



*Friends of the*

# Old Teachers' College, Armidale Inc.

Mossman Street,  
P.O. Box 944, ARMIDALE NSW 2350  
Phone: 0401 760 238 Email: [fortc@nsw.chariot.net.au](mailto:fortc@nsw.chariot.net.au) [www.fotcarmidale.org.au](http://www.fotcarmidale.org.au)  
Patrons: T.G. (Gus) Plater and R.F. (Rod) Davis OAM

## **FOTC President's Annual Report - 19 November 2018**

It gives me great pleasure to present the President's Annual Report for 2018. I would like to thank members of the FOTC Committee for their continued work during the year as well as those members and friends who have opened the museum on a weekly basis and assisted in organising various College reunions and weddings. The year 2018 has been an unbelievable year. There was a great loss to FOTC with the death of our fine inaugural chairman, Ms Gwenda Shannon who served in that position since the formation of FOTC in 1997. There is no doubt that if FOTC was not formed then, this fine building would have been in complete disarray and facing demolition.

One of the great achievements was the dedication of the Gwenda Shannon museum room and the development of a fine display of educational material from the Teachers' College including donations from past lecturers and students.

Ros Townsend has continued the collection and mounting of College Year photographs. Each photograph includes the names of lecturers and students.

The year has also been confronted by monumental decisions made by the University of New England administration:

- The University of New England withdrew from the position of trustee for the former Teachers' College building also known as the C.B. Newling Centre. FOTC found out about the decision by a press release and a message left on our answering machine. There was no meeting with the UNE's administration or formal letter concerning the decision.
- On another occasion, a contractor arrived to measure up the paintings of College Principals and Administrator to arrange for the transfer of them from the College Foyer to the UNE main campus. A letter of concern was forwarded to the UNE Vice Chancellor and to this date, they still remain at the College.
- On a further occasion, a contractor arrived at the college building and changed the locks. This meant that we were locked out of the building for some time and efforts had to be made to find keys. Again, there was no meeting with the UNE's administration or formal letter concerning the decision.
- A close relationship has been formed with the Heritage Centre and the University of New England Archives because it holds College documents and photographs. However, FOTC has written to the UNE Administration about the archive's future on the C.B. Newling Campus.
- The UNE Administration no longer wants to manage the three Education buildings which were developed as a museum by the former Teachers' College. FOTC has been meeting with the Lands Department, the Armidale District Historical Society and Armidale Family History Group to determine a Plan of Management of the museum complex.

A matter of great concern is the position of Trustee of the former Teachers' College and at this date, FOTC and the New England Conservation of Music occupy the building. We have been informed by Crown Lands that a decision will be made within two weeks concerning a further group interested. Once this decision is made, then FOTC can turn its full attention to the provision of a lift in the building.

**Graham Wilson, President.**

## 1958/1959 SESSION REUNION

On the 16th and 17th October, the 1958/59 Session of ATC held a reunion in Coffs Harbour. It was a resounding success with 70 people attending, some from as far as Adelaide. Of the 70, 46 were past students with partners making up the remainder. Twelve of the twenty four members of the Ag.Sc. Session were able to attend.

The first night was an informal Meet and Greet with the second being a more formal evening at the Park Beach Bowls Club.

As a result of our funding, there was a surplus of \$200 in the Bank Account which the group voted to make a donation to FOTC for future use where considered most needed.

**Regards from 1958/59 Committee - Adrian Wilson, Bernie Ryan and Paul Lucas.**

## Letter from Jill McRae

Dear FOTC,

I would very much like to join your organisation. I was a student at the ATC 1962-63, when my name was Jill Kealey.

While I ended up at Harvard (Graduate School of Education), the journey began at the ATC. I have a photograph taken with my first camera, in 1953, of the ATC. We were on the way back from Ebor to our home in Narrabri. I told my father that one day I would go to the ATC; at the time I was nearly 8 years old. Go I did. Olive and Keith Aubrey, both of whom taught me at the ATC, came to my wedding, in Sydney (August 1968). I stayed in touch with Keith until his death a few years ago, and am friends with his son Neil and his wife Jenny.

Please do get back in touch with me and tell me how I might join.

Most cordially,

Jill McRae



## MEMBERSHIP

There were no viable "HOW TO RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS" suggestions put forward since our plea in June. However we did manage to enlist a few 'newies' and a few 'rejoiners' and we welcome them with open arms. A smidgen of charm and the twisting of arms did the trick.

