



*Friends of the*

# Old Teachers' College, Armidale Inc.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Another year is drawing to a close. It has, once again, been a good one for the members of your Committee, all of whom seem to have an inexhaustible fund of energy and enthusiasm for the tasks they have undertaken and are undertaking.

Now, starting with the development of the Green Room on the first floor – a particular project taken on by Ros Townsend, Sue Melville and Karen Marshall, with help available when needed - it had been hoped to open it officially this month BUT as there are a few loose ends to tie off, it was decided to make a date early in the New Year for a Grand Opening. So, please wait for the next instalment of this exciting project.

Do I hear you murmur 'But what about that long-awaited lift?' Well I can happily say that we have moved into a more promising phase with new and more achievable costings and a more receptive response to this all important project from those who have the final say. We would like to promise you the lift will be installed in 2017, but will not at this stage. However, we are feeling very optimistic.

I must let you know how beautifully the grounds are being cared for and what a magnificent season for roses it has been – all over Armidale in fact. Those roses we planted to complete the gardens contributed their share to the overall beauty of the grounds.

And, with the grounds now firmly in our thoughts, our calendar year was rounded off by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and tree planting on 12th November to which the Friends were invited (we also provided a lavish morning tea). This ceremony marked 50 years of service (1965-2015) by the Australian College of Educators New England. It was quite an occasion and one in which Dr Christine Perrott participated.

Now, may I thank you again for your support throughout the year and wish you all a very, very happy Christmas with a great New Year to follow.

**Gwenda E. Shannon, OAM President**

## WEBSITE NEWS

Please visit our website to read Russell Hannah's verse. He shared it with his 62/63 college session at their reunion in Mudgee in April 2007. It's always great to share wonderful memories of our college years. Many thanks Russell.

## MEMBERSHIP

We're once again making contact with most of you through cyberspace. June's attempt to do so had a few minor problems with a number of 'bounced back' addresses, some replies arriving without membership forms and some mysterious payments that had to be traced. Over time I'm sure we'll improve - remember, patience is a virtue.

Our renewal numbers are somewhat less than expected, mainly from those contacted by email – perhaps an overload of incoming information at the time caused us to be overlooked. Without a reasonable membership we won't be able to function, so what's the solution? Any ideas would be welcome and much appreciated.

We have discounted our perpetual calendar to \$10 and Dennis Hope's excellent book of his artwork is now just \$15. Unfortunately, Australia Post's prices have gone in the opposite direction. To send the calendar will cost \$2.20 and the book is an unconscionable \$11 or \$14 depending on destination. Where are the Pony Express blokes when you need them?

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and healthy festive season and many thanks for being on our team.

**Lorraine McNamara**

*An interesting article from one of our long time members- Gordon King.*

## HINTON IN SYDNEY

A small group of ex-ATC students visited the Hazelhurst Gallery in Gymea recently, to see pictures from Armidale's Hinton Collection which were on loan from the New England Art Gallery. Tom Robert's painting of Mosman Bay was probably the only picture from the New England Art Gallery which was well-known to the public, apart from the students who saw the pictures, prior to the amalgamation of the College with the UNE. The pictures consisted of works by artists who were painting between 1890 and 1950. People like William Dobell, Adrian Faint, Margaret Preston, Elioth Gruner, Norman Lindsay were among the painters represented. It was really great to see some of the Hinton Collection again. When the Exhibition was announced, some of us who had been at College in the early 1950's decided to have a day at Gymea and see this exhibition.

Gymea is a suburb south of Sydney, on the Cronulla line, and is the home of the Hazelhurst Gallery. This was originally a family home surrounded by lawns and garden. Our small group consisted of three of the 1950-1952 "G" session- "Endi" McNamara, (Endicott), Anne Holmes(Clayton) and myself, Gordon King, together with some from 1949, and 1950 sessions – Ian ("Taffy") Savins, Ruth Scollay (James) and my daughter Rosalind who acts as my unofficial "minder" when she comes up from Coledale to visit me. Our group meets on the first Friday of the month for lunch at Woolworth's Cafe at Town Hall Station from about 12.30 onwards. It's handy to the trains, and saves a heap of walking to get to. Any ex-students from ATC who would like to join us for lunch is very welcome, since our group has several members from 1949 and 1950's intake.

Unfortunately, the Hinton Exhibition finished early in October but we all enjoyed seeing some of Howard Hinton's gift to the College. Should you wish to meet with us and require further information, please phone "Endi" on (02)9958-6934, or myself, Gordon King on (02) 9825-4033.

# **HISTORY ROOM REPORT**

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We welcome Judy White to our group of volunteers. Thank you, Judy, for joining our ranks. A sincere "Thank you" to all our volunteers. We appreciate your contribution and wish you could be rewarded for your attendance in the History Room with more visitors. The History Room will close for the Christmas holiday season on Friday, December 16th and re-open Monday 23rd, 2017. We wish the volunteers all the very best for a happy Christmas and New Year. The "Green Room" is nearly complete. Committee members have been busy organising the many articles of memorabilia which you have sent us. The bulk of the work has been done by Ros Townsend. Thank you, Ros for your huge effort. It is expected that this room will be opened and renamed early in 2017. There is still some room for any bits and pieces that you send to us in the future.

*Mary and Des Burke in the "Green Room" while on their recent visit to Armidale. They were the first to sign our Visitors' Book. We'd like to thank them for the interesting items of memorabilia they donated to FOTC for others to appreciate.*



## **WEDDINGS AND REUNIONS**

**Weddings** - Five beautiful brides and their grooms chose the College grounds for their wedding ceremony and photos this year. Apart from winter, weddings took place in all parts of the year, displaying the appeal of the beautiful grounds in all seasons. Despite the choice of an outdoor wedding being a risky decision, we are able to accommodate the couples in various areas of the college grounds, even using the portico as an attractive setting. The ideal time at the College for a wedding is November. With daylight saving, colourful flower beds and the renowned rose gardens in bloom, it is the ideal time of year providing a pleasant setting and a fantastic backdrop for those memorable photos. Thank you to Committee members who did wedding duty during the year.

**Reunions** - Disappointingly, we had one only reunion to host this year. The 1984-86 Session reunion was organised for the October long weekend in Armidale. Anyone who has organised a reunion is aware of the time consuming and sometimes frustrating task it can be. So we'd like to sincerely thank Jennifer Porter who coordinated this reunion, for her good work as we're sure the participants did. We would also like to thank our secretary, Judy Grieve for conducting the tour of the college and Karen Marshall, the FOTC committee member who is the contact person for reunions, for her presence on the day.

We have become aware, through newspaper publications, of ATC reunions held in various areas of NSW. If you should organise a reunion in a place other than Armidale, we'd love to hear about it. We'd appreciate a photo and a brief report of the occasion emailed to us to publicise in our Newsletters or to include on our website. The following photo and report were contributed by Mary and Des Burke. Thank you Mary and Des.

## Reunion Luncheon Ballina 13th September

A reunion Luncheon was held at Ballina Bowling Club on Tuesday, 13th September for former Armidale Teachers' College trained teachers. This has become an annual gathering, held on the second Tuesday in September. It will be again held on 11th September in 2017.

Thirty one attended this year, many accompanied by their partners. Memories were shared and concluded with the cutting of a 'college' cake.



**Back: L to R** Bill Kneipp, Des Burke, John Cooper, Howard Brockington, John Knapman, John Buttrum, Ian Loxton, Brian Willis, John Fraser, Max Bigg, Jim Timmins, Ted Williams, Ron McLennan  
**Middle:** Dora Brockington (Cigana), Nea Knapman (Pestell), Joan Withers (Keevers), Helen Loxton (Larrescy), Jan Boyd (Lowrey), Anne Bigg (Clark), Marilyn Castleden (Morrow), Anne Sharpe (Dalrymple), Robyn Buttrum (Barnertt), Margaret Willis (Junor), Beryl Vaughan (Budd)  
**Front:** Neville Rogan, Mary Burke (Walsh), Yvonne Schuhmacher (Blackman), Marcia Kelly (Poynting), Marjorie Stubbs (Sullivan), Lynne Dixon (Rendall), Isobel Williams (Smith)

Some of you may be aware of an annual ALL SESSIONS REUNION organised by Gus Plater in Gosford. If you have not been aware of it before, you may like to register your interest by contacting Gus on 43631102 or emailing him at [gusandmarg@exemail.com.au](mailto:gusandmarg@exemail.com.au) so you will receive the reminder email in the New Year. It is held at the Central Coast Leagues Club Gosford. Next year it is to take place at 10.30am, Wednesday, 15th March, 2017. The cost of \$25.00 includes lunch. It is pay on the day, preferably in cash.

**Karen Marshall and Sue Melville**

