

PAT BUTLER
INTERVIEW 26 AUGUST, 1996

Pat was very chirpy during this interview.

He spends a good deal of time tutoring individual students in the high school. He spoke at length about one young lad he is tutoring in Year 8. For some unexplained reason this boy was able to go all the way through primary schools in the far west of the state without anyone picking up the fact that he was totally illiterate. Within a week of starting at Ashgrove it was detected and Pat has been assigned to teach him how to read ... not an easy task for a 14 year old! Pat says that progress is slow but that it is definitely there.

He also tutors mathematics for the boarders of an evening. He often spends 2 hours in the library making himself available. He said that on any one evening around 20 senior students from the advance classes will approach him for tutoring. He adds that he derives a great deal of enjoyment from this.

Health wise things are OK at the moment. Since his retirement from full-time teaching he has discovered that his diabetes is harder to contain than was formerly believed. He is on regular medication and exercises regularly. He is normally able to get to the golf course twice a week although he has missed out for the past three weeks, partly due to the time spent with the illiterate student and partly due to a recent bout of flue.

It appears that Pat is gradually fitting into the category of those who "aged gracefully". He senses that there are several more active years left for him yet and he is eager to continue to be of service and contribute wherever he can. I believe that he has found a very good niche here at Ashgrove.