For those of you who have recurring moments of nostalgia, the news is good. We have reduced a number of our publications and would love to have them gathering dust on your shelves instead of ours.

ARMIDALE'S COLLEGE ON THE HILL - 75th ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION - was \$55.00

INDEX for the above - was \$15.00

Both book and index now \$40.00 + Postage which is \$14.00 NSW; \$20.00 other states.

THE COLLEGE ON THE HILL - was \$20.00, now \$10.00 + Postage which is the same as above, \$14.00 NSW and \$20.00 other states.

ARMIDALE TEACHERS' COLLEGE - FROM GAOL TO CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC - was \$5.00, now \$3.00 + Postage \$2.00

As always, we sincerely thank you for your support and send our best wishes for the festive season.

**Lorraine McNamara**

## HISTORY ROOM REPORT

Since the June Newsletter, we've had one wedding and one reunion. The northern lawns and grounds provided a cool but sunny backdrop for an August wedding. The spring blossoms were blooming providing a lovely floral background for delightful wedding photos and memories for the bride and groom. The front portico steps of the College were also an ideal photo setting for the bridal party, family and guests.

We were happy to welcome a very pleasant group of twenty ex-students on October 10th. The 1956/57 Session staged their reunion in Armidale, a walk down memory lane at the College high on their list of get-togethers on the trip. The group was welcomed by Graham Wilson in the Auditorium, no doubt bringing back lots of memories of Assemblies, followed by a delicious morning tea and College tours conducted by Graham and Judy Grieve. The group was very grateful for the hospitality we showed them.

A highlight for them must have been the attendance of Dale Toohey, a student of the 1957/57 session. Dale travelled from his home in America to attend the reunion. The group also enjoyed looking at their session photo, which has been enlarged and hangs in the first floor northern corridor along with many other sessions that have been treated likewise. This has been a very big ongoing project undertaken by Ros Townsend, a committee member. The college visit climaxed with the inevitable photo on the front steps.

*We sincerely thank all volunteers for their constant support and commitment and wish them and all our members a very happy Christmas and best wishes for a happy and, more importantly, a healthy 2019.*

**Karen Marshall and Sue Melville**



## **Vale: Jeanne Diana May (nee Kelly), 1944-1945 Session**

At the age of 91 years, Jeanne May died in June this year. She had been a member of FOTC for many years. A letter from her received in 2015 outlines some main details of her life and is reproduced elsewhere in this Newsletter.

## **Vale: Ted Redden, ACAE & UNE Staff member 1989-2003**

After being ill for some time, Ted died on October 15 this year in Canberra, aged 70. His appointments included Senior Lecturer in Science, Head of Curriculum Studies and Head of The School of Education.

After retirement he became Head of Education for UNICEF in East Timor (2003-2008), worked in many other countries, at one stage running a program which included eight countries.

## **Letter from Jeanne May**

Bendigo

May, 2015.

Dear Lorraine,

Thank you for the note you included with my receipt and new membership card. I wish I could be closer and **help** with the work you do to keep memories of the College alive.

However, ever since I married in 1949 I have lived south of the Border—first in Tasmania for a couple of years and then in Western Victoria. However, my memories of Armidale and ATC are very close to my heart. I have a picture of the College on my bedroom wall and a photo of me and my four best friends in our graduation dresses. I did not live at Smith House—I lived at home but it was in Barney Street.

I have never ceased being grateful for the two years at College—1944-45, for the people I met there and all the valuable things I learned.

My father was a Clerk of Petty Sessions and we moved frequently. We moved to Armidale from Walgett in 1939. It was like going to Heaven. Armidale had a library! However, we had ten years in Armidale because rental housing became hard to find because of the Depression and war years.

After College I taught at West Armidale Primary School for three years until marrying my ex-RAAF husband while he was at UNEC. He eventually taught at both the Victorian Agricultural Colleges. Both my sons have been teachers, one at Burnley Agricultural College for more than 30 years and one at West Melton Primary School for a similar length of time. My daughter is bursar at Bendigo Primary School.

It is **so** good to receive the FOTC Newsletters.

Thank you again,

Yours sincerely,

Jeanne May.  
(nee Kelly)