



Friends of the

Old Teachers' College, Armidale Inc.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It's Newsletter time to let you know what has been happening at the College so far this year.

First of all, I particularly want to let you know that when I attended the Anzac Day ceremony at the University this year and laid a particularly lovely wreath of native flowers on behalf of the Friends, the very last eight names of those from the College who died in World War 11, with their details, were read out. At long last all 68 names of staff, students and ex-students, who died in that War, have been publicly named on Anzac Day.

Those last few names were:

Kelvin Hutchings
Benjamin Smith
Colin H. Smith
William Arthur Stephens
Harry Thomas Augustus Turner
Wallace Arthur Watson
Athol Grant Webber
William Douglas Webster

LEST WE FORGET

Next year, we will start naming those 68 again.

The members of your committee have continued, with unflagging zeal, to work for the good of that magnificent College building set in, without question, magnificent grounds so, as the Sentimental Bloke would say 'I dips me lid' to them.

Our new treasurer, Christine Reading, has gathered up our finances into her very capable hands and has streamlined all money matters so that we know exactly where we stand financially and meet all our obligations. Dare I say Christine is a 'treasure'?

And a personal 'thank you' to all volunteers who sit in the History Room each week afternoon, with a special 'thank you' to John Weeks and Bill Crocker who have retired from this role.

THAT LIFT is still at the forefront of our thinking, of course, and we continue to be grateful for your strong support by way of donations and interest. We intend to give serious consideration to, and obtain further advice on, exactly what we should do next to get that much needed lift. We will keep you posted on developments.

So, read on and find out what has been happening at, and what is planned for, the College and its grounds. With grateful thanks to all of you for your continued support and for the precious memorabilia you have entrusted to us.

Gwenda E. Shannon, OAM President

MEMBERSHIP

Another financial year about to end and you may have a few charitable dollars yet to be distributed. If this is the case, I'm hoping you'll think of us and our never ending quest to install that longed for lift.

Our membership numbers are slightly down in spite of welcoming quite a few new members. It's probably something in the air that is affecting our once excellent memories because it can't possibly be the advancing years - Right!

Maybe it's time for another 'Dob in an ex-student mate' campaign. What do you reckon?

As ever, your loyalty gladdens our hearts. Thank you.

Lorraine McNamara

WEDDINGS AND REUNIONS

We've been delighted to provide our facility for three weddings so far this year. The setting with its colourful flower beds and neat green lawns provide a spectacular background for the ceremony and photographs. Thanks, once again, to the committee members on duty while the bridal party and guests remain in the grounds. The wedding fee provides FOTC with much needed funds to carry on the work of preserving College history, maintaining awareness of restoration and conservation requirements and encouraging community use of the heritage listed building and grounds.

So far this year we haven't hosted a reunion but are anticipating one on the long weekend in October. We would welcome any other session booking a reunion as reunions are another source of income through charging a small fee of \$5.00 for a generous, delicious morning tea on the portico. Check our website on the front of this newsletter to find how to book a wedding or reunion. We are aware of reunions held in places other than Armidale. If you organise such a reunion, we would love to receive a report and maybe some photos from the event to publish in either our June or December newsletter.

HISTORY ROOM REPORT

Two lovely gentlemen have retired from volunteering in the History Room, viz., John Weeks and Bill Crocker. We appreciate their commitment and thank them for many years of service. Their contribution has been invaluable. Luckily we have a new addition to our roster, Cherrie Paterson. Welcome Cherrie. We're very happy to have you on board.

If any member who is a local wishes to assist us in manning the roster, we'd be very grateful. Sadly illness, retirements but more happily travel, intervene, making it difficult for Karen to complete the monthly roster. Karen can be contacted on 0429338780 or at arlice1952@yahoo.com.au if you'd like to volunteer. Volunteering at the History Room involves two hours, one or two afternoons a month.

Bev Korsch has organised 'sample bags' for History Room visitors to take away. A great representation of the College badge is very noticeable on the outside of the bags which contain informative leaflets about the College and its history.

Karen Marshall and Sue Melville

COLLEGE GARDENS AND GROUNDS

Recently, Gwenda Shannon OAM, Graham Wilson OAM, Sue Melville and myself met with Bede Davies (Grounds and Gardens Co-coordinator, UNE) and other staff to discuss the recommendations provided by a local gardening expert regarding the pruning, the removal of several trees and general maintenance of the College gardens.

Several trees planted many years ago within a metre of the front of the building are noticeably damaging pathways and probably the foundations, so her recommendation was that they be removed. Other large trees/shrubs are in need of pruning as this has not been done for many years, and the pencil pines are becoming very large, crooked and untidy.

As we are dealing with heritage buildings and grounds, an application has to be made to the Heritage Council to carry out major works. The person who will make that decision is very aware of the beautiful gardens and we were told that he would be sympathetic to the request.

Last spring, we replaced some standard roses in the two gardens on either side of the front steps. These are doing very well and it will not be too long before they blend in with the mature bushes. Advice was sought as to the names of the roses already growing there and appropriate roses were used for the replacements. Thank you to Helen and Graham Wilson for obtaining these bushes and planting them for us.

Ros Townsend

COLLEGE MEMORABILIA

Another three session photographs are ready for hanging in the College corridors. We have recently appealed in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald* (RSVP columns) for copies of session photographs from the 1960s and 1970s which are missing from our records. Sometimes we have a photograph which is not good quality and so cannot be copied or we do not have a list of names. We are concentrating on each decade but if you have one not within these time-spans please contact us.

The more recent informal photographs taken on the front steps e.g. from the 60s onwards are very hard to name, so we have obtained the Graduation lists for these sessions to be included under the photographs.

More work is being done in the 'Green Room' and we hope to have most of the donated memorabilia in place in several months time.

Ros Townsend