

FOTC 2020 Summary of Events 16 November 2020

FOTC Rooms and Department of Education:

You will recall that when the NSW Department of Education took over the College building, Judy Grieve our secretary and I met with Departmental representatives to discuss the role of the FOTC and the building. On 6 October 2020 Susanne James, Director of the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM), sent me an email concerning the fact that Alliera Meehan, the building manager of the Department of Education visited Armidale early in October to discuss with NECOM lease arrangements. There was no approach to FOTC so I sent off an outline history about FOTC and the building along with Jock Elphick's Book and my booklet concerning the history of the building. At this stage I have received no further detail about lease arrangements.

University of New England Archives and Heritage Centre:

Adverse reports concerning the Heritage Centre and University of New England Archives have continued throughout the year. All three members of the Heritage Centre are taking redundancy and the Archivist Bill Oates will be leaving on 5 December 2020. Philip Ward, the third member of staff will be leaving in March 2021. I have been informed verbally that funding for the Heritage Centre and Archives will continue until March 2022.

- It was in December 2019 the FOTC was promised that we would be active contributors and collaborators in the planning and review process of the Archives and UNE will value our input to the process.
- Since that date I have received no details of any review process although there are some rumours that a review has been underway. Certainly, no members of the History or Archaeology Departments have been approached.

Museum of Education:

A board of Trustees has been formed by the Department of Lands for the management of the Museum of Education established by the Armidale Teachers' College. Myself and Peter Pickett, a retired Department of Education Director are on that board of seven along with Bill Oates. We received a start-up grant from Lands and more recently a \$200,000 COVID Community Development Grant. A heritage architect Tony Deakin has prepared an architectural heritage report on the Museum so that we can seek costings for conservation work. Sadly, no answer can be obtained from the University of New Education concerning the return of the museum items from storage.

The Copland Foundation:

Bill Oates and I have sent off an application to obtain an interpretation grant from the Copland Foundation of \$6,532. The purpose of the grant will be to obtain web-based hosting with associated computer hardware and equipment including a digital camera, stand and lights. It will mean that we can combine the holdings of the Museum of Education and the FOTC holdings into the one interpretation program. It will also mean that we can research the influence of Eric Dunlop and Dr Lionel Gilbert in developing the Museum of Education as a museum of national significance. Hopefully it will also mean that we may be able to attract younger members with computer skills. It also mean that we will need to establish an account to meet the annual costs of the program.

Teachers College Piano.

The University of New England has a piano that was donated to the college by students. UNE is offering to return the piano to FOTC so that it can be placed in the college building.

Graham Wilson FOTC President