masciewicz, and of course, Greg Worthington, whose difficult duty as dear friend of my family, was to announce Norm's death to me, in 1967, my final year.

My elder sister Janice returned as a student of WWTC in 1958-59. She was a great teacher and in fact was a demonstration teacher, both at Woollahra Public School, and in Rabaul, where Dad was seconded in 1960 - 61. He was in charge of education at Malaguna Teachers College.

Lecturing with him was Athol Berglund, who was one of his students (1948?) at Wagga. My sister died about 20 years ago after a long illness.

If I remember correctly I taught in Australia for only 5 years, plus one year in Milan at the International School. This was a short career despite my devotion to teaching. That's life!

Having lived many years, as a wife and mother, between Milan and Paris, 22 years ago we all came to live in Sicily. My husband had retired from his job as a business executive and it seemed like a great idea. In fact I love living here and I am very much involved in the cultural life of the city. I am a founding member of the Friends of the Opera, a member of the board and ex Vice-president of the Italian Gardens Association in Palermo and now am part of an association which gives value to the inevitable multicultural mix of a city like this, a hub in the Mediterranean. This year Palermo was elected Cultural Capital of Italy for 2018. We are very proud of this as it was a direct result of our group effort. The Week of Cultures launches its

6th edition in May.

My 3 children are scattered throughout the world. My eldest son, having graduated from Palermo University, followed up with a doctorate from Macquarie University in Sydney. My second son is an architect based in Palermo, whose work carries him far and wide, also due to his multilingualism. My youngest son is an engineer/architect and has just been taken on board by the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, where he was born.

I will be so sorry to miss out on the historic 70 year anniversary of WWTC, because, as you can see, the ties are very strong. My husband will soon be 89 years old and I don't feel that he could face the trip, nor could I take the responsibility of leaving him for what, inevitably, becomes a month away.

Thanks to all who put *Talkabout* together, reaching out to lost members of our "community" and drawing us together.

I send fond greetings to all of our fellow alumni. I will be at the big party, in spirit, in October. With best regards, and warmest wishes to all.

WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Go To - CSU Regional Archives

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

WWTCAA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2017

Katelyn Rudd, Wagga Wagga campus of Charles Sturt University, and Molly Spalding, Albury, were the recipients of WWTCAA Scholarships for 2017.



Chris Blake, Katelyn Rudd, Jenny Blake

Fourth Year student, Katelyn Rudd, from Broken Hill, is studying Early Childhood and Primary Education. Her High School teachers gave her great support and Katelyn would like to contribute to rural education as a dedicated leader. With a strong community spirit, an in-

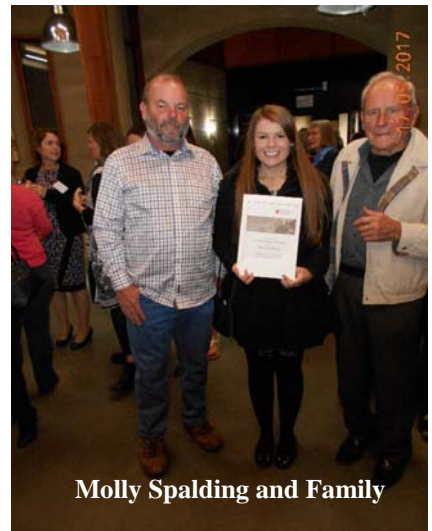
terest in Mathematics and a 6th grade standard in music she would be welcomed in many communities.

Molly Spalding from Table Top near Albury received her scholarship at The Albury-Wadonga Campus on the 17th May.

In her third year of a Bachelor of Education (K-12), Molly was inspired by her wonderful teachers, firstly in a small school and later in High School. Having

spent a gap year working as a teacher's aid she has done volunteer work with migrants, the disadvantaged and Indigenous people. With interests in History and Maths she would like to work with both gifted and disadvantaged students. Molly was supported by her father and grandfather at the presentation.

In addition to the two recipients of The WWTCAA Scholarships it was pleasing to see Stephanie Cirillo, who was on our short list of candidates, receive the Dawn Rigby Memorial Scholarship. Dawn was a Pioneer Student of the college and the award was presented by her son Russell.



Molly Spalding and Family

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY REPORT - Sheridan Ingold

At CSU, we know the contributions of our benefactors help our students reach their full potential.

The role of the CSU Advancement Office – the group facilitating mutually beneficial relationships between the University, its benefactors, alumni and friends – is becoming increasingly important.

That's why CSU has restructured its operations to move the Advancement Office out of the Division of Marketing and Communications into a separate unit led by Sarah Ansell, now the Director of Advancement.

Having been CEO of the CSU Foundation since 2014, Sarah is proud to take on this new role.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP DATE
Following feedback from our students, donors and staff, our scholarship dates for the 2017/2018 period will change.

Select scholarships for commencing students (those starting university in 2018) will open on 5 September and close 3 December 2017.

The main scholarship round – which includes WWTCA scholarships – will open on 1 February and close 1 April 2018. Ap-

plications will be assessed in mid-April, with interviews held between April 23 and 27. Successful 2018 WWTCA Scholarship recipients will be notified on 30 April.

These new dates should allow more students to apply and provide a better application pool for donors.

We will be in touch with WWTCA to discuss scholarship ceremonies and donor events in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Gael Evans-Barr Manager Alumni and Foundation Rela-

tions: gevansbarr@csu.edu.au

ALUMNI EVENTS

WWTCA members are always welcome to attend our Alumni events. Here's two events you may be interested in:

CSU Dubbo Campus 20 year Anniversary/Reunion

When: Tuesday 5 September 2017, from 5-7pm

Where: Dubbo Campus

For more information: contact Melissa Britnell on 02 6885 7370 or mbrittnell@csu.edu.au

2017 Bledisloe Cup, Wallabies v New Zealand

When: Saturday 21 October 2017.

Where: Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane.

Details: The Bledisloe will return to Brisbane for the first time since 2014. CSU has secured limited tickets. Keep an eye on the CSU Alumni website for more details:

www.csu.edu.au/alumni

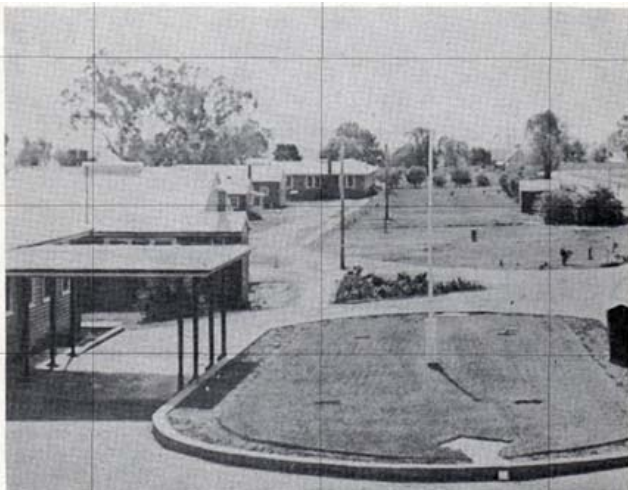
On a personal note I had the pleasure of meeting with some of your fellow Alumni last month

in Wagga to discuss the upcoming WWTCA 70 year reunion. What a great event it will be! I am very lucky to be based in Wagga and be involved with helping coordinate the weekend. I have come on board with the Advancement Team to offer assistance in Stacey Fish's absence. If you need any assistance please don't hesitate in contacting me on singold@csu.edu.au or 02 6933 2769

Sheridan Ingold
CSU Advancement Unit

MEMORIES - THE VALUE OF WWTC ARCHIVES Robert Haskew

October is fast approaching. I have been chasing up some old and not so old photographs of days spent at WWTC. Friends, family and the archives have been my sources. However, you too may have photographs, which you may like to contribute, of your time at college. Here's an "oldie".



This was WWTC when the Air Force left it in 1947. Where was the photographer standing?

You may like to debate this with friends and colleagues at the Reunion.

Do you have old photographs, movie, or newspaper clippings from your College days? Please contact - CSU Regional Archives T: 02 6933 4590 or E: archive@csu.edu.au

Can you identify these 1950 students?



Why the smile on this man's face?



Who took part in this protest?



In which year was the next photograph taken?



Many of us would have participated in a college production. Who are the stars?



Yes it's small but the date holds the clue.



And there's more!





REMEMBER THIS VERSION

Nauseamus sickiter
 Long assemblus buggus me
 Morus Halus speakas long
 Allus studus sleepiter
 Borus speakus ravus on
 Studus throwus paper plane
 And lecturus sleepus long
 And lecturus sleepus long

Wreckus Academia
 Killus professors
 Rotten lectus arus drag
 Shouldn't be compulsorus
 Allus foodus makus chuck
 SRC us dobbus in
 And adminis kickus out
 And adminis kickus out

Submitted in its original form (66-67) by Robyn Robinson

Riveting stuff, kids.

Your committee would like to have a slideshow, covering as many years as possible, during the Formal Dinner. Your contributions can be posted or emailed to the Secretary before the end of September. All photographs will be returned to the sender.

Robert Haskew
 Archives Liaison

MORE MEMORIES OF MY COLLEGE DAYS Peter Debenham 1947-49

On reading over my previous contribution of July 2011 and subsequent articles by Win and Kevin Wilcox, a few more pleasant memories of my college days have come back to me.

As all cricket fans will recall, 1948 was the year of Don Bradman's *Invincibles* tour of England.

So that we could listen to the Tests, five members of the College Cricket Team, Mac Yablesley, Jack Brewster, Alan Nilon and myself, raked together enough funds to buy a radio. I sincerely hope I am wrong but I believe I am the only surviving member of that group.

As Mac, John and Alan shared a room in a different dorm to Jack and me, they claimed the radio for their room.

As a result, at 8pm on test nights Jack and I would roll up our mat-

tresses and bedding (it didn't make a very heavy load) and lug them across the forty yards or so to the other dorm where we would spread them out on the floor and settle in for a night's listening.

During the night, others, including Kevin Wilcox and even Griff Duncan on his nightly rounds, would squeeze in for a while.

As you can imagine things became quite rowdy at times – so that Joan Moore, who had a room in the nearest Girls' Dorm, would often complain in her lectures the next day of her lack of sleep the night before. However, no official complaints were ever made.

We certainly had it good in those early years. I feel sorry for the students of some of the later years, having read of the restrictions that were placed on them.

One night as the radio station was closing for the night, Mac stood on his bed for the playing of the national anthem and went right through. As builders were still working on the college at the time, he was able to borrow some tools the next day and make the necessary repairs before the damage was discovered.

Mac was a mad Don Bradman fan, so that when the Don made a duck in his final test, the radio was in danger of going out the window.

I read with interest, Win and Kevin Wilcox's article in the last *Talkabout* concerning the productions put on by students. I clearly remember the three Gilbert and Sullivan productions put on in 1947/48 and *Pygmalion*, with Tom Hodges as Professor Higgins, with his pipe that he never lit. (This fact was highlighted in the *Wagga Daily Examiner* (sic) the next day.

I have no recollection, however, of 'Quiet Night'. Perhaps I was broke at the time and could not afford the admission.

It would appear that a photo of the pioneer staff should have appeared with the article. If this could be included in a later issue I would dearly love to see it.

All the best for 70th Anniversary Celebrations.

I have not yet managed to make it to a reunion, but Arthur Smith and I did have our plane tickets from Coffs Harbour to Sydney for the 1950 reunion which was called off at the last minute (thanks a lot, George!) If it had been on, I have no idea when we

would have got back to our schools, as we had made no plans for the return trip.

In the early years, I did, however, attend a few informal reunions at the Hyde Park Hotel, in Elizabeth Street and the Mayfair Restaurant, downstairs in King Street.

MONIA GAP – A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST John Morris 1967-68

On a crisp winter's morning in July 2015 it was time to satisfy my long time curiosity about a return journey to my first school.

Leaving Griffith with me were my wife Kathryn and son Christopher. Before I had time to punch in our destination into the car's GPS, Chris had used his iPhone to come up with the two pieces of information that I required – the distance that we needed to cover (eighty one kilometres) and the approximate time of arrival (seventy minutes).

As we travelled my mind drifted back to January 1969 when I received my letter from the Department of Education informing me I had been appointed as Teacher-In-Charge to Monia Gap Public School located on the Rankins Springs-Hillston Road. I required an atlas to find the exact location and fortunately Neil Wales, also ex-WWTC, had been appointed to Bunda Public School, some twenty five miles from me. Both of us had played first grade cricket with Turvey Park during our time training as primary school teachers and developed a firm friendship. This was very comforting to me as Neil had a car – I didn't!! My last practice session

prior to my college graduation was Illabo Public School where I shared the principal's class for a month with fellow WWTC colleague Les Fawcett. I was now going to rely on this experience to survive my baptism of fire, at least until I gained an insight into the administrative, organisational and classroom management requirements of my first school.

After forty five minutes Rankins Springs was reached and I headed the car in a north-west direction to cover the final forty three kilometres. I knew that the road surface of this section of the trip would be a combination of sealed and gravel road. In 1969 the Jones' family, where I had full board and lodgings for \$2 a day with lamb sandwiches each school day for lunch, had mentioned that the local Council had a long term plan to seal a mile of the road each year. The reality of this statement would soon unfold as Rankins Springs was left behind.

Whilst my passengers were devoting themselves to comments about the countryside, so many questions

and thoughts were going through my mind. I was fully aware that the school had closed at the end of 1972, something that surprised me as the student population was twenty four in my time, although the majority of them were in the upper division. Being an experimental building of Canadian pine construction, consisting of a large classroom, an office and a store room, it was relocated to Barellan Central School to be initially used as a library. During my only year at Monia Gap I received a visit each term from a representative from the Wagga Wagga based Department of Works. His job was to check both the exterior and interior of the school, making notes and asking questions. When the checking officer arrived during term two, I was greeted by a white faced, trembling man. This was a result of



rolling his vehicle three times on the gravel road. Fortunately the vehicle ended up on its wheels and was driveable!!!! In 2015 I was somewhat relieved to find that there would only be eleven kilometres of unsealed road.

So would my memory from 1969 allow us to find what remained of the school that was built on the side of a hill about one hundred metres to the right off the road?

A hand painted sign, indicating the location of the Walker property on the left, suddenly brought my wanderings back to the present. Their home and buildings were attached to the electricity grid forty six years ago, the only school family who possessed this twentieth century luxury – the remainder survived on a diesel generator. The school relied on natural sunlight and gas lights during the once a term P and C meetings. I taught three of the Walker children, the eldest boy was enrolled in Year 6, his sister in Year 4 while the youngest sibling was graded with three other Year 2 students. This eight year old boy wore a hearing aid behind his left ear so communicating with him required some practice but once he understood the task he required little assistance. My first experience with a student possessing a hearing impairment – no Teacher's Aide, no itinerant teacher or additional funds for specific resources in 1969.

Again I was brought back to reality as the road surface changed to red clay. The road height allowed water to run off into the

side culverts during wet weather and 1969 was a wet year. For the first term I caught the small school bus. By the end of the term I had saved enough money to purchase a second hand blue Morris 1100. A good choice I was told by Farmer Jones as it possessed front wheel drive. It was about a twelve mile return trip each day to school but the road was extremely slippery and often impassable, except for farm vehicles, after half an inch of rain. In 1969 the heaviest rain fell in the latter part of July. The school bus didn't run so all the students, plus their teacher, were able to watch Neil Armstrong's



walk on the moon on each family's black and white television set. No program aggregation was in existence at this time – just the ABC and a commercial channel that tended to source the 'best' programs from the three commercial networks.

There was a further spell of wet weather when the Griffith based school inspector had planned to visit the school. As a result he based himself in Hillston and all the 'smaller schoolies' were required to take their programs into his motel. This was too far for me in such conditions so I received a visit towards the end

of the year where Mr Garland congratulated me on my program that added up to 1425 minutes from memory, with a suggestion that my spelling required improvement. The gardens that I had created, thanks to favourable weather and an array of colourful flowers provided by my father who was a keen garden in my home town of Cooma, was noticed by the D.I. The school's water tank not only provided drinking water but was also used for gardens, hand washing, my cane basketry during craft with the boys (the girls undertook sewing with the school bus driver) and by the school cleaner.

After two kilometres the road surface changed from clay to gravel and shortly I noticed a driveway to the right and the new sign of the property where I boarded. Stopping the car, photographs were taken and I observed at the end of the drive what looked like a modern dwelling, in complete contrast to my abode. I

forfeited my second class rail fare in 1969 and my parents drove from Cooma to deliver me to the Jones property. The farmhouse was not new and the three of us were surprised when the front door didn't fully shut. My 'room' was a long, narrow verandah containing a bed, a cupboard and a chest of drawers. It was easy to see where my suitcase would be placed – over the hole in the floor! The first four feet of the wall was fibro while the remainder up to the roof line was glass louver windows. A slow combustion stove heated the house and hot water was provided via a chip heater close to

the kitchen. It was usually lit about 3.00pm in the afternoon and it was always a night show-er. The last adult to bed was re-quired to walk out to a shed and turn off the diesel generator that provided power to the farm. The five Jones family members and I watched the ABC program Bell-bird at 6.30pm each night after tea followed by the news. The mail was delivered each Monday and Friday, along with fresh bread. During the winter months I looked forward to each week's edition of a rugby league maga-zine that listed all the team play-ers involved in the round for each grade. One of my WWTC mate's sister, a keen Manly sup-porter, religiously kept me up to date with this publication includ-ing hand written scores.

One important piece of mail each fortnight was my pay cheque from Sydney. I needed to open an account with a Com-monwealth Bank agency at Cox's Pharmacy in Banna Ave-nue Griffith to obtain cash. After the purchase of my car, and knowing little about the mechan-ics of how it operated, I regular-ly organised my car to be ser-vised in Griffith on a Saturday. The grease and oil change cost me \$5!

Climbing back into the car we continued our trip. To the right was a paddock freshly sown with wheat. When I first arrived in early February 1969 it was a field of stubble. I remember this clearly as during the first week of teaching my mate Neil rang asking me to play cricket with the Monia Gap team in the Hil-ton District Cricket Competition. Neil was boarding with the team captain. Knowing I didn't have a car the two farmers identified this paddock where the captain's

light plane could land and fly me to Hillston airport. This was my first trip in any form of aircraft and I was amazed with the ease in which the pilot landed and took off. Neil possessed sound batting skills and I provided some pace as a left arm opening bowler. We proved valuable as-sets to the team. Getting home after that first match the next day is another story in itself after continual rain over night.

Monia Gap won the majority of its matches up until Christmas. I had a good spell of bowling against Tattersall's Hotel collect-ing five wickets for twenty five runs. The opposition captain had brought his boxer dog on a lead to the game and threatened to let him loose if I had a repeat per-formance next time the two teams met. That didn't eventuate for me as my teaching career was put on hold for two years as I spent 1970-1971 as a national serviceman. To undertake the medical examination required, I was able to close the school down early (12.30pm) one Fri-day afternoon and drive to Grif-fith where a local doctor per-formed a thorough check to en-sure I would be fit enough to un-dertake military training and serve in the Australian Army. In January the following year it was back to Wagga Wagga to com-mence a new phase of my life's journey. Fortunately I was allo-cated, after my ten weeks of basic training at 1RTB Kapooka, to the Royal Australian Army Education Corps and served 364 days teaching the indigenous recruits who joined the Pacific Island Regiments in New Guin-eea. My posting was at Goldie River, a thirty minute drive out of Port Morseby.

After driving for another ten

minutes we all heard the voice coming from Chris' iPhone tell-ing us 'We had reached our des-tination!!' Obviously this was the geographical location of Mo-nia Gap but I knew we needed to continue driving. Within one kil-ometre I slowed the car. The farm house opposite the 'school' was still standing but looking to the right all we could see was a property fence and tall vegeta-tion. I drove for another three hundred metres and noticed the remains of the building where the annual school concert was held. Naturally all students were required to be included in the program. There was a small stage and seating for most fami-lies. Portable lights were brought in and I used the school's radio/record battery operated player to provide the music. My only two memories of the night were the performance of the Year 1 and Year 2 students performing a play entitled *Foolish Fred at the Fair* and the Year 5 and Year 6 miming the 1969 hit *Eleanor* by *The Turtles*. Neil was more im-aginative than me at his annual concert as his senior music group was called Conner-Shea and the Scarifiers!

Turning the car around all eyes



were focussed on the hill where the school had been located. After over forty years the two roads leading into the school were consumed by the farmer's property and the trees and scrub limited our vision. I was philosophical about the situation and was prepared to return to Griffith but Kathryn and Chris were not so easily put off. I parked by the side of the road and the short walk commenced. Chris with his iPhone and Kathryn with her iPad were at the ready. Chris climbed the fence and spied a small brick structure. We all followed and walked through the gap in the dilapidated and aging

school fence line used by all people entering onto the school grounds.

Whilst I felt a tinge of nostalgia and sadness, what lay before us were only the concrete relics. It was easy to identify the area where the students played and there remained the metal grate permanently sunk into the concrete where shoes were wiped before entering the building. The base of the water tank was unmistakable to me and a shelter area had been built between the tank and the wall of the school for the students to use to avoid

the summer sun. The concrete path, where I established the flower gardens, was gone and concrete covered the three long drop toilets. The brick incinerator, minus the chimney and fire box, remained. Adjacent to the toilets lay a mass of broken bricks once used for the foundations of the school. Randomly I selected half a brick to take home from this 'archaeological dig.' In his exploration Chris found a burnt rubber ball that also accompanied me from the site.

MY TEACHERS' COLLEGE YEARS John Maskey 1948-50

Continued from previous edition

..... The girls were not very happy about the boys being so well looked after, and demanded equality of sexes. This was forthcoming, the boys were given coppers and tubs to do their own laundry.

Our dormitory was approximately 200 metres from both the dining hall and lecture rooms. We had to walk through the mud to get anywhere at all. The good old red soil of the western area sure makes great red mud. We just had to live with it, as no doubt the RAAF had done before us.

But better things were planned, and before the year was out we had tarred paths around quite a bit of the campus. Eventually there was a path almost anywhere you wanted to go. Who would have thought that a nice tarred path with a clean surface could become one of life's little luxuries?

Regarding my academic ability I was a brilliant student, specialising in History, Greek Art, Applied Science, Boat Navigation and Photography. My specialty was Mathematics, where I took out the College prize for receiving 100% in all three Mathematics examinations over the two-year college course. I was in great demand as a speaker of some note on many subjects, such as the role of literature in third world countries, and seeding clouds with dry ice to break the drought in specific areas of New South Wales. How popular I had become, and what a wonderful time I was having!

Actually NOTHING in the preceding paragraph is true. I was downright miserable, trying to blend in with the scenery and be as inconspicuous as possible. I discovered that if your eyes never met the lecturer's, there was a fair chance you would not get asked a question. I felt so inadequate amongst people much old-

er and smarter than me.

Soon after my arrival at College, I was invited by Merle Walbridge (a member of the pioneer group of students) to meet history lecturer, Gordon Young. I met both Gordon and Margaret Young, along with their two children Helen and Jimmy. Many's the happy meal I consumed in their house over the following years, while also enjoying the comfort of their easy chairs.

Let me explain, we had nothing comfortable to sit on at college. All we had were the hard old chairs in the lecture rooms and a couple of cane chairs in the dormitory common rooms. If we were invited out anywhere, we relished the opportunity to sit in a comfortable easy chair. The Youngs had two of these, and I'm sure the college students wore them out over the two years we were there. How important the "little things" were to us in those days.

To say that the food at college was quite palatable would be handling the truth carelessly. If there was ever a meal that had to be dodged at any price, it was Wednesday's lunch. Corn beef and cabbage! You could smell the cabbage being cooked, even before you left the lecture rooms. This at least gave you time to be sick ON the way to the meal rather than AT the meal. I will ever be indebted to the Rev. Reg. Pope of Wagga Baptist Church, and his good wife for their many offers over the two-year period to eat Wednesday's lunch with them!

We studied 14 subjects in first year, and I successfully passed the examination in each. Some were fascinating, especially biology where I learned of the reproductive system of rabbits, or as they were more commonly known in our household "underground mutton." Never having been told the facts of life, I learned a great deal in those biology lectures. Because I lived on a farm, dad expected me to know all there was to know about sex but most of my information was gleaned in the storm water drain at High School, where we told the yarns men-

tioned earlier – yarns you wouldn't want your mother to hear.

Marjory Reedman and Arthur Cornell were our biology lecturers. Marjory at approximately 23 years of age was actually younger than many of the students in our year, as there were quite a few returned servicemen doing the college course. I recall her giving a lecture about the reproductive system, when one of our senior students started to snicker.

To be continued in the next edition of *Talkabout*.

A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME Betty Robertson Lecturer 1958 - 62

Betty Robertson (Lecturer 1958-62). I guess there are not too many of the Staff still around, though I did think that Laurie Orchard was still alive, he was to have attended a reunion we went to in Bathurst last year, but at the last minute could not make it. He was a wonderful man and a great member of staff.

I don't know if you were aware that I joined the Staff at WWTC in 1958, just 14 months into my teaching career, having spent my first appointment at Arncliffe Home Science teaching Crafts to GA girls, two classes each consisting of 40-50 pupils. It was rather a gruelling experience, but one I now look back on as tough

ground!

My second year began in Canberra as a Manual Arts/Craft teacher at two schools, Ainslie Primary and Turner Primary, where I had 2½ days at each. About 8 weeks into the school year I was asked to take an appointment at WWTC joining the Craft Staff, I was just 22! There were students in my care in the dormitory where I lived that were older than I was, so it was quite a big step in my life. I was so fortunate that I had such mentors as Ray Wade and John Cosier who gave me encouragement in designing the Crafts I taught. Added to this, the then Warden of Women Stu-

dents was known to me, so it made my life a great deal easier. The girls in the dorm were a great support in my initiation, but I doubt they knew how incompetent I felt at times. Wagga Wagga gave me the chance of a lifetime. I later transferred to Bathurst, then finally did some part time work at Sydney Uni. alongside some of the staff who had been there when I was a student.

I have lots of memories. Hopefully I can join you in October and share the times we had.

Thank you for all your organisation. Regards

WWTCAA - CONNECTING COLLEAGUES Ted and Lesley Bolton

Unfortunately I am unable to help you with information about Terry Hanlon or her whereabouts. From personal experience we know how important obtaining contact information can be.

In 1999, 35 years after leaving teaching in 1965, WWTCAA was able to provide us with an email address of a former teaching colleague.

We were in the process of setting off to Canada for the first time. We knew that our colleague had settled somewhere in Canada in the late sixties. By extraordinary coincidence he'd gone to Inver-

mere (a small town in the Rockies) exactly where we'd arranged (via internet search) to do a 3 month home exchange.

Not only had our friend taught in Invermere, he'd become Principal of the Invermere High School and progressed to become District Area Superintendent of Education.

Using the internet contact WWTCAA had provided we got an emailed reply from our friend. He was touring the southern tip of South America in a 4xwd.

The reply read, in part, that if we were heading to Canada, in the

middle of the winter, to learn to drive on the left hand side of the road and in that respect he was glad he was down at the tip of South America.

Subsequently, we did another half dozen home exchanges and eventually bought a modest holiday home unit in a nearby town.

We were taught to ski, at the insistence of the local school teaching fraternity, to ice skate around the arena and eventually ice skate several kilometres across Lake Windermere.

I was 63 at the time and my wife

was 60. Having survived our inductions, we went on to snowshoe the length of Lake Louise and back, to skidoo and to dogsled.

Next Monday we'll be setting out again for our 21st return visit - the last three being during the Canadian summer.

I hope that our gratitude to WWTCAA in facilitating the whole Canadian adventure underlines just how much we'd have liked to have helped Judy James and send our best wishes for the success of your quests.

CSU'S SOUTH WAGGA CAMPUS LISTED FOR SALE Rowan Foster

ONE of Wagga Wagga's most valuable pieces of real estate was officially listed on the market on Friday, marking the end of a 70-year era.

The 13.32 hectare Charles Sturt University (CSU) South Campus is now up for grabs, with valuers estimating the site could sell for \$10 million.

Raine and Horne director Grant Harris revealed his agency has already received a "very good response" from local and national developers.

"We'll take expressions of interest from all of those interested," he said. "We've already had a high number of responses from a broad range of developers and potential-buyers.

There's a huge amount of interest."

He understands some of the potential clients include church groups, warehouse chains and residential developers.

Wagga Wagga's key planning

Saint Mary MacKillop College on site," Mr Harris said.

"There's been a really concerned effort by CSU to be a good corporate citizen."



Stephen Butt at Charles Sturt University's South Campus

document - which will be rewritten early next year - mandates the Turvey Park site be used solely for education.

However, it is common practice for governments to overhaul zoning to maximise privatisation profit.

"It's been a fairly lengthy process in protecting the interests of

The Kay Hull Veterinary Teaching Hospital - on a separate land title - will be retained by the university and the regional archives will be relocated to the main campus at Boorooma Street.

CSU's executive director of facilities Stephen Butt said the Saint Mary

MacKillop College will seek to maintain its component of the site.

"Charles Sturt University will be looking to have a presence on the site for up to five years after its sale to support the college and the Riverina archives," he said.

"It's a large site and it's in a residential environment but it is cur-

rently zoned for education, so a developer or interested party would likely need to go through the re-zoning process.

“It’s been a long process – selling a major public asset – so it’s a significant milestone to

reach.”

Mr Butt hopes the sale will be finalised by 2018.

Property valuer Chris Egan said it is important the government maximises the deal.

“The government has an obligation to make the most of this asset, so if it’s zoned high density residential, it will fetch in the order of \$8m to \$10m,” he said.

Daily Advertiser
9 June 2017

MY CAREER IN SMALL SCHOOLS Desmond Handsaker (1948-50)

Desmond Handsaker (1948-50) – all are going well.

I won’t be able to make the 70th Anniversary function as my wife has a medical complication.

I have been tutoring Maths to year 12 students since retiring and gave it up last year at age 86 years.

We have 5 daughters and one son

My main friends from College are Bob Collard (my room mate) and Bruce Robinson (school mates at Junee High School).

I really loved teaching – however many schools are now closed.

Schools as Head:

- Gunning Gap 34 pupils (5 yrs)

- Wirrinya 19-66 pupils (6 yrs)
- Wattamondara 36 pupils (5yrs)
- Beckom 49-51 pupils (5 yrs)
- Whitton 54-104 (8 yrs)
- Spring Hill 30-48 pupils (3 yrs)
- Small Schools Music Consultant.

Three of my children are or were teachers. All the Best.

GRADUATION BALL 1954 Lesley Evans 1953-54

Following Rhona Southwell's article about graduation I thought I would send photos of the same event - Graduation 1954.



Taken at the Grad ball, the girls in our Kambu dormitory room. L-R Joan Brown, Gwen Edyvean, Judy Schulz, Marilyn Porter, Lesley Granger



The standing row at the back were actually the front row alphabetically i.e. those starting with A. The seated front row

started with Barry Ewert who sneaked in next to his girl friend Barbara Bridge. I am centre, 3rd row.

70 YEAR CELEBRATION TEACHER TRAINING IN WAGGA WAGA

Wagga Wagga Teachers College Alumni Association
“70 Year Celebration Teacher Training in Wagga Wagga”

27 – 29 October 2017

Enquiries : bruceles@bigpond.com

KEEPING IN TOUCH Jenny Brack (Snodgrass –1950-51)

I'd be interested to know how many of my time (50 -51) make it to the celebrations. Of the seven of us who mostly socialised together, I am only still in touch with two.

Jean Pratt passed away some twenty years ago. Tricia Strange married Phil Haywood. Kept in

touch for years but lost them in Goulburn. Wilma Worland died a few years ago. Fay Simpson also kept in touch for years – lost in Hornsby. Faye Blackhurst (nee Cambridge) lives in Burnie Tasmania She is quite a remarkable person. Almost blind, she still works for Probus and puts

out their newsletter. Her hearing is not so good either and walking is very difficult but if I'm feeling down, I ring Faye and within minutes I'm laughing again. Jess Bryant (Piper) lives in Perth. I caught up with her in Perth a couple of years ago, at 82.

IN MEMORIAM



Frank Lees 1948-50. My name is Narelle Fox, daughter of Frank Lees. Frank attended Wagga Wagga Teachers College to complete his primary school teacher training from 1948 to 1950. I am writing to let you know that sadly Dad passed away on 10th of January this year.

He lost his beloved wife Hazel to cancer in December 2016, after spending 60 years together, he then spent a heartbreaking month and 1 day before he joined her.

We would like to wish you all a successful event and a great celebration and sharing of memories at your upcoming "70 Year Teacher Training in Wagga Wagga." Dad often fondly reminisced about his Wagga Wagga

Teacher College days to myself and my sisters and family. He also taught myself and my two older sisters right through Primary School at Tucki Tucki and my younger sister he taught in kindergarten before accepting a promotion to another school .

Kind regards

Narelle and on behalf of Frank's other daughters - June, Cheryl and Karen.

Bob Spencer 1953-54. Bob died from mesothelioma in 2016. Bob went to College 1953-54, from Kingsgrove having attended Canterbury High. He began teaching at Hill End and then went to Bellbird. He was headmaster at Bungendore and retired having been headmaster at Batemans Bay

Danuta Edgely (Maczyna) 1965-66 I regret to have to inform you that Danuta Edgely (Maczyna) died of cancer last year. It is a great loss for her family and friends.

Trish Cavenagh

Brian Teller 1953 - 54. Sad news - I heard that Brian Teller of 53/54 session died last month at Mowll Village Castle Hill, NSW. Noelene and I visited him

a couple or 3 years ago. His wife Judy lives at the village.

Best regards

Paul Guerrier-Jones

Mary Kanaley 1951– 52. I am Mary Kanaley's daughter and in sadness I have to advise you that my mum passed away on Sunday, 7th May 2017.

Regards

Jenny Thompson

Michael Hayes 1950 - 51. I am Mick Hayes' daughter and I am just writing to let you know dad passed away on 11th July after a long battle with cancer.

Mum and dad recently returned to Albury to be closer to family. They were married for 61.5 years, an amazing innings. We have been blown away by the kind words coming from so many people. We were humbled by the amount of people who attended his funeral. We are all at peace with his passing, he was ready with his illness. Thanks and Regards.

Bronwyn Hayes

Secretary's Note: I taught under him at June Public School. He went then to Sandy Bay Public School near Coffs Harbour and had retired to Woolgoolga.

Lesley Forbes

BOOK ORDER FORM

Copies of **South Campus: A History** by Nancy Blacklow can be ordered using the order form (opp) or by direct contact (phone/email) to the Secretary. If payment is by electronic transfer please include "NameBook" e.g. "ForbesBook" as reference and then email Secretary.

NB: South Campus was the site of WWTC.

MEETING DATES - WWTCAA

ALL WELCOME

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

Meeting Dates for 2017:

14 February 2017 (AGM)

9 May 2017

8 August 2017

14 November 2017

HELP!!! CONTACT DETAILS

Ex-Students of Wagga Wagga Teachers College

CONTACT DETAILS REQUIRED

- **Robert Grant 1955-56** who used to live in Picnic Point.
- **Heather Durrant 1954-55.** Last known address, Oaklands Park SA.
- **Terry Hanlon** Secretary in 1965 with Ray Griffiths as President.
- **Roger Griffin 61-62.**

Send information to the Secretary:

12 Silky Oak Rise

KEW NSW 2439

Mob: 0408587065

Email: bruceles@bigpond.com

South Campus: A History

(South Campus was the site of WWTC)

Cost \$20.00 (including postage)

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The Secretary WWTCAA

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KEW. NSW 2439

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Electronic payments please indicate

"Your Name Book" in reference section.

REUNION ROUNDUP

WWTC Annual Reunion

1955/56 Session

Celebration: 60th Anniversary of Our First Appointment

Ex-students are invited to attend the Moss Vale Golf Club on Friday 6th October 2017 for an informal evening meal,
and/or

The Dormie House Moss Vale to enjoy a semi-formal luncheon on Saturday 7th October 2017.

Regulars will be contacted closer to the dates for booking purposes by email or snail mail as in previous years.

The group would be delighted to share the company of those who have missed the reunions in previous years

Contacts are:

Pamela Wilmot pwilmot3@gmail.com (speedy)

Graeme Phillips PO Box 241 Moss Vale 2577

(sluggish)



The Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN 2017 TO SECURE THE FUTURE



IMPORTANT NOTICE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

To ensure the continued financial viability of the Wagga Wagga Teachers Alumni Association the following membership contributions and services will apply from 1 January 2017.

a) Electronic Membership:

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

b) Standard Membership:

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

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

c) Additional Contributions:

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

Opposite is a contribution slip for 2017.

WWTCAA CONTRIBUTIONS 2017

Surname _____

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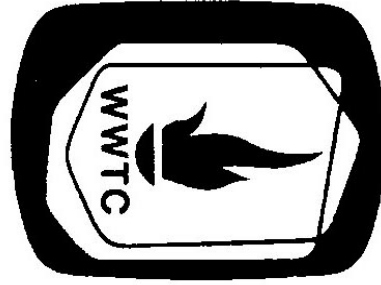
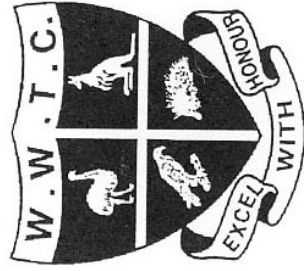
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