



Friends of the

Old Teachers' College, Armidale Inc.

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Patrons: T.G. (Gus) Plater and R.F. (Rod) Davis OAM

FOTC President's Annual Report – June 2021

The Museum of Education

Seven Trustees have been appointed by the Minister for Lands to conduct the Museum of Education. Funds for the restoration of the three buildings have also been available by the Lands Department and NSW Government. The trustees are now in the final stages of obtaining quotes for this work to be undertaken. The trustees have also signed an agreement with the Department of Education for the lease of a room for the storage of educational items in an archives room at the former Teachers' College building. This room has archival shelving and will prove ideal for storage.

Appointment of a new CEO for the New England Regional Conservatorium of Music

Chris Clark is the new CEO and has sound ideas on how to develop the area to be used by students at the conservatorium. The conservatorium has been allocated rooms on the ground floor from the front entrance, along the northern, eastern and southern side to the rear steps. He is negotiating to have copies of the NERAM Artwork made so that they can be displayed in the corridors as they once were. He also wishes to recreate music rooms with old school or period furniture.

University of New England Archives and Heritage Centre:

Adverse reports concerning the Heritage Centre and University of New England Archives continued throughout 2020. 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 April 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.

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 means 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

HISTORY ROOM REPORT



We are very pleased to announce we are opening the History Room at the beginning of June. We will be Covid Safe and look forward to greeting many visitors to share the memories from college days.

*Bev Korsch
Peter Pickett*

MEMBERSHIP

Since 1997, the Friends of the Old Teachers' College has been dedicated to ensuring the College building remains open and used by groups within the community.

As a member you will receive regular newsletters outlining progress to date, forthcoming activities, news relating to former staff, students and reunions.

We thank you most sincerely for your loyalty over the years and look forward to your continued support. Your membership will be valid until ... **JUNE 2022**. Fees have remained the same.

Bev Korsch

WEDDING / REUNION

Obviously with Covid, we haven't been able to open the History Room to visitors, but we were able to grant a young couple's wish to hold their marriage ceremony on the first weekend in March in the grounds of the College while the weather was still warm.

Before Christmas, the weekend of December 19th, 2020, we were delighted to host a reunion of the 1983-85 Session. The group of 40 ex-students was very enthusiastic about their return to the hallways of their alma mater.

This was an exciting event for us as all, as this Session was the first from the 1980's to celebrate a reunion at their beloved College. Also this group is still teaching in the classroom, explaining the proximity of the reunion to Christmas.



The group was met on the portico and welcomed by President Graham and other Committee Members. After enjoying a delicious morning tea, Graham escorted the ex-students to the Auditorium where he spoke of the latest news on the College building. This was followed by a tour of the College in small groups led by Graham, Christine Perrott and Judy Grieve.

The reunion was enthusiastically and thoroughly organized by Zac Smith who also provided the accompanying photos of the event. Zac is an Experienced Senior Teacher at Mudgeeraba State School in Queensland. It was touch and go whether he'd get to Armidale and home again with the possibility of a sudden border closure.

With the sale of books and donations towards morning tea provided by the FOTC Committee and Volunteers, \$417 was raised on the day. Thank you to Zac and the 1983-85 Session.

Sue Melville



Armidale TC Reunion Gosford

Our long time-supporter Gus Plater, kindly forwarded a report of the Armidale TC Reunion held at the Central Coast Leagues Club at Gosford on 10 March 2021. Over twenty ex-Armidaliens gathered at the function. Formalities were kept to a minimum but a toast to the College was made as well as congratulations to the Friends of the Old Teachers College in consolidating the future of the College building.

Members of the FOTC Committee wish to thank those former students who organise various re-unions and keep us informed of developments. In our work, we realise the great feeling that past teachers hold for the College. Presently, the Committee feels that the future of the building is assured